

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 72. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. II.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1883.

[ONE PENNY.]



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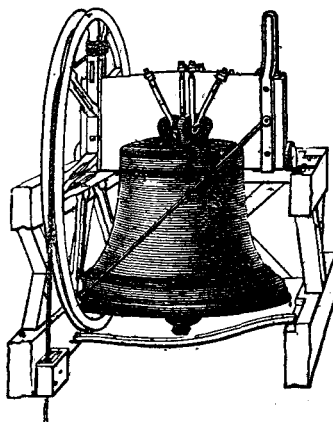
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OUR RING OF BELLS: HOW IT GREW.

BY AUDITOR TANTUM.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL.—FIVE BELLS.

In early days Peterborough Cathedral was well supplied with bells. From an inventory taken on November 30th, 1539, we learn that there were three bells to ring in "the Chappel of Low," and one little bell in the "Infirmary Chappel" also ten bells "in the two steeples of the monastery at the front." During the civil war the soldiers of the commonwealth, who were quartered at Peterborough, amused themselves by continually jangling the bells. The inhabitants were annoyed and disturbed by this, and some of them "by night took away the clappers, and hid them in the roof of the church . . . which gave occasion to such as did not know it to think the soldiers had stolen them away."

The ten old bells were taken down in 1709, and the work of casting a new ring of ten was entrusted to Henry Penn, who had set up a foundry at Peterborough shortly before. Some idea of the size of the old bells may be gathered from the fact that the metal in the four largest bells sufficed to supply a ring of ten bells with a tenor measuring 56½ inches in diameter, and weighing some 32 cwt. Making allowance for waste, we find that the weight of the four largest bells could not have been far short of 150 cwt. The sale of the six smallest bells defrayed the whole charge of casting and hanging in a new or repaired frame; and the founder gave a benefaction of £50 to the Cathedral. From all these facts Mr. North concludes that the ten old bells were much heavier than the present unrivalled ring at Exeter. The weight, however, of the four largest bells in the ring at Exeter is some 177 cwt., and there seems hardly sufficient evidence to justify the conclusion that the old Peterborough bells were at all heavier than those at Exeter.

The new ring of ten was hung in the north-western tower, but was not much used; the vibration being supposed to endanger the safety of the celebrated west front of the Cathedral; in 1831 the five smallest bells were sold to William Dobson, the well-known bell-founder of Downham Market, in Norfolk, who at that time recast the old 9th bell. Mr. North says the present five bells, which remain in the position they occupied when there was a ring of ten, are never rung in peal: the 1st and 5th only have stays. The Cathedral authorities have been most unfortunate in their management of the bells: the obvious course open to them in 1709 when the state of the west front was discovered, was to build a detached campanile similar to that so ruthlessly destroyed at Salisbury.

PETERBOROUGH, ST. JOHN.—EIGHT BELLS.

It is a relief to turn to the history of the bells of the parish church of St. John. In the 16th century this tower boasted the possession of five great bells. In 1540 the tenor (having been cracked) was changed for "the great bell of the Abbey of Leicester," which had been bought by Robert Newcombe bell-founder of Leicester, upon the dissolution of the Abbey. Before 1700, the five ancient bells had been cast into a ring of eight. Matthew Wyldbore, Esq., sometime M.P. for the city, was a ringer; and it is said that his health was much improved by the exercise: accordingly in his will he charged his estate with the annual payment of £5 to the minister of the parish, to be given to the ringers on the anniversary of his death for ever, on condition that one or more peals were rung on that day. Mr. Wyldbore died on the 15th of March, 1781, and the day is still observed in the way he desired. The present fine ring of bells was cast in 1808 by William Dobson. The ring is a heavy one as will appear from the weights given below:—

	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.		cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Treble.	8	1	8	5th.	12	1	26
2nd.	8	0	14	6th.	14	1	12
3rd.	9	0	22	7th.	20	1	2
4th.	10	2	12	Tenor.	28	1	3

BRISTOL, ST. MARY REDCLIFFE.—TWELVE BELLS.

The oldest of these are the 11th and tenor, cast by Wm. and Roger Purdue of Salisbury, in 1622: they were probably recast from the old 5th and tenor of an ancient and very heavy ring of six. The diameter of the tenor is now sixty-one inches, but the dimensions of the bell have been considerably reduced by chipping: the note is C natural (rather flat), and its weight is estimated at 48 cwt. The bell has still a fine tone, but is probably not quite so good as she was before she was chipped. The 11th is a very grand bell, 54½ inches in diameter, and over 30 cwt. The ring was made eight in 1698, when Abraham Rudhall (senior) of Gloucester cast the present 5th and 6th bells, the former being of particularly fine tone. In 1763 T. Bilbie of Chewstoke, Somersetshire, took away the old bells between those of Rudhall and those of the Purdues, and cast the present 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th bells; of these the 8th and 9th are esteemed very fine bells. In 1823 the ring was augmented to ten by Th. Mears of Whitechapel: and in 1872 to twelve by Mears and Stainbank, of the same foundry. On the whole the ring is reported to be one of the finest rings in England.

BRISTOL, ST. NICHOLAS.—TEN BELLS.

The church of St. Nicholas has a ring of ten bells, of which the tenor is most admired. She weighs about 36 cwt., and was cast by Mr. Thos. Mears senior, in 1804. The treble and second were cast by Mr. Thos. Mears junior, in 1817 and 1809 respectively, and most of the rest of the ring by Thos. Rudhall of Gloucester, in 1764.

BRISTOL, ST. JAMES.—TEN BELLS.

The foundation of the present ring of ten in the church of St. James was a fine ring of eight cast by Abel Rudhall (one of his later works), in 1755. Of these eight the six smallest remain, but in 1778 the 7th was recast by Thos. Rudhall. In 1839 Mr. Thos. Mears, junior, recast the tenor: she weighs 28 cwt., but is a harsh and unmusical bell: the trebles which were added in 1866 have not improved the ring, and on the whole the ring is not a good one.

BRISTOL, CHRIST CHURCH.—TEN BELLS.

There is a light but musical ring in the tower of Christ Church. Abraham Rudhall, senior, supplied a ring of eight in 1716, the tenor weighing about 22 cwt., and its note being E natural. In 1789 Wm. Bilbie of Chewstoke was called in to augment the ring to ten, and he lowered the pitch of the old bells one semitone, no doubt in order to avoid having to cast a treble of higher pitch than G natural. This process could not fail to harm the old bells, and it is to be regretted that the ring was augmented by these means. Still the ring is by no means a bad one.

Of the numerous rings of eight in Bristol, the heaviest is in the tower of St. Thomas's Church. There was an old ring of four or five ancient bells, of which two remain, and form the fifth and sixth of the present ring. The two largest were recast in 1666 by Thomas Purdue of Salisbury, and the bells he supplied were very fine ones. The tenor, which weighs about 28 cwt., is unfortunately cracked, but the 7th remains—a splendid bell—to this day; the 4th bell was added or recast in 1617, and the three smallest bells came from the Chewstoke Foundry.

St. Matthew's Church has a ring of eight, tenor about 21 cwt., this is not a musical ring.

The fine tower of the Temple church, has a ring of eight of about the same weight as those at St. Matthew's; the oldest of these bells are the 3rd, 5th, and 6th bells, which were cast by Wm. and Roger Purdue in 1657 and 1658. The 7th and tenor are dated 1721, and the treble and second 1726, and all came from the Chewstoke Foundry, as did the fourth, which was recast in 1740.

St. Stephen's Church has a ring of eight, tenor 20 cwt., cast complete by Abel Rudhall of Gloucester, in 1759; this is esteemed the best ring of eight in Bristol.

All Saints' Church has also a ring of eight, cast complete by Abraham Rudhall, jun., in 1727.

St. Peter's Church has another ring of eight complete by A. Rudhall, tenor 18 cwt.

The church of St. Mary-le-port has a ring of eight, cast by Wm. Evans Chepstow, tenor 18 cwt.

St. Philip's Church has a ring of eight, which came complete from the Chewstoke Foundry.

There is no city or town in the provinces, which has such a number of rings as Bristol, and it is therefore a matter of regret that the reports of change-ringing from this city are, comparatively, so few in number.

READING, ST. LAWRENCE.—TEN BELLS.

Before the present ring of ten was hung in the tower of the church of St. Lawrence, Reading, there was an old ring of eight cast in Reading by the Knights, who did business there as bell-founders from 1587 till the end of the 17th or the beginning of the 18th century. Robert Catlin, who cast the new ring of ten, was a London founder. It is probable that he was employed by the good folks of Reading, in consequence of his connection with the Knights, for he was executor and residuary legatee under the will of Samuel Knight, the last of the Reading founders, who, before his death had removed to the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. Robert Catlin had also done some work on the ring of eight at St. Mary, Reading, in 1740 and 1743, which seems to have given satisfaction. However that may be, he was employed in 1748 to cast the new ring of ten. Eight of his bells remained when the inscriptions were copied by Mr. Lukis. The diameter of Catlin's tenor is 51½ inches, and the weight about 24 cwt. In 1793 Mr. Thos. Mears of Whitechapel, recast the 9th, and in 1809 the 8th.

ABINGDON, ST. HELEN.—EIGHT BELLS.

In this beautiful tower there is a ring of eight bells cast by Messrs. Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel Foundry, in 1764; I was informed on excellent authority that the quality of these bells is of quite unusual excellence; unfortunately the 7th is cracked; it is much to be regretted that such a musical set of bells should be marred by one of their number remaining useless, and there is every reason to

believe that the present owners of the Whitechapel Foundry could satisfactorily restore the excellent work of their predecessors if they were employed for that purpose. The fine 7th bell which was in recent times cast for Lavenham, Suffolk, at the Whitechapel Foundry, is a proof of this. Lester and Pack's tenor weighs 19 cwt. There is a report that this tower oscillates very much when the bells are rung, and that boys slip pennies into a horizontal crack in the masonry, near the ground, in order to see them flattened.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A well attended meeting of the Committee of the above Association was held in Norwich on July 28th. The Rev. W. W. Hutt, Vicar of Hockwold-cum-Wilton, was voted to the chair. It was resolved that an entry be made in the minute-book of the Association expressing their sorrow at the death of their late Secretary, the Rev. G. H. Harris, their high regard for his memory, and the great debt of gratitude which they owe to him for his unvarying energy and kindness. It was then unanimously resolved, on the proposal of Gervas Holmes, Esq., J.P., and seconded by Mr. George Day, of Eye, that the Rev. N. Bolingbroke, Vicar of St. Etheldred, Norwich, be requested to act as Secretary until the ensuing Annual Meeting.

The proposed District Meetings at Reepham, and Stonham Aspal, were reluctantly postponed, but every step is to be taken to have a successful Annual Meeting at Norwich during the coming month of September. The Rev. N. Bolingbroke requests that all communications with regard to the Association may be addressed to him at 4, Bracondale Terrace, Norwich.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 6th, several members from Farnham Royal and Slough had an outing, and it being a ringing-day at Windsor, they visited that borough. Arriving there at seven o'clock, they rung upon the bells of the parish church and those of the castle, and after refreshing themselves with breakfast, they made for Clewer (Berks), and with the consent of the Rector, rang six 6-scores (720 changes) of Grandsire Doubles, each called differently, in 26 mins. C. Chapman, 1; F. Fells, 2; J. Parker, 3; J. Basden, 4; A. Fussell, 5. These bells go well, showing that they are cared for by the worthy Rector, but the addition of another treble would make them a nice musical peal of six; tenor about 12 cwt. The company then returned to Windsor, and rang again at the parish church. After dinner they departed for Staines (Middlesex), but knowing that nothing could be done on the ring of eight there, going, as they do, "like houses," another start was made for Egham (Surrey). A curious circumstance here occurred. As the party were proceeding by rail, one of them, Mr. Fells, being anxious to have a good look at the fine tower of Staines parish church, which appears nestled in a clump of trees just the other side of old father Thames, while leaning out of the window for that purpose, became suddenly divested of his head-gear. After marching about the little town of Egham for some time (which caused some merriment through one of the party being hatless), a good lady, having an extra child's hat, came to the rescue, much, we hope, to the satisfaction of the bereaved gentleman. The bells were soon set going, and a 720 of Grandsire Minor was rung in 27½ mins. C. Chapman, 1; J. Parker (conductor), 2; G. Basden, 3; J. Basden, 4; W. Wilder, 5; A. Fussell, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. The company then returned home rather tired, some of them having walked many miles. The day's proceedings were enlivened by the performance, by Mr. Joseph Parker, of several popular airs upon an English concertina.

THE FORTHCOMING RINGERS' CONFERENCE AT READING.

It will be remembered that some weeks ago, we announced that this meeting of ringers would be held at Reading, in the Church Congress week, in October next, and gave list of the committee. Two more names have been added, those of Mr. James Pettit, of London, and Mr. Field of Oxford, the latter gentleman being head instructor of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. A room has been engaged at Reading for the 4th October, at which the meeting will take place. It is hoped that all parts of the country will send delegates to take part, and that some good ringing may be done after the meeting.

MERE-FOR-ZEALS, WILTSHIRE.

On Wednesday, August 8th, a Meeting took place at the above place, several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung at Zeals, with the tenor behind. C. Clements, jun., 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; Rev. E. G. Wyld, 3; Rev. A. D. Hill, 4; Rev. C. W. Hony, 5; W. Lenham, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. Also at Mere by the same, W. W. Gifford, 2; and J. R. Jerram, 4. Tenor 27 cwt. The company were entertained at the Vicarage by Rev. E. G. Wyld.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE DIOCESE OF ELY.

[From the *Cambridge Chronicle*.]

A gathering of ringers took place in Cambridge on Monday (Bank Holiday), and the opportunity was taken for establishing a Diocesan Society in support of change-ringing. What could be a more fitting cradle for the infant Society, than the town which will ever be to lovers of the art ennobled by the memory of Fabian Stedman. Ringers from all parts make to St. Benedict's tower as their "Cuaba," for here practised the renowned master, and here was rung the first piece of Stedman. Added to this the grand ring of St. Mary-the-Great, and the abilities and courtesy of the company of Cambridge Youths, afforded very special attractions to ringers on Bank Holiday, and a fair number were present from Bury, Swaffhams (2), Ely, Fenn Ditton, Cherry Hinton, and several other places.

The unavoidable shortness of the notice doubtless prevented many from attending. The Archdeaconry of Bedford, in which exists a flourishing society, sent delegates from Woburn; and several amateurs also joined the meeting. After several touches had been rung on the bells of St. Mary-the-Great, the ringers were invited to church by the sound of the redoubtable peal of twelve, which is but seldom heard. Here at 12 noon, by the very kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Luard, Registrar of the University, a short service was held at which he officiated, and delivered a short address. The Rev. Dr., in welcoming the ringers to his church, and for such a purpose, dwelt in scholarly language on the history and use of bells; justifying the establishment of the Association on religious, national, and intellectual grounds. Many of the ringers expressed a desire to read what they had heard in church.

An adjournment was then made to the Alexandra Restaurant, Petty-cury, where the company sat down to a cold collation. The Rev. Dr. Luard presided, the Rev. K. H. Smith, of Ely, occupying the vice-chair; and being supported by Mr. M. C. Potter, B.A., St. Peter's College, Mr. R. Baker, B.A., Clare College, Mr. Tanqueray, and others.

After dinner, a meeting was held, the Rev. the vicar of St. Mary the-Great being in the chair. The Rev. K. H. Smith, of Ely, opened the subject by stating that from statistics which he had obtained, he believed the Diocese was ripe, eager, and ready for action, and he had no fear that what Norwich had done, could also be carried out in Ely Diocese. The Bishop had kindly afforded his patronage, and he had received the support and "imprimatur" of the Diocesan Conference, after an introduction by the kindness of the Archdeacon of Ely. Before sitting down he would remind them that the idea was proposed at the re-opening of St. Mary's bells, at Ely, by his friend Mr. Holmes, of Emmanuel; and he had received the kindest support from that enthusiastic bell ringer and excellent parish priest, Mr. Harris, rector of Tunstead, but lately called away to his rest. He would say *Requiescat in pace!* and was sure that they would all add a hearty Amen. Time was short, and they must to business.

It was then proposed by Mr. Ellis (Ely), and seconded by Mr. Osborne (Bury), "That a Diocesan Association of Ringers be formed." This was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Mr. Baker (Bedford), and seconded by Mr. Tanqueray (Bedford), "That the Norwich Diocesan Association Rules—subject to alterations, be adopted."

This was also carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. Potter (Cambridge), seconded by Mr. Tanqueray, it was unanimously resolved that "The Rev. K. H. Smith, of Ely be appointed Secretary."

The following motions were also carried unanimously:—

Proposed by Mr. Cullip (Bedford), and seconded by Mr. Bacon (Ely), "That M. C. Potter, Esq., be appointed the Treasurer."

Proposed by the Rev. K. H. Smith, and seconded by Mr. Pilgrim (Ely), "That the Ven. Archdeacon Emery be requested to accept the office of President."

Proposed by Mr. Osborne, and seconded by Mr. Tanqueray, "That the first special meeting of the Society should be at Ely, on the third Saturday in October next."

A vote of thanks to the Chairman, and to the Vicars of St. Andrew the Great and St. Benedict, for the use of their bells, concluded the business of the meeting, and the members adjourned to the various towers for practice. The Rev. A. H. F. Boughey, of Trinity College, was unavoidably prevented from attending the meeting.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL CHANGE-RINGERS.

THE USUAL QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Association will be held at Preston on Saturday, September 1st. The bells of St. Mark's church will be open for ringing from 12 o'clock. The Meeting will take place in St. Mark's schoolroom, at 5 o'clock.

JOHN HIGSON, Sec.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

THE above Association held their first Annual Meeting on Saturday, the 11th inst., at the club-house of the Birmingham contingent,—"The Hope and Anchor," Fisher Street. The balance-sheet, owing to the absence of the President, could not be presented, consequently it had to be deferred till next Quarterly Meeting to be held at Westbromwich, on November 17th, the meeting of course being greatly disappointed by the non-production of the same. In the stead of the retiring president, Mr. Bennett Stevens, Mr. J. W. Cattle was unanimously elected for post of president for the ensuing year, Mr. J. Wright being again elected as Secretary, and Mr. J. Carter again filling the office of Treasurer. After the ordinary business had been transacted Mr. Carter, who it may be stated, is ever striving for the elevation of the Association, produced several samples of paper and binding, the meeting finally selecting one of the samples with which will be made a peal book, containing 300 leaves, and which will be paid by voluntary subscription, thus reserving the funds of the Association, which, when the balance-sheet is produced, will show a very satisfactory balance on the credit side of the Association, and which will (considering the expense of the formation of the Association), prove the efficiency of the officers entrusted with the supervision of printing, etc. For some time it has been the wish of a great part of the Association that the Ministers of the several districts should be permitted to join the Association, it was therefore resolved, on the motion of Mr. J. Carter, that the Secretary should write to the several ministers of the districts, some, it may be stated, having expressed a desire to become members. Mr. T. Russam, who unfortunately came late, suggested that the tower-keeper of each tower should be requested by the Secretary to ask the minister, where such tower-keepers reside, to become members. Mr. Russam's proposal was finally accepted instead of Mr. Carter's. The advisability of life members instead of honorary membership, after an animated discussion, was referred to committee, for this consideration. In the afternoon a muffled date touch of Grandsire Triples was started for at Bishop Ryder's church (it being the anniversary of the death of the late Mr. John Bannister), but after ringing 1 hr. and 10 mins., it came to grief. It being late the band fell the bells, and retired to the club-house. The touch was composed and conducted by J. W. Cattle. After business was disposed of, several touches and tunes on handbells were creditably rendered, interspersed with songs and recitations, and the meeting closed, but not till having most heartily thanked the President, Secretary, and Treasurer for their past services, and looking forward with hope as regards the prosperity of the Association, as not only doing their duty as officers so very efficiently, but by each being good change-ringers, their prosperity was thus doubly insured.

NEW RING OF BELLS FOR ST. MICHAEL'S, ARDSLEY, YORKSHIRE.

The following extract from the July number of the *East Ardsley Magazine*, is forwarded to us for insertion:—

"The Vicar is making strenuous efforts to raise funds for a peal of eight bells, about to be erected in the tower of the new church. Mr. Charles Eckersley Daniel, the last surviving son of the late Vicar, has given the 4th bell. Miss Hill and Miss Augusta Hill, of Earl's Court House, London, have, during their stay at the Vicarage, raised the sum of £60 16s. 1d., to pay for the 2nd bell. Mr. Eli Simpson, of Ardsley Mill, has promised £30, and the Vicar has collected about £80 more, by letter from strangers; but the sum of £470 is still required to make up the amount wanted.

The bells are of the following weight and cost:—

	cwts.	£	s.	d.
Treble.	5	56	3	9
2nd.	5½	59	6	3
3rd.	6½	65	11	3
4th.	8½	74	18	9
5th.	10½	87	8	9
6th.	11½	96	16	3
7th.	15½	120	5	0
Tenor.	20	148	7	6

Total...83½ cwts. 708 17 6

The order has been given to Messrs. Llewellyns and James, Bell Founders, Bristol, and the peal will be hung about the end of October. An Ellacombe chiming apparatus will be attached to the bells, so that one man can work them all. The cost of this will be £14 extra."

YEAR-BOOK OF THE STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION. —This is a small brochure, compiled by the late Honorary Secretary of the above Association, the Rev. W. W. Bolton. It consists of the rules the Association has adopted, with a variety of information necessary to a member of a ringing Guild. Mr. Bolton has worked very hard indeed to bring the Stoke-upon-Trent Association to its present position, and this little book, his last official labour in connection with it is an appropriate souvenir of his connection with the ringers of the Stoke Archdeaconry.

THE KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE members this year met at Ashford, and had two days perambulation of the district; the weather being very fine a rich treat was enjoyed. The churches of Hinxhill, Brook, Boughton Aluph, and Kennington were examined on the first day. The first place is not upon a scale to expect a ring of bells, nor could the two under the spire be had access to, by one or two strings present. Brook was found to be a very singular building, having a large square Norman tower, which would hold ten bells, the ringing-loft opens to the nave by two windows, and in the chamber is a *fresco*, this was formerly a cell for a recluse, and would now make a fine ringing-room; three bells by Hatch occupy one corner above; of no particular interest.

Boughton Aluph is more worthy of remark. The edifice is very large, and cross-shaped, with large centre tower, the ropes of three bells were found coming down into the benches. We found five bells, the tenor, of the fourteenth century, with most elegant letters and ornaments (I am called Gabriel, etc.); this is unfortunately badly cracked. Another was presented in the time of Cromwell. What is here most remarkable is that instead of the usual four heavy piers of a centre tower, the arcade alone affords support; the four pillars at the crossing being very slightly increased in diameter; they are slightly out of plumb. The whole would perhaps collapse with the swing of a heavy ring. The church contains most handsome windows, with much old stained glass.

The whole party then walked through Eastwell Park, the thirty or more carriages proceeding slowly across the grass.

Kennington was next reached, after inspecting the ugly mansion, the sound of "bells up" was evident for the first time. A spliced ring of six in good order was found, all the visitors passing between the ropes as the church was entered; one member being seen to take a rope from one of the ringers and proceed in his place. The second day Eastwell, Westwell, Charing, etc., were visited. Eastwell is in the park, at the head of the lake, its tower has a really good light ring of six, which were rung as the party arrived, the "go" being excellent.

Westwell has only four bells, some being cast by Wilner of Borden. Next was reached:—

"Dirty Charing, all in a hole,
Has but one bell
And that they stole."

This is all libel, the place is very clean and well situated, never stole a bell, after its steeple was burned; and has as pretty a little family of six bells as ever were raised, in its lofty stone tower.

The local band showed them off, but only practiced Churchyard Bob, which is a pity. The bells were presented by one of the clergy, formerly of the place. It was expected that the great ring at Ashford would have pealed forth, but this was unfortunately forgotten by those who strained every nerve to welcome the society.

The curfew is still rung there at 9 p.m., and during the evening meeting the members were reminded of the day of the month, a single stroke on the fine tenor, after the 4th had gone up and down.

THE WORCESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association will be held at Worcester, on Monday August 27th. The members will meet at the Bridge Inn, Bridge Street, at 11 o'clock, to arrange for ringing on the different peals of bells in the City. The Meeting for business will be held in All Saint's schoolroom at 2 o'clock. The members of each society in the Association are invited to attend. Any society not receiving a special invitation will please accept this as one, as I have not yet been furnished with the addresses of the societies in the Association. Any further information will be supplied on application to.

21, Great Hill, Dudley.

S. SPITTLE,

VISIT OF THE ST. MARTIN'S (BIRMINGHAM) SOCIETY TO CRADLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

ON Monday, August 13th, 1883, being a fine day, a party of the St Martin's Society of Ringers, Birmingham, chartered a break at the "Black Swan" Inn, and proceeded to Cradley, in Worcestershire, taking with them a peal of handbells upon which they performed at intervals during the journey, touches of Grandsire Triples, and courses of Stedman Triples, and Grandsire Caters. Arriving in Cradley at 2 p.m., and after having refreshed themselves, ascended the tower of the parish church, and succeeded in ringing, at the first attempt the late Mr. Thomas Day's six part peal of Grandsire Triples, a report of which will be found in another column. Having left the tower the party regaled themselves with tea, and having spent a hour or so in singing, and a plain course of Grandsire Caters on the handbells, they started back on the homeward journey, arriving at Birmingham at 10 p.m., very much pleased with their day's enjoyment.

"THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD" will be forwarded post free, on the following terms:—

One copy, 12 months	6s. 6d.
" 6 "	3s. 3d.
" 3 "	1s. 8d.

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher, E. W. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; the insertion of Performances coming later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number.

The Editor would be glad to receive the names of gentlemen who would be willing to act for their respective districts, in the capacity of reporter or correspondent. We shall feel obliged by Association and other Secretaries sending intelligence of events occurring within their jurisdiction.

S. MARSH.—We have sent your communication to Mr. Snowdon.

S. H. (Braintree).—When you have time, send again what you refer to.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 1883.

A notable feature in the programme adopted by many of our most prominent Ringing Guilds and Associations is that of having an organization of teachers of the art, either paid or unpaid. We must not be considered as being opposed to such a plan when we merely express a fear that in some cases persons not the most efficient as preceptors are selected to fill such offices. Of course, in the wholesale employment of teachers in other sciences, as well as ringing, different degrees of competency may be looked for, and varying results, the effects of the quality of instruction given, will be apparent. In the choice of a ringing instructor, we should look for abilities which may be considered peculiar to the subject on which information is to be imparted, and its surroundings. Whoever has proved to be a successful instructor in the art of ringing, will be found upon examination, to possess the faculty called "tact" in an eminent degree. The adjective is italicised, so that our use of it may be understood in its strict sense. An efficient instructor is not one who merely takes a rope with his pupils, and while ringing shouts out to them to do this or that, thus only making confusion worse confounded. He should, in addition to giving his scholars the rule of the method on paper, have tact and ingenuity enough to illustrate its theory by plain and well understood remarks; should be able, in short, to give to them a kind of brief lecture, to assist them in their difficulties. We have heard of persons, who were supposed to possess a capability for teaching who while in company with their young academicians, very rarely spoke only to find fault with some one who happened to forget himself while ringing. Others we have heard of have satisfied themselves with continually impressing upon the "youths" to "mind their striking," leaving them to find out everything else how they may. We admit that such

"instructors" are not very common; but the fact of their existence is in most instances a serious disadvantage instead of an assistance. And what is more disappointing to a young company to find that after entering into an engagement for a season with some one to teach them, for a liberal consideration, perhaps, that they have been deceived in their estimation of the capabilities of that individual?

At the meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Windsor the other week, a most valuable suggestion was made, which if it ever comes to be realised, will act as a species of corrective to the shortcomings of those who in some cases intrude themselves upon the notice of youthful companies of ringers under the pretence of being fully competent to teach. This suggestion was "that the general committee should consider the advisability of utilizing part of the time at subsequent meetings, by organizing lectures to the members by experienced ringers, some to beginners with hints for ringing, and others to more advanced ringers on such subjects as in and out of course." The value of such a plan, if thoroughly carried out, really cannot be over-estimated. We fail to see what is exactly meant by the words "subsequent meetings." An additional meeting of a ringing company now and then may be arranged, and negotiations entered into with some one fully competent to explain and illustrate some particular branch of the science. That there are many among us who are able and willing to thus give their services in such a manner, there is not the slightest doubt. And we should rejoice in being able to publish in our columns a list of such lecturers, with the titles of the subjects they would undertake to deal with. We think such instrumentality in teaching the art would often be called into requisition.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AT EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

On Saturday, August 11th, eight members of this Society visited Eastbourne by kind invitation of Messrs. Warner and Sons, of the Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate, London, this firm having just erected a new peal of eight bells at All Saints' church, tenor 18 cwt. in E. They are hung in a massive oak frame, and are fitted with Warner's improved chiming apparatus, by which one man can chime the whole of the eight bells for service. Arriving at Eastbourne the band at once proceeded to the church, when ringing was started with a 576 of Kent Treble Bob, afterwards followed with a musical touch of a 504 of Stedman Triples. An adjournment was then made to Mr. Vines restaurant, where a good and substantial dinner was provided by the liberality of the worthy vicar. Ample justice having been done to the good fare, the tower was again ascended, when the following touches were rung at intervals during the afternoon: 504 of Grandsire Triples; 336 of Bob Major; 224 of Double Norwich Court Bob Major; and 224 of Oxford Treble Bob. In the evening the band were kindly shown round the town by Messrs. Harding and Hunnisett, of the local society. A visit was also paid to All Souls' church (a peal of 5), and Christ Church (a peal of six), where several 6-scores and 720's were rung, particulars of which will be found on another page. It was hitherto thought impossible to ring changes at All Souls' church, owing to the rocking of the tower. On Sunday morning the visitors were taken to the parish church, St. Mary's (a peal of 8), when a 576 of Kent Treble Bob was rung for service, and a 444 of Stedman Triples after service. Adjourning to the "Lamb" Hotel, a capital dinner was served by the worthy host, who expressed himself highly pleased with the ringing, and said he would willingly give £50 if he could do the same. In the afternoon another visit was paid to All Saints' church, when 1260 of Stedman Triples was rung for service. After this a stroll was taken to Beechy Head, which is upwards of 600 feet above the level of the sea, and from whence a splendid view of the sea and surrounding country can be obtained. This brought the day to a close, and the visitors returned to town well pleased with their outing. The ringers who took part in the above ringing were: G. Newson (conductor), 1; W. Meadows, 2; T. Titchener, 3; J. Gobbett, 4; A. Jacob, 5; E. Chapman, 6; J. Hannington, 6; J. Barrett, 8.

The Provinces.**WEST BROMWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.**

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND
THE ST. MARTIN'S (BIRMINGHAM) YOUTHS.

On Saturday, August 11, 1883, in Three Hours,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION. Tenor 14 cwt.

HENRY JOHNSON, JUN. .. Treble.	WILLIAM ROCK SMALL .. 5.
JOB JOYNES 2.	SAMUEL REEVES 6.
HENRY BASTABLE 3.	JOHN BUFFERY 7.
HENRY JOHNSON, SEN. .. 4.	ALFRED THOMAS Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

This is the first true peal of Stedman Triples rung in West Bromwich, permission being very kindly given by the Rev. M. M. Connor, vicar, for which the party take this opportunity of thanking him. Previous to starting for the peal, the ringers of the 4th and 5th bells were elected members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

CRADLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE (BIRMINGHAM) ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY.

On Monday, August 13, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

T. DAY'S COMPOSITION. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

JOHN JAMES Treble.	THOMAS MILLER 5.
JOB JOYNES 2.	JOHN BUFFERY 6.
SAMUEL REEVES 3.	ALFRED THOMAS 7.
HENRY BASTABLE 4.	ROBERT JONES Tenor.

(No conductor mentioned.)

RHYL, NORTH WALES.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION, AND THE
ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY OF BURTON-ON-TRENT.

On Monday, August 13, 1883, in Three Hours and Twenty-six Minutes,

AT ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 17½ cwt. in F.

HARRY WAKLEY Treble.	JOHN JAGGAR 5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE .. 2.	GEORGE APPLEBY 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, SEN., and conducted by
WILLIAM WAKLEY.

For the figures of the above, see Mr. Snowdon's collection in "THE BELL NEWS," vol. I, page 283, being the second of the peals of 5088 there published. It has never been previously performed, and is the first peal of Double Norwich, rung in Wales.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.—THE HYDE SOCIETY.

On Monday, August 13, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, CASTLE HALL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES SHAW Treble.	*JOHN FILDES 5.
RALPH PRICHARD 2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY 6.
JAMES S. WILDE 3.	SAMUEL BENNETT 7.
ROBERT WOOLLEY 4.	THOMAS WILDE Tenor.

Composed by the late JAMES WILDE, of Hyde, and conducted by
THOMAS WILDE.

*First peal in the method.

The peal will be found in Snowdon's Treatise on Treble Bob, part II, page 21.

A CORRECTION.—In the account which we published a short time ago of the Winchester Guild Annual Meeting, an error occurred in the name of the president. The president of the Guild is Charles Churchill, Esq., of Weybridge Park, Surrey. This gentleman's name was sent to us by the Hon. Sec. of the Guild, but the letter being incorrectly addressed, it did not reach us before we went to press.

OXFORD.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, August 9, 1883, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART PEAL. Tenor 42 cwt.

CHARLES HOUNSLOW* .. Treble.	*WM. CHAS. BASTON .. 5.
GEORGE LAPWORTH 2.	*WILLIAM FINCH 6.
THOMAS PAYNE† 3.	JAMES WM. WASHBROOK .. 7.
OLIVER THOMAS* 4.	ALFRED BARNEY Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

†First peal. *Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Miscellaneous.**THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**

BROMHAM.—On Sunday, August 12th, at St. Owen's church, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Bob Minor, with six singles and eight bobs, in 28 mins. T. Tysoe, 1; F. Smith, 2; H. King, 3; W. King, 4; C. Stafferton, 5; W. Biggs (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

COGGESHALL (Essex).—On Sunday morning, August 5th, at St. Peter's church, for Divine Service, a 1008 of Bob Major, in 41 mins. John Sadler, 1; William Dyer, 2; James Nicholls, 3; Harry Randall (West Ham), 4; James Aust, 5; James Sadler, 6; William Nicholls, 7; James Potter (conductor), 8. Also in the evening, a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. John Sadler, 1; William Dyer, 2; James Aust, 3; David Elliott, 4; William Nicholls, 5; Harry Randall, 6. Tenor 22 cwt.

ROMFORD (Essex).—Chiming.—On Sunday evening, August 12th, on the back six at St. Edward's, a 720 of Bob Minor, with four bobs and fourteen singles, in 26 mins. A. J. Perkins, 1-2-3-4; B. Keeble (conductor), 5-6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Tuesday, August 7th, being the occasion of the Farnham Royal Horticultural Society's Show, a 720 of Grandsire Doubles, in 25½ mins. C. Chapman, 1; F. Fells, 2; G. Basden, 3; J. Basden, 4; J. Parker (conductor), 5; T. Brown (first 720), 6. Also on Saturday, August 11th, a 720 of Bob Minor in five parts, with twenty-five bobs and ten singles, in 26 mins. F. Fells, 1; W. Fussell, 2; A. Fussell, 3; J. Parker (composer and conductor), 4; H. Cutter, 5; C. Clarke, 6. Mr. Cutter hails from Willesden.

OXFORD.—Handbell Ringing.—On Monday evening, July 23rd, the following members of the above Association met at the residence of Mr. John Collier, and rang on handbells, retained in hand, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 34 mins. Charles Hounslow, 1-2; William C. Baston, 3-4; James W. Washbrook (conductor), 5-6; John G. Collier, 7-8. This quarter-peal was marked off as it was rung by Mr. S. Hounslow. Also on Tuesday, July 17th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 18 mins. Oliver Thomas, 1-2; James W. Washbrook (conductor), 3-4; William Baston, 5-6.

OXFORD.—On Wednesday, August 8th, at St. Michael's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. George Warner, 1; Samuel Hounslow, 2; Tom Payne, 3; Charles Hounslow, 4; James William Washbrook (conductor), 5; William Finch, 6. Tenor 13 cwt. in F. This is supposed to be the first 720 in this method on the bells, which go very badly.

WANTAGE (Berks).—On Sunday, August 12th, six members of this branch rang in good style three 6-scores of Stedman Doubles. G. Gregory, 1; J. Gardener, 2; F. May, 3; F. Money, 4; A. Gregory, 5; A. Bunce, 6. Also 120 of Grandsire Doubles. G. Gregory, 1; *W. R. Pocock, 2; F. May, 3; F. Money, 4; A. Gregory, 5; H. Smith, 6. Tenor 23½ cwt. *Member of the St. Lawrence Parish church society, Reading.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

MELBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Saturday, August 11th, at the parish church, six members of the above Association visited the above place, and by the kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. J. Deans), rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 29 mins. R. Bosworth, 1; A. Taberer, 2; R. Redgate, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 28 mins. R. Redgate, 1; A. Taberer, 2; J. Newbold, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; R. Bosworth, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in the method on the bells. After the above had finished five members of the local company, with Mr. W. Busher of Derby, rang two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, called differently. H. Hulse, 1; J. Warren, 2; W. Busher, 3; G. C. Tunni-

cliff, 4; T. Hollingworth (conductor), 5; F. Kinsey, 6. The ringers afterwards repaired to the Blue Bell Inn for refreshments, where a course of Triples were rung on handbells in very excellent style. J. Newbold, 1-2; R. Bosworth, 3-4; J. Howe, 5-6; H. C. Woodward, 7-8. The visitors were highly pleased with their afternoon's outing, and expressed their opinion of the excellent go of the bells.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, August 5th, for evening service, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, with fifteen bobs, in 27 mins. G. Bradley, 1; A. Widdowson, 2; S. Clarke, 3; W. Gilson, 4; W. Grice, 5; J. Barrow (conductor), 6. Also on Monday evening, August 13th, for practice 360 Grandsire Minor. R. Hickton, 1; G. Bradley, 2; J. Barrow, 3; W. Gilson, 4; W. Grice, 5; J. Ward (conductor), 6. Also 120 Stedman Doubles. J. Barrow (conductor), 1; G. Bradley, 2; W. Gilson, 3; W. Grice, 4; R. Hickton, 5; J. Pritchard, 6. Tenor 11 cwt.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

CHEDDLETON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, August 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. J. James, 1; G. Walker (first 720), 2; J. Gilbert, 3; Hy. Rodgers, 4; F. Clowes (conductor), 5; J. Renshaw, 6. G. Walker hails from Norton-le-Moors, the rest from Cheddleton.

ANSTON (Yorkshire).—On Sunday, August 12th, at St. James's church, a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. R. Fox, 1; T. Silvester, 2; J. Bland, 3; W. Wyatt, 4; C. Fowler, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

ARDLEIGH (Essex).—On Thursday, July 9th, for the opening service, two 720's of Bob Minor was rung by a mixed band. J. Taylor (conductor), 1; G. Bowell, 2; W. Smith, 3; H. Bowell, 4; G. Smith, 5; W. Nevard, 6. Also on Sunday, August 12th, a 720 in the same method, in 27 mins. J. Taylor (conductor), 1; G. Bowell, 2; H. Bowell, 3; J. Sargent, 4; W. Nevard, 5; J. Starling, 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

AUGHTON (Lancashire).—On Friday evening, August 10th, at Christ Church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, was rung on the front six, with 7-8 covering. G. Larkey, 1; W. Fairclough, 2; J. Orme, 3; C. Sharples (conductor), 4; W. Bentham, 5; J. Walker, 6; J. Gardner, 7; J. Gaskell, 8. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

BEIGHTON (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, August 12th, at the parish church, five of the Eckington company, with Mr. S. Allen, sen., of Dronsfield, rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. G. Smith, 1; S. Allen, 2; E. James, 3; W. Price, 4; Geo. Marsden (conductor), 5; T. Lunn, 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

BRIERLEY HILL (Staffordshire).—On Sunday morning, August 12th, at the parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. John Hayward, 1; W. H. Hughes, 2; J. Guest (conductor), 3; G. Howells, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; R. Bidmead, 6. J. Hayward hails from Longton.

EASTBOURNE (Sussex).—On Saturday, August 11th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 24 mins. J. Gobbett, 1; J. Hannington (conductor), 2; W. Meadows, 3; E. Chapman, 4; A. Jacob, 5; J. Barrett, 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. W. Meadows, 1; E. Chapman, 2; J. Hannington (conductor), 3; A. Jacob, 4; T. Titchener, 5; G. Newson, 6. Also a 6-score of Stedman Doubles. G. Newson, 1; W. Meadows, 2; J. Gobbett, 3; J. Hannington (conductor), 4; T. Titchener, 5; J. Barrett, 6. Also a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. J. Hannington (conductor), 1; G. Newson, 2; F. Harding (Eastbourne), 3; W. Meadows, 4; T. Titchener, 5; H. Cox (Eastbourne), 6. Tenor 7½ cwt.

ECCLES (Lancashire).—On Saturday, August 11th, the following members of the Leesfield society visited this place, and rung at St. Mary's the first half of J. Reeves's ten-part (variation) peal of Grandsire Triples, 2520 changes, in 1 hr. 29 mins., time not permitting of a full peal. Jas. H. Gartside, 1; Fred Crosland, 2; Edwin Shaw, 3; Samuel Stott (conductor), 4; James Bailey, 5; Wm. Holden, 6; John Hilton, 7; Thos. B. Shaw, 8. Tenor 13½ cwt. This peal of bells are without stays.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Sunday, July 29th, the newly organized band of the above church rang for Divine Service in the morning and evening, a 700 of Stedman Triples. J. Wibberley, 1; Thos. Cooke, 2; W. Langley, 3; Horace W. Abbott, 4; Ed. Robinson, 5; J. Hickman, 6; G. Middleton (conductor), 7; J. A. Wibberley, 8.

SOUTHPORT (Lancashire).—On Monday, August 13th, seven of the Christ Church ringers, assisted by Mr. Joseph Cheetham, of the Bradford Old Society, rung as a friendly peal, at that church, the first half of Holt's 10-part peal, in 1 hr. and 23 mins. J. H. Heywood, 1; T. J. Fielding, 2; C. F. Heywood (conductor), 3; Jos. Cheetham, 4; R. Hill, 5; H. Spencer, 6; G. R. Heywood, 7; A. Fielding, 8. Tenor 10 cwt. 8 lbs. *Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and the Yorkshire Association.

TETTENHALL (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, July 28th, the local company rang at the parish church, rang for practice a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. T. Roberts, 1; E. Nicholls, 2; B. Dalton, 3; W. Edwards, 4; J. Fowler, 5; J. Jones (conductor), 6. Also on Saturday, August 4th, the company had their Annual trip, and went to Kidderminster, and rang a touch of Grandsire Triples, 1883 changes, being the date of the present year, in 1 hr. 18 mins. W. Purdoo, 1; B. Dalton, 2; E. Nicholls (composer), 3; W. Edwards, 4; W. Smith, 5; J. Jones (conductor), 6; J. Fowler, 7; T. Roberts, 8. All the above, with the exception of Mr. Smith, belong to the Association of the Archdeaconry of Stafford. Tenor 29½ cwt.

TEWKESBURY ABBEY (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday afternoon, August 12th, on the occasion of a Special (Hospital) Service being held in the Abbey church (to which about 500 Odd Fellows and Foresters attended), the Abbey society met and rung 1008 changes of Union Triples. R. H. Witherington, 1; S. Cleal, 2; J. J. Moore, 3; G. Cleal, 4; John Wathen, 5; J. Hale, 6; Josiah Wathen (composer and conductor), 7; W. Haines, 8. Tenor 24 cwt.

WORDSLEY (Staffordshire).—On Thursday evening, August 9th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. John Hayward, 1; E. S. Chapman, 2; J. Guest (conductor), 3; W. H. Hughes, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; E. G. Husselbee, 6. J. Hayward hails from Longton.

WORTH (Sussex).—On Sunday, August 5th, for service in the afternoon, a 720 of Oxford Bob, with eighteen bobs and two singles. W. Owden, 1; B. Payne, 2; J. Tullett, 3; W. Denman, 4; G. Illman, 5; F. Rice (conductor), 6. After service a 720 of Oxford Bob, with twenty-two singles. W. Owden, 1; B. Payne, 2; F. Rice, 3; W. Denman, 4; F. Streeter, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. After service in the morning, a 360 of Oxford Bob, with six bobs and three singles, standing in the same order as first, and conducted by F. Rice. On Sunday, August 12th, before afternoon service, a 720, with fifteen bobs and six singles. W. Owden, 1; F. Streeter, 2; W. Denman, 3; G. Illman, 4; F. Rice, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. Also after service, a 720 with thirty singles. W. F. Meads (Lindfield), 1; W. Denman, 2; F. Rice, 3; E. Streeter, 4; F. Streeter, 5; Jno. Gasson (conductor), 6. After which another 720 was started for, but owing to a shift course it was extended to 840, with thirty-six bobs and twenty-two singles. W. F. Meads, 1; F. Rice, 2; W. Denman, 3; J. Gasson, 4; F. Streeter, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. Also 360, with twenty-one bobs. W. Owen, 1; W. Denman, 2; F. Rice, 3; J. Gasson, 4; F. Streeter, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. All the above are in the Oxford Bob Method. Tenor 8½ cwt. in G.

OPENING OF THE NEW BELLS AT ST. NICHOLAS'S CHURCH, HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

THE above tower and bells, the gift of Mr. French, the Lindens, Gateacre, were consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Liverpool, assisted by the Rural Dean, Rev. J. W. Diggle, and the Rector, the Rev. T. Chambers. The bells (a peal of eight by Warner), are hung in English oak frame, with all requisite appliances for ringing and chiming, are in G natural. Tenor (39 inches diameter), about 11 cwt. The clock supplied by Messrs. Potts and Son, Leeds. The tower bells and clock cost about £2200. The Architect not allowing the bells to be rung up, the tower not being dry enough, the bells were chimed by members of the Garston society. It is hoped the tower will be fit for ringing purposes by Harvest Festival. The local ringers are making good progress in ringing matters.

STAFFORD ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday, August 11th, five Lichfield members of the above Association, at the kind invitation of the vicar (the Rev. G. Hodgson, visited St. Matthew's, Walsall, where they were received by the vicar and ringers, and, with the assistance of the latter, rang touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Kent Treble Bob Major, and Grandsire Caters, in which the following took part:—Rev. J. R. Keble (Lichfield; clerical Hon. Sec. of the Association); W. Hallsworth, J. Astbury, sen., J. Astbury, jun., W. Walker, D. Wesley, D. Chapman, E. Taylor, E. Gallimore (Lichfield), T. Meredith (Lichfield), H. Meacham (Lichfield), and F. Cope (Lichfield). After attending Divine Service, the party (numbering about seventeen), were kindly entertained to tea by the worthy Vicar, who spoke upon the work of the Association. The Rev. J. R. Keble suitably replied; and thanked the Vicar and ringers for their hospitality and welcome. An adjournment being made to the church, after several touches, a date touch of Stedman Caters was rung in 1 hour 10 mins., by F. Hallsworth, treble; F. Cope, 2; J. Astbury, sen., 3; W. Walker, 4; T. Meredith, 5; D. Wesley, 6; J. Astbury, jun., 7; D. Chapman, 8; W. Hallsworth, 9; E. Taylor, tenor. Composed and conducted by W. Hallsworth. Weight of tenor, 24 cwt. in Eb.

VISIT OF THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY BURTON ON TRENT,
TO RHYL, NORTH WALES.

ON Monday last, August 13th, the members of the above Society, in conjunction with the choirs of St. Paul's and St. Margaret's churches visited this pretty watering place, on the occasion of the annual excursion of the united choirs of St. Paul's parish. The London and North Western Railway had kindly consented to run a special train for the accommodation of the members and their friends leaving Burton-on-Trent at 6 a. m.; and the party, which was joined at Alrewas by a considerable accession of pleasure seekers, reached Rhyl at 9.30 a.m., travelling by Lichfield, Stafford, Crewe, and Chester. At Rhyl, a capital breakfast had been provided by the churchwardens of St. Paul's (Messrs. W. Wakley and E. F. Daniel, who carried out the entire arrangements of the day to everybody's satisfaction) to which about 100 sat down, by way of refreshing the inner man after their long journey. Breakfast ended, eight of St. Paul's ringers started off under the guidance of the energetic and affable steeple-keeper of St. Thomas' Church, to try for a peal upon the bells, permission for which had been granted by the favour of the Rev. T. Richardson, the Vicar of this beautiful Church. They found the bell-chamber capitally fitted up; and the go of the bells, a handy peal of Messrs. Taylor, every thing that could be desired. Unfortunately the sound of the bells in the ringing chamber is so overpowering, owing to the want of an intermediate floor, that it is difficult to distinguish the bells, unless they are rung very "high," and this will account for the comparative slowness of the peal which was subsequently achieved. If it would not be considered impertinent, where everything else is in such good order, and so admirably arranged, to make a suggestion we should like to state, that in our opinion, it would be a great improvement in the interests of change-ringing at this church, to carry the ropes down through the present ringing chamber, into the room below. This latter seems to us to have been originally intended for the ringing chamber, than which arrangement indeed nothing could have been better; but this room, as we believe, used for storage purposes at present, whilst the ringers stand in the chamber above. If this state of things were exactly reversed, there would be no better place to be found in the Principality for peal ringing on eight bells. The party started for a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, but after half an hour's ringing, found that the speed at which they commenced was incompatible with good striking, owing to the drawback above mentioned. A stand was therefore called, and a fresh start made, which resulted in the completion of a 5088 by Mr. Henry Johnson, sen., in 3 hrs. and 26 mins., see record. A dip in the sea of course followed this achievement, the interval before dinner being kept in surveying the various attractions of the town and neighbourhood. Dinner was served at the Alexandra Hotel at five o'clock. The Rev. James H. Fish officiating as chairman and proposing subsequently the various toasts which are invariably honoured on the occasions of this Annual Excursion. The party left Rhyl at 8 p.m., and arrived safely at Burton at 1.30 a.m., thoroughly tired, but thoroughly pleased with a very enjoyable day's outing.

THE CHURCH YEAR-BOOK AND RINGER'S GUILDS.

We have much pleasure in printing the following important communication from the Rev. Woolmore Wigram;—

"Allow me, through your columns, to direct the attention of ringers to chapter vi. of the Church Year-book, published by the S.P.C.K. Also to request, that they will communicate to me any mistakes, or omissions made last year. And in particular, that they will furnish me with the address, etc., of new Guilds; or any other information, which will tend to secure that "the Exercise" be properly reported in the Official Year-book for 1884.

W. WIGRAM.

Address during August,
Rothbury, Morpeth."

THE "JOHN HOLT" FUND.—Our Treasurer requests us to acknowledge the receipt of 4s. from Mr. Samuel Smith (steeple-keeper at St. Margaret's), towards this fund.

Several matters are unavoidably left over until our next issue.

Correspondence.

[While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.]

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

HEIGHINGTON OPENING.

SIR,—Mr. Thompson says he was, and still is, under the impression that in writing my first letter I was acting in the capacity of secretary of the Association. Of course I was. The great majority of change-ringers within distance of Heighington are members of the Association, and naturally looked to me, their Secretary, to inform them of the arrangements respecting that opening. The letter referred to, conveyed that information, and was therefore an official letter and signed as such. The Hurworth ringers are most certainly welcome to all the consolation they can derive from Mr. Reed's letter, who I am quite sure never intended to convey the very false impression that the Heighington arrangements have not given great offence to several members of the Association. I am in a position to state that his letter would never have been written but for the fact that the Association had been accused of dictating to clergymen in what way and by whom their bells should be opened. There is I believe a vast difference between dictating upon such a matter, and recommending what measures would meet with the greatest approval by ringers of repute, and afford the best results. If the Hurworth ringers feel that they have been rather severely handled, I must remind them that this is the third opening in three consecutive years in this district that has been utterly spoiled by the action of ringers in the immediate neighbourhood. Regretting as I do the advantages that have been lost to the science in this way, I felt it was high time to speak out. As I do not intend to again refer to this incident, I will add that I sincerely hope that any feeling which this correspondence may have aroused will pass away, and that the spirit of exclusiveness in such matters as bell openings will henceforth become a thing unknown.

G. J. CLARKSON.

PEALS RUNG UPON HANDBELLS.

SIR,—I think this is a question that every ringer should take special notice of, not only should he take notice, but give all the assistance he possibly can to the object now in view, viz.: the formation of a complete record of peals rung upon handbells, a record which would be very interesting to a great many ringing friends, especially when we consider the great difficulties there are in obtaining peals double-handed which is the principal reason why we should have a record of all peals so rung. I think it could be done without putting our friends to any very great trouble. If they would be kind enough to forward all such peals that have been rung from August 1876 to February 1882, inclusive, to Mr. J. Carter, 33, Ford Street, Hockley, Birmingham, a step in the right direction will be gained. Now that we have a paper always ready to publish all peals sent for that purpose, I think it is entirely ringers' own faults if their peals are not recorded. In the event of a peal being rung in the country and not being made public, I contend that the London ringers would be quite justified in concluding that no such peal had been rung, or *vice versa*. I think Sir, that we as brother-ringers, should assist our Birmingham friend in the work he has voluntarily undertaken. Trusting that the appeal I have now made, may meet with a prompt response, I am Sir, yours respectfully,

W. A. ALPS.

THE BELLS OF WALTHAM ST. LAURENCE, BERKS.

SIR,—Having read the letters which have appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" concerning the "go" of the above bells, and as Mr. F. White, of Appleton, who rehung the bells last winter, is an old friend of mine, I thought I should like to see and know for myself the correct state of the bells, so on a recent Sunday I mustered a party, and went up and rang on the bells for about an hour and a half. We did not ring a 720, as one of the band failed to put in an appearance at the starting-point, so we had to put up with ringing Doubles, and a few courses of Minor, which we enjoyed very much, and we considered the "go" of the bells satisfactory, from treble to tenor, both for striking and easy-going. They are also a most musical peal. We found one difficulty, and that was, the ropes being new, were very elastic, and when such is the case, as all ringers know, it is difficult at first to get good striking, especially where, like this, there is a long draught (about sixty feet), with only one guide to steady the ropes. No doubt these were the reasons which militated against the success of the Boyne Hill (Maidenhead) company, and that they could not get on so well as they anticipated. I have no doubt that as soon as the ropes get well in use, the bells will be pealable for anything or anybody.

W. NEWELL.

Reading.

PEALS OF DOUBLE NORWICH
COURT BOB MAJOR.By H. DAINS, *Royal Cumberland Youths.*

5024.					
2 3 4 5 6	I	4	5	6	I
2 3 4 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 6 2 4	-	-	-	-	-
2 6 3 5 4	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 2 6 5	S	-	-	-	-
5 4 3 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 5 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 3 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
5 2 4 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 5 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 2 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
4 3 5 6 2	-	-	-	-	-

Repeated.

The above peal has the sixth twenty-four times right.

5008.					
2 3 4 5 6	I	4	5	6	I
2 3 4 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 6 2 4	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 6 5 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 6 2 3 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 4 2 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 3 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 5 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 5 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
5 2 3 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 5 4 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 5 3 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 5 2 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 4 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
4 3 2 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 5 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
3 5 4 6 2	S	-	-	-	S
4 5 2 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
2 5 3 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 4 3 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 2 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 5 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 3 5 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 2 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 5 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 2 4 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 3 6 5	-	-	-	-	-

The above peal has the 6th twenty-four times wrong and right in the least possible number of changes in which a peal in this method can be obtained with the tenors together.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5536.

By JOHN THORP, *Ashton-under-Lyne.*

2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H
3 6 4 5 2	I	-	-	2
3 4 5 6 2	-	-	I	2
4 2 5 6 3	I	-	-	2
2 3 5 6 4	I	-	-	2
3 2 4 6 5	2	-	-	2
6 4 2 3 5	-	-	2	2
6 2 3 4 5	-	-	I	2
6 3 4 2 5	-	-	I	2
2 5 3 4 6	2	-	-	2
4 2 3 5 6	-	-	I	-
2 6 3 4 5	I	-	-	2
5 2 6 4 3	-	-	-	2
4 5 2 3 6	-	-	-	2
3 4 2 5 6	-	-	I	-
4 6 2 5 3	I	-	-	2
5 4 6 3 2	-	-	-	2
3 5 4 2 6	-	-	-	2
2 3 4 5 6	-	-	I	-

First rung at St. Peter's church, Ashton-under-Lyne, August 4th, 1883, conducted by James S. Wilde.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CINQUES.

5104.

By GEORGE HAYWARD, *Bromsgrove.*

2 3 4 5 6	
6 5 3 2 4	9th in and out at three.
3 6 5 2 4	7th in with four.
5 6 4 2 3	10 II
4 5 6 2 3	7th in with four.
6 4 5 2 3	7th in with four.
3 2 4 6 5	11th in with three.
4 3 2 6 5	7th in with four.
2 4 3 6 5	7th in with four.
3 4 5 6 2	10 II
5 3 4 6 2	7th in with four.
4 5 3 6 2	7th in with four.
3 5 2 6 4	10 II

The last seven courses three times repeated, produce:— 2 3 4 5 6;

Bobs at I, I, 2, I, I, I, 2, I, I, bring the bells round.

PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.

By H. C. HALEY, *College Youths.*

5040.				5088.			
2 3 4 5 6	M	W	H	4 5 2 3 6	I	I	
5 2 3 6 4	2	2	2	6 2 5 3 4	I	I	
2 5 4 6 3	2	2	2	5 3 6 2 4	I	I	
3 4 5 6 2	I	I	I	5 4 3 2 6	2	I	
6 3 5 2 4	2	2	2				5088.
4 5 2 3 6	I	I	2	5 4 6 3 2	I	I	
2 5 3 4 6	2	I	I	5 3 2 4 6	I	I	2
2 3 4 5 6	I	2	I	4 5 2 3 6	I	I	

The last two to be repeated.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

6051.

By J. WRIGHT, *Kingston-on-Thames.*

2 3 1 4 5 6	Bob on 789
4 5 1 6	
3 1 5 6 2 4	- - 6 -
3 1 4 5 2 6	- -
4 1 3 6 2 5	- -
4 1 5 3 2 6	- -
5 1 4 6 2 3	- -
5 1 3 4 2 6	- -
5 1 6 3 2 4	- -
6 1 5 4 2 3	- -
6 1 3 5 2 4	- -
6 1 4 3 2 5	- -
4 1 6 5 2 3	- -
6 1 3 2 4 5	- -
6 1 5 3 4 2	- -
5 1 6 2 4 3	- -
5 1 3 6 4 2	- -
3 1 5 2 4 6	- -
3 1 6 5 4 2	- -
3 1 2 6 4 5	- -
2 1 3 5 4 6	- -
2 1 6 3 4 5	- -
2 1 5 6 4 3	- -
5 1 2 3 4 6	- -

The last eleven courses three times repeated, produce—

2 1 3 4 5 6

When bobs at 2 8 9 and 15 bring the bells round.

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7 5 2 6 3 4	1	6 5 3 4 7 2	5
6 5 7 4 2 3	5	2 4 6 7 5 3	1
2 3 6 7 4 5	2	4 6 2 7 5 3	4
7 3 2 5 6 4	6	3 7 4 5 6 2	1
3 2 7 5 6 4	4	5 7 3 2 4 6	6
6 4 3 7 5 2	2	6 2 5 4 7 3	1
7 4 6 2 3 5	5	6 4 2 3 5 7	p.l.
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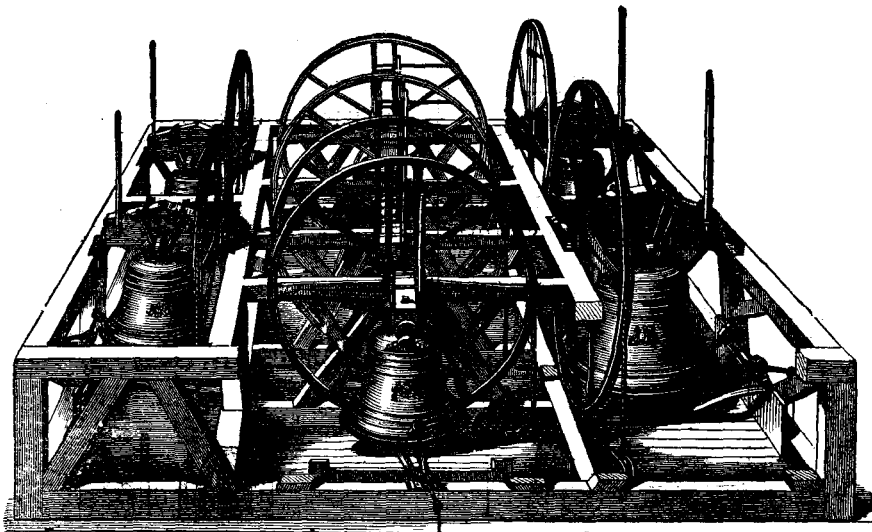
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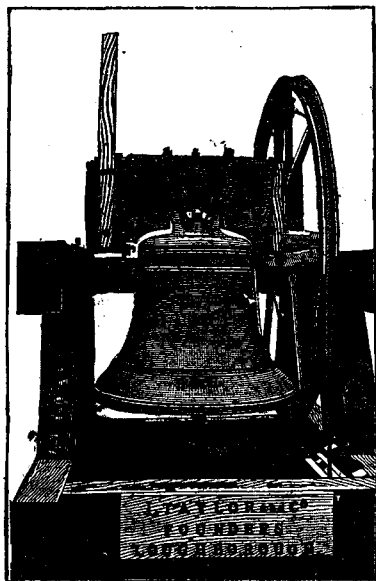
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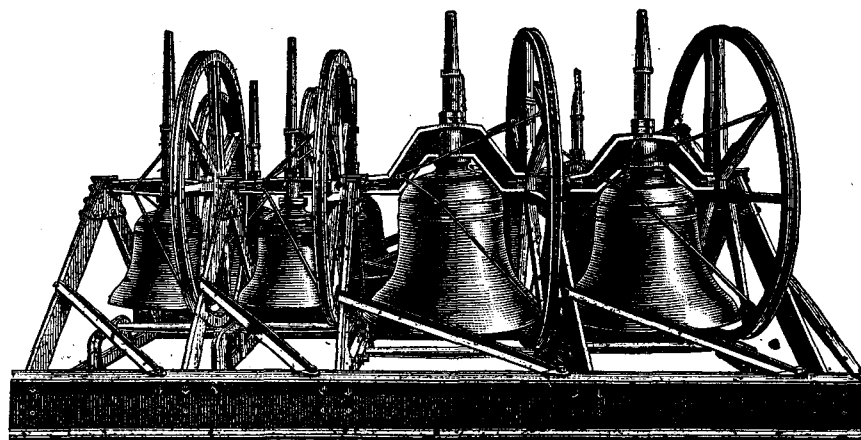
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