THE

BELL NEWS

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No. 83. [NEW SERIES.]—*VOL. II.* SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1883. [ONE PENNY.

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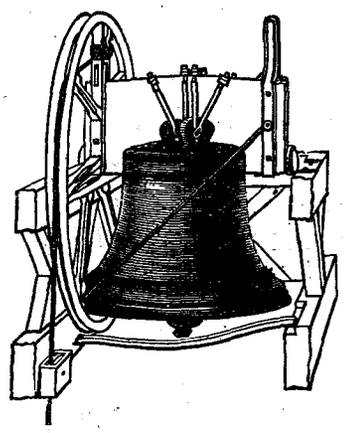
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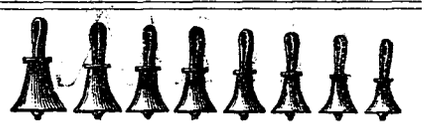
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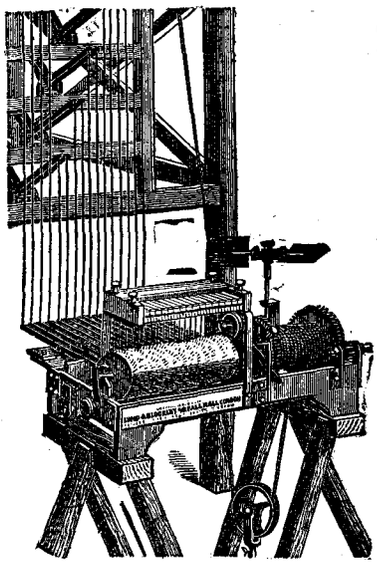
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GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

Referring again to the Mason MSS., in the volume that I consider was most probably written after the other two, there is a good deal of valuable and interesting information to be found concerning the history of Grandsire Triples. Pasted into the book is a sheet of paper which bears on one side a written copy of an address from John Holt to the Exercise, asking for subscribers to a broadsheet of peals he intends to publish, this address runs as follows:—

"TO ALL ARTISTS IN RINGING.

MR. JOHN HOLT of London, having at length discovered a method of ringing 5040 Grandsire Triples without changes over again, or ye use of any other means than plain leads, bobs, and only two singles, which hath hitherto been looked upon as impossible: he has also made improvement in *Plain Bob* and *Union Triples;* all which he is willing to communicate to ye world: but as his circumstances are low, and as he can expect no reward for his labour, nor assistance towards ye expenses of publishing them, but from his brethren in ye art, he proposes to have neatly printed two whole peals of Grandsire Triples, divided into halves, one containing three regular courses, the other 5, with two singles—one at ye half peal, ye other at ye end: the bobs being so regularly disposed as to be easily called. One complete peal of Plain Bob Triples in 3 regular courses, without any single or alteration, but only leads and bobs as are usually rung. Also a complete peal of UNION TRIPLES, each half in 3 regular courses, ye singles made at ye middle and end of peal—and to deliver copys of these four peals by Xmas next, to any single person, or any set of 8 bell-ringers who shall subscribe not less than 5*s.* 3*d.*, notify their subscription post paid to Mr. John Cundall, in Salisbury Court, Fleet Street: who engages to deliver ye same with a list of subscribers, or return ye subscriptions if there should not be enough to diffray ye expenses of printing.

Those who have not an opportunity to subscribe in London, and are willing to encourage ye design, to send their subscriptions to ye printer of this paper."

At the foot of this is written—"In the *Ipswich Journal* September 1st 1753." It may interest my readers to know that in 1877, when on a ringing holiday in the Eastern Counties, I took the opportunity while at Ipswich to verify the statement that this was a copy of a paragraph in the *Ipswich Journal*. This paper, I may mention, is one of the oldest established newspapers in the kingdom, its commencement dating as far back as 1725; I called at the Journal office and was kindly allowed to examine the volume for 1753, a little more than 120 years back. A quaint old volume it was, very different in size and appearance from a newspaper "file" of the present day; turning to the required date I at once found the paragraph of which the foregoing is a copy.

It is curious to speculate on the connection of Holt with the *Ipswich Journal*. I only wish that I had had the time and opportunity to make further researches into these volumes to ascertain whether any other mention of Holt's name is to be found therein. It is probable that some particulars of the date and circumstances of his death might in this way be ascertained.

It appears from his MSS., that Dr. Mason had been endeavouring to assist Holt in obtaining subscribers to the broad-sheet of his peals, as the copy of this address is written on the back of a letter from Norwich, addressed "To the Rev. Mr. Mason of Trinity Coll. Cambridge," which is evidently in answer to one from Dr. Mason, soliciting the support of the Norwich ringers. The following is a verbatim copy of this letter:—

Norwich, Aug. 27, 1753.

Reverd. Sir,—I desire you'll excuse my not Subscribing to a Work which I have some Reason to fear will not answer to Expectation. I must Confess Our Company Seem Intirely to slight it, though I must Own it is not a Generous Way of Treating Mr. Holt's performance, but I believe they are Induc'd to this by that Ingenious Ringer Mr. Anable's not Encouraging of it, had *he* Approved of it, his Influence on the Colledge Youths I presume would have been sufficient to have sent it to the Press without any Further Subscriptions.

Revd. Sir, Give me leave to Observe to you that 'tis almost twenty years Since I sent to the Revd. Mr. Windhall a Whole peal of Ten with two Inferior Changes Only, Fully Explaining by an Infallible rule, how to make any proper peal on all Numbers that go with a Quick Hunt.

For Self and Co. I am Sir,
With due respect, your most humble servant,
JOHN WEBSTER.

What a valuable piece of information this is! Here we have the whole bearing of the matter placed before us. Annable did not even approve of Holt's peals; much less, then, would he approve of Garthon's peal, indeed, as I shall hereafter show, it is evident that he did not even approve of any peals on the three-lead-course plan.

Before concluding this summary of such of the contents of Dr. Mason's MSS. as relate to Grandsire Triples, I may add that, following the letter given above, one of Holt's broad-sheets, headed, "Mr. John Holt's four peals of Tripple changes, of London, College Youth, lately deceased," is fixed into the book.

This sheet gives the treble leads of the first part of Holt's six and ten-part peals of Grandsire Triples, his six-part peal of Union Triples, and his three-part peal of Plain Bob Triples, without a single. The subscribers names, as follows, are given; it will be seen that Dr. Mason and also the Rev. Mr. Windle, who is mentioned in the Norwich letter, are amongst the number.

THE SUBSCRIBERS' NAMES TO MR. JOHN HOLT'S FOUR PEALS.

The following are of ye Company of College Youths, London:

Samuel Killican, Esq.	7	Mr. James Watson	2
Mr. Robert Randell, Bell-founder, Fleet Ditch	4	„ Christophe Pinchbeck	1
„ John Cundell	4	„ Robert Romley	1
„ Thomas Lester, Bell founder, White Chapel	4	„ William Underwood	1
„ Wm. Oram	4	„ Thomas Bennett	1
„ Thos. Lowe	4	„ Joseph Griffiths	1
„ William Skelton, jun.	4	„ William Rickard	1
„ John Hardham	2	„ Samuel Tomson	1
		„ Richard Wynn	1

The following are of ye same company residing in different parts of England:—

The Rev. Dr. Mason of Trinity College, Cambridge	2	The Rev. Mr. Windle	1
Mr. Samuel Anderson of Stourham, Suffolk	2	Mr. Joseph West, Cambridge	1
„ Henry Cowley of Twittenham, Middlesex	1	The Nottingham Company	1
„ John Swaine of Standwell	1	The Stroud Company, Gloucestershire	1
„ Chris. Chitty, Farnham, Surry	1	Mr. Thomas Hancock of Biserlay, Do.	1
„ Samuel Lee, Dover, Kent	1	„ James Archer of St. Phillips, Bristol	1
William Forbery, Esq. of Galby, Leicestershire	4	The Oxford Company	1
The St. Noats Company, Huntingdonshire	4	Mr. Joseph Levens of Croydon, Surry	1
The Cambridge Company	4	„ John Short, Do. Do.	1
		„ Rayley of Kingston, Do.	1
		„ Hunt	1
		„ Tow	1

These peals to be had of Mr. Cundell, at ye Golden Eagle, in Duke's Court, Bow Street, Covent Garden.

In the same volume of Dr. Mason's MSS., many of the subsequent pages are devoted to the proof of Holt's peals; the mode adopted is, however, most laborious. There is also a written copy of the one-part peal of Grandsire Triples, followed by its proof. Further on a small piece of paper is pasted into the book, headed "Vicars' whole peal of Trebles." This is the same peal as the one previously mentioned; it is written by the treble leads, and is probably the original copy forwarded to Dr. Mason.

Referring to the paragraph in the *Ipswich Journal* it will be seen that Holt claims the discovery of "a method of ringing 5040 Grandsire Triples without changes over again or the use of any other means than plain leads, bobs, and only two singles, which hath hitherto been looked upon as impossible." Now the impossibility that he alludes to is, I consider, the production of a peal with *two singles only*, and not that of obtaining a peal "without changes over again," the claim is however hardly definite enough in the wording for any argument to be based upon it. The same is also the case with the tablet recording the performance of the one-part peal at St. Margaret's, Westminster, in 1751. The following is a copy of this tablet:—

Sunday, July 7th, 1751
The Society of Union Scholars rang in this steeple
with two singles,
the first true and complete peal of
5040 Grandsire Tripples
which peal was performed in 3 hours and 15 minutes
by the following persons:—

JAMES DAVIS,	Treble	JAMES VICKERS,	5.
JAMES ALBION,	2.	JAMES NEWBY,	6.
JACOB HALL,	3.	JOHN LLOYD,	7.
Thomas JACKSON,	4.	GEO. HENRY & ED. DAVIS,	Tenor.

The peal was composed and call'd by JohnHolt.
Captain Nicholas Spencer and Mr. William Goff. } Church Wardens.

In his account of the Society of Union Scholars, Mr. Osborne, remarks concerning the above performance:—

"This peal was not inserted in the Society's book with their other peals by reason as (I suppose) it was considered irregular for the conductor to call, and not ring at the same time in the usual way."

Whether Mr. Osborne had heard anything from older ringers concerning this matter he does not state, and I infer that his conjecture merely arose from the fact that the peal, although recorded in the tower, was not entered in the peal book, and this seemed to him the only natural objection that could be brought against the performance. Is it not more probable that it was omitted for the same reason that the Norwich Scholars did not support the publication of Holt's broad-sheet, viz., because of "that ingenious ringer Mr. Annable not encouraging of it." I believe I am right in saying that Mr. Osborne considered this to have been the first true peal of Grandsire Triples ever rung, and did not know that true peals had previously been accomplished, or that Holt's peals had not been generally accepted by some of the London section at the time they were first brought out.

With regard to the tablet previously given I may say that the words "the first true and complete peal" need not in any way be taken as a claim to the first *true* performance in this method, as it may simply mean that it was the first true and complete peal at the church in question. Many of the old records are extremely indefinite in their wording—for instance, in the Union Scholars' peal-book, two consecutive peals of 5040's of Bob Major are recorded, the first of these is styled "the first true and compleat peal of 5040 Bob Major ever performed on those bells," and the second, which was rung at a

subsequent period at another church, is called "the first true and compleat peal of 5040 Bob Major," without any reference to the obvious meaning that it was the first peal of this description on these bells.*

It seems strange that Holt's own society did not, whatever were their reasons, recognize this first performance of his one-part peal, and as in 1752 he left the Union Scholars, and joined the Society of College Youths, Mr. Osborne has been led to think that his resignation may be accounted for by the fact that the society would not record the the performance of the peal in question in their book. after the date on which the one-part peal was performed Holt rang five peals with the Union Scholars; it cannot therefore be taken as proved without further evidence that it was this decision on the part of the society that caused him to go over to the College Youths.

Holt's name is so throughly identified with Grandsire Triples that no apology will be necessary for the introduction of the few particulars that I am able to lay before my readers concerning his career.

John Holt's name appears in the original name-book of the Union Scholar's (Osborne MSS., British Museum), as having been elected a member of that company, in 1745. He must then have been thought a great acquisition to the Society, as the entry, instead of being made in ordinary old English characters, in a similiar way to the other names, is highly ornamented in the writing. He was elected Master of the Society for the year 1749. The last peal recorded by the Society at the time that Holt joined it in 1745 was one rung in November 1741, and it was not until October, 1747, that another peal was recorded. In this peal Holt took part, as he also did in every peal afterwards recorded by the Society until September, 1752, when his name appears for the last time, and he is supposed to have left the Union Scholars. The following is a list of the peals that he rang with this society, every one of which, "with one exception" of he called, most of them also being his own compositions.

1.	October 27th, 1747,	St. Margaret's, Westminster,	5040 Bob Major.
2.	November 1st, „	St. Giles's-in-the-fields,	„ „ „
3.	December 9th, 1748,	St. Martin's-in-the-fields,	„ „ „
4	July 9th, 1749,	St. Margaret's, Westminster,	6000 „ „
5.	August 8th, 1749,	St. Martin's-in-the-fields,	5040 Bob Triples.
6.	October 15th, „	Christ Church, Surrey,	5040 Bob Major.
7.	December 5th, 1749,	St. Sepulchre's, London,	„ „ „
8.	March 16th, 1750,	St. Bride's, London,	„ „ „
9.	July 8th, 1750,	St. Margaret's, Westminster,	5040 Double Bob Major.
10.	September 9th, 1750,	St. George's, Southwark,	5040 Bob Triples.
11.	January 20th, 1751,	„ „	5040 Bob Major.
12.	January 28th, „	St. Sepulchre's, London,	5094 Grandsire Caters.
13.	February 19th, „	St. Martin's-in-the-fields,	5112 „ „
14.	March 14th, „	St. Margaret's, Westminster,	5120 Oxford Treble Bob.
15.	April 9th, 1751,	St. Mary's, Hillingdon.	5800 Double Bob Major.
16.			5040 Bob Major.
17.	August 26th, 1751,	„ „	5040 Double Bob Major.
18.	October 20th, „	St. Bride's, London,	5104 Grandsire Cinques.
19.	December 28th, 1751,	All Hallows, Chipping Wycomb,	5040 Bob Triples
20.	February 16th, 1752,	St. Margaret's, Westminster,	5040 Court Bob Major.
21.	September 25th, „	St. Giles's-in-the-fields,	5040 Bob Triples.

The total number of peals entered in the Society's book is only thirty-six, these peals were rung between the years 1718 and 1757. As Holt took part in twenty-one peals between the dates 1747 and 1752 it will be seen that during the time he was connected with the Union Scholars, nearly all their peals were accomplished. Previous to his joining the Society, it had only recorded eleven peals in twenty-four years, during the time of his membership twenty-two peals (if we include the one-part peal) were rung in eight years.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

By invitation of the Rector and Churchwardens of this parish, the Garston company visited the church on Saturday, October 27th, to try the new ring of eight bells lately presented by Mrs. French, of Gateacre. These bells were cast by Warner and Sons; tenor about 11 cwt. in G. After trying the bells in company with two local ringers, six members of the Garston company rang a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 24 mins. G. Gough, 1; C. Newton, 2; W. Hughes, 3; W. Turner, 4; F. Turner, 5; G. W. Hughes (conductor), 6. The go of the bells leave nothing to be desired. Sunday, October 28th, being the Harvest Festival, the bells were rung for service for the first time by the local company, assisted by Messrs. Gough and Hughes, and considering the small amount of practice the local men have had, they acquitted themselves very well. Previous to afternoon service, eight members of the Garston company rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples in good style. S. Gough, 1; J. Alexander, 2; C. Newton, 3; P. Barton, 4; F. Turner, 5; W. Hughes, 6; G. W. Hughes (conductor), 7; W. Weaver, 8. Great interest appears to be taken in the ringing by the parishioners, which augurs well for the reception of the art among them, and everything is done to make the ringers comfortable. The Garston company wish to express their thanks to the Halewood ringers for the kindness and hospitality shown to them.

*In 1877, in conjunction with Mr. Tuke, I published a copy of the peal book of the Society of Union Scholars, which is now amongst the Osborne MSS. in the British Museum Library. I can still supply a few copies, price, post free, 8d.

In Memoriam.

COLONEL TRELAWNY.

We regret to record the decease of the Nestor of scientific change-ringing in the West, which took place at Poltair, Penzance, on the 24th ultimo. Colonel Harry Reginald Salusbury Trelawny, was the second son of the late Sir William Salusbury Trelawny, Bart., and born at Harewood, on the Tamar, in the county of Cornwall, on December 12th, 1826. Educated at Ottery St. Mary, Devon, and at Westminster, he entered the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, from whence, in 1845, he joined the 36th Regiment, subsequently exchanging into the 6th Inniskillen Dragoons, of which he was a Lieutenant for five years. Retiring in 1853, he was appointed Adjutant of the Royal Cornwall Rangers, and finally the Colonelcy in 1872, a post from which he retired a few years since on account of age. Deceased was a Justice of the Peace, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of Cornwall, besides holding other local posts. In all his offices he ever displayed a sense of strict justice and a very marked outspokenness. He was a great lover of music, being one of the committee of the Penzance Choral Society, and for many years played the double-bass in its orchestra, and taking part in the recent Handel Festival at the Crystal Palace. He will be better known to our readers, however, as a ringer, and one of no mean capability; from his boyhood he evinced a well marked love for bells and ringing, but it was not until the year 1863 that his attention was called to scientific change-ringing, when seeing the superiority of this method over the old style of call-changes, and ups and downs, and rounds, he set to work with the aid only of *Hubbard's Elements*, and in a short time was able to put his parish ringers through a 120 of Grandsire Doubles, at Calstock, and on June 24th, 1866, the first 720 of Grandsire Minor in Cornwall was rung on the bells of his parish church at Calstock.

On his removal to Poltair, in 1870, he was able to continue his ringing on the peal of eight at Penzance, and in 1873 had trained a band to accomplish a half-peal of Grandsire Triples. Colonel Trelawny never had many opportunities with ringing with those of experience, consequently has not accomplished many peals; on September 15th, 1860, he rang the 6th in a 5040 at St. Mary's, Lewisham. The most of his work has therefore been done on the soil which he himself had alone prepared; for some years past, he had not been able to pursue his favourite pastime with any regularity, owing to the infirmities resulting from repeated attacks of Rheumatic Gout; he however rang the 6th in a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on the bells at St. Mary's, on the 13th of November last.

Colonel Trelawny was very materially assisted in his acquiring the knowledge of change-ringing by Mrs. Trelawny and family, who proved themselves so skilled as soon to accomplish touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters and Cinques, double-handed. On the opening of the present peal at Penzance, and more recently at the re-opening of the augmented peal at Camborne, he gave lectures on bell-ringing, with practical illustrations on the handbells.

The funeral took place on Monday afternoon at the Penzance Cemetery in the presence of a large assemblage. The coffin was of plain deal, almost wholly hidden with moss and ferns, on which lay beautiful wreaths and crosses of flowers, the ringers acting as bearers. The Rev. Prebendary Hedgeland, vicar of St. Mary's, and the Rev. A. Berry, one of deceased's brother-ringers, officiated, and in the chapel and at the graveside the choir chanted the psalms and sang deceased's favourite hymns.

On Sunday evening, the bells being half-muffled, a 720 of Grandsire Minor was rung in 30 mins., with the 7th and tenor as cover. H. Mitchell, 1; C. Boase, 2; J. Hodder, 3; J. Richards, 4; J. Symons, 5; T. Hicks (conductor), 6; M. Bassett, 7; Rev. A. Berry, 8.

On Monday afternoon, immediately after the funeral, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, in 55 mins. Edwin Jenkin, 1; C. Boase, 2; J. Hodder, 3; T. Hicks, 4; J. Richards, 5; G. Sellers, 6; J. Symons (conductor), 7; M. Bassett, 8.

Our readers will no doubt be glad to hear that matter for the next Christmas number for this journal is in course of preparation. One of our friends whose contributions last year were so much appreciated, has sent us a budget which will certainly amuse our friends. This packet is sent all the way from South America, and more than one application has been made for the stamps which adorned the envelope. Four of these we have given away; two others remain, for whoever is the first to apply for them.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FOR the third year in succession the Lancashire Association, which has for its objects the cultivation of the art of change-ringing and belfry reform, held their annual meeting on Saturday, October 13th, in Bolton, when Divine Service was celebrated at Holy Trinity church, the preacher being the Rev. S. Falle, M.A., Curate of Holy Trinity, Hulme. The congregation consisted almost exclusively of ringers, and included representatives from Manchester, Liverpool, Eccles, Garston, Heywood, Pendlebury, Worsley, Walkden, and Church, the total number being about 104. At the service, which was of a specially appropriate character, the prayers were read by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Lowe, M.A., while the lesson was read by the Rev. S. Falle, who also based his sermon on the 3rd verse of the 6th chapter of St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians: "Giving no offence in anything." Addressing those present as fellow-workers of their great Church of England, he said they were taking one of the noblest callings in the Church—that of reminding men of their duties to their Heavenly Father. Their calling in times past had been almost totally disregarded. In the great reformation which passed over the Church of England some thirty years ago, and which had been passing over it ever since, they had been the last to be touched by it. He knew that their office had sometimes not even been so much as recognised. People had passed through the street of some large city, or the fields adjoining some beautiful village, and had heard the bells ringing for service or for practice, but they had never once thought of the men who were ringing them. Congregations might linger upon the lips of some eloquent preacher and go away thoroughly satisfied with him, but the bell-ringers, the sexton, and the organ-blower were treated just as though they had no souls to be saved. But a change was coming over that system, and by their presence there that afternoon, and by their connection with that society, they were justifying their cry for reform. And let him tell them—it might perhaps be only a truism—that when the cry for reform came from any society it would be double as lasting and double as purifying as if it came from outside. If he could trust a book which had been lent to him on the subject, in past times the name of bell-ringer had not always been a very creditable one. If he might judge from what he had read "ringer" and "drinker" were too often synonymous terms, and it had been inferred that according to the number of bells there was in the church there must necessarily be as many drinkers in the parish, and the testimony of broken bottles and castaway pipes too often showed the influence which callousness had upon the ringers themselves. The clergy and officers of the Church of England had to thank themselves to a very large extent for those scenes of riotousness and drunkenness which so often took place. But now the bellringers were crying for reform. It depended upon each one of them individually whether that reform should be lasting. "Give no offence in anything." By their conduct and by their manner of living they could win approval of what they were doing. They were not only calling upon men and their families to serve God, their Maker, their Creator, and their Preserver, but they were also cheering the hearts of their fellow-men by their music. They must remember they were playing music, not in some hall, however large, not to some selected audience, but they were playing their music to the world—to the slums and back streets of their large cities and the villages in the country; music as inspiring as the touching chords of the harp, or the noble strains of the organ. They must also remember that this might be one way in which God manifested Himself to men, and that their notes were words of solemn warning as well as words of cheer. In days of old they as bell-ringers received a bad name, and it was very hard to get rid of a name such as that, but it rested with each of them whether this name should remain with them or not. Might God give them grace so to live and so to act that the testimony might be wrung from unwilling lips that bell-ringing was a manifestation of God's presence on earth, and was but another form of the way in which God spoke to the hearts of men. However black and dark the past might be, that past had now gone for ever, but he would remind them that there was a future—a grand and splendid future, which was all their own.

Divine Service over, the company partook of a substantial tea in the adjoining schoolroom, after which they resolved themselves into a meeting for the purpose of hearing the report read. The chair was taken by the Rev. C. Lowe, and there was also present the Rev. W. Popplewell, M.A., Vicar of All Souls, The Rev. A. Turner, B.A., Burnley, and J. Greenhalgh, Esq. Mr. W. J. Chatterton, one of the Hon. Secs., read the annual report, from which it appeared that the treasurer was able to report a balance in hand of £4 4*s.* 0*d.* It could with justice be said that the Association had been able, if only in a slight degree, to fulfil some of its objects, namely, to raise the status of the ringer, to obtain from him a better recognition of his work and to advance the science of change-ringing. The work of the Association was acknowledged and appreciated in all parts of the county, and it only remained for the performing members to increase in every way the usefulness of the Association. They were, however, many belfries needing reform, many places where scientific ringing was unknown, and not least, there were architects who needed educating as to the needs of ringers and the requirements of a belfry and ringing-chamber. The committee urged every ringer to become a member of some Association, and by his influence and pecuniary assistance, help those who in many cases spent much time and money in furthering the cause which they had so much at heart (applause). The Chairman then extended a cordial welcome to all those present, and assured them that it was a very great pleasure to him to meet them, and also to feel that they had a pleasure in meeting there again (hear, hear). The preacher that afternoon had thrown out most valuable and practical hints, and he trusted they would carry them home and put them in practice before the Association met again. After enlarging somewhat upon the various thoughts suggested by the afternoon's sermon, the Chairman referred to the question as to whether anything could be done to increase the habit of inducing the ringers to remain in the church after they had rung other people there, and after they had exerted themselves and done their duty in the belfry. He, the speaker, thought that if bell-ringers did not attend Divine Service after they had taken so much pains to invite other people into the House of God, they were placing themselves in a position where they were capable of giving offence by putting a stumbling-block in the way of their neighbours, who, seeing them going out of church, would think they were acting in a certain sense inconsistently. They did not want any savouring of "sham," but what they wanted was "jannock" clergymen, "jannock" choristers, and "jannock" bell-ringers, and he hoped they would all try their best to be thoroughly "jannock," and thoroughly real in the noble work in which they were engaged (applause). The following officers were then elected: President, the Rev. A. Turner; Secretary, W. J. Chatterton; Committee, G. W. Hughes (Garston), James Barrett (Eccles), J. Harrison (Heywood), and J. Curtis (Bolton). The newly-elected President returned his hearty thanks for the honour they had conferred upon him, and urged the clergy to take a a greater interest in the welfare of the ringers.

Fourteen new performing members were elected. Votes of thanks were unanimously passed, to the Preacher for his sermon; to the Rev. C. Lowe, M.A., for presiding; and to the organist, choir, and local ringers of Holy Trinity Church, Bolton. Ringing took place after the Meeting at All Souls church, the parish church, and Holy Trinity church.

WORCESTER (AND ADJOINING DISTRICT) ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday last, the members of this Association met at the fine old church of St. Mary, at Kidderminster, for a united practice. when members from Malvern, Bromsgrove, Netherton, Kidderminster, Wolverley, Chaddesley Corbett, Bridgnorth, Wollaston, Belbroughton, including the Master, Mr. Perks, Mr. Duffill (Treasurer), Mr. Smith (Secretary), also Mr. E. F. Strange, of the College Youths (who was elected a performing member of this Association), Mr. King (Bath), and Mr. Morris (Birmingham).

Ringing commenced with mixed companies about 3 o'clock p.m., when touches of Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob, and Grandsire Minor were gone through. This is the second visit that has been paid to this place in this year, and we are pleased to say that since the last visit at Easter the objects of the Association have made some progress, the walls and ceiling has been whitened and coloured, and fair progress made in the art and science of change-ringing; the local company are to be congratulated on the improvements they have made. Still there is ample room for belfry reform before it corresponds with the church to which it forms a part. About 7.30 o'clock p.m., the ringers adjourned to the "Sailors Return" Inn, where touches in various methods were gone through on the handbells.

Votes of thanks were passed to the vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, the meeting then terminated, and the members dispersed, highly pleased with their evening's enjoyment.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD SOCIETY.

THE next QUARTERLY MEETING of this society will be held at West Bromwich, on Saturday, November 10th. Members and ringers desirous of joining this Society are requested to attend at All Saints' or Christ Church steeples, at 2.30 p.m., and to signify their intention of being present to Mr. S. Reeves, 10, Bull Street, West Bromwich, as soon as possible.

Copies of the rules may be obtained on application to either of the the secretaries, addressed, Lichfield.

J. R. KEBLE, }
W. A. WOOD, } *Hon. Secs.*

Several communications have again come to hand unaccompanied by the name of the sender. We recognise no report unless we have some voucher for its anthenticity.

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

One copy,	12 months	6*s.* 6*d.*
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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.

E. MASON.—We shall be glad to make arrangements for you, if you will give us plenty of notice.

E. F. STRANGE.—WE should be glad to hear from you again.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1883.

WHEN in years gone by our forefathers—or we ought to say, perhaps, our predecessors—in the Exercise were wont to style England as "The Ringing Island," they evidently disregarded its geographical position in conjunction with other portions of Britain. As we know nothing of any ringing records from Scotland at the period to which we are alluding, the phrase quoted above must not be regarded as strictly correct, but as an example of what is known as poetic licence. The annals of ringing, and other incontestible evidence, lay bare the fact that the art was confined to the southron, and it is not too much to say that only in recent years has it become acclimatised in the country north of the Cheviot Hills.

The same remark—that of recent introduction and growth—can with safety be applied to Ireland. In both the sister countries one great cause, at least, may have hitherto prevented the introduction of change-ringing, viz.: the absence, if not of bells, of the necessary gear for ringing them. But that reproach has, to a certain extent, been removed. Not only have new rings of bells been erected, in a manner so that their "go" is everything to be wished, but ringing companies, comprising many of the influential inhabitants of the districts, have been formed. In Ireland, for instance, Waterford and Bray may be mentioned; and in Scotland, Edinburgh and Dundee have recently come into prominence. At these towns, the ringing companies have had, we believe, the advantage of an "instructor" in the art.

When accounts of ringing performances from Ireland and Scotland become the rule instead of the exception, we may reasonably and correctly say—"The Ringing Islands." Our friends in both countries seem rather apathetic, so far as peal-ringing is concerned, and with a company like that at Waterford Cathedral this apathy appears somewhat remarkable. We hope to see a little more energy displayed in the direction indicated, and that our Irish and Scotch brother-ringers will, from this date, strive to be first to record a peal in our columns.

SHERBORNE ABBEY CHURCH.

FOLLOWING the example set them at other places, the people of Sherborne are about to take in hand the restoration of the tower of their venerable Abbey, famous in the West of England for its stone roof with fan vaulting and groining.

About thirty years ago, the nave, with the choir and transepts, were restored at great cost; the massive piers on which the tower rests being almost entirely rebuilt from the foundations. Cracks and settlements have been known to exist on the tower as long as any one can remember, but it was not considered to be insecure till lately, when the fall of some window tracery on the east side, prompted the Vicar and churchwardens to have the structure examined. Messrs. Carpenter and Ingleow have made two reports on the present state of the tower, and from them it would appear that the Sherborne people have not stirred any too soon in the matter. The architects point out that the east side is, and always has been, the weak part of the tower, and that this weakness is caused by the removal, by the Abbots of the fifteenth century, of the Norman horseshoe arch and the substitution of a panelled arch, so that the beautiful groining of the choir could be continued in an unbroken line across the tower vault. In doing this, the fifteenth century builders, while they sacrificed strength and solidity in their eagerness for artistic beauty, never intended that the tower would have to carry, as it now does, a heavy peal of bells, said to be the heaviest peal of eight in England. The great tenor, which weighs nearly three tons, and at present requires four men to ring her, was not given to the Abbey until fifty years after the completion of the tower. This bell is (or rather was, for she is a recast, having been cracked some years since while ringing for service on Advent Sunday), one of the famous Tournay peal, which Cardinal Wolsey distributed in various parts of the country. The heavy strain and oscillation of these badly-hung bells in a tower never designed to carry them, is without doubt the cause of its present insecure condition; but the architects are confident they can remedy all defects, and make the tower enough to bear the weight.

The cost of restoration is estimated at £1,300; J. D. Wingfield Digby, Esq., of Sherborne Castle, heads the subscription list with £300, and the leading inhabitants have come forward with liberal sums.

May we not hope that a sufficient sum be raised to rehang the entire peal, and if possible add at least two trebles? Very little change-ringing is done in Dorset; Cattistock and Beaminster, with of course Bournemouth, being almost the only places where the art is practised. Cannot the ringing community urge the necessity of the rehanging of the bells as well as the restoration of the tower, on the Vicar and churchwardens and inhabitants of Sherborne?

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT MEETING of this Society was held at Leeds, near Maidstone, on Thursday, October 25th. There were between seventy and eighty ringers present; and the other churches visited were Ulcombe (favored as the residence of the well-known bellfounder. Joseph Hatch, who is buried in the adjoining churchyard of Bromfield), E. Sutton, Chart Sutton, and Bearsted. Among the visitors was Mr. Haworth, of Clerkenwell, whose last visit to Leeds appears, by a record in the belfry, to have been made in 1859, when he made one in a peal of Grandsire Caters. Touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob, and Treble Bob were rung during the day. The above towers happily lie not far from each other, so that the large number attending had a fair chance of all getting a ring, but in places less well situated, it will evidently soon be necessary to make some fresh regulations with a view to limit the numbers.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

CHECKLEY.—Ringers from Ellastone, Uttoxeter, Norton-le-Moors, and Checkley attended this meeting last Saturday, to the number of nineteen. The Lay Secretary, Mr. E. Glover, was present. The bells of Checkley are rung from the ground floor, and the great length of rope without stays makes ringing no easy matter. A pleasant afternoon was passed, and a most excellent tea provided by the Rector in the schoolroom, at which the Rev. T. W. Tomlins, one of the assistant clergy, presided.

The order of meetings for November is as follows: November 3rd, Horton; 10th, Norton-le-Moors; 17th, Wolstanton; 24th, Leigh.

The Provinces.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—GARGRAVE.

On Saturday, October 20, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM WHITAKER*	*Treble.*	*HERBERT MIDDLEBROOK	5.
WILLIAM CLARKE	2.	†JAMES MCGOUN	6.
HERBERT HORSMAN	3.	WILLIAM MALLINSON	7.
JNO. T. MIDDLEBROOK	4.	JNO. MCKELL	*Tenor.*

Composed by TOM LOCKWOOD and conducted by J. MCKELL.

*First peal. † First peal inside. This peal is the first in the method on the bells, and has the 6th twenty-four times wrong and twenty times right.

LOUGHTON, ESSEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Thursday, October 26, 1883, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PENNING'S ORIGINAL 1-PART PEAL. Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM SMITH	*Treble.*	MATTHEW ELLSMORE	5.
GEORGE AKERS	2.	JOHN GOBBETT	6.
ARTHUR H. GARDOM, ESQ.	3.	SAMUEL JARMAN	7.
GEORGE CORNELL*	4.	*WILLIAM TRUSS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by A. H. GARDOM, Esq.

* First peal.

MANCHESTER.

THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, October 27, 1883, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE ROYAL, 5060 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in Eb.

WILLIAM SMITH	*Treble.*	JAMES WOOD	6.
JOSEPH BOWCOCK	2.	JOHN THORP	7.
JAMES GRATRIX	3.	BENJAMIN BROADBENT	8.
SAMUEL WEST	4.	SAMUEL WOOD	9.
GEORGE MEE	5.	GEORGE LONGDEN	*Tenor.*

Composed and conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

Messrs. Gratrix, West, and Mee, belong to Manchester, the rest of the company hail from Ashton.

SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, October 27, 1883, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

GEORGE NEWSON	*Treble.*	ARTHUR JACOB	5.
THOMAS TITCHENER	2.	WILLIAM H. DORAN	6.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL	3.	SAMUEL JARMAN	7.
JAMES HANNINGTON	4.	ALERED DAWES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

This is Messrs. Titchener and Fussell's first peal in the method, and was arranged for Mr. Fussell, who is on a visit to London.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

THE HYDE SOCIETY.

On Monday, October 29, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12⅛ cwt.

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

Composed by JOHN THORP, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and conducted by THOMAS WILDE.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Thursday, October 25, 1883, in Three Hours and Thirty-three Minutes,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 26 cwt.

HARRY WAKLEY	*Treble.*	†THOMAS MEREDITH	5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE	2.	GEORGE APPLEBY	6.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN	3.	THOMAS HOLMES	7.
ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT*	4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY	*Tenor,*

Conducted by WILLIAM WAKLEY.

*First peal. †First peal in the method.

The peal is a three-part composition by D. Prentice, and is without a Bob before. It is published on page 158, vol. i., "Bell News," amongst Mr. Snowdon's collection, and has never been previously performed.

Mr. Cartwright hails from Wombourne, and Mr. Meredith from Lichfield.

THE WREXHAM SOCIETY.—GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE

On Monday, October 29, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt.

ALFRED LEA	*Treble.*	JOHN ELLIS	5.
R. W. EVANS	2.	THOMAS NEWELL	6.
ROBERT JONES	3.	EDWARD ROWLAND	7.
JOS. WILLIAMS	4.	EDWARD EVANS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by EDWARD ROWLAND.

This is the first peal ever rung on these bells, which were augmented to eight in 1876, by Messrs Warner and Sons.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—ECCLES.

On Saturday, October 27, 1883, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A BOB-AND-SINGLE PEAL, 3RD THE OBSERVATION.

Tenor 13¾ cwt.

EDWARD CASH	*Treble.*	CHARLES CASH	5.
JAMES BARRATT	2.	RICHARD ASHCROFT	6.
RICHARD PEARCE	3.	ALBERT EDWARD WREAKS	7.
JAMES RIDYARD	4.	WILLIAM ASHCROFT	*Tenor.*

Conducted by EDWARD CASH.

Messrs. Pearce and C. Cash hail from St. Peter's, Swinton; Ridyard from St. Mark's, Worsley; Wreaks from Manchester Cathedral; the rest belong to Eccles.

Miscellaneous.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BROMHAM (Beds.).—On Sunday, October 28th, six members of this Association rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. T. Tysoe, 1; H. King, 2; C. Stafferton, 3; W. King, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; W. Biggs, 6.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Tuesday, October 23rd, at Christ Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 46 mins. A. Sawyer, 1; R. Smith, 2; J. Rossiter, 3; J. Hern, 4; R. Wignell, 5; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 6; H. Ross, 7; S. Nott, 8. This is the first 1260 by any band since the formation of the Association.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Sunday, October 28th, for evening service at St. John Baptist, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 27 mins. G. Herdman, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; F. Lees, 3; T. J. des Forges, 4; W. Story, 5; W. G. Routledge (conductor), 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—The Members of the St. John's Guild, Newcastle, called here (on their way home from the Annual Meeting of the above Association held at Durham on Monday, October 29th), and rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. G. Campbell, 1; W. G. Routledge, 2; W. Egglestone, 3; W. Story, 4; C. L. Routledge, 5; F. Lees (conductor), 6. Tenor 20 cwt. Also on arrival at Newcastle, rang at St. John's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. R. Simm, jun. (Cathedral society), 1; G. Campbell, 2; F. Lees, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; W. Story, 5; W. G. Routledge (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD.—On Sunday afternoon, October 28th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles. F. Gillingham, Esq., 1; J. Porter, 2; G. Roughton (formerly a member of the Association), 3; A. Pye, 4; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 5; A. Porter, 6. *Chiming.*—A 360 of the same method was chimed in the morning. A. J. Perkins, 1-2-3-4; B. Keeble, 5-6.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GARSTON (Lancashire).—On Sunday, Oct. 21st, for Divine Service, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 25½ mins. S. Gough, 1; C. Newton, 2; W. Hughes, 3; W. Turner, 4; S. Turner, 5; Geo. W. Hughes (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method for all the above. Tenor 12½ cwt.

GRASSENDALE (Lancashire).—On Monday, October 29th, at St. Mary's church, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26½ mins. S. Gough, 1; J. Alexander, 2; C. Newton, 3; F. Turner, 4; *S. Atkin, 5; G. W. Hughes (conductor), 6. *First 720. Tenor 12 cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WANTAGE.—On Sunday, October 28th, at the parish church, for Divine Service in the evening, four 6-scores of Stedman Doubles, each called differently, in 19 mins. F. Money, 1; A. Bunce, 2; F. May, 3; H. Smith, 4; A. Gregory, 5; G. Gregory, 6.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

CHEDDLETON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, October 21st, 720 Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. J. James, 1; E. Spooner, 2; J. Gilbert, 3; F. Clowes (conductor), 4; H. Birch, 5; J. Renshaw, 6. And on Sunday, October 28th, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 25½ mins. J. Parker, 1; D. Bradbury, 2; J. Gilbert, 3; F. Clowes (conductor), 4; H. Birch, 5; J. Renshaw, 6; also a 720 in the same method in 26 mins. J. Parker, 1; E. Spooner, 2; H. Rogers, 3; T. Turner, 4; F. Clowes (conductor), 5; J. Renshaw, 6. D. Bradbury hails from Horton and T. Turner from Leek; the rest from Cheddleton.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LINCOLN.—On Saturday, October 27th, a party of members of the Hull branch of the above Association visited Lincoln, and attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Peter-at-Arches church, but after ringing 1 hr. and 5 mins. it was found impossible to complete the peal owing to the tenor going so badly. F. Drabble, 1; H. Cutter, 2; W. Southwick, 3; H. Jenkins, 4; J. Dixey, 5; C. Jackson (conductor), 6; C. Bennett, 7; F. Merrison, 8. Tenor 22½ cwt. They then proceeded to St. Peter-at-Gowts, and rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 23 mins. H. Cutter, 1; H. Jenkins, 2; C. Jackson, 3; J. Dixey (conductor), 4; C. Bennett, 5; W. South wick, 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

ANSTON (Yorkshire).—On Wednesday, October 24th, at St. James's church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, was rung in 25 mins., in celebration of the coming of age of the Marquis of Carmarthen, the eldest son of his Grace the Duke of Leeds. Robt. S. Fox, 1; Thos. Silvester, 2; Josh. Bland, 3; Willm. Wyatt, 4; Chas. F. Fowler, 5; Willm. Hall (conductor), 6. Also six 12-scores was rung, conducted on each bell, one of which was called with five bobs, which was conducted by Robt. S. Fox.

BALDERSTONE, ROCHDALE (Lancashire).—On Saturday, October 27th, the local company attempted to ring (at St. Mary's church), Penning's one-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but unfortunately after ringing 2 hours and 36 mins., they were brought to an abrupt termination by the breaking of a rope. Charles J. Silverwood, 1; Abraham Fitton, 2; John E. Howarth, 3; Samuel Hartley, 4; Herbert Dearnley, 5; James H. Prescott, 6; William Howarth (conductor), 7; Thomas Fitton, 8. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

DEERHURST (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday, October 28th, the local company rang for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with fourteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. C. Roles, 1; C. Willis, 2; S. Cleal (Tewkesbury), 3; C. Awford (conductor), 4; G. Willis, 5; J. Bartlett, 6.

GLEMSFORD (Suffolk).—On Saturday, October 27th, at St. Mary's, a 720 of New London Pleasure, in 30 mins. Chas. Honeybell, 1; Z. Slater, 2; S. Slater, 3; F. Wells, 4; O. Garwood, 5; A. Hurst (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Cambridge Surprise, in 27 mins. A. Ives, 1; S. Slater, 2; F. Wells, 3; O. Garwood, 4; A. Hurst, 5; F. P. Adams (conductor), 6.

GREENWICH (Kent).—On Tuesday, October 30th, on the back eight at St. Alphege, a mixed band rang a 854 of Grandsire Triples, in 29 mins. *J. Lambton, 1; W. Weatherstone (conductor), 2; T. Taylor, 3; W. Bowles, 4; H. Freeman, 5; J. Reese, 6; A. G. Freeman, 7; F. W. Thornton, 8. *His longest touch.

HATCHERSAGE (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, October 14th, at St. Michael's church, four of the local company with Mr. J. Allen and J. Atkin, of Norton, rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, in 28 mins. J. Linneyman, 1; J. A. Slinn, 2; G. Bagshaw, 3; J. Atkin (conductor), 4; W. Homes, 5; J. Allen, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

HAMPSTEAD (Middlesex).—On Sunday, October 28th, at St. Stephen's church, for Divine Service in the morning, the local company rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples on the back eight in 19½ mins. E. Chapman, (conductor), 1; J. Combe, 2; B. Payne, 3; H. Tylor, 4; W. Pryor, 5; C. Deal, 6; B. Foskett, 7; W. Arscott, 8. Also for Divine Service in the evening, a 559 of Grandsire Triples in 21 mins. S. Clark, 1; J. Combe, 2; B. Payne, 3; C. Deal, 4; B. Foskett, 5; H. Tylor, 6; E. Chapman (conductor), 7; G. Bright, 8. Tenor 27 cwt.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Wednesday, October 24th, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs) in 25 mins. W. Meadows, 1; J. Hannington, (conductor) 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; J. Leach, 4; A. Jacob, 5; T. Titchener, 6. On Sunday evening, October 28th, for Divine Service, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs) in 24½ mins. J. Nixon, 2; J. Hannington, (conductor) 2; A. Jacob, 3; T. Titchener, 4; W. H. Fussell, 5; W. Meadows, 6. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

HIGHER SUTTON (Cheshire).—*Muffled Peal.*—On Sunday, October 28th, the local company rang for Divine Service in the afternoon, a 720 of Bob Minor, with the bells half-muffled (as a last token of respect to a late parishioner, who was laid in her last resting place on Thursday, October 25th), with sixteen bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. Wm. Walmsley, 1; Wm. H. Ingham, 2; W. Ingham, 3; J. M. Davenport, 4; T. Mottershead, 5; Wm. H. Hardman, 6.

HUNDON (Suffolk).—On Sunday, October 28th, members of the Cavendish and Glemsford societies paid a visit to the above place, and rang upon the magnificent peal at All Saints' church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob, in 27¾ mins. Alexander Hurst (conductor), 1; Harry Thompson, 2; Oliver Garwood, 3; Fred. Wells, 4; Samuel Slater, 5; George Maxim, 6. Tenor 19 cwt. Touches of Cambridge Surprise and New London Pleasure were also rung, Messrs. Z. Slater and A. Ives taking part in the same.

KERSEY (Suffolk).—On Sunday evening, October 28th, after Divine Service, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, and a touch of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Taylor, 1; R. Keeble, 2; W. Smith, 3; J. Starling, 4; C. Parker (conductor), 5; W. Nevard, 6. R. Keeble and C. Parker hail from Monks Eleigh; W. Smith from Higham; Taylor and Starling from Gt. Bromley, Essex; and Nevard from Gt. Bentley, Essex.

LEA (Lincolnshire).—On Tuesday, October 23rd, at St. Helen's church, five members of the Gainsborough Society, with Mr. E. Mason of Boston, rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. W. D. Tinker, 1; H. Tate, 2; J. C. Tinker, 3, M. W. Ashton, 4; *F. F. Linley, 5; E. Mason, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. This is the first 720 that has been rung on these bells by any company. * Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

LYTHAM (Lancashire).—On Sunday, October 28th, being the Harvest Festival at St. John's church, after Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 24 mins. Wm. Bamber, 1; Jno. Salthouse, 2; Jno. Fisher, 3; C. H. Kerr (conductor), 4; Jno. Pemberton, 5; Roger Allanson, 6. Tenor 10¾ cwt.

MONKS ELEIGH (Suffolk).—On Sunday, October 28th, a mixed company rang for Divine Service in the afternoon, several touches of Bob Minor and Oxford Treble Bob. R. Keeble, 1; W. Smith, 2; J. Taylor, 3; J. Starling, 4; C. Parker, 5; W. Nevard, 6.

NORTON (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, October 21st, betng the Harvest Thanksgiving at St. James's, for morning service, a 360 of Bob Minor, in 14 mins. W. Lee, 1; J. Atkin, 2; W. Biggin, 3; J. Goucher, 4; J. Biggin, 5; J. Allen (conductor), 6. Also in the evening, a 720 of Bob Minor, with twenty-one bobs and twelve singles, in 28 mins. F. Ward, 1; J. Goucher, 2; W. Biggin, 3; J. Atkin, 4; J. Biggin, 5; J. Allen, (conductor), 6. Also after service, a 360 in the same method, with nine bobs, in 14 mins. J. Goucher, 1; H. Ward, 2; W. Biggin, 3; J. Atkin (conductor), 4; J. Wiggin, 5; J. Allen, 6. Tenor 11½ cwt.

PONTEFRACT (Yorkshire).—On Thursday evening, October 25th, at All Saints' church, six members of the local company rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor. W. Wilcock, 1; J. Brook, 2; W. Pearson (conductor), 3; *J. Pollard, 4; R. Brook, 5; *J. Carter, 6. First 720 in the method for all except Mr. Pearson. *Members of the Yorkshire Association. The same 720 was rung again on Sunday evening, October 28th, for

Divine Service, by the same band, stationed as in the previous 720. W. Pearson would be glad if any one would be kind enough to publish a 720 of Grandsire Minor, as he has only the two 720's that are published in "*Troyte's Change Ringing*." I was, says he, in conversation with a ringer from the small market town of Snaith, last week, he told me they were going to have their bells (which are a very old six, and hung the reverse way round), rehung and quarter turned, and the work is to be intrusted to Mr. T. Mallaby, of Masham. They are a very nice ring, tenor about 12 cwt., but they go very bad owing to the old frame being rickety.

SUDBURY (Suffolk). — On Saturday evening, October 13th, the following members of the local company met and rang for practice, at St. Gregory's Church, 640 of Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Tolladay, 1; A. Scott (conductor), 2; J. Campin, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Bacon, 5; W. Howell, 6; W. Griggs, 7; H. Harper, 8. And on the following Sunday evening, on the occasion of the Harvest Thanksgiving service at All Saints' Church, a touch of Bob Major, and 672 of Grandsire Triples. N. Taylor, 1; M. Silvester, 2; J. Campin, 3; W. Campin, 4; A. Scott (conductor), 5; W. Howell, 6; H. Harper, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Also on Tuesday evening, October 16th, for practice at All Saints' Church, 672 of Grandsire Triples. W. Crow, 1; M. Silvester, 2; G. S. Brown, 3; W. Bacon, 4; H. Harper, 5; J. Campin, 6; A. Scott (conductor), 7; H. Brackett, 8. And on Saturday evening, October 27th, at St. Gregory's, 1120 of Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Tolladay, 1; A. Scott (conductor), 2: G. S. Brown, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Bacon, 5; W. Howell, 6; W. Griggs, 7; H. Harper, 8. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent).—On Sunday, October 21st, for Divine Service in the evening, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, called differently. C. Turner, 1; H. Barefield (conductor). 2; W. Latter, 3; G. Kember, 4; J. Muggridge, 5; W. Ford, 6. Also on Sunday, October 28th, another 720. H. Sharvill (first 720), 1; R. Sharvill, 2; W. Latter, 3; G. Kember, 4; J. Muggridge, 5; W. Ford, 6. Conducted by H. Barefield. Tenor 14¾ cwt.

UPTON ST. LEONARD'S (Gloucester).—On Sunday, October 28th, at the parish church, five members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, with W. Sevier, rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 28 mins. J. Middlecote, 1; J. Yates, 2; W. Sevier (first 720), 3; H. Mitchell, 4; A. Waite, 5; H. Gardner (conductor), 6.

WOOLWICH (Kent).—***Muffled Peal.***—A muffled peal of Grandsire Triples was rung as a token of respect to Col. Trelawny, of Penzance, Cornwall, by the local company, with Mr. D. Hayward, of Yarmouth, Norfolk. H. Bright, 1; D. Hayward, 2; C. J. Barham, 3; T. C. Parry, 4; A. Phillips, 5; E. Richards, 6; H. Harvey (conductor), 7; J. Meadow, 8. [The above society deeply lamented the loss of Col. Trelawny, who was once a ringer at Woolwich.]

CONCERT IN AID OF NEW BELLS AT UPPERMILL, LANCASHIRE.

The first of a series of tea meetings and concerts has recently been held in the Church Schoolroom, Uppermill, when upwards of 400 sat down to a substantial tea, which had been kindly given by Mrs. John Holden and Mrs. Samuel Walker. At the after meeting the large schoolroom was well filled, and at the time for commencing the proceedings, Mr. John Holden, the parishioners' warden, stepped forward and said: Ladies and gentlemen, the duty which devolves upon me this evening is a very pleasing one, it is to introduce to you our new vicar, the Rev. Hugh Doig. This meeting has been got up by the ringers, and the proceeds are to go towards two new bells which are ordered for our church. This is the first time that a vicar of Saddleworth church has been asked to preside over a ringers' meeting, and it is the first time that a vicar has consented to preside over such a meeting. This is the first public appearance of the new vicar, and I am sure you will give him a hearty welcome. I have very great pleasure introducing the Rev. Hugh Doig to the meeting. On the Rev. Hugh Doig coming to the front he was received with loud applause, and said: Dear friends and parishioners, I cannot thank you as I should desire for the kind manner in which you have received me, and the Saddleworth people generally, for the way in which I have been received at all times. I can assure you it has far exceeded my expectations, and I hope that, with GOD'S blessing, our relations will continue to be of the best kind, and as warm-hearted in the future as they have been since I came amongst you. After I had been here but a short time I met a worthy old man, and in our conversation he told me "that the Saddleworth people can be led but they cannot be driven." A short time after I had the pleasure of joining two together in holy matrimony, and in the conversation with the bridegroom after he told me "that the Saddleworth people can be led, but they cannot be driven." A short time after, in my walks I met a magnate, and in our talk he told me "that the Saddleworth people can be led, but they cannot be driven." I thought it was peculiar that they should all tell me the same story, but I am in the position of the Saddleworth people. I can be led but I cannot be driven. Nor do I wish to drive you. I am not come for that purpose, and even if I was I could not do, for three reasons. First, I have not the power to do it; second I have not the will; and third, there are two ways of doing things, a hard and an easy way, and as it is the easier to lead than to drive, I prefer the leading. I have a church that any clergyman might be proud of; I have a good people, wardens, choir, and ringers. And what would the Church be without these? I hope that GOD'S blessing may rest upon upon us all, and that we may not only celebrate our silver wedding, but our golden wedding day. I am come to Saddleworth with the intention of stopping, and I hope that the people of Saddleworth and myself may get on well together. I thank you very much for the cordial welcome which you have given to me, and I hope that we may have a prosperous meeting. The concert consisted of glees: "Awake, Æolian Lyre," "All among the Barley," and "Parting and Meeting," which were moderately sung by the choir. The handbell ringers, in giving "Beaumaris March," a course of Grandsire Triples, "Jenny Jones," "Odd-Fellows' Holiday," and Scotch Laddie," fairly brought down the house with applause, which was very well merited. Mrs. Gardener, in the songs "Tit for Tat," "Coming through the Rye," and "Home, Sweet Home," was well received, and she promises to make her mark in the vocal world. A duet, "Gathering Flowers," was very tastefully sung. Mr. J. Dunworth, of Manchester, gave two violin solos, "Concerto in D," and "Yankee Doodle," and fairly took the house by surprise by the way in which he went through the performances. Songs were also given by Messrs. C. F. Bradbury, Joseph Broadbent, Charlesworth, Dyson, and Miss Langfield. The conductor was Mr. Burton, and the pianist Mr. E. Rowbottom. The usual vote of thanks brought the meeting to a close. The amount of profit, after paying all expenses, is nearly £14, which will go towards the new bell fund.

TWELVE-BELL STEEPLES OF LONDON.

Passing eastward we come to St. Leonard, Shoreditch. Here we have a peal of twelve bells, tenor 30 cwt. in D. They were all cast at the Whitechapel foundry, the last ten by Thomas Lester in 1739, and the two trebles by Thomas Mears and Son in 1807. The tenor was, I believe, recast by W. Blews and Son, of Birmingham, about the year 1860.

There is also a clock and a set of chimes by Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, which play every three hours, and are set to fourteen different tunes.

There are a great many tablets in the belfry, one dated March 28th, 1750, records the performance of 5040 New Double Triples, in three hours and a half, by the Cumberland Society.

We shall now proceed to notice some tablets referred to by Mr. J. W, Snowdon in his *Treatise on Treble Bob*, recording a sharp contest in the last century between the College and Cumberland Youths, for the greatest length in Treble Bob Royal. The first runs as follows: —

"College Youths.—This tablet was erected by the Society to commemorate an excellent peal rung in this steeple, on the 18th of February, 1777, consisting of 10,000 changes of Oxford Treble Bob ten in, and was completed in 7 hrs. 28 mins. This curious composition, the great length of time, and the masterly manner in which it was rung, may justly entitle it the most excellent performance ever achieved from the first invention of the ingenious art of ringing to the present time.—Winstanley Richardson, 1. James Darquitt, 2. Wm. Hatt, 3. Chas. Purser, 4. John Povey, 5. Joseph Monk, 6. William Lyford, 7. Joseph Holdsworth, 8. Edmund Sylvestre, 9. Samuel Muggeridge, 10."

"Insatiated with glory, the above select performers, on the 19th of May, 1777, rang a compleat peal of 11,080 changes, in the above method, in 8 hrs. 2 mins. which will be transmitted to posterity as a masterpiece of the art.—The above peals was composed and called by C. Purser."

There is another tablet recording 10,200 Treble Bob Royal rung May 10th, 1777, by the Cumberland Youths, in seven hours and forty mins. Then we have another tablet which runs as follows: —

"Saturday, March 27th, 1784, the Society of Cumberland Youths rang in this steeple a compleat peal, consisting of 12,000 changes of Treble Bob Royal, with 60 courses, and was performed in 9 hrs. and 5 mins. The length of time and the masterly manner in which it was rung will remain a surviving honour to the performers. It is allowed by all competent judges in the noble art to be the greatest performance ever done on ten bells. The performers were:—Geo. Gross, 1. James Barnard, 2. Francis May, 3. Thos. Reeves, 4. Isaiah Bray, 5. James Patrick, 6. Wm. East, 7. Abraham Smith, 8. Malachi Channon, 9. Allen Grant, 10.—Composed and called by George Gross, Senr."

Another tablet records 6129 Stedman Caters, rung by the Cumberland Youths, February 26th, 1805, in four hours and twelve mins.

Another tablet records 5220 Kent Treble Bob Royal by the same society, rung April 7th, 1801, in three hours and thirty-seven mins.

I am not aware that there any tablets here relating to eleven and twelve bell performances. If I am wrong in this, I shall be glad if some of your readers will correct me. J. R. JERRAM.

[In the account of the 5015 Grandsire Cinques, rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, for „1853" read "1837."]

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."

"GRANDSIRE BOB."

SIR,—Being a Northamptonshire man I feel pleased to see a 5040 come from that quarter. I wish them every success; there is great credit due to them, as they have not been long at it, and some of them quite youths. Now I wish to ask my Raunds friends if they will kindly inform me the difference between College Single and College Little, also between Grandsire Bob and Grandsire Single. In reporting, it is always necessary to be most accurate, and by doing so no doubt arises in the minds of ringers as to the methods rang. I have seen Plain Bob Minor styled "Grandsire Bob," but in my mind there is not a particle of Grandsire about it; Grandsire is an odd bell method where thirds places are made, and dodging in 4-5, but in Bob Minor seconds place is made, and dodging is going on in 3-4 and 5-6. I recollect seing a peal-board in St. Paul's, Shadwell, stating that a peal of Grandsire Bob Major was rung; no man could ever be acquainted with both methods, namely, Grandsire and Plain Bob, and give it that name. I hope in future our friends will not mix Grandsire with Plain Bob. Hoping that those who are in the habit of styling the methods as such, will not take this at all as censuring them, but merely correcting, as I should wish if I was wrongly informed. W. A. TYLER.

THE 40,320 BOB MAJOR AT LEEDS, KENT.

SIR,—Would you kindly allow me to ask, through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS," if some kind friend would give me an account of the above peal, which I am told was rung some years ago. Mr. J. Barham, I am informed, rang one of the bells for thirteen hours, sat out for three hours, and then rang again for eleven hours till the peal was completed. Any particulars, such as (1) name of composer; (2) number of men employed and the number of hours each rang; (3) time occupied; (4) weight of tenor; (5) names of conductor, etc., etc., would be thankfully welcomed by G. FREDERICK COLERIDGE.

Park Crescent, Oxford.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR HERTFORDSHIRE.

SIR,—I was pleased to see Mr. Tyler's letter in your last issue, respecting a County Association for Hertfordshire. It is true that we do not possess many change-ringing companies, but I think if such an Association were formed, the practice of the noble art might be very much extended in the county. Personally, I should hail the formation of an Association with great joy, and would do all in my power to support it. I would therefore respectfully suggest that all those holding the same views, should forward their names to the Rev. W. Wigram, with a view to a meeting being arranged at a convenient place—Hertford, Hatfield, or St Albans, to consider the matter, when at the same time a pleasant day's ringing might be obtained.

St. Peter's Street, St. Albans, Herts. N. N. HILLS.

REPLIES TO MR. T. BARON.

SIR,—The bells at Leyland were undoubtedly cast by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, as the initials "A. R." with the figure of a bell between, are frequently found on bells cast by him about the year 1722. W. D.

SIR,—In reply to a question being asked in your last week's issue respecting who was the founder of Leyland bells, bearing the initials, "A. R." with a bell between, I beg to inform the enquirer—Mr. Thos. Baron—they are from the firm of A. Rudhall, of Gloucester, having rehung his bells at Monmouth (a peal of eight, tenor 20 cwt.), also a peal of eight at Ross, in Herefordshire (tenor 25 cwt.), both peals bearing the above initials, with bell between; and on the sixth bell at Ross is the following inscription: "We were all cast by the Rudhalls of Gloucester, 1761;" the tenor being given by John Kyrle, Esq., better known as "The Man of Ross." The Monmouth bells were cast in the year 1706, by A. Rudhall. GEORGE DAY.

Eye, Suffolk.

SIR,—I see in this morning's number of "THE BELL NEWS," a letter from Thos. Baron, of Leyland, asking for information about the founder of his bells. The letters "A. R." with a bell between, were the stamp used by Abraham Rudhall, who had a foundry at Gloucester at the beginning of the last century. The foundry was carried on then by the Rudhalls, till the beginning of this century. A great number of Rudhall's bells are still found in Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, and in the neighbouring counties. H. J. ELSEE.

St. John's College, Cambridge, Oct. 27th.

DOUBTS.

SIR,—Reading a paragraph in "THE BELL NEWS" as to the ringing at Spalding, Lincolnshire, on October 17th, I was surprised to see such credit given for the evenness of the bells, but not being a professional ringer, I can tell good ringing from bad; certainly there was not a deal of evenness about it, as the bells often struck altogether, and sometimes two and three together. If they call this evenness of ringing, I certainly don't know what good ringing is, in fact I thought it was what they call shooting the bells. A LOVER OF GOOD RINGING.

THE RAUNDS, WELLINGBOROUGH, AND DISTRICT SOCIETIES.

In July last, through the efforts of the Rev. Hugh Bryan, M.A., Vicar of Raunds—a thorough lover of bells and bell music—a meeting was held at Raunds, and a Society formed for Raunds, Wellingborough, and district. The Ven. R. P. Lightfoot, M.A., Archdeacon of Oakham and Vicar of Wellingborough, willingly accepted the office of President of the Association; the Rev. J. P. Goodman, Rector of Keystone, was elected Treasurer; and the Rev. Hugh Bryan undertook the duties of Honorary Secretary. The attendance being but small at the opening meeting, it was determined to hold another in October. This took place on Tuesday, the 23rd ult., at the parish church of Wellingborough, by the kind permission of the Ven, Archdeacon Lightfoot, who is himself a ringer, and takes great interest in the Society. Ringing commenced at 9.30 a.m., and was continued at intervals till 7.30 p.m. Ringers attended in force from Raunds, Higham Ferrers, Burton Latimer, Rushden, Irthlingborough, Finedon, Kettering, Earl's Barton, and Doddington; representatives from each place managing to get a pull at some time or other during the day. Considering that the visitors were none of them accustomed to bells of such weight, the striking was, on the whole, very good. All seemed pleased with the "go" of the bells. There was some little complaint regarding the difficulty in hearing the treble and second bells, they being up in the spire above the back four. The grand old tenor (a good specimen of the work of Watts, of Leicester, "the foremost in his art") is accounted the heaviest bell in the county, and its full, mellow sound was generally admired. On the other hand, the harsh, discordant tone of the third bell was equally condemned. The general opinion of ringers regarding these bells is that the addition of two trebles would make a fine ring of eight. Besides adding to the music, this would render it much easier work for the tenor-man. At one o'clock a capital luncheon was provided in a room at Freeman's schools (kindly lent by the Archdeacon), to which clergy, honorary members, and ringers sat down, to the number of fifty. This was followed at 2.30 by Evensong at the parish church. As customary at Wellingborough, the bells were "falled" and chimed for the service. The sermon was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot. In a brief but practical and pithy discourse, the Archdeacon pointed out the true uses of the bells, and the true position of the ringers as church officials on a par with the choir; desiring those present to remember their honourable office, and live upright consistent lives, worthy of churchmen and churchworkers; and requesting them to bear in mind at all times that the belfry was a part of the house of God, therefore not the place for lightness and levity. The offertory was in aid of the funds of the Association. Next came the business meeting, the Archdeacon presiding. The Rev. H. Bryan, the energetic Honorary Secretary, gave an account of the formation and origin of the society, explained its objects, read the rules, and made some practical remarks on the subject of the reform of belfries, alluding to the evils that formerly arose and in some cases still arise, from ringing-lofts. The thanks of the Society were given to the Archdeacon for the use of the Church and bells. It was decided that the next meeting be held at Rushden, early in May next. At the conclusion of the meeting new members were admitted. The Society now numbers over twenty honorary and forty-two ringing members. The following were present during the day: the Revs. Canon Barker (Rushden), R. S. Baker (Hargrave), F. B. Newman (Burton Latimer), J. P. Goodman (Keystone), F. Ball (Wollaston), G. M. Edmonds (Stoke Doyle), and the local clergy. Also W. W. Baillie, Esq. (Oundle), Mr. Henson (churchwarden, Finedon), G. H. Burnham, Esq. (churchwarden), and Dr. W. W. Clarke, T. Cook, Esq., Mr. John Askham, and Mr. E. J. Dennes (sidesmen of the parish church, Wellingborough). There has not been such a gathering of ringers in Wellingborough for many years. The Irthlingborough men brought their handbells, which were kept going during the evening. All seemed to spend a most enjoyable day; and, what may be considered the inaugural meeting of this newly formed Society was generally acknowledged to be a complete success.

A handsome tablet has this week been placed in the tower of St. Alban's Abbey, to commemorate the peal of Grandsire Triples rung there by the Ancient Society of College Youths in April last, in which four local ringers took part.

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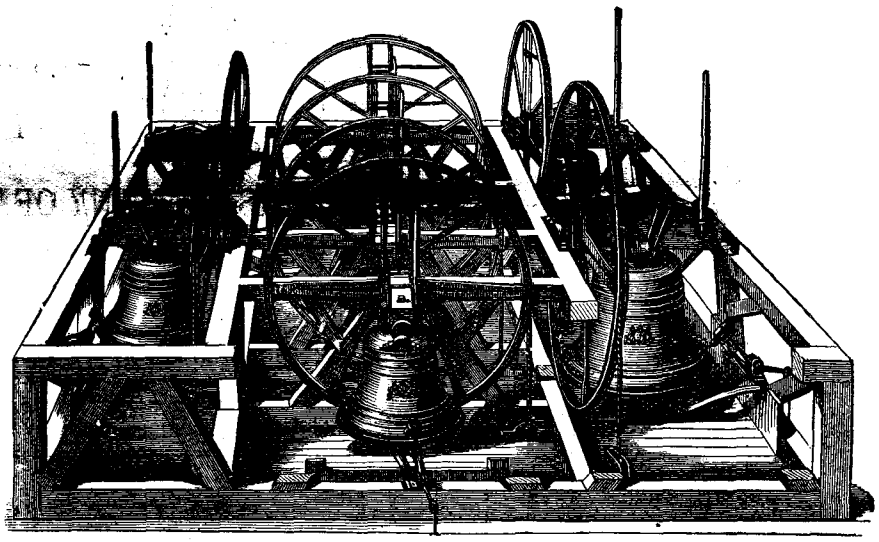
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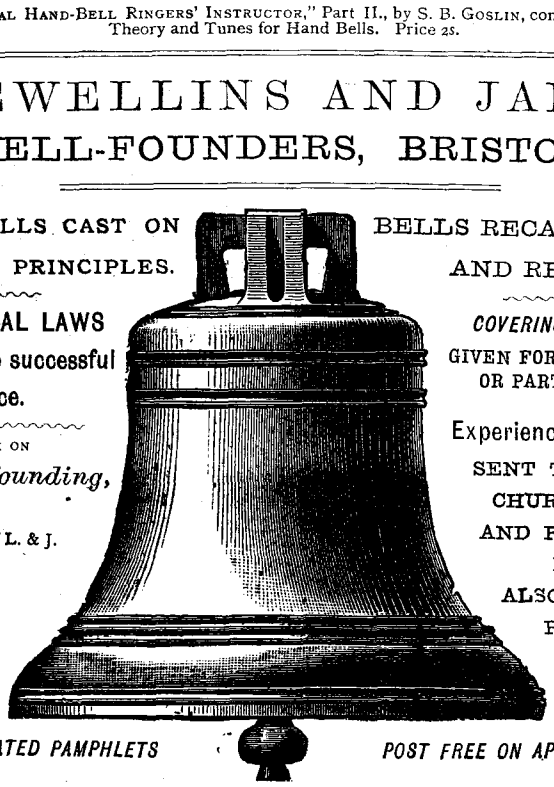
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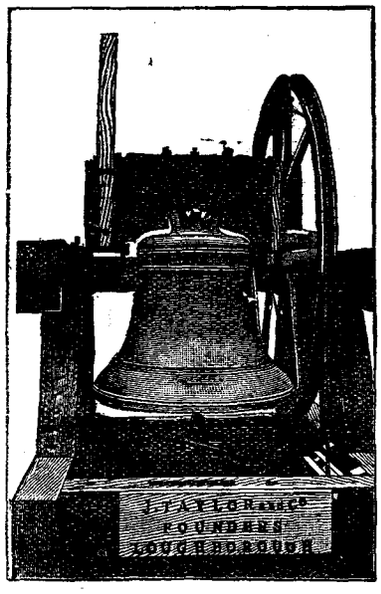
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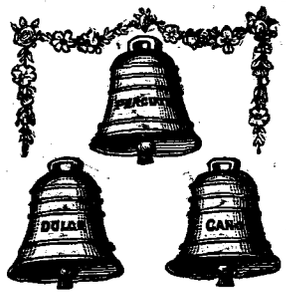
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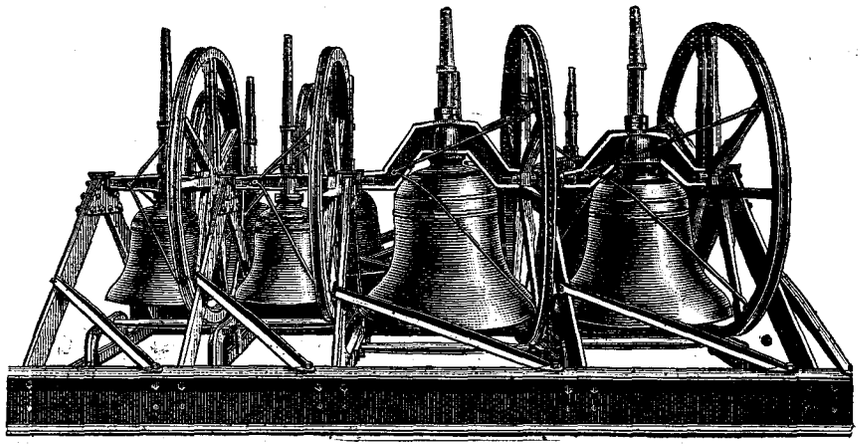
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