THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 80. [NEW SERIES.]—*VOL. II.* SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1883. [ONE PENNY.

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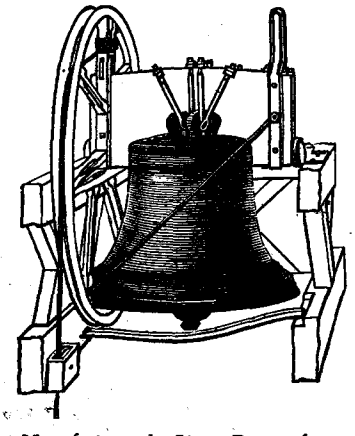
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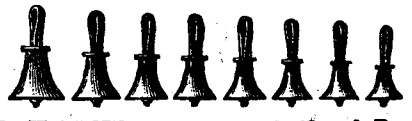
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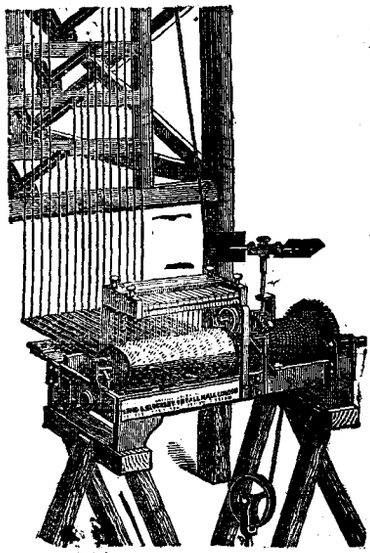
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Presented at the NINETEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Offices of the Company, London Bridge, City, E.C., September 28th, 1883.

YOUR Directors are again pleased to be able to report the continued prosperity of the Company.

Two Hundred and Twenty-Two Thousand and Thirty Policies have been issued during the year, representing a New Annual Premium Income of £103,837 15s. 8½d. Premium from One Halfpenny per week may now be paid either Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half-Yearly, or Yearly, to meet the requirements of all classes.

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The Directors, who retire this year, and who, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election, are Messrs. KEENE, MOULLIN, and BLEASBY.

The Directors tender their best thanks to all connected with the Company, for the great success due to their exertions, and they hope to be able at the end of each recurring year to compliment them still further on the yet greater advancement of the Company resulting from their endeavours.

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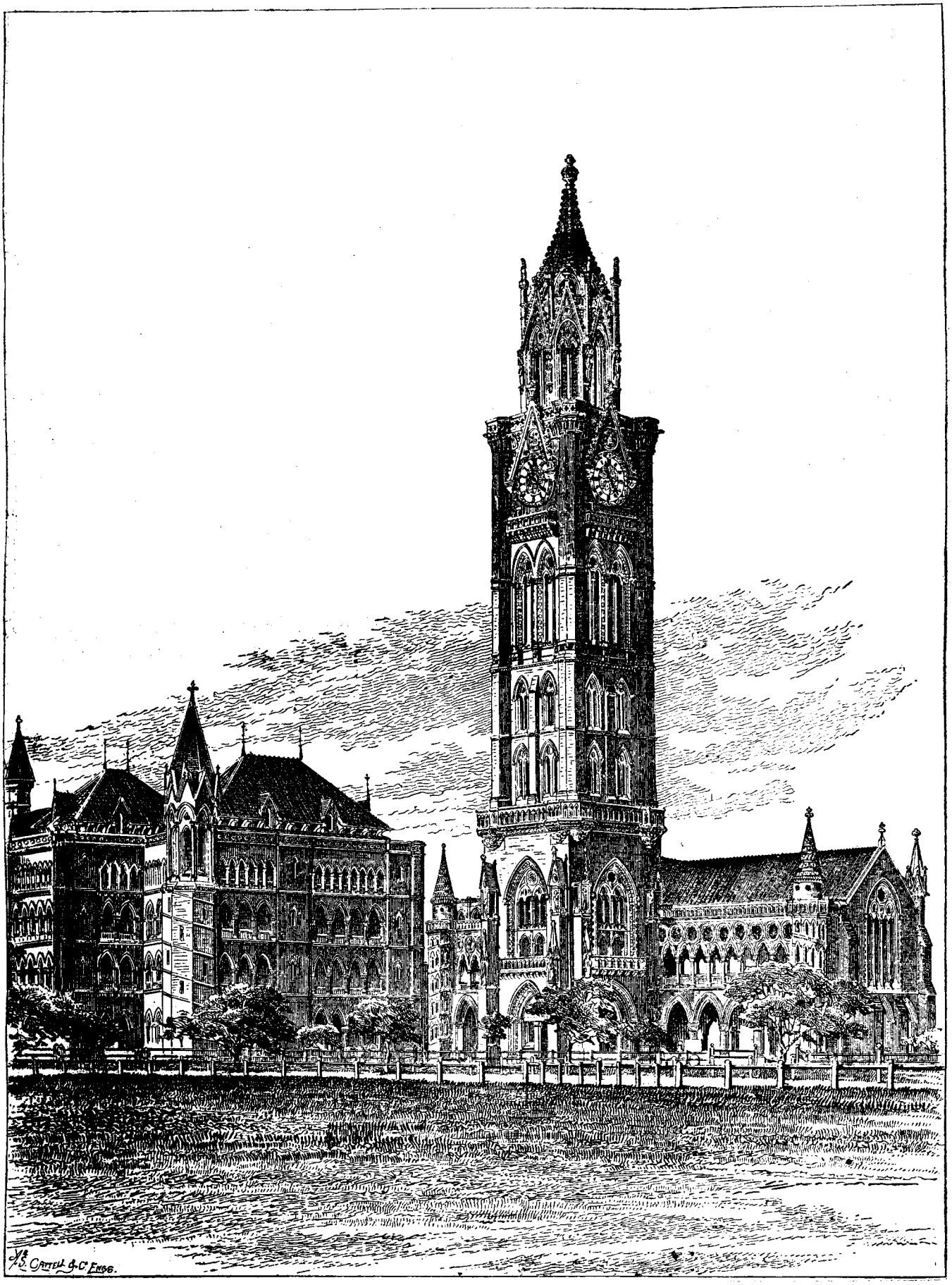
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BOMBAY UNIVERSITY. *(See page 333.)*

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.—OUR CONFERENCE.

THROUGHOUT its history—extending now over a period of twenty-three years—only once has the Church Congress become the means of bringing more prominently before the uninitiated public that portion of Church work which takes place in and is associated with the belfry. It was at the Plymouth Congress, held in 1876, that papers upon belfry reform and bell-ringing, after great pressure was brought to bear upon the Subjects Committee, were permitted to be read by Mr. Troyte and the Rev. Woolmore Wigram. During the seven years that have elapsed since County and Diocesan Associations—or Guilds, as some are called—have sprung into existence, with the result that numerous belfries are now reformed, and the science of change-ringing far more generally practised. Doubtless the Congress held at Reading last week, with its official list of nineteen subjects for discussion—although none of them had any relation to the belfry—will long be remembered by members of the Exercise as having been the means, to a certain extent, of introducing the commencement of a new era in the history of the science of change-ringing. Under the head of "Meetings during Congress Week," Mackeson's handbook announced that a Belfry Reform Association would be held on the Thursday in the West Street hall. This meeting was, as our readers will know from the announcement previously made in our columns, a Ringers' Conference, to carry out which the following Committee were appointed:—Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Chaceley, Tewkesbury; Rev. A. du Boulay Hill, Downton, Salisbury; Rev. F. E. Robinson, Drayton, Abingdon; Jasper W. Snowdon, Esq., Old Bank Chambers, Leeds; Lieut.-Col. Troyte, Huntsham Court, Devon; Captain Acland-Troyte, 2, Chester Street, London, S.W.; Rev. Woolmore Wigram, Hertford; Mr. Pettit, St. Thomas's Square, Hackney; Mr. J. Field, New College, Oxford; Mr. J. Nelms, London. *Secretary*, Rev. Dolben Paul, Bearwood Rectory, Wokingham. The use of the hall was secured for the day in order that it might be used as a rendezvous for those attending the meeting. A peal of handbells were ready for use, and upon the walls was exhibited a new invention to prevent injury to bells from the ordinary chiming apparatus. Among the first to put in an appearance was Mr. Dawe, of London, and the Rev. N. L. Bolingbroke, Hon Sec. *(pro tem.)* of the Norwich Diocesan Association, and Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., of Loughbourough, who, with three or four other gentlemen, at once started for the tower of St. Lawrence's church, to inspect the fine ring of ten therein. Here they were met by the Rev. C. Kerry, Curate, who ascended the tower with the visitors, and was indefatigable in explaining every item of interest.

The whole tower underwent restoration during last year, and standing nearly 90 ft. high, is a fine specimen of Architecture. The ring of ten, the tenor of which, with some or other bells, were recast last year by Messrs. Taylor, now weighs 24 cwt., is a musical ring, and the whole of the appliances requisite for ringing, under the careful management of Mr. Newell, the courteous instructor to the St. Lawrence band, are in excellent order. The ringing-chamber is neat and clean, and the bell-chamber is replete with everything that can possibly be desired. Owing to the meetings of Congress in the Town Hall, which is situated not far off, ringing, it was considered, could not be commenced to the close of the meeting, consequently it was one o'clock before a start was effected, when an attempt was made for a touch of Stedman Caters, which, however, was not brought home. A course of Treble Bob Royal was afterwards accomplished. Touches of Stedman Caters and Grandsire Caters were also rung after the meeting in the evening. A band started for Sonning, for a peal of Treble Bob, while another band went to St. Mary's, and under the conductorship of Mr, Newell, rung some Grandsire Triples. There is here a harmonions ring of eight, with a magnificent mellow-toned tenor of 28 cwt.; the "go" of the bells is not, however, equal to that of St. Lawrence. There is also a ring of eight at St. Giles's, but so far as we could gather these were not rung.

It might be mentioned that there is a tablet in St. Lawrence's belfry recording a peal of Grandsire Triples in July, 1734; and at St. Mary's a tablet recording a peal in the same method in 1869.

THE CONFERENCE MEETING

was held in the West Street Hall in the afternoon, Lord Nelson presiding. There was was about 125 present in the body of hall, among whom we noticed: Captain J. E. Acland-Troyte, Rev. N. Bolingbroke, Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Rev. J. Ulten Todd, C. C. Child, Esq., W. Reed, Esq., Gervas Holmes, Esq., J.P., Rev. Dolben Paul, Rev. H. C. Sturges, Rev. H. A. Spyres, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Leonard Procter, Esq., Captain Moore, J. M. Routh, Esq., Rev. J. R. Keble, Rev. E. C. Peake, Rev. O. P. Yerburgh, Mr. J. Belcher (Cheltenham), Mr. J. Perks (Malvern), Mr. J. Nelms (London), Mr. W. Newell and Mr. H. Egby (Reading), Mr. W. Baron (London), Mr. W. Wilder (Slough), Mr. R. Sewell and Mr. E. A. Davies (Barking), Mr. W. Wakley (Burton-on-Trent), Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun. (Loughborough), Mr. E. Bennett (Beddington), Mr. S. Reeves (West Bromwich), Mr. B. Keeble (Romford), etc., etc.

From the foregoing list it will be seen that there was a moderate attendance of clergymen. The names of most of these are, however, familiar to many of our readers as well-known ringers, and it is therefore to be regretted that there was not a larger attendance both of clergy and laity. Such might probably be obtained upon any future occasion, by a more prominent and effective announcement of such a meeting. In opening the proceedings,

The CHAIRMAN said he saw by the programme that he, as President, was expected to give a short address. He would confess they were very naughty people to hold a Conference at the same time as there was a meeting of the Church Congress, and no doubt some of them would say that he was the worst, to take the chair, but he must tell them that the pressure brought to bear upon him to do so was too strong (hear, hear), and he consented to break the law (laughter). Unhappily, as there was at the same time a meeting or Congress they were deprived of the presence of one who, if he was not a ringer himself, took great interest in the work. He referred to the Archdeacon of Ely. The Archdeacon had on the previous day given a ladies' address (laughter), and as he could not be present at this Conference, had asked him (the chairman) to mention the work that was going on in the Diocese by the formation of an Association, with the bishop as patron. It was satisfactory to learn that the work of Belfry Reform was growing everywhere. There was one point which the Archdeacon wished him (the chairman) to impress upon them, and it was one of some sadness. He referred to the great work done in the Norwich Diocese. It was only the other day that he learnt that his friend who he once knew as his brother's curate, but who afterwards moved to Norwich, where he took such great interest in bell-ringing, was gone to rest. The bells of Norwich were made to ring out their merry peals, and the whole work of bell-ringing was stimulated from one end of Norfolk to the other, they must all therefore, he was sure, regret that God had thought fit to call to his rest, at so early an age, the late Mr. Harris. As to the subject before the Conference, it was one which had his sympathy. The revival of spiritual life in church had taken a many forms, and men now found that they all had a duty to perform for God. This was the case not only with the clergy, but with the laity as well (hear, hear). In the olden time we had ringers, and we had choirs as well, who used to give us, in their way, their music. But in those days the clergy and laity did not look upon such as work consecrated for God's service. In those days the ringers little thought that the bells were consecrated to God, and why? was it not because they (the ringers) were neglected? (hear, hear). Still they did it in their own way. He should not be surprised to find the day was coming, which it would bring back, in place of organs, some of the old kind of church music (hear, hear, and laughter). When they thought of the pains that some of their forefathers must have taken, in doing their work to the honour and glory of God, it was something wonderful, and it would be a pleasant thing to find some of their choirs doing the same now (hear, hear). So it was with bell-ringers; they should be taken by the hand, and given the right hand of fellowship (hear, hear). What they did in the work of the Church, was work for GOD, and should be sanctified. Associations should take up this kind of work, and show that it was GOD'S work. It mattered not what they were: bell-ringers, choristers, schoolmasters, or what not, they must take it that they were permitted to do it for GOD'S honour. He should not advise them to make too strict rules in their belfries.

The Rev. A. du BOULAY HILL then proceeded to read the following paper on

BELL-RINGING ASSOCIATIONS; THEIR OBJECTS AND ORGANIZATION.

When the subject of "Church Bells, and How to use Them" was brought forward seven years ago at the Church Congress at Plymouth, the idea of Bell-ringers' Associations, as a branch of Church organization, was in its infancy.

Since that time a dozen or more Societies have sprung into existence in Diocese, Deanery, or County, following in the footsteps of the Devonshire Guild; and endeavouring, in the strength that is gained by union, with the incentive that is supplied by the cultivation of the intellectual exercise of change-ringing, and by the influence that is brought to bear by official recognition, to raise ringing to a higher level, and to benefit men who have so often the handling of instruments they know not how to use, the duty of sounding a call they so frequently disregard themselves.

How far have these objects been attained, in what respects has experience been gained, what still remains to be done? These are the questions which we ought to answer as we glance back over these seven years.

My own experience has lain so much in places where the spirit of change-ringing has been but little evoked; and where the very first principles of belfry reform have had to be inculcated, that it is the first struggling into life which has come chiefly under my notice, the first spring-time blade of promise rather than the summer harvest of results.

The work in such places is only begun—and up-hill work it is for some time. Recognition is the first thing to be gained, encouragement from without. A demand must be created before the supply will be produced.

To begin with, the incumbent and churchwardens must be aware of the value and the use of that which is intrusted to their care (hear, hear). They are perhaps ignorant of the fact that a modest village ring of six bells with a tenor of 12 cwt. is worth some £500, irrespective of fittings. That in its present uncared for state, it is slowly but surely doing deadly damage to the tower in which it hangs.

They are as surprised on finding in their first visit that the bells speak with their mouths upwards, as they would be if the members of this meeting were to hang by their heels, and speak with their mouths downwards (laughter).

But one well appointed and well conducted belfry soon spreads its influence, removes the indifference and ignorance that prevails, and induces others to imitate.

Here the Bellringing Association takes up the work, and spreads information and interest by its meetings. Ringers perceive that they are cared for, that the bells are cared for. The knowledge of better things produces the demand for them.

And now, that the Association may become a power, laity must be stirred up to an interest in it; gentry who will maintain the spirit of true GOD-service in all connected with GOD'S House, and who are prepared to support the idea of a corporate life, a union of separate bodies of ringers (hear, hear). I think we are sometimes over-hasty in expecting this to be understood at once; it is a strange idea to the ordinary ringer, that he can help others by combining in a common movement. Yet the principle of mutual help, which is essential to the accomplishment of a six-score of Grandsire Doubles, is surely one which can be grasped even in an extended form, by men who have learnt to understand it in their own belfry.

The Association then must supply the motive, and men will, I believe, be found to respond to the appeal.

In certain strongholds not yet stormed, there still remains, what I do not hesitate to call a great belfry abuse, though I do not deny that some good has been brought out of it (hear, hear). I wonder whether any here have ever attended a West Country Prize-Ringing match.

They are changing their character, however, under the influence of the general movement towards Belfry Reform. The old style is that a dozen or more sets of ringers are locked into the church to prevent any of the collusion or venality inseparable from such-like sporting events, and proceed by lot to raise, ring rounds for ten minutes or so, and lower the bells. Meanwhile at the church gate the local publican, armed with a special licence, erects his booth (laughter) and his barrel of beer, and drives a brisk trade (laughter), because next to ringing rounds, listening to them is most thirsty work (roars of laughter). In dignified solitude sit two judges to mark down a dot upon paper for every stroke missed, every bell that hesitates. It requires much experience and an accurate sense of time. Perhaps there are not more than half a dozen men in the county who are considered sufficiently "good judges of ringing" to attain to the dignity of this post (laughter).

Finally there is a distribution of some £12 or £15 in prizes to those who have received fewest marks upon the judge's paper.

Latterly such meetings have been preceeded by a suitable service and address to the ringers, and a main part of the abuses removed (hear, hear).

The zeal in practice before-hand, the marvellous accuracy of the performances, such as they are, would astonish many of the change-ringers here, and give many a wholesome lesson in the finish and care which can be bestowed upon the very best sound of the ceasing bells. Popular they are too, for they produce that which pleases the popular ear far more than the ragged performances which pass muster under the name of change-ringing.

It is a fallacy to suppose that change-ringing is the panacea to remove the abuse. Alone it will not do it (hear, hear). In the North peals are still rung for prizes by change-ringers; and though it is nearly stamped out, yet I confess, when I saw an account of a competition for a challenge-cup the other day, I wondered when the state of the betting on the event would be published (laughter).

How much longer will this secularization of Church bells be tolerated? When Rural Deans will inquire into, and report such things (hear, hear), as I have no hesitation in appealing to them to do; when Archdeacons will inhibit such an abuse of a part of the fabric and furniture of their churches, then no doubt it will cease (hear, hear).

But meanwhile, let our associations utilize the zeal which is thus shewn, while they explode the fallacy that prizes are necessary to encourage the ringers, by providing better incentives and higher motives (hear, hear).

I am all for the payment of regular ringers (hear, hear), but not by sweepstakes (hear, hear). What should we say if our choirs took to increasing their emoluments by singing against one another for prizes? I suppose there is not a village cricket club in the kingdom that would not scorn the suggestion.

Bell ringing Associations, however exclusively they may be confined to change-ringing, must not overlook country ringers (hear, hear) who want their help, want their bells rehung, want their interest stirred even though they may never become change-ringers themselves. They must fit in with Diocesan work.

They must be a centre of information. Rural Deans who inspect the churches in their Deanery (and also this) will probably be aware of proposed work in any belfry, and must be able to say "Ask the Diocesan Secretary."

The Secretary will be known to other members of "the Exercise" as it is called: and will be prepared to give information as to Bells, Bellhangers, Ropes, Inventions connected with bells. He will suggest Rules when asked, and be a source of information as to the Law of Church bells.

He will be in communication with the Diocesan Church Building Society, and be able to warn them against the prevailing ignorance of the requirements of the Belfry, even among Architects who are often unwittingly sad enemies to Belfry reform (hear, hear).

Some General Principles rather than Rules must be drawn up of the objects to be attained, such as the existence of a higher intellectual Art of Ringing. The Recognition of the Belfry as a part of God's house (hear, hear), and not therefore a free and open lounging place. The Ringing of Church bells on Church Festivals, and the golden rule that ringing is suitable for any object or any time for which a Service might be held.

Suggestions may be also made with regard to Sunday ringing, to the chiming or ringing of single bells, to financial schemes which have been found to work satisfactorily, though no arbitrary uniformity can be insisted on.

The Association is to consist of Ringers and Associates. Ringers' subscriptions to be as low as possible, and in the case of bands of ringers to be a fixed sum irrespective of numbers.

Associates to supply the funds by a subscription of not less than five shillings, but who may become Life Members on payment of—say two guineas. I believe more support would be gained in this way—many would do this rather than promise five shillings a year and would be willing doubtless to respond to a further "call" if funds were wanted for any purpose. A card of membership to be supplied to all members who apply and are duly qualified.

A card, on which the principles of the Association are printed in sufficiently large and ornamental type, to be supplied to all bands and fixed in the belfry, thus losing no opportunity of keeping the object before members.

An Annual Meeting with tickets at a fixed charge per head, say three and sixpence, all other expenses to be paid by the Association. The payment per head ought to come out of the private funds of each band. Change Ringers to be provided with an opportunity of ringing, a service with special sermon, a dinner, with the necessary amount of business; all this well arranged make a very pleasant day.

While on a more humble scale, a Ringers' feast preceded by a service, for a Deanery or a District. Six or eight bands might all have the opportunity to ring, even if only rounds or call-changes. The zeal which can supply £12 or £15 to be rung for in prizes could at least collect that sum for a dinner.

In towns with two or three steeples a branch of the Association should be formed, with permission to visit each once a month, entirely distinct from the times of practice of the parish band, and under the sole direction of an efficient conductor.

In way the Diocesan Association might gradually draw into its ranks, and bring its influence to bear upon those whom now it seldom reaches (hear, hear); and will carry out perhaps more efficiently than ever its main object of ensuring the due care and use of Church Bells (applause).

At the conclusion of the paper, the CHAIRMAN said he understood discussion was to be invited, but he thought it would be as well to listen to the other paper first. Thereupon the Rev. C. D. P. Davies read his paper, entitled, "Change-Ringing: what is it?" which will be found on page 332.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

INAUGURAL MEETING at St. Mary's, Ely, on Saturday, October 20th. Address by the Venerable the Archdeacon of Ely. Return Tickets at a fare and a quarter, from principal stations, G.E.R., to members. Please address reply to REV. K. H. SMITH, *the Cambridge Road, Ely.*

J. R. J. writes:—"Would your Hitchin correspondent kindly inform me from what part Rodgers hails from, who rehung Bromham bells."

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

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

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.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1883.

WE are unable, from the great press of matter this week, to have our usual editorial comment. Several subjects of interest, among which are MR. SNOWDON'S chapters on Grandsire Triples, are also unavoidably postponed. We hope those of our readers who may feel disappointed at their communications not appearing, will extend to us their kind forbearance. The time is not far distant, we believe, when a further enlargement of this journal will take place; intelligence of which we hope to publish when the name of the distinguished ringer, whose portrait we shall give next December, is announced.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
SHADWELL, MIDDLESEX.

On Saturday, October 6th, 1883, in Three Hours,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

CORNELIUS P. RELTON†	*Treble.*	EDWARD E. CLARKE	5.
WALTER B. JONES	2.	WILLIAM TANNER	6.
YORK GREEN	3.	JAMES PETTIT	7.
CHARLES BEECH*	4.	*JOSEPH JONES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

* First peal. † First peal with the treble.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.

On Monday, October 8th, 1883, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT ALL HALLOWS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

JOSEPH DAVIDSON	*Treble.*	WILLIAM D. SMITH	5.
HENRY A. BARNETT	2.	JAMES PETTIT	6.
EDWARD F. STRANGE*	3.	*WILLIAM A. ENGLISH	7.
THOMAS PAGE	4.	*PHILIP A. COARD	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

* First peal.

Mr. E. F. Strange attained his 21st year on the above date, his brother members heartily wish him many happy returns of the day.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
BATTERSEA.

On Saturday, October 6, 1883, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

—. ROBINS*	*Treble.*	EDWARD MOSES	5.
JOHN NELMS	2.	HENRY DAINS	6.
JOHN PERKS	3.	A. H. GARDOM, ESQ.	7.
WILLIAM BARON	4.	HENRY HOPKINS	*Tenor.*

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and conducted by A. H. GARDOM, ESQ.

This peal was first rung at the Chapel of Ease, Holloway, and has now been rung in four different counties.

This meeting was arranged in honour of Mr. John Perks' visit to London; this gentleman is Master of the Worcestershire Guild.

*First peal in the method.

The Provinces.

RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.
THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY.

On Monday, September 24, 1883, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS.

Being a 720 of each of the following :—

COLLEGE SINGLE; COLLEGE LITTLE; GRANDSIRE BOB; LONDON SINGLE; OXFORD BOB; GRANDSIRE SINGLE; DOUBLE COURT BOB MINOR.

Tenor 20 cwt.

GEORGE KIRK	*Treble.*	WILLIAM A. HALL	4.
FRED GILLETT	2.	JOHN WILLMOTT	5.
WILLIAM J. GILBERT	3.	HENRY W. STUBBS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HENRY W. STUBBS.

This is the first 5040 by this society. F. Gillett is 17 years of age; and A. Hall 19 years.

THE HYDE SOCIETY.
BOLLINGTON, NEAR MACCLESFIELD, CHESHIRE.

On Saturday, October 6th, 1883, in Three Hours,

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 18 cwt.

JAMEE S. WILDE	*Treble.*	JOHN FILDES	5.
RALPH PRICHARD	2.	*WILLIAM BAIL	6.
THOMAS BRADLEY	3.	SAMUEL BENNETT	7.
WALTER SLATER	4.	THOMAS WILDE	*Tenor.*

Composed by the late WILLIAM HARRISON, of Mottram, and conducted by THOMAS WILDE.

The above peal of bells were opened in 1880, and this is the first peal in the method rung on them.

[*Formerly of Leicester.]

Miscellaneous.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

SHOREDITCH (Middlesex).—On Thursday, October 4th, ten members of the above Society attempted a peal of Stedman Caters, but after ringing three hours and eight mins., the peal came to grief by two bells shifting course. G. Newson (conductor), 1; T. Titchener, 2; J. Hannington, 3; J. Gobbett, 4; A. H. Gardom, 5; E. Chapman, 6; W. Doran, 7; W. Meadows, 8; S. Jarman, 9; W. Tyler, 10. Tenor 31 cwt.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Saturday, October 6th, some members of the above Association rang, at St. Stephen's church, 1456 changes of Grandsire Triples, part of Taylor's peal. R. Bell, 1; E. W. Pyle, 2; E. Scott, 3; L. S. Routledge, 4; S. Power, 5; E. Wallis (conductor), 6; T. Denton, 7; G. W. Stobart, 8. Tenor 30 cwt.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

WANSTEAD (Essex).—On Thursday, September 27th, the following members of the above association, rang at Christ Church, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. A. Smith, 1; A. H. Gardom, Esq. (conductor), 2; G. Akers, 3; G. Cornell, 4; J. Priest, jun., 5; J. Marks, 6. Also on Sunday, September 30th, for the Harvest Festival, a 720 of Treble Bob Minor, with nine bobs, in 27 mins. *G. Cornell, 1; J. Gobbett, 2; G. Akers (conductor), 3; *W. Doran, 4; J. Priest, jun., 5; S. Jarman, 6. Also on same evening, the same band, with the exception of G. Cornell, another 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, with 15 bobs, in 27 mins. Conducted by A. H. Gardom, who rang the treble.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BANHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday, September 30th, six members of the above Association rang a 720 of Double Court Bob Minor, in 26 mins. Henry Eagling, 1; W. Nudds, 2; J. Saunders, 3; J. Woods, 4; R. Nudds, 5; R. Hutton (conductor), 6. Tenor about 12 cwt.

KENNINGHALL (Norfolk).—On Tuesday, October 2nd, was rung for practice 1152 of Kent Treble Bob Major, by the following: W. Axer, 1; C. Everett, 2; G. Edwards, 3; W. Nudds, 4; R. Patrick, 5; J. Woods, 6; J. Mordey, 7; R. Hutton (conductor), 8. Tenor 15½ cwt.

NORWICH.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Tuesday, October 9th, 1883, four members of the St. Peter's Mancroft Norwich Scholars, also members of the above Association, met at their clubhouse, Haymarket, and rang upon handbells, retained in hand, 1120 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 32 mins. George Smith, 1-2; John Fiddament, 3-4; William Smith, 5-6; Frederick Knights (conductor), 7-8. This is the first complete touch in the Kent variation ever rung on handbells by the above members. It is intended after a few more touches, to start for a peal in the above method, of which due notice will be given in "THE BELL NEWS,"

BACUP.—*Muffled Peals.*—On Tuesday, October 2nd, the remains of Mr. George Jackson, an old ringer, were carried to their last resting-place in the Bacup cemetery. Ringers from Newchurch, Waterfoot, and Bacup (both companies) showed their respect to the deceased by attending, and carrying him to his last home. After the funeral, a muffled half-peal of Plain Bob was rung by three of his late companions, assisted by three other old ringers from Newchurch: J. Pickup (conductor; Newchurch), 1; Isaac White (Bacup), 2; J. T. Stott (Newchurch), 3; Hy. Jackson (Bacup), 4; Zeb. Lord (Bacup), 5; J. Kershaw (Newchurch), 6. Afterwards four of the Waterfoot company, with two of the Bacup young company, rung a 360 in the same method: R. Halstead (Waterfoot; conductor), 1; W. Maden (Waterfoot), 2; J. Asworth (Waterfoot), 3; Arch. Ghew (Bacup), 4; W. Smith (Bacup), 5; W. Whitaker (Waterfoot), 6. Another touch was rung by a mixed band, and on the following Sunday the bells were also again muffled. The deceased had been a ringer a great many years, and was well known and respected among ringers in and about Lancashire.

BIRMINGHAM (Warwickshire).—On Sunday, October 8th, at St. Philip's church, after evening service, a mixed band rang a touch of 896 Grandsire Triples, in 35 mins. A. Cresser, 1; T. Miller (conductor), 2; F. Banks, 3; B. Stevens, 4; C. Barnicle, 5; H. Turvey, 6; R. Hackley, 7; A. Druce, 8. Tenor 29 cwt. in D.

BOXLEY (Kent).—On Saturday, September 29th, eight of the All Saints' ringers, Maidstone, visited this place, and rang two 720's of Grandsire Minor. First 720; G. Moorcraft, 1; G. Pawley, 2; J. Furginson, 3; R. Simmonds, 4; A. H. Woolley, 5; H. Pearce (conductor), 6. Second 720; H. Pearce, 1; W. Meveer, 2; J. Horton, 3; J. Furginson, 4; A. H. Woolley, 5; G. Pawley (conductor) 6.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—On Saturday, October 4th, being the Harvest Thanksgiving at St. James's church, the local company met at the Norman tower, and rang before and after the evening services. On the Sunday following, the services were continued, and at the request of the Churchwarden they again met, and rang for the evening service. An attempt was made to ring a touch (1386) of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing over 1200 changes it came to grief through the breaking of a rope. A. Osborne (conductor), 1; E. Buckle, 2; G. Farrants. 3; G. Debenham, 4; A. Bridges, 5; T. Peck, 6; G. Cornell, 7; R. Moore, 8.

GREAT HALLINGBURY (Essex).—On Sunday, October 7th, being the Harvest Festival at St. Giles', was rung with the assistance of R. A. Sworder and W. Turner, for the morning and afternoon services, 480 Bob Doubles, each called differently, also at the conclusion of afternoon service, a nicely-struck 480 in the same method. R. A. Sworder, 1; W. Turner, 2; R. S. Sworder, 3; A. Prior, 4; F. Sworder (conductor), 5. Tenor about 12½ cwt.

HIGHER SUTTON (CHESHIRE).—On Sunday, October 7th, being the usual Harvest Thanksgiving Festival, for Divine Service in the morning, 720 of Grandsire Minor, with 34 bobs and 2 singles, in 26 mins., conducted by W. H. Ingham. And for Divine Service in the evening, 720 Bob Minor with 10 singles and 6 bobs, in 25 mins, conducted by W. Walmsley. William Walmsley. 1; William H. Ingham, 2; J. M. Davenport, 3; Walter Ingham, 4; William H. Hardman, 5; S. Mottershead, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

HURWORTH-ON-TEES (Durham).—On Tuesday evening, October 2nd, six of the Hurworth company rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins. J. Simpson, 1; Rev. W. H. Deane (first 720 in this method), 2; J. E. Hern (conductor), 3; J. C. Thompson, 4; G. Garbutt, 5; H. Thompson, 6. Tenor 17 cwt.

LYTHAM (Lancs).—On Sunday evening last, before evening service at St. John's, a 720 of Plain Bob, 16 bobs and 2 singles, in 23 mins. Wm. Bamber, 1; John Salthouse, 2; Wm. Gregson, 3; C. Kerr (conductor), 4; Jno. Fell, 5; Roger Allanson, 6. Tenor 10¾ cwt.

ROSS (Herefordshire).—On Saturday, October 6th, at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. T. M. Preece, 1; J. G. Wall, 2; J. Atkins, 3; G. Price, 4; E. Barnett, 5; A. Bird, 6; C. Young (conductor), 7; R. Clark, 8. Messrs. Preece and Barnett hail from Monmouth.

SPALDING (Lincs.).—On Thursday evening, October 4th, at St. Paul's Fulney, 1554 changes of Grandsire Triples, being the first three parts of Holt's ten-part peal. It was intended to go for the half-peal, but some of the company arriving late, three parts only were rung. Robert Skeef, 1; Richard Creasey (conductor), 2; John A. Croxford, 3; Edw. Mason, 4; Alfd. W. Walker, 5; Chas. Creasey, 6; Jas. W. Creasey, 7; Alf. Creasey, 8. And on Sunday, September 30th, at SS. Mary and Nicholas, being the Harvest Thanksgiving, for early celebration, four 6-scores of Bob and three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. J. Wilson, 1; G. L. Richardson, 2; R. Mackman, 3; J. Wright, 4; J. Brown, 5. Also for second service, four 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, by the same company. Also for Divine Service in the evening, a 360 of Oxford Bob. After Service a 720 of Plain Bob, with 26 singles. A. Brown, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3 R. Mackman, 4; J. Brown, 5; J. Wright (conductor), 6.

TEWKESBURY (GLOUCESTERSHIRE).—On Thursday evening, October 4th, the Abbey Society rang 720 of Grandsire Minor, on the back six, in 29 mins. R. H. Witherington, 1; C. Awford, 2; S. Cleal, 3; J. Hale, 4; Jno. Wathen, 5; Josiah Wathen (conductor), 6. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qrs. 19 lbs. Also on Monday evening, October 8th, eight members of the Abbey Society met for practising Stedman Triples, and after having two attempts, succeeded in ringing a well-struck 504 changes. R. H. Witherington, 1; S. Cleal, 2; F. J. Moore, 3; J. Hale, 4; J. Wathen, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 6; Josiah Wathen (conductor), 7; C. Slatter, 8. This is the first 504 of Stedman Triples by those at the first four bells.

We are reluctantly compelled to hold over several touches till next week.

JOHN COX'S BELL-RINGING JUBILEE.

ON Wednesday evening, October 17th, 1883, a Grand Campanological and Musical Entertainment will be given at the Crown Tavern, Clerkenwell Green, in aid of Cox's Jubilee Fund. Campanologists from West Ham, Chelsea, Lewisham, etc., with several talented vocalists, will take part in the performance, commencing at eight o'clock. Mr. Thomas Harrington, Pianist. Mr. John Nelms will occupy the Chair. A few reserved seats, 1s. each. Admission 6d. Tickets may be had of the chairman, 1, Witchampton Street, N.; Mr. Daniel Lovatt, 30, Woodbridge St., Clerkenwell, W.C.; Mr. Charles Hopkins, 12, Faraday St., Walworth, S.E.; and the Treasurer, Mr. W. Baron, 8, Church Terrace, Waterloo Road, S.E.

H. DAINS, *Hon. Sec.*

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."

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR,— Would any kind reader of your greatly esteemed paper, favour me with a list of Churches where bells have been *Cracked* by chucking (*i.e.*) by looping the Bell clapper with the ringing rope of the bell, when the clapper is chucked against the fast side of the bell, for insertion in "THE BELL NEWS," which I think would be a means of stopping this dangerous practice. A LOVER OF BELLS.

THE MUSICAL MONTHLY (*F. Pitman, Paternoster Row*).—This is a new monthly serial, got up by this enterprising publisher. Its appearance is of a most inviting character, and will be generally accepted as meeting a want felt by young and old aspirants in the musical world. The *Sacred Melodist*, from the same publisher, also maintains its reputation.

THE RINGERS' CONFERENCE—*(Continued).*

Paper read by the REV. CHARLES D. P. DAVIES, *entitled :—*

"CHANGE-RINGING: WHAT IS IT?"

THE paper to which we have just had the pleasure of listening has dealt with change-ringing Associations, their objects and organisation. What follows is an attempt to open up the subject of change-ringing itself.

The reply to the question—"What is change-ringing?"—is not so easy as might appear. Change-ringing stands so much alone. There is nothing to which it can be compared that will give any adequate idea of it. We may however begin by laying down at once that is an *exact science* (hear, hear), it is as rigidly exact as the most mathematical of mathematics (hear, hear). And therefore it is doubtless something in the nature of mathematics. But in the actual practice of ringing, there are no sums to be done, and no calculations to be made. There is just something of a mathematical element in it, and that is all that can be said. There is also a musical element. All the world can *hear* what that is. The music of ringing is not the music of harmony, but a succession of notes, and, where choice is possible, of the most pleasing succession. Then there is, lastly, the mechanical, and muscular element. This needs no comment beyond the statement that ringing is considered by many competent authorities one of the healthiest of all known exercises (hear, hear), and the indisputable fact, which speaks for itself, that the average length of life of the ringing community is longer than that of almost any other—(hear, hear) indeed I think I am not wrong in saying the longest of all (hear, hear, and laughter). Any one who cares to go into a tower when the bells are swinging, may see for himself what is taking place. He may go first into the room below and see the men at work. He may then mount aloft, and see what the bell itself is doing above. He will easily perceive that the management of a bell is nothing very difficult, but that it needs to be learnt just like swimming, skating, or any other bodily accomplishment. When I was learning logic some six or seven years ago, logicians were sorely puzzled as to whether their study should be called an art or a science.

I wonder if they have settled it yet (laughter). Be that as it may, ringers are in no such doubt. They are all unanimous in boldly asserting that change-ringing is both an art and a science. It has its two distinct parts, a scientific part, and a practical (hear, hear). The strictly scientific part must be done, with pencil and paper, in the quiet hours at home. It is this portion of the subject that is most akin to mathematics. The beginner writes down his changes one by one according to certain rules. He notes how each one is produced from that which precedes it. He takes some particular bell, observing where that bell falls in each successive change, and from these observations he deduces rules for his guidance in the management of a bell in the tower. In this way the *beginner* learns his *science* of ringing. Here practice and unflagging attention gradually give him the requisite quickness of eye and power of mastering the matter in hand. But when our beginner gets on—when he is a beginner no longer, and aspires to directing his brethren by "calling" or "conducting" peals, as we term it, then he must set to work to study deeper still. He must learn more than the manner of the succession of each single change to its predecessor—he must go beyond that, and learn the causes that determine the succession. He must see when it is possible for any given place, and when it is impossible. He must be able to shew—and this is done by mathematical deduction—he must be able to shew that any given number of changes contains no two alike, and he must carry in his head the plan on which the whole number is arranged. So much for his theoretical work. For his practical, he has to manage his bell and ring the method like the rest, but in addition to this, his part in common with all, he has to bear in mind the plan of the whole, as I mentioned just now, never to forget for an instant where he is—a matter by no means so easy with all the other things weighing upon one—by no means so easy when a call made one half-second too late may throw into confusion, or when any other slip of his own or of any of the company may render good ringing, it may be of some hours' duration, all of no avail.

Thus far I have attempted to give a little outline of what change-ringing entails in its devotees. To explain what it is in itself would far exceed the bounds of a paper like the present. Our object will have been attained if I have succeeded in shewing that there is something, nay, that there is much in it, much that needs time, attention, and patience. Ringers labour at a disadvantage. Though we may not know very much about cricket or football, we may pretty fairly gauge what is passing in the mind of the players; but those who are ignorant of ringing, cannot have the faintest idea of a ringer's thoughts nothing like so much as a man that had never seen a note of music would have the first time he saw an organist on his stool. In ringing, well-nigh all is below the surface.

The question that presents itself to us to day, is that of the desirability of promoting ringing in the parish. Before now, I have heard more than one incumbent say, "there is no desirability to have change-ringing in the parish—the fewer bells and the fewer ringers the better." Surely we shall hardly feel inclined to adopt such an opinion as that (hear, hear). It can hardly have been engendered but by some misunderstanding between the clergyman and his ringers. Far be it from me to say that all ringers are faultless, that they are never in the wrong, but the best of them can scarcely be expected not to resent even a just and proper interference, if it be wanting in tact, and unaccompanied by any sympathy with them and their favourite pursuit. From what has been said above it is clear that ringing possesses great attractions, that it is in itself a great means of interesting, employing, amusing, and refreshing them in their spare hours. Now surely anything with these qualities is worthy of all encouragement. Its influence is good in all directions. Its influence is good upon the men themselves, and, if properly managed, it works very well for the Church. One great beauty of change-ringing is that it is self-contained, if I may use the expression. Its interest centres wholly in itself and is utterly independent of anything outside. A ringer—a true and genuine ringer, needs no extraneous incentive to keep him at his work. Good ringing is its own reward. The man who gets through his first 120 on five bells feels for the time being perfectly happy (laughter). Even in the highest forms of art it has been questioned whether there is not at the very bottom the love of wordly success adding vigour to hand and head—but in the case of ringing this could scarcely be maintained. Wordly fame is far from a ringer's thoughts; for when are the best of ringers ever brought out for the public gaze and admiration? And if ever the public do get hold of a name it is as likely as not to be at the wrong end of the stick (laughter). And as for money that is no incentive to progress in a ringer. He certainly gets paid for weddings and festival days now and then, for otherwise he could not afford to lose his working hours, but he knows perfectly well that ninety-nine out of a hundred happy brides and bridegrooms and brides' fathers, and mothers (laughter), are utterly indifferent whether they hear rounds or changes, so long as the bells are kept going (laughter). And so a ringer loves to get on simply for the sake of his ringing, and for the enjoyment it brings him (hear, hear). Hence it will be seen that even apart from its connection with the Church—a connection which of course should always be its chief characteristic—it is decidedly one of those many things that are calculated to raise the tone in a parish. It occupies spare hours in a wholesome manner; it gives men something to think of and to do, and it brings them together in a friendly way devoid of all unnecessary formality (hear hear). Some of my most pleasant hours have been spent in the belfry (hear, hear, and loud applause).

But the belfry is part of the Church. Cannot the men be led thereby to feel that they have taken upon themselves a great responsibility, that in becoming ringers they have virtually engaged themselves to become Churchmen, and not merely passive Churchmen, but active, which is the truest form of Churchmanship? I know that this implies what may seem the false principle "Make a man a ringer first and a Churchman after," instead of "first a Churchman then a ringer." But human nature must be taken as it is. And so this is another point in my apology for ringing, that if right advantage can be taken of it, it may be turned into a means of attaching men to the Church. But the general result is, as I have found—especially in the country, that those who don't intend to come to church cease of their own accord to be ringers, and thus in the end the body of ringers will be found to be a body of Churchmen. In the position they occupy they can be brought into frequent contact with the parish priest. He has the opportunity at hand of influencing them more immediately than the general body of men in the parish. Is it not therefore to the Church's advantage for him to foster ringing by all the means in his power? Who knows whether his best Sunday-school teachers, his district visitors, and even sometimes a good churchwarden may not be procured from the ranks of the ringers? More than one clergyman, I feel sure, could bear testimony to the value in these ways that their ringers have been to them (hear hear).

The last few remarks are of course more especially applicable to town parishes; but good ringing need not be confined to the larger places. It is possible and useful in the country as well. There are very few villages in England unable to produce a sufficient number of capable men to ring the bells in the Church tower. As a *general* rule there is some sort of proportion between the population and number of bells. Of course one cannot say this with the least approach to exactitude, but what I mean is that a church tower with a ring of six bells affords some sort of presumption that the population comes somewhere near three hundred at the least. Now in a parish of three hundred, surely it cannot be a very hard matter to find six lads or men to take the bells in hand. Don't let anyone think it impossible to make good ringers out of countrymen (hear, hear). Ringing undoubtedly is a more or less intellectual pursuit, but the peculiarity of it and the beauty of it is, that standing as it does alone by itself, it does not require a special training for a man to be fitted for it (hear, hear). He who follows the plough all day is not a whit less likely to

become a fine ringer than he who turns over the leaves of a Lexicon (laughter), or exercises his brain with the Differential Calculus (laughter). Indeed I have known a case where a man who could neither read nor write has not only been a good ringer but even a conductor (hear, hear). Certainly I am at a loss to say how it was managed, but the thing has been done. On the other hand cases are frequent where men by no means slow at Latin and Greek find it impossible to master the elements of ringing (laughter). Not that Latin and Greek militate against ringing while other pursuits are favourable to it. Ringing requires intelligence and a natural bent that way—something that comes not by education but is inborn. It is as a friend once said "There seems to be a special bump in the brain for change-ringing and nothing else" (roars of laughter).

It only remains to say a word or two as to spurious imitations; let the authorities gently discencourage round-ringing in all its forms. In round-ringing are included what are generally known as call-changes, where the conductor names what change he wishes to be rung, and that one is continued till he calls another—and also, the ringing of a few proper changes by heart, repeating them over and over again (laughter). In both of these the true interest and the incentives of real ringing are wanting (hear, hear), and consequently the work is rarely, if ever, undertaken for its own sake. The main idea is how to make it pay, in money, or in beer (laughter). One very trustworthy manner, in a general way, in which a non-ringer may judge whether the business is conducted on a right basis or not is by noting whether it is carried on all the year round (hear, hear). Of course in a country parish less ringing must be expected in summer than in winter—but if the men are real ringers they will be only too glad to find an opportunity of following their favourite bent; if not, you may be pretty sure not to hear much ringing except on a paying day, and for a few weeks before Christmas, when the Christmas-box begins to dawn on their view (laughter).

In conclusion—if a young man may be pardoned in speaking thus to so many who are his seniors, let me urge on all in authority to foster ringing each in his place so far as he can. In particular I would say to the clergy, "Be ringers yourselves." If you haven't tried it you can't tell the difference it makes (hear, hear). Most of us have experience of the change wrought in a choir and the singing when the parish priest or the members of his family identify themselves with it, not merely by taking an interest, but by taking a part. Ringing and ringers will be found the same (hear, hear). But if you cannot take a rope in hand yourself, at least let your men see you will do for them all that you can do. See that the bells are kept in good order. Let the belfry be comfortable. Help them in getting handbells if they haven't them already. Let them know and feel that they are in the service of God and His Church (hear, hear), that they are part and parcel of you and your parish organisation (hear, hear). Then they will take a pride in all that surrounds them, in their work, in you, in themselves; and you may be sure you will ever be far from repenting that you have gathered together a good set of ringers (loud and continued applause).

[The remainder of the report of this important Conference—taken on the spot by our own reporter, a practical ringer—will be concluded next week.]

THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 6th, the half yearly meeting of this Association took place at Caythorpe, but owing to train arrangements, not many members were present. Several touches of Grandsire Triples were rang on the bells of the parish church, after which the business of the Association took place. A capital dinner was provided at the "Red Lion" Inn by hostess Tomlinson, but the majority had to hurry over it to get to the station in time for home, only about three hours being spent there. It seemed to be generally agreed that the time had come for forming a county association, but it was deferred until the next meeting to be held at Bourne in January next, when a large meeting is expected to be there, and we shall be glad to hear from any company of ringers who are willing to join in this undertaking. All communications on the above subject may be addressed to the hon. secretary, R. CREASEY, Monk's Lane, Spalding.

THE ringers of Beaconsfield held a meeting on Monday to consider what steps they could take to obtain funds for renovating the peal of bells there. The belfry and tower are now being repaired, so that the opportunity is favourable. Mr. Harry L. W. Lawson presided, and it was resolved to issue an appeal for subscriptions. It is proposed to add two new bells to complete the octave, one to be called the "Burke Bell" and the other the "Beaconsfield Bell," as a memorial of those two statesmen whose names are associated with the place. Mr. G. Allington Charsley, the coroner for South Bucks, and a former ringer, was appointed treasurer.

THE BOMBAY UNIVERSITY,

(Vide Illustration.)

SOME time ago, one of our frequent contributors to this journal happening to be at Calcutta when the clock and bells for the new University at Bombay were opened, thought fit to be present there, and most of our readers will recollect that we published a graphic account in our columns, of such ceremony. By the courtesy of Messrs. Lund and Blockley, the eminent clockmakers of Pall Mall, who made this Clock and Carillon, we are enabled to present our readers with a view of this magnificent building. To describe the architectural features of such an edifice, is, for the present at least, quite beyond our power, we must therefore be content with a brief description of what the tower contains, viz: a Clock, Carillon, and Bells.

The bells, sixteen in number, are fixed in two rows, the eight smallest being at the top, in a substantial iron frame, which rests upon eight massive corbels in the highest chamber of the tower immediately below the lantern. The hour bell weighs three tons, and the whole together, including the frame upon which they are fixed, about nine tons. The hour bell and the bells that strike the quarters are provided with three hammers, and all the others with two. By means of a clever arrangement, consisting of a steel spring fixed on a slight iron frame, each hammer, after it has struck the blow, is prevented from rebounding and striking the bell a second time. Wires corresponding with the number of hammers lead from the belfry to what, if we might term it so without disrespect, we would call the chiming machine, which is situated on the second floor below the belfry, the first floor being occupied by the clock itself. This chiming machine is an ingenious piece of mechanism constructed upon a simple principle, and yet so nicely adapted to the end which it is intended to serve, that it will never strike a false note or play a wrong tune. The most prominent feature of the machine is a wooden barrel with a number of small brass spikes upon its surface corresponding with the number of notes in the tunes which it is intended to play. This barrel revolves, and the spikes let slip a catch communicating with the wires from the belfry; and the blow is struck upon the bell by the hammer, which is so fixed as to be always ready to fall. The machinery is made to adjust itself after the tune is finished, and every part of the apparatus is devised with a view to reducing the necessity of interference to a minimum. The bells were cast by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough. The main principle upon which this clock is made is that of all clocks of the same description. There is however, one point which is deserving of a brief reference. This is a system by which the clock can be connected by electricity with other clocks hundreds of miles away, and the correct time telegraphed at a certain time every day. The system is a very simple one, but it is so useful and so accurate in its working, that we shall not be surprised to see it introduced on to all the great railway lines in the country. Mr. Lund, of the firm of Messrs. Lund and Blockley, the manufacturers of the clock, has the clock connected by telegraph with his office in the Fort, and each hour that the clock strikes is registered in his office, so that he knows immediately if the clock goes wrong. Owing to the dispute as to what time the clock should keep, it is doubtful whether the tower will be illuminated by electricity as was at first contemplated. The Electric Light Company have already laid their wires into the tower, and the clock has been once illuminated, and the public have had an opportunity of witnessing the pretty effect produced by the lights. It has been thrown open to the inspection of the public, and hundreds of people have availed themselves of the opportunity to make a pilgrimage up the narrow stairs leading to the top of the tower. The journey was wearisome enough to most people, but the visitor was well repaid for his trouble on arrival at the top, by an inspection of the interesting apparatus combined in the clock and chimes, and by the magnificent view of Bombay which is obtainable from the summit of the tower.

It will be recollected that the firm mentioned above recently erected a set of carillons at the parish church of Kidderminster, of which we gave an account, sent to us by our representative on the spot. This workmanship, which has been tested by practical persons, gives universal satisfaction. It is congratulating to find that in such national undertakings as these, the *bona fide* manufacturer is applied to to carry out the work.

THE PEARL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.—Among our advertisement columns will be found the Annual Report of this company, presented at the 19th General Meeting, held on the 28th ult. As will be seen a most remarkable business has been done, 222,030 policies having been issued during the past year; and such a figure as this represents a new Annual Premium of upwards of £103,837. The peculiar advantages of such a company as this, is that premiums are so arranged that the requirements and circumstances of all classes are considered. We cannot conclude this brief notice without expressing our admiration of the management, and Mr. Foley is to be congratulated upon the results of his administration.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, the Annual General Meeting of this Society was held at Wakefield. There was a large attendance of members and friends, amongst the number being Messrs. S. Wood and G. Longden, of Ashton-under-Lyne, two of the "heroes of sweet Treble Bob." The Annual Meeting was held at the "Golden Lion" at five o'clock, the president, Jasper W. Snowdon, Esq. in the chair. The annual report of the proceedings of the Society (64 pages) was placed in the hands of the members. From it we gather that the Society has, during the last twelve months, scored twenty-nine peals, and that the number of members now amounts to 425. The treasurer's account, which was read over and passed, shews that the Society now has a sum of £86 placed to its credit. The January meeting having been found to occur at an inconvenient season, a resolution was passed that instead of the four quarterly meetings, the meetings of the Society should in future be three in each year, viz., in February, June and October. The next meeting was appointed to be held at Bradford on the first Saturday in February. Votes of thanks were recorded to the Vicars, Churchwardens, and ringers of Wakefield and Sandal, for the use of the bells during the day. The Honorary Secretary of the Society, Mr. W. Whitaker, of Leeds, being absent through illness, a vote of thanks was passed to him for his past services with hopes for his speedy recovery.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

A Quarterly Meeting of the above Association was held at Nottingham, on Saturday, October 6th, 1883, when the bells of St. Peter's and All Saints' churches, Nottingham, together with the peals at Beeston and Lenton, were placed at the disposal of the Association by the kindness of their respective vicars. Members attended from Derby, Leicester, Burton-on-Trent, Loughborough, Long Eaton, Beeston and Wombourn; and friends from Birmingham, Sheffield, Hull, Staveley, Chesterfield, Mansfield, Leek and Bulwell, took part during the day in the ringing, which mainly consisted of short touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major. At 4 o'clock a Committee Meeting was held in All Saints' schoolroom, at which the following officers of the Association were present: the Rev. James H. Fish (vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent), President; Mr. Mr. Wm. Wakley, Hon. Treasurer; Mr. J. Griffin, Hon. Secretary, and the undermentioned representatives: Mr. H. C. Woodward (Derby and District); Messrs. Hickman, Henson, and Ward (Nottingham and District); Messrs. Cooper and Wilson (Leicester and District); Messrs. Jaggar and Dimbleby (Burton and District); and Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., from Loughborough.

At 5 o'clock about sixty of the ringers sat down to a substantial tea, which was served in the Arboretum Refreshment Room, and at the meeting, which was subsequently held, the President reported the performance during the quarter just ended of a peal of 5376 Kent Treble Bob, and two peals of 5088 Double Norwich by members of the Association; also one date touch of Grandsire Triples, and several 720's in various methods. The chairman particularly complimented the Burton-on-Trent branch for their peal-ringing, and also the Long Eaton members for the energy displayed by them in raising funds for the two new trebles lately added to their peal of six.

Three Honorary members and nine ringing members were admitted, and their names were entered on the books of the Association. The meeting was subsequently addressed by Mr. Wm. Wakley, in explanation of the proceedings at the Ringers' Conference at Reading; and by the Rev. G. Edgecombe, vicar of St. Peter's, Nottingham, and an honorary member of the Association. It was resolved that the next Quarterly Meeting be held at Leicester, on Saturday, December 29th, being the last Saturday in the current year.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting will be held at Durham on Monday, October 29th. Ringing at the Cathedral and St. Oswald's. All members of the Association are respectfully invited to attend Divine Service in St. Oswald's Church, at 2 o'clock. Preacher, the Rev. W. O. Blunt, M.A., Rector of Chester-le-Street. Dinner will be provided at the "Three Tuns" at 3 o'clock, tickets for which should be applied for not later than Monday, October 22nd. After dinner the usual business meeting will take place. Dinner Tickets, 1s. to members; 2s. 6d. to non-members. Members of the Committee to meet at the "Three Tuns," at 10 o'clock.

G. J. Clarkson,
Post Office Chambers, Stockton-on-Tees. *Hon. Sec.*

Notice.—On Tuesday, October 16th, eight members of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society will attempt the 10,000 of Grandsire Major upon the handbells, which was postponed from October 3rd, on account of the sudden illness of Mr. John Carter.

WILLIAM BLEWS AND SONS,
CHURCH BELL FOUNDERS,
BIRMINGHAM.

TESTIMONIALS.

From Canon Wilkinson, D.D.
St. Martin's Rectory, Birmingham, November 30th, 1876.

I have much pleasure in saying that Messrs. William Blews and Sons executed their work in re-casting two of the S. Martin's Bells, and in re-hanging the whole of the twelve Bells, in a very satisfactory manner. One of the re-cast Bells was in perfect tune with the rest of the Peal, and the other required only the very slightest alteration.

The timber of the massive framework is very good, and the workmanship excellent.

Wm. Wilkinson, Rector.

[Copy of Letter from Dr. Burgess, Vicar of Bishop Ryder's Church.]

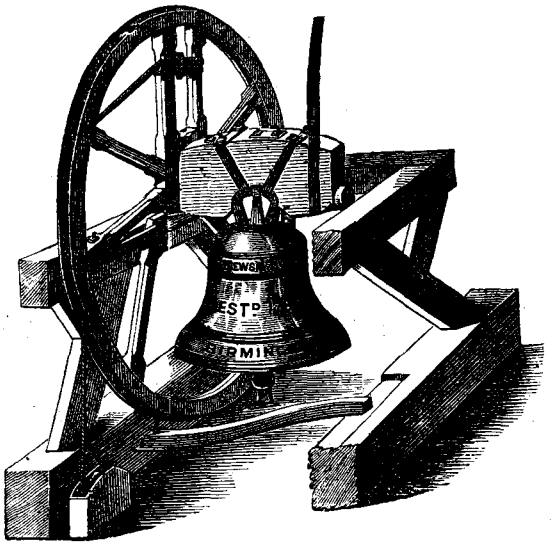
I am happy to be able to state that the peal of eight bells erected by William Blews and Sons, in the Tower of Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, is a complete success. The tone is perfect and the hanging in every respect admirable. (Signed) J. Hart Burgess, D.D.

December 18th, 1869.

[Copy of Letter from Rev. Allan B. Webb (now Bishop of Bloemfontain), Rector of Avon Dasset).

I have great pleasure in expressing the perfect satisfacton which is felt by all of us in regard to the beautiful Peal of Bells cast by your Firm for our church.

The bells are most sweet and harmonious in tone, and the workmanship in all respects has our entire approval. (Signed) A. B. Webb.



TESTIMONIALS.

[Copy of a letter received by Messrs. Blews and Sons from Rev. Canon Cattley.]

Worcester, June 1st, 1868.

I am much gratified by my inspection of your Peal of six Bells just cast for Middlesmoor, in North Yorkshire, and you are indeed to be congratulated in having thus early produced a perfect maiden peal. Such an event is of very rare occurrence.

In my judgment they could not be in more perfect tune, though they have not been touched since they were taken out of the moulds.

(Signed) Richard Cattley.

[Extract from a speech delivered by E. B. Denison, Esq., Q.C., at the opening of Bishop Ryder's Church Bells, Birmingham. — Vide "Birmingham Gazette," January 21st, 1869.]

Mr. Derison made a few remarks respecting the progress the art of bell casting had made in recent years in this neighbourhood.

Hitherto the best bell founded in the Midland Counties had been cast at Loughborough, which till now had enjoyed a monopoly in this art.

Now, however, it was to be rivalled in Birmingham. He had that day inspected Mr. Blews' bells, and should have confidence in recommending the Birmingham foundry as a competitor on equal terms with the best Bell Foundry in England. (Applause). *He would not say Mr. Blews was the best bell founder in England, but he would say that he was fully equal to the best.*

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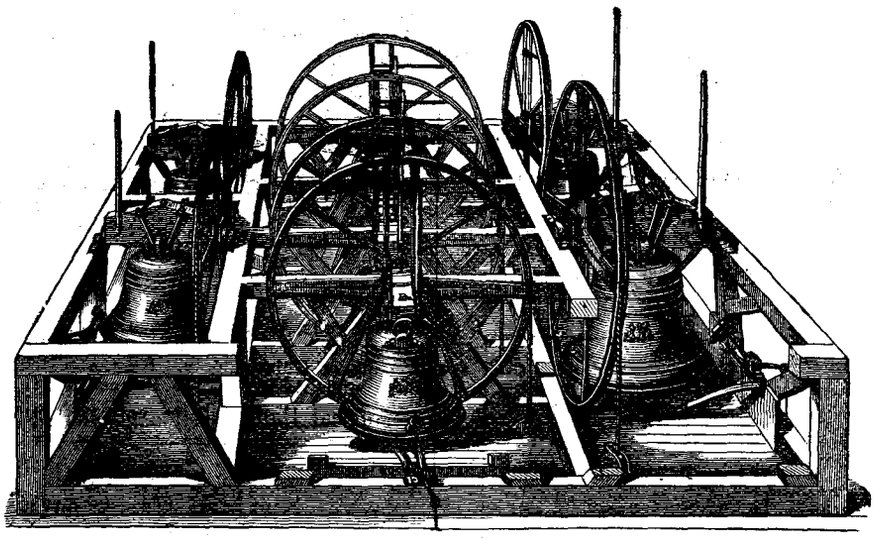
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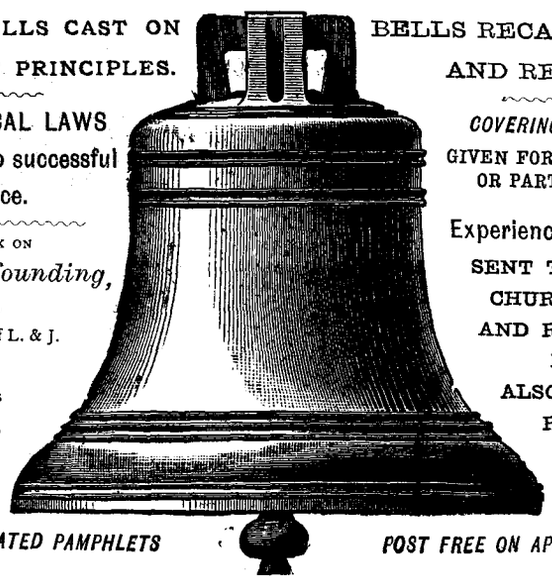
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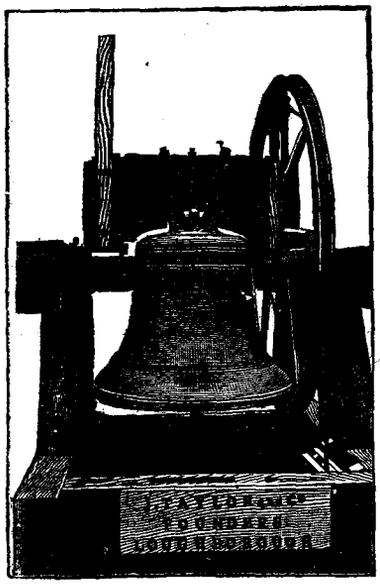
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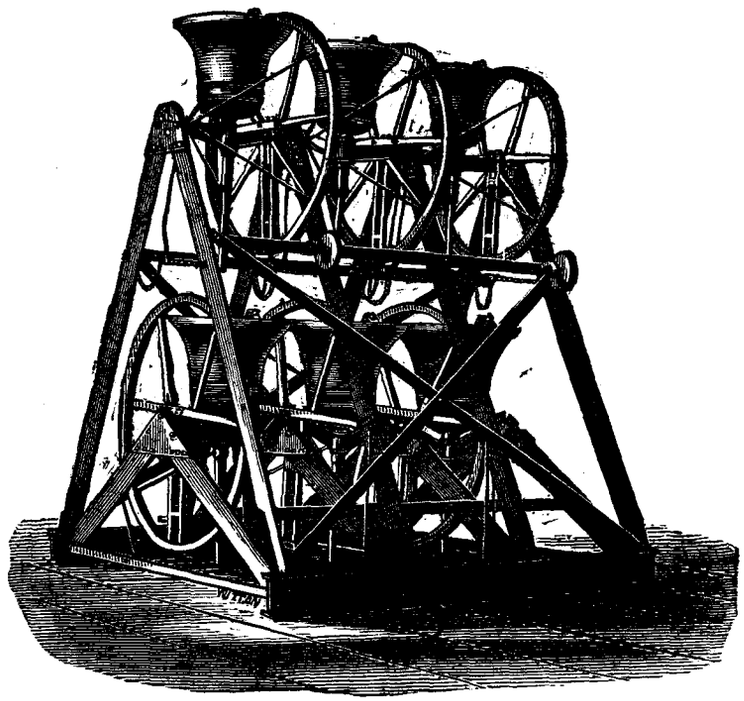
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