THE

BELL NEWS

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No. 84. [NEW SERIES.]—*VOL. II.* SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1883. [ONE PENNY.

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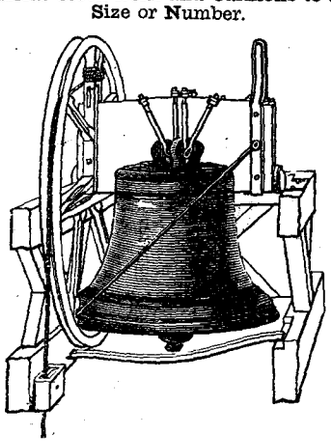
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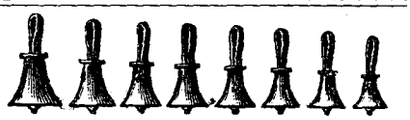
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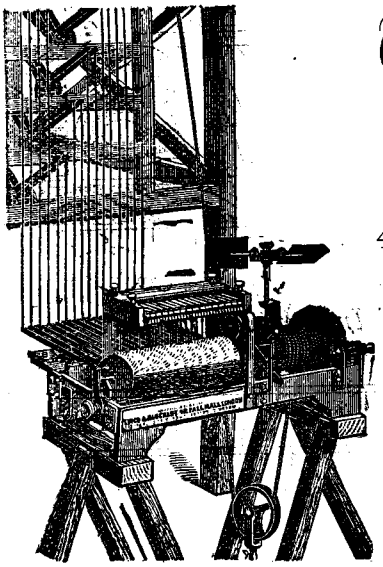
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GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

After Holt left the society of Union Scholars, it only recorded four peals in five years, and soon after that seems to have become extinct. Holt is supposed to have left the society, and joined the College Youths soon after the date of his last recorded peal with the Union Scholars, as his name appears in the same year (1752) as a new member of the society of College Youths. With this society he rang two peals of Grandsire Caters during this year, one at St. Dionis' and the other at St. Sepulchre's, these peals being the only ones recorded by the society during the year.

With the record of the last of these two peals in the book of the College Youths society, Holt's name as a ringer disappears from the scene; that he was alive on September 2nd, 1753, we are aware, as it was on that date that the notice concerning his broadsheet of peals appeared in the *Ipswich Journal*; when the broadsheet was published, we however learn from it that he was dead.

By the Norwich letter to Dr. Mason, we have learnt that Annable disappeared of Holt's compositions, and I shall now proceed to show that he also rejected peals on the three-lead-course plan, such peals not being, in his opinion, consistent with the rules of Grandsire composition. Before doing this it may, however, interest some of my readers to quote the remarks made by the writers of the *Clavis* in connection with Annable's name:—

> The Honor of the invention of changes, or regular peals, is said to belong to Mr. Benjamin Anable, who first divided them into all their regular parts and proportions with that taste and judgement which surprised the practitioners of his time. What improvement he made in five and six-bell peals is unimportant; but on seven bells there is every reason to believe that he was the first to produce 5040 changes, which was the peal of Plain Bob Triples, with two singles—*i. e.* one at the end of each half. This was looked upon as a very great aquisition, as undoubtedly it was, until Mr. Holt's peal without a single appeared. But notwithstanding Mr. Holt deserves every eulogium, it must be admitted that he was greatly indebted to Mr. Anable for laying so correct and firm a foundation.
>
> Mr. Anable's next effort was at Grandsire Triples, and though unsuccessful he did not entirely fail; for if he did not obtain the whole peal complete, yet he went much further than his predecessors, and his peal was in most esteem, until that of Mr. Holt made its appearance. In Bob Major he found considerable room for improvement. He saw no necessity for parting the tenors in a peal of either five or six thousand. He made the sixth perform her proper revolution in five courses, and five-six to to come home together every fifteen: this was undoubtedly a very great addition to Bob Major; for those who did not admire the music of it before now confessed that it was considerably improved. Caters and Cinques, which he found in a rude and jumbled state, he threw into the harmonious titums, where they still continue, and most likely ever will remain.
>
> The time these improvements took place, we cannot exactly determine. Mr. Anable died in the latter part of the year 1755, between sixty and seventy years of age.

The exact date of Annable's death is stated in Dr. Mason's MSS. as February 1st, 1756. My readers will remember that I have already quoted a statement made in the *Clavis* that all peals of Grandsire Triples composed previously to Holt's peals were false, it is therefore rather difficult to understand what is meant by the above statement as to Annable's peal being in most esteem until that of Holt's made its appearance. My own opinion is that the authors of the *Claris* knew as little about Annable's compositions as they did about the spelling of his name. With the exception of the well known peal of Bob Major, which is always ascribed to Annable, there is not a single composition known to be his given in their book, while several peals inferior to some composed by him are given.

In 1868 a manuscript note book of Benjamin Annable's came into the hands of that indefatigable seeker after such things, the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, the rector of Clyst St. George, Devonshire. This book is now in my possession, and from its contents I have been able to gather a good deal of information concerning the ideas Annable had with regard to the rules of composition in Grandsire Triples. Although I shall place before my readers such notes as relate to Grandsire Triples, I may remark that in 1876-7 a detailed description of this note-book appeared in *Church Bells*. There is no doubt that Annable's intention at some time or other was to write a book on the subject of change-ringing, this is evident not only from the contents and arrangement of the note-book, but from the fact that in Hearne's Diaries, vol. i, 142, folio 144, under date Tuesday, July 9th, 1734, the following entry appears:—

> "Anno 1733, came out at London, a little book in 12's, being the third edition of Campanologia, or the Art of Ringing. One Annables is now putting out a new edition of the same book, which 'tis said will be the best of its kind that ever yet was printed on that subject. The said Annables is one of the London ringers that rung at Oxford, at Whitsuntide, in 1733. He rang the 9th bell and is judged to understand ringing as well as, if not better than, any man in the world."

In the earlier part of this note book treble leads of various methods are given, in some cases accompanied by touches, peals, and remarks on them. Concerning Grandsire Triples, after giving a lead and a bob change, Annable writes:—

> "All the different changes prick'd in this method are tripple changes. The natural course goes 70 changes, and three bobs successively brings them round."

A variety of touches from 52 changes to 2520, all obtained by bobs only, are given. After this he shews how to call the bells round from any in-course row with 6-7 home, but makes no mention of calling round with a single, nor is any allusion made to the possibility of obtaining the extent of the changes. Other methods he, however, deals with in a very different manner. For instance, a lead of Union Triples is given, prefaced by exactly the same remark about being all triple changes as he gives with the lead of Grandsire, to this he however, now adds:

> "This peal goes 5040 changes compleat with two doubles."

In addition he gives a rule for calling a 5040 of Union Triples, with two doubles, and at a subsequent page, a rule for calling a 5040 of Double Grandsire Triples, with two doubles. There is no doubt that the omission of any remarks concerning "doubles" in Grandsire Triples is intentional, and thus we find that Annable therefore took up the inconsistent position that although doubles might be admitted in the composition of Double Grandsire and Union Triples, they were not to be used in Grandsire Triples. We cannot, therefore, do anything else than conclude that Annable had set up a theory that the 5040 of Grandsire Triples could be obtained with ordinary bobs only, and even when Holt's one-part peal appeared, he would not renounce his theory, but also classed that peal with the other bob and single peals which existed before its appearance, and of which he evidently did not approve.

The next matter to be found in the note book in connection with this subject is on a page which begins thus:

> "Gawthorne's Hic Triples. A bob every time but when the half-hunt is before. A Hic every time the quarter hunt is in third or fourth's places, when the half hun is before, except the half-quarter hunt be in one of those places with her."

The changes at a "Lead," a "Bob" and a "Hic" are given. These are respectively a lead, a bob, and a fifth's place bob of ordinary Grandsire Triples. Although I have not been able to indentify the description of the calling by the positions of the hunts with Garthon's peal, it is evident that it is the Norwich or a similar peal to which he alludes, as such calls are used in that peal. It will be noticed that the fifth-place bobs are called "Hics." Now "*hic*" is the Latin for "here," and probably the word was chosen as an emphatic call to signify that such a bob had to be made, and thus fifth's place bobs may have then been known as "hics."

As soon as I saw this mention of Hic Triples I remember noticing the same name in connection with a peal rung by the Union Scholars' and the next time I was in London I carefully examined the original record book of that society in the Library of the British Museum, and found that the peal is there recorded as one of "Hick Trebles;" it was rung on September 12th, 1718. Is it not therefore probable that this was the same composition as the Norwich peal. Another fact tending to show that it was the same peal I shall in due course place before my readers.

At this time it is evident, from the note-book, that the three-lead course plan was much worked at, as directly following these "Hic Tripples" is, "The College Youth's Tripples," which is a method composed of single and reverse Grandsire in courses of fifteen leads each. Further on the most interesting page in the book is reached; it is headed "Gogmagog Tripples." Now Gogmagog on five bells is only Grandsire with several singles introduced in the 120, and this is exactly the same thing in Triples; it is merely a 5040 of Grandsire on the three-lead-course plan.

Among the great number of methods described in the book, although a 120 of Gogmagog Doubles is given, the method of Gogmagog on seven bells is not given, or else we might ascertain how Annable distinguished it from Grandsire. However much he may have done so theoretically, practically he considered it Grandsire Triples, as he did not even consider it a three-lead method, as the first part of the 5040 is written out by the lead ends. The bob leads are distinguished from the plain lead by having a dot placed in front of them, the singles are marked by a cross in front of them, while the plain leads have not any sign before them. This peal was given in the collection in "THE BELL NEWS," at page 243. It seems probable that it was composed, or copied into the book about 1737-9, because a few pages back a note "B. A. 1735" appears. Between this note and the page containing the 5040, is an entry concerning the ringing of Morning Exercise in 1737, and on the page following this peal is scribbled "Easter Day, 1739."

Further on in the note book, and shewing however critical with regard to the compositions of others Annable may have been, he was hardly so careful in the nomenclature of his own work, there appears a page headed "Grandsire Triples with 24 doubles," which besides containing a variety of singles, has what are now known as "Holt's" singles at the half-peal ends.

At several subsequent pages in the book are attempts at composition on the three-lead-course plan; a good deal of pricking being expended in an endeavour to obtain such a peal without singles by omitting bobs instead of using singles. It is almost needless to add that all the attempts end in failure.

In an early part of these remarks on the earliest known peal of

Grandsire Triples, I mentioned that Garthon's peal was originally brought from Nottingham to Leeds, the composition having been in the possession of Mr. Doubleday Crofts, a solicitor and change-ringer of that town. This led me, in 1877, to enquire of a ringing friend in Nottingham whether Mr. Croft, who died in 1809, had left any MSS. behind him. My friend made enquiries and found that several MS. books were in possesssion of one of his friends who, as I mentioned in in my historical notes on the Treble Bob method, did not know until this enquiry was made, that he had them, nor could he then remember how they came into his hands. I had the papers lent to me and found amongst them Garthon's peal with many notes abont it, more especially with regard to the method of calling it. The peal is written out by the lead ends, those only in which the fifth place bobs are called having a dot placed in front of them. The peal is given more than once in the papers and from the different notes in which it is referred to, I make the following extracts as being of most interest.

"Garthan's Tripples—5040." (Then follows the peal.) "Every time the treble leads, it is a bob of Grandsire Triples, except when the sixth makes third's place (which is every third lead), and then it is a plain lead of Grandsire Triples, unless an extream be then called, which extream is a plain lead of Union Triples.

The natural course of the peal without an extream is 210 changes, and runs in Grandsire Triples by two bobs and a plain lead, or missing before by the sixth, more properly speaking.

In calling the last half-peal, the extreams of the third quarter-peal are the same as the first quarter-peal (with fifth wrong way), and in the last quarter-peal the same as in the second quarter. (With the fifth right way.)

The 6-7's all come the right way through the 5040.

☞ We never call anything but the extreams in this peal, which are the leads marked with a dot or a point."

It seems evident that Crofts knew something about the objections made to the use of singles in composing Grandsire Triples as shewn by the following note:—

"As to Grandsire Triples (strictly) it is impossible to have 67 always come up the right way behind, therefor Garthern had advantage in that respect and though it must be admitted that in a true 5040 all the musick good or bad must fall somewhere, yet, if the whole four and twenty 6-7's are heard the right way, it is carrying the music natural as far as you can in that length."

At another page reference is again made to Garthon's peal as follows:—

"Garthern's Tripples, composed in 1717, and rung at Norwich in 1718, the first of the kind ever rung with two doubles. Rung in London in 1719."

This reference to Garthon's peal having been rung in London, is that to which I referred in connection with the peal of Hick Triples by the Union Scholars in 1718. Although Croft gives the date as 1719, I think that it is very probably the Union Scholars' peal to which he refers.

THE ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

THIS Association held their Quarterly Meeting, on Saturday last, at St. Thomas's church (Moorside), the following districts being represented: Rochdale (including three churches), Todmorden, Milnrow, Oldham, and Heywood, numbering about forty members. The ringing commenced at 4.30. Several touches were rung by mixed societies, viz; Grandsire Triples, also a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor was performed by the Rochdale parish church ringers, and Mr. Jas. Priestly, of Oldham (it being the first 720 in the method for the Rochdale ringers). The ringing continued up to the time of the meeting, at 6 o,clock, when they retired to an upper room at the house of Mr. Lees Dyson, "Bull's Head Inn," being specially provided for them. All business being concluded, the members sat down to a very substantial supper by the hospitality of the Vicar, and wardens, Messrs. Melllidue and Sons, Mr. Thos. Mellidue, and others of the parish. After supper, ringing was resumed.

DEATH OF AN OLD LIVERPOOL RINGER.—On Sunday night, October 28th, at 11 o'clock, Mr. William Howard. a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, whose whole life was nearly spent in connection with the parish churches of St. Peter and St. Nicholas, Liverpool, died at his residence, 36, Knight Street, at the advanced age of 90 years. He was laid to rest in the local Necropolis on Wednesday, the 31st ultimo, and was followed to the grave by three of his brother-ringers, Messrs. Meadows, Williams, and Cooper. The members of the St. Peter's company, not knowing his end was so near, had arranged to ring in their tower on the Sunday morning, a birthday touch, in honour of his completing his 90th year, he having been born November 1st, 1793. This touch, containing 1080 changes of Grandsire Caters, was rung in 46 mins., with the bells muffled, being as many changes as he had lived months; composed by Robert Williams, conducted by Thomas Hammond. Richard Williams and G. Helsby, 1; H. Meadows, 2; E. Booth, 3; Robert Williams, 4; H. Beck, 5; J. Moore, 6; J. Brown, 7; T. Hammond, 8; E. Foster, 9; W. Brooks, 10. Deceased had rang a many peals of Grandsire, Stedman, and Treble Bob—his first 70 years ago. He was present at St. Nicholas' church, on Sunday, February 11th, 1810, when the spire fell across the body of the church, twenty-two children being killed, and he assisted in carrying seventeen of their dead bodies into the churchyard.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association was held on Monday, the 29th ult. at Moreton-in-Marsh, the Tewkesbury Society being the selected representatives of the Association. They were accompanied by the Master, Mr. John Drinkwater, and the Hon. Sec., the Rev. Pitt Eykyn. Arriving at their destination at about 11.15, they at once proceeded to the church where a service was arranged for 11.30. Shortened form of morning prayer was succeeded by a sermon by the Rev. R. Mitford Taylor, Rector of Bourton-on-the-Hill with Moreton-in-Marsh. He gave a kind welcome to the visitors to his church and parish. After service, a touch of 500 Grandsire Triples was rung, and after dinner a long touch—rather over a quarter-peal—of Union Triples, which was succeeded by a few Stedman Triples. The following were the performers: Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Messrs. Josiah Wathen (conductor), John Wathen, J. Hale, S. Cleal, F. Moore, C. Awford, H. Witherington, W. Haines. The Rector and Mr. Lamb gave the visitors the pleasure of their company at dinner—a most excellent one, at the "Unicorn"—the rector kindly taking the chair. Next to the toast of "Church and Queen," to which a most hearty response was given, the chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Diocesan Change-Ringing Association." The Master tendered the best thanks of the Association to the rector for his presence among them, for all his kindness that day, and also for the trouble he had taken in making arrangements beforehand. He then went on to give some advice to the Moreton ringers, who were also present, as to the best way to set about learning the science of change-ringing. He mentioned some of the leading books for beginners. He assured them it was not so very hard to learn, but was careful to state that it is only to be done by perseverance, unflagging attention, both in the tower and out of it, and last, but not least—by good temper. Judging by what we saw of the Moreton ringers that day, we feel sure that they have in them every lement of success. The bells are a small but bright and musical ring of eight, going very fairly. With a little looking to they might be made to go very well. Most unfortunately for change-ringing purposes, a clock-case has been interpolated between the ropes of the treble and second, almost completely hiding the ringers of those bells from each other. To practised hands this is exceedingly troublesome, to beginners it must be well-nigh insurmountable. The simplest remedy would be to lower the clockwork below the ringing-floor, running up a rod to the dial; or, better still, if possible, to construct a ringing-chamber below, which would also serve the purpose of deadening the somewhat over-loud sound of the bells at present too close overhead. At five o'clock, having spent a most pleasant day, and accompanied by the clergy to the station, the members took leave of Moreton-in-Marsh. Let none be misled by the name of this place. The soil is gravel, and the whole town looks dry and healthy. It was anciently spelt "Hinmarsh," its true interpretation being, Moreton "in the Marches," that is, "on the borders."

On the journey home a halt was made at Evesham, and admittance was soon gained to the grand old bell-tower with its beautiful ring of eight. Here a very fair touch of Union Triples was rung. The bells do not go well for their weight, the tenor being given in Rudhall's list as 28 cwt. The moment they were heard, the tower was invaded by a motley crowd with little or no reverence for the inside of consecrated walls. Tobacco smoke was not invisible. We only trust that none of these violators of the sanctity of the place were of the number of the ringers. If so, in the Evesham tower some of the worst traits of the bad "old style" still reign supreme.

Tewkesbury was reached shortly before 8 p.m.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Maldon, on Saturday, November 24th. Full particulars will be given in next week's number.

H. A. COCKEY,
Hon. Sec.

Rettendon Hall, Battles Bridge, S.O.
November 7th, 1883.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT MEETING of this Association will be held (by the kind permission of the Rector), at Beddington, on Saturday, November 17th. Tower open for ringing from 2.30 p.m.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

ST. MARTIN, SALISBURY—The bells of this church, which have been seriously out of tune ever since they were first hung in 1843, have last week been tuned by Mr. W. Greenleaf, of the Whitechapel Foundry. The inhabitants scarcely knew the sound of the bells when they first rung out in perfect tune on October 31st. The two trebles were previously nearly a half a note flat, and the effect was heretofore most discordant.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of the Members of the above Association was held in Durham, on Monday, October 29th, and being the largest that has yet been held, is likely to lead to some important results. The following companies were represented; Brancepeth, Bishopwearmouth, Chester-le-street, St. John's (Darlington), St. Oswald's (Durham), Heighington, Christ Church and St. Peter's (Jarrow), Staindrop, Stockton, Winlaton, St. John's (Newcastle), Newton Hall, North Shields, and Brampton. The ringers practised ringing at the Cathedral and St. Oswald's church. At two o'clock in the afternoon the members of the Association attended Divine Service at St. Oswald's church, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. W. O. Blunt, Rector of Chester-le-street. A dinner was afterwards provided at the "Three Tuns" Hotel, to which seventy-nine sat down. The Rev. A. W. Headlam, vicar of St. Oswald's, Durham; the Rev. W. O. Blunt, of Chester-le-Street; the Rev. Canon Brutton, of Tynemouth; the Rev. V. K. Cooper, of Durham; the Rev. Mr. Chevallier, vicar of Heighington; the Rev. Mr. Reid, the Rev. Mr. Birley, Mr. Reid, and Mr. Russell were present.

The CHAIRMAN (the Rev. A. W. Headlam) proposed the toast of "The Church and the Queen," which was duly honoured,

Mr. W. REED, of North Shields, president of the Association, in fitting terms proposed "The Health of the Bishop and Clergy." He remarked that the Bishop of Durham, the Bishop of Newcastle, the Dean of Durham, and the Archdeacons of Durham, Auckland, and Northumberland were their patrons. They had to thank the Rev. W. O. Blunt, for the very excellent sermon he had preached to them that morning. He had great pleasure in coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Headlam and Mr. Blunt.

The CHAIRMAN returned thanks for the manner in which the company had responded to the toast. It was well known that the Bishop of Durham was ever ready to give his help to any movement for the good of the people, and the people and the clergy, he might say, followed in his footsteps. He was sure the Association had in it the seeds of doing a great deal of good, and he was glad whenever he could help it (applause). It had been a great pleasure to him to accede to the request to place his church at their disposal; and though they had been without a choir in the church they had had a very excellent service (applause).

The Rev. Canon BRUTTON said he had great pleasure in being present to uphold Mr. Reed and the secretary in the admirable work in which they were engaged, and had it not been for them they would not probably have had such a gathering as they had that day. He was perfectly convinced that if they would look up to their heads in every difficulty, and follow in their footsteps, this Diocesan Bellringers' Association would go on and prosper. This society was a growing society, and he hoped success would attend its efforts. The first sermon to the members was preached in his church about seven years ago (applause). It was only right that they all should take an interest in the belfries. He was aware that many bellringers did not attend church; but for his part he would rather have no bellringers at all than at the commencement of the service to walk off and leave the church (hear, hear, and applause).

Mr. REED returned thanks for the way in which his name had been mentioned. They knew perfectly well that their secretary and he had the interests of the Association at heart. He was pleased to see a very much greater interest in the Association and art of bell-ringing throughout the country than formerly existed.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. G. J. Clarkson), then read the annual report, which we regret our space does not allow us to publish, we hope to do so, however in a future number. The report being unanimously adopted,

The CHAIRMAN proposed the health of the secretary, and said he was quite sure that the society owed much of its welfare to his energy and skill in conducting its affairs (applause).

Mr. CLARKSON reeponded, and said the work was considerable, and besides journeys, etc., he had written some 500 letters in connection with the business of the society. He asked for their cordial help and sympathy, and was glad to see so much sacrifice by the members for the good of the Association, and he hoped they would continne to have the welfare of the Association at heart.

Other toasts followed, including the healths of the chairman and the Rev. W. O. Blunt. In responding, the latter gentleman said he hoped in time to have the pleasure of being able to ring himself. The bells of his church were among the oldest in the county, having been hung in 1649. They had now a set of ringers at the church.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. Mr. W. Reed, of North Shields, was re-elected president; Mr. F. Lees, Newcastle, and Mr. G. Overton, Darlington, vice-presidents; and Mr. G. J. Clarkson, Stockton-on-Tees, hon. secretary and treasurer.

The election of members was then proceeded with; and among the honorary members were the Rev. Canon Body, Durham, and the Rev. J. Bailey, vicar of South Shields; and as honorary and performing members, the Rev. F. W. Green, of Bishop Auckland, the Rev. W. O. Blunt, of Chester-le-Street, the Rev. W. Drake, the Rev. Mr. Wadsworth. Mr. J. Strodder, of Ripon Cathedral, and Mr. John Cox, of London, were elected life members.

The next question discussed was the place of meeting, Winlaton, Staindrop, Alnwick, and Darlington being proposed, the last-named place was chosen by a large majority.

ST. JAMES'S, BOLTON, BRADFORD.

ON Saturday, last, the ringers of this church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the opening of their bells. It was intended to have rung a commemoration peal, but owing to the tenor running so badly, this had to be abandoned, and the ringers had to be content with performing short touches during the afternoon. At half-past four, a special choral service was held in the church, at which there was a good congregation. The Rev. C. H. King, A.K.C., vicar, officiated, and at the close delivered a stirring address to those present, taking as the theme of his discourse, the words, "They heard the joyful sound." He commenced by referring to the many joyful sounds which have been heard since the time when the Jewish priests sounded the silver trumpets round the walls of Jericho, to the time when the shepherds heard the angel voices at Bethlehem. And coming to later times, he referred in warm terms to the sound of the Sabbath bells, associated as it was so closely with the recollections of his childhood. The address was listened to with rapt attention.

At the close of the service, the company adjourned to the schoolroom, where a very substantial tea was provided, the tables being also decorated with very choice plants kindly sent by Mr. Weston, the gardener to the family of the late Alderman Law, which had a very pretty effect. Over sixty persons sat down to tea, and after the tables had been cleared, the chair was taken by the Rev. the Vicar, who was accompanied on the platform by Mr. Churchwarden Illingworth, and Mr. Councillor John Hitchen. The chairman having spoken briefly on the objects of the gathering, and given a cordial welcome to the visitors, the St. John's ringers performed the "Mountain Bell" schottische, with S. H. A. Jowett, Esq's. peal of handbells, in a very creditable manner. Councillor Hitchen, in a few well-chosen words, proposed a vote of thanks to the vicar for the admirable address which he had given in church. Robert Tuke, Esq., seconded the motion, which was carried with loud cheers. The vicar having replied, Miss King favoured the company with the charming recital of the well-known poem, "The Bells," which was much applauded. Mr. B. T. Copley then proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had subscribed to defray the cost of the tea; this was seconded by Mr. Joseph Cheetham, and carried amid applause. During the evening a course of Grandsire Major and several tunes were rung on the handbells, and votes of thanks passed to Mr. Copley, conductor of the St. James's Sooiety, and to the vicar for presiding. The pronouncing of the Benediction brought to a close a very successful and enjoyable gathering.

It is worthy of notice that the service held here on this occasion is the first ringers' service which has been held in Bradford. It is intended to hold a similar service at St. James's annually, and if possible, to induce the vicars of the parish church and St. John's to do likewise. The vicar of St. James's has intimated his intention to become an honorary member of the Yorkshire Association.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the above association will be held on Saturday, November 17th, at West Bromwich, when all who can are respectfully requested to attend. The towers of Christ Church (twelve bells), and the Parish Church (eight bells), will be open during the afternoon. Business transacted at 7 o'clock at the "White Lion Inn," Woodward Street.

J. WRIGHT, *Hon. Sec.*

THE BRADFORD AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

THE head quarters of this society are now at Mr. Lewis Fowld's, the "Ring of Bells Inn," Bolton Road, near the parish church, where any communications may be addressed, or any information obtained by ringers visiting Bradford.

B. T. COPLEY, *Hon. Sec.*

WE cannot tell whether any of our American cousins intend competing with some of the English societies who are renowned for their skill upon handbells, as the Frostbury (America) society have just received a consignment of bells from Messrs. Shaw, of Bradford, A local paper, the *Queen City Courier*, says: "The above society have just received a splendid set of silver-toned musical handbells, made especially for the band by the renowned firm of bellfounders, Messrs. Shaw, Son, and Co., of Bradford, England. The bells are pronounced by several judges to be of the purest tone."

"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.*
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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.

J. ASPINWALL.—All received; will publish at the first opportunity.

TAIL-END.—We have a deal of matter of the kind you allude to on hand, but we really cannot tell when it will appear.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1883.

IT is well known that a prominent feature in connection with the Annual Meetings of the various ringing Guilds and Associations is the holding of a special service at the church which for the occasion becomes a kind of centre or head-quarters of the ringers attending such meetings. At these services, an appropriate sermon is usually preached, and the substance of these discourses are, as a rule, to be found in our columns. In most of them will be found allusions to ringers with regard to their conduct as officers of the Church—what it has been, and what it ought to be—coupled with solemn reminders of the duties and responsibilities devolving upon them as Church workers performing most important functions.

Of course this is as it should be. No sane person can question for a moment the reality of the satisfaction felt by ringers on reading that at a meeting of their brethren in the art—in some distant part of the country, perhaps—the proceedings have been accompanied by the holding of Divine Service, with the delivery of a sermon suited to the exigencies of the occasion. Who, we ask, would, on reading the report (in a recent number) of the sermon preached to the members of the Lancashire Association, fail to observe that the clergy are gradually but surely becoming the most stedfast friends of ringers?

But may we venture, with all humility, to express a wish that another topic—that of Bell-chamber Reform—should be dealt with from the pulpit on these occasions? Evidence reaches us day by day of the neglected—to use a very mild term—state of many belfries. In the annual report of the Durham and Newcastle Association we find this passage: "We may still reproach ourselves that scientific ringing is not the order of the day at either of our cathedrals." But who is culpable for such a state of affairs? The capitular body of Durham have been repeatedly appealed to to remedy it. Numerous instances of the same kind could be quoted. Would it then be wrong to read a homily to those of our Church authorities whose supineness appears to act as an hindrance to Bell-chamber Reform? With all due deference, we think not.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

EDMONTON, MIDDLESEX.

On Saturday, November 3rd, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

JOSEPH DAVIDSON	..*Treble.*	RICHARD E. GOODCHILD	5.
GEORGE THURGOOD	2.	DAVID TARLING	6.
HENRY A. BARNETT	3.	WILLIAM A. ALPS	7.
JOSEPH CROUCH	4.	EDWARD MARRIOTT	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM A. ALPS.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

HIGHGATE, MIDDLESEX.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1883, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT ST. ANNE'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE NEWSON	..*Treble.*	THOMAS TITCHENER	5.
JAMES PAGE	2.	ARTHUR JACOB	6.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL*	3.	JAMES HANNINGTON	7.
THOMAS GLEED*	4.	†JAMES BARRETT	..*Tenor.*

Composed by NATHAN JOHN PITSTOW, and conducted by JAMES BARRETT.

This peal has the 5th and 6th their extent in 5-6 (part 2, page 48, Snowdon's *Treatise*) and was rung to commemorate the birthday of Messrs. Page and Barrett, they having attained the age of 60 and 47 respectively. †His first peal as conductor. *First peal in the method.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 3, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, WATERLOO ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

WILLIAM COPPAGE	..*Treble.*	THOMAS TAYLOR	5.
DANIEL SPRINGHALL	2.	GEORGE BANKS	6.
JOHN MANSFIELD	3.	GEORGE PELL	7.
SAMUEL GREENWOOD	4.	EDWARD BAYFORD	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by S. GREENWOOD.

These bells have lately been put into thorough going order by Mr. Banks, of Kennington, who has carried out the difficult work to the entire satisfaction of the Vicar, Churchwardens, and the Waterloo Society.

This peal was rung in commemoration of the 59th anniversary of the Consecration of the Church.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY.—LAMBETH, SURREY.

On Monday, November 5, 1883, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

W. BARON	..*Treble.*	*SAMUEL GREENWOOD	5.
DANIEL SPRINGALL*	2.	T. TAYLOR	6.
EDWARD MOSES	3.	*GEORGE PELL	7.
EDWARD F. COLE, ESQ.*	4.	HENRY DAINS	..*Tenor*

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and conducted by WILLIAM BARON.

*First peal in the method.

The Provinces.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—GARGRAVE.

On Saturday, November 3, 1883, *in Three Hours and Forty-two Minutes,*

AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6160 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

HERBERT HORSMAN ..	..*Treble.*	HERBERT MIDDLEBROOK..	5.
WILLIAM CLARKE ..	2.	JAMES MCGOUN..	6.
WILLIAM MALLINSON ..	3.	CHRISTOPHER LANGSTRETH	7.
HARRY BIRTWHISTLE.. ..	4.	JOHN MCKELL	*Tenor.*

Composed by MATTHEW TOMLINSON, Leeds, and conducted by JOHN MCKELL.

This is the first 6000 on the bells, and the greatest length in this method by the Yorkshire Association.

REIGATE, SURREY.

On Thursday, November 1, 1883, *in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 21 cwt.

JAMES HOWARD	..*Treble.*	WILLIAM ARGENT	5.
FRANCIS T. HOAD	2.	EDGAR KENWARD	6.
WILLIAM BONE	3.	WILLIAM WEBB	7.
THOMAS FULLER	4.	WILLIAM BURKIN ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by FRANCIS T. HOAD.

Wm. Burkin hails from Nutfield, the rest from Reigate.

THE HOLT SOCIETY.—ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1883, *in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,*

AT SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5022 CHANGES;

Tenor 23 cwt. in D.

A. JONES	..*Treble.*	J. BUFFERY	6.
H. BASTABLE	2.	A. THOMAS..	7.
J. CARTER	3.	T. REYNOLDS	8.
W. KENT	4.	C. STANBRIDGE	9.
J. BENN*	5.	J. SANDERS..	..*Tenor.*

Composed by HY. JOHNSON, SEN., and conducted by J. BUFFERY.

This peal contains the 6th 12 courses alternately wrong and right, being the extent in this position, and was rang to celebrate the conductor's 31st birthday.

* First peal in any method.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—ROMFORD.

On Saturday, November 3, 1883, *in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,*

AT ST. EDWARD'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 17 cwt.

ALBERT DEARDS	..*Treble.*	JOHN NUNN	5.
ALFRED PYE	2.	WILLIAM J. ALDRIDGE ..	6.
BENJAMIN KEEBLE	3.	ARTHUR PORTER	7.
ACLAND J. PERKINS	4.	WILLIAM CROCKFORD	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by A. J. PERKINS.

The above is the first peal by the Essex Association at the above church, and was rung by a mixed band. Messrs. Crockford and Nunn hail from Walthamstow, Messrs. Pye and Porter from Little Heath, Mr. Aldridge from Brentwood, and Mr. Deards from Dagenham.

TEWKESBURY ABBEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 6th, 1883, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*

A PEAL OF UNION TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S SIX-PART PEAL. Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

R. H. WITHERINGTON	..*Treble.*	JNO. WATHEN	5.
S. CLEAL	2.	CHARLES AWFORD	6.
F. J. MOORE	3.	JOSIAH WATHEN	7.
JNO. HALE	4.	WM. HAINES	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOSIAH WATHEN.

This is the first peal in the method by members of the above Association, and probably the first in the method in the County.

This peal will be found in the "Clavis," page 73, with 108 bobs and two singles.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

KENNINGHALL, NORFOLK.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1883, *in Three Hours and Three Minutes,*

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

N. J. PITSTOW	..*Treble.*	ROBERT PATRICK	5.
HENRY EAGLING..	2.	JOHN WOODS	6.
GEORGE EDWARDS	3.	ROBERT HUTTON	7.
JAMES SAUNDERS..	4.	JEREMIAH MORDEY..	..*Tenor.*

Composed and conducted by N. J. PITSTOW.

This peal contains the 6th the extent in all positions, and five course-ends each way, and was never previously performed.

Messrs. Ireland and Stackwood are members of the Cumberland Society. This peal is the first in the method upon the bells.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—NORWICH.

On Monday, November 5, 1883, *in Three Hours and Thirty-five Minutes,*

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES:

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 41 cwt. in C.

N. J. PITSTOW	..*Treble.*	R. STACKWOOD	6.
P. SADLER	2.	F. KNIGHTS	7.
W. IRELAND..	3.	J. SKINNER..	8.
F. PITSTOW..	4.	W. SMITH	9.
J. FIDDAMENT	5.	G. SMITH	..*Tenor.*

Composed and conducted by N. J. PITSTOW.

This peal was arranged to supersede the 5040 rang at St. Peter's in February, 1827, and is now the longest length ever rung upon the bells with one man at the tenor, and also the first upon the bells in the Kent Variation.

All the above are Norwich Scholars. The brothers Pitstow hail from Saffron Walden; Mr. W. Ireland from Diss; and R. Stackwood from Aylsham.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—BOLTON-LE-MOORS.

On Saturday, November 3, 1883, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,*

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

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

Conducted by ALBERT E. WREAKS.

*Also members of the Rochdale and District Association.

Messrs. C. and E. Cash and R. Pearce belong to St. Peter's, Swinton; J. Ridyard to St. Mark's, Wordsley; R. and W. Ashcroft to St. Mary's, Eccles; and J. Grimshaw and A. E. Wreaks to Manchester Cathedral. This is the first time this peal has ever been rung in Bolton.

THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, LIVERPOOL.

On Monday, November 5, 1883, *in Three Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,*

AT ST. PETER'S PRO-CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5004 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

RICHARD WILLIAMS ..	..*Treble.*	JOHN MOORE	6.
HENRY MEADOWS	2.	EDWARD FOSTER	7.
JOHN BROWN	3.	THOMAS HAMMOND	8.
EDWIN BOOTH	4.	ROBERT WILLIAMS	9.
HENRY BECK	5.	WM. BROOKS, WM. BOOTH	*Tenor.*

Composed by ROBERT WILLIAMS, and conducted by THOMAS HAMMOND.

This peal was rung in honour of the arrival of the Marquis and Marchioness of Lorne in Liverpool.

The figures of this peal appeared in "The Bell News," July 29th, 1882.

Date Touches.

CHARLTON KINGS (Gloucestershire).—On Saturday afternoon, November 3rd, the local society rang at the parish church, a date touch of 1883 changes (no method given), in 1 hr. and 15 mins., in honour of the Rev. Tewkesbury Henry Wynaston (curate-in-charge of the Holy Apostles' church, Charlton Kings) returning home with his bride after their wedding tour. R. Shaylor, 1; T. Hamblett, 2; W. Dyer, 3; J. Midwinter (conductor), 4; W. James, 5; S. H. Stanley, 6 Tenor 22 cwt.

RIPON.—On Thursday, November 1st, at the Cathedral, being the election-day of councillors for the borough, the Cathedral company rang a touch of Grandsire Triples, 1883 changes, being the date of the present year, in 1 hr. 19 mins. T. Metcalf, 1; Jno. Strodder, jun., 2; Jno. Strodder, sen., 3; T. Clark (composer and conductor), 4; A. Ingleby, 5; W. Pick, 6; G. Ingleby, 7; H. Rumbold, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

Miscellaneous.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ON Saturday evening, November 3rd, seven members of this society met Mr. J. Jay, sen., of Brighton, who was on a visit to the metropolis, and attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, but it unfortunately came to grief after ringing about 1400 changes, T. Bailey, 1; H. Hopkins (conductor), 2; J. Andrews, 3; C. Hopkins, 4; W. Hoverd, 5; W. Jones, 6; John Jay, 7; J. Scowen, 8.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ARLSEY (Bedfordshire).—On Saturday, November 3rd, six members of the above Association visited this place, and by the kind permission of the vicar, rang several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. J. Spencer, 1; C. Craddock, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; J. Adkin, 4; W. Biggs, 5; W. Allen, 6. Afterwards a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25 mins. W. Allen, 1; C. Craddock, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; J. Adkin, 4; J. Frossell, 5; W. Biggs (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 on the bells, which which are a musical ring of six, cast by Warner in 1877, tenor 12 cwt. in G. Afterwards the ringers took train for Biggleswade, where they rang two 6-scores of Grandsire and one of Plain Bob Doubles. C. Craddock, 1; W. Biggs, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; J. Adkin, 4; J. Frossell (conductor), 5. Tenor 16 cwt, in F. This is supposed to be first change-ringing done at Biggleswade.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DARLINGTON.—On Tuesday evening, November 6th, at St. John's church, the local company rang a 720 of College Single, in 26 mins. J. Bolton, 1; *W. Patton, 2; *R. Moncaster, 3; *J. H. Whitfield, 4; J. H. Blakiston, 5; *G. A. Overton (conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method. This is the first 720 in the method on the bells.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

RETTENDON (Essex).—On Saturday, October 27th, the local company succeeded in ringing their first 120 of Stedman Doubles on the church bells. Mr. W. Pavitt, 1; Mr. E. Moat, 2; A. Jarvis, 3; W. Jay, 4; Rev. H. A. Cockey (conductor), 5; G. Jones, 6. This is the first 120 in the method by all except the conductor. Tenor 8 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Thursday evening, October 18th. at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with four bobs and twenty-six singles. Charles Slingsby, 1; David Hodgkin, 2; Edward Hyder, 3; Thomas Hodgkin, 4; William Hyder (conductor), 5; Philip Hodgkin, 6. Also on Saturday, November 3rd, with Mr. F. Rolfe, of the Cheriton Branch, a 720 of Plain Bob was attempted, but after ringing 25 mins. it came to grief. William Post, jun., 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; T. Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder, 5; Frederick Rolfe (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob, with four bobs and twenty-six singles. C. Slingsby, 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; F. Rolfe, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; William Post, sen., 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRANDESTON (Suffolk).—On Wednesday, October 20th, at the parish church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, 360 of Cambridge Surprise. J. Meadows, 1; D. G. Wightman, 2; H. Bedingfield, 3; A. S. Wightman, 4; H. Baldary, 5; S. Wightman (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, October 28th, 720 of Court Single, and a 720 of London New Bob. W. Bedingfield, 1; D. G. Wightman, 2: H. Bedingfield, 3; A. S. Wightman, 4; G. Wicks, 5; S. Wightman (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, November 4th, a 720 of Oxford Bob, 720 College Single, 720 Grandsire Minor, 720 Canterbury Pleasure, 360 Bob Minor, and 240 Double Court Bob. J. Meadows, 1; D. G. Wightman, 2; H. Bedingfield, 3; A. S. Wightman, 4; G. Wilks, 5; S. Wightman (conductor), 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, AND THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

OXFORD.—On Monday, October 5th, at New College, Oxford, five members of the university society, with Mr. J. Washbrook, of the town society, rang on Seage's apparatus, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with a call every lead, in 26 mins. J. R. Vincent, Esq., 1; F. A. H. Du Boulay, Esq., 2; C. C. W. H. Griffith, Esq., 3; G. F. Scott, Esq., 4; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 5; J. F. Hastings, Esq., 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

THE ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

MOORSIDE (Lancashire). — On Saturday. November 3rd, the following company rang at St. Thomas's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. Jno. Siddle, 1; Geo. Hayle, 2; Wm. Siddle, 3; Jas Priestly, 4; F. Birtwistle, (conductor), 5; E. J. Stephenson, 6. This is the first 720 in the method for all the above with the exception of Mr. Jas. Priestly, who hails from Oldham parish church. Tenor 18 cwt.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

STREATHAM.—On Monday, October 30th, at Immanuel Church, 1596 of Stedman Triples. J. Russell, 1; Daniel Springhall, 2; A. Cole, Esq., 3; Wingfield Meadows, Esq., 4; George Pell, 5; Joe Fayers, 6; Samuel Greenwood (conductor), 7; H. Pates, 8. It was intended to have started for the whole peal, but the fourth man coming too late the above touch was rung instead.

BOCKING (Essex).—*Muffled Peal.*—On Saturday, October 27th, the bells of the parish church were rang half-muffled, as a last token of respect to Mr. Joseph Eades, who died very suddenly on Sunday, October 21st. *S. Hammond, 1; *W. Moore, 2: *W. Bearman, 3; S. Sargent, 4; *J. Hayes, 5; *C. Bearman (conductor), 6. *College Youths. The deceased had been a ringer at the parish church for more than half a century, and on the day of his death had assisted in chiming for morning service. He was carried to his last resting-place in Bocking Cemetery, on Saturday, October 27th, by his fellow parish church ringers, by whom he was much respected.

COULSDON (Surrey).—On Wednesday evening, October 31st, five of the local company (who recently have been under the tuition of Wm. Webb, of the Reigate Society), rang their first 6-score of Grandsire Doubles, without the aid of their tutor. It is upwards of twenty years since a 120 of Doubles was rung by a Coulsdon company. George Jeffery, 1; Morris Martingell, 2; John Coomber, 3; Henry Jeffery, 4; George Packham (conductor), 5. Tenor about 12 cwt.

DARESBURY (Cheshire).—On Tuesday evening, October 30th, six members of the local company rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 29 mins. with the bells half-muffled, as a last token respect to the late Rev. W. H. Spencer, who was vicar of the above parish for 26½ years. E. De Prez, 1; T. Houghton, sen., 2; P. Johnson, 3; T. Ellison, 4; P. Hamblett, 5; T. Houghton, jun. (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt. First 720 of E. De Prez.

DONCASTER (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, November 3rd, at St. George's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins. H. Fevre, 1; W. Newsome, 2; W. White, 3; G. Marwood, 4; T. Fevre, 5; J. White, 6; J. Jeff, 7; W. Howard, 8. Arranged and conducted by H. Fevre.

EALING (Middlesex).—On Thursday, November 1st, at St. Mary's church, the Acton society met for practice, and rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 46 mins. W. Taylor, 1; G. Ilsley, 2; W. Baron (conductor), 3; W. Fenwick, 4; G. Trinder, 5; G. Thomas, 6; W. Wilder, 7; E. Gould, 8. Tenor 20 cwt.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Suuday evening, November 4th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. J. Leach, 1; J. Nunn (first 720 in the method), 2; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 3; W. H. Fussell, 4; J. Hannington, 5; A. Jacob, 6. After service a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (Mr. Penning's, twenty-eight bobs and eighteen singles), in 24 mins. J. Page, 1; T. Gleed, 2; J. Nunn, 3; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 4; W. H. Fussell, 5; E. Chapman, 6. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

HIGHER WALTON (Lancashire).—On Monday, November 5th, at All Saints' church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 27 mins. Geo. Thornley (conductor), 1; *Jas. Harwood, 2; Hy. Hunt, 3; Hy. Brewer, 4; †John Eccles, 5; †Jas. Mather, 6. Tenor 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lbs. *His first touch in any method. †Members of the Lancashire Association.

HULL.— On Wednesday, October 31st, at St. James's Church, the following company rang 1260 changes 6f Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. T. Horner, 1; J. W. Stickney, 2; S. Slingsby, 3; F. Merrison, 4; R. Chaffer, 5; T. Stockdale (conductor), 6; W. Gill, 7; R. Hare, 8. Tenor 15 cwt. The above touch was rang to qualify Messrs. Horner and Hare to become members of the Yorkshire Association.

LONG MELFORD (Suffolk).—*Muffled Touch.*—On Sunday, November 4th, the mortal remains of Harry Steed, for many years a member of the Melford Society, were laid to rest in the parish churchyard of Long Melford, consumption having carried him off at the early age of twenty-nine. Notwithstanding the stormy nature of the day, the undermentioned ringers from Cavendish and Glemsford, with two of the Melford Society, assembled at the tower, and rung a muffled touch

of Bob Major, immediately after the close of the funeral service, as a last mark of respect to the deceased. Charles Boby, 1; John Ambrose, 2; Samuel Slater, 3; Zechariah Slater, 4; Oliver Garwood, 5; Fred. Wells, 6; Alexander Hurst, 7; George Maxim, 8.

RAUNDS (Northamptonshire).—On Saturday, November 3rd, for practice, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor (with 9 bobs), in 28 mins. A. Coles, 1; F. Gilbert, 2; R. Pendered, 3; J. Willmott, 4; W. A. Hall, 5; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by the 2nd and 5th men. Also a 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob Minor (with nine bobs), in 28 mins. G. Kirk, 1; F. Gilbert, 2; R. Pendered, 3; W. A. Hall, 4; J. Willmott, 5; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 6.

RIPON.—On Sunday morning, for Divine Service at the cathedral, a touch of 882 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 33 mins., and for afternoon service a 360 in the same method, in 24 mins. Also on Monday, November 5th, a musical touch of 1064 Grandsire Triples, containing eighteen bobs and twenty-six singles, and having the twenty-four 6-7's all at back stroke, was rung within three leads of the finish, as owing to the conductor calling a bob instead of a single at the last call but one, the touch was not completed. T. Clark, conductor.

SONNING (Berks).—On Saturday, November 3rd, eight members of the St. Laurence's Society, Reading, started for a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 1008 changes in 40 mins., it came to grief owing to a "shift." H. Bawden, 1; W. J. Williams, (conductor), 2; W. Johnson, 3; W. R. Pocock, 4; E. Bishop, 5; G. Talbot, 6; J. E. Willshire, 7; W. Holloway, 8. Time not permitting them to make another attempt, they started for, and successfully accomplished a 588 of Grandsire Triples in 24 mins. The first seven men stationed as above, with W. Webb (Sonning), 8. Mr. W. Newell, instructor to the Society, intended starting for the half-peal, but was detained in Reading on business.

SALISBURY.—On All Saints Day, November 1st, a 360 of Bob Minor, at St. Paul's, Fisherton, by H. Dowling, 1; C. Clements, 2; W. Greenleaf (of London; his first 360 in the method), 3; T. Blackbourn, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; J. R. Jerram, 6. Tenor 13 cwt. Also at St. Thomas, by the same, and W. Lanham, G. Blake and G. Devenport, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, with 7, 6, 8 covering.

WIMBLEDON (Surrey).—On Sunday morning, October 28th, for Divine Service, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. G. Bide, 1; A. Roots, 2; A. B. Perceval, Esq., 3; *J. Parker, 4; A. Garratt, 5; T. Frost (conductor), 6. *First 720.

WORTH (Sussex).—On Sunday, November 4th, several members of the Warnham society paid a visit to this place, and rang for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of London New Bob Minor, with forty-two singles. Harry Cook, 1; William Short, 2; Thomas Andrews, 3; Harry Wood, 4; Henry Burstow, 5; Harry Chantler, 6. Also after service, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, wtth forty-two singles. H. Cook, 1; W. Short, 2; T. Andrews, 3; H. Wood, 4; H. Chantler, 5; H. Burstow, 6. Also before afternoon service, a 720 of Court Bob, with thirty singles. Also after Divine Service, a 720 of Bob Minor, with forty-two singles. And a 720 of Oxford Bob, with thirty-four bobs and twenty-six singles. In the last four 720's the men rang the same bells. Conducted by H. Burstow. The Warnham society take this opportunity of thanking the Worth company for their kindness in meeting them, and they hope to be able in a short time to return the compliment by meeting them at Warnham.

WORTH (Sussex).—On Wednesday, October 31st, 720 Oxford Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and eighteen singles, in 25¼ mins. W. F. Meads, 1; F. Rice, 2; B. Payne, 3; W. Denman, 4; G. Illman, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. Tenor 8¾ cwt.

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."

CLAPPERING.

SIR,—I am very glad to see this question brought forward, and sincerely hope that all who are in possession of information in this direction will communnicate the same either to "A Lover of Bells," that he may tabulate them and so bring as many instances as possible into a condensed form for the columns of "THE BELL NEWS," or send them to you as separate contributions. The latter would, perhaps, have the advantage of being signed and addressed, and thus bear the impress of individual authority.

I was recently questioned by a bell-founder of position (who, both in description and address, shall be nameless), as to what advantage Ellacombe's arrangement has over what I have always known as "clappering"—your correspondents call it "clocking," and "chucking"—by which I was to understand that the clappers are tied up near the sound-bow, as in Ellacombe's arrangement, a plan, I believe, sometime adopted, if not at present in use, at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge. I answer much, every way; not that I look upon Ellacombe's arrangement as the antidote for all possible mischief, owing to the very possible accident of attempting to raise the bells while the hammers are up, and *vice versa*, a possibility obtaining the more when the chiming sallies are cupboarded in the ringing-room or chamber; hence my "Automatic Interlocking Gear," which renders it impossible to raise a bell, while Ellacombe's hammer is up, or a hammer while the bell is up.

But to go back to the question at issue—with Ellacombe's hammer, as it at present stands, you are risking the bell by "clocking," or "chucking," or "clappering," call it which you will, to say nothing of inconvenience, you are risking the ringer. This is forcibly brought to my mind by the recollection that on the occasion of the journey of Great Paul to London (when my interest carried me on foot with it for some seven miles), we had to abstain from raising the St. Alban's Cathedral bells in honour of the event, until one of the party had got in and out among them, and untied the clapper (chiming) ropes. Of course the proper precaution in all such cases, but one quite likely to be neglected, is to pull all the sallies up. And yet I think there are reasons why this could not well be done in this particular instance, there being, if I recollect rightly, no intermediate chamber at St. Albans, a circumstance into which, were I to go more fully, would only strengthen my argument. Then, again, the risk of injury to bells obtains more than anything else from, or through, the wrong position of the rope fall, which, being outside, has a tendency to hold the clapper after striking against the sound-bow, when, by gravity alone, Ellacombe's hammer would fall off. If "clappering" is to be tolerated at all, a pulley should be placed on the floor between the centre of the bell (or vertical position of the clapper), and the sound-bow, so that a tuck of a separate chiming rope would carry the clapper past the pulley to the sound-bow and off again.

Sir Edmund Beckett—whose opinions, both theory and practice have taught me to value and respect—says, in his sixth edition of *Clocks, Watches, and Bells*, page 365: "It is still necessary to warn clergymen and churchwardens against allowing the lazy and pernicious practice of 'clappering,' *i.e.*, tying the bell-rope to the clapper, and pulling it, instead of the bell. More bells have been cracked in that way than by all other causes together, and there is not the least excuse for it."

As a ringer, I know full well that nothing can at all equal the grandeur of ringing, mouth upwards, or the sweetness of chiming on the swing. But men are not always to be got, especially those, perhaps, who can chime well. And that travelling showman business which brings arms, and hands, and feet, into requisition, to supply the place of delinquents, is scarcely to be admired, and especially where the ringers are on the ground-floor and open to the body of the church. One is, therefore, bound to admit that Ellacombe's apparatus is a most valuable adjunct and auxiliary in any steeple—the before - mentioned objections only excepted.

I have spoken of what I believe to be a defect in an otherwise most useful and admirable arrangement, with which, however improved upon, the name of Henry Thomas Ellacombe must for ever be associated. For my own part, I like the arrangement very much, and, as for its author, it is not too much to say that it is my privilege to know him, and my happiness to love and honour him.

Upton, Slough, Bucks. JOHN JAMES HALL.

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR.—Would any reader of your paper kindly inform me which bell is generally used as the parson's bell, after chiming from a peal of six. Address: Jas. Burton, High Street, Cheadle, Staffordshire.

We beg our correspondents to condense their remarks as much as possible. Several letters are unavoidably held over.

ECCLESIASTICAL ART EXHIBITION.—An exhibition under the above title is now being held at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, but we regret to state that on the occasion of a recent visit, we found it to be anything but a representative affair, most of the well-known church furnishing firms, Messrs. Jones and Willis, and such like, being absentees. We were also disappointed to find that church clock manufacturers generally were conspicuous by their absence—the only exhibitors of the kind being Messrs. Rowley, church and turret clock manufacturers, of 180, Gray's Inn Road, London, who are certainly exhibiting a most excellent collection of chiming and other clocks. The north of England School Furnishing Company exhibit several of their ingenious appliances, amongst others the Glendenning adjustable desk, which should be adapted in all schools.

THE LATE COLONEL TRELAWNY.

By the death of Colonel Trelawny, which has lately occurred in Cornwall, the ringing Exercise in the West has lost one of its most ardent supporters, and we think many of our readers may like to see a short account of his work from the pen of one of his earliest friends and coadjutors in the art.

Like so many other Englishmen, he was, as a boy, devoted to the steeple, and though his early life in the army prevented his doing very much in the ringing line, as a young man, he was at one time, when quartered in York, able to show not only his great strength, but his proficiency in the use of the rope by raising, single-handed, the large bell in the Minster, weighing 52 cwt.—no mean achievement. About the year 1863, however, his attention was called to the art of change-ringing, and he immediately became much interested in the matter.

Change-ringing in half-pulls was at that time entirely unknown in Devonshire and Cornwall, the writer of this notice having heard the possibility of such a thing loudly denied in the tower. However, to a man of Colonel Trelawny's energy and determination, the discovery that a really beautiful science could be practised, instead of the dreary old "Grave-yard Bob" to which he had been accustomed, was most welcome. He at once set to work with the ringers of Calstock, and by the summer of '66 had succeeded in calling the first 720 ever rung in Cornwall. He also, with the able assistance of Mr. William Banister, succeed in establishing change-ringing in Plymouth, Plympton, Kelly, and Walkhampton; but alas! owing to the carelessness and want of interest shown by the clergy, and through the abominable habit of offering prizes for round-ringing and call-changes, coupled with Colonel Trelawny's removal farther west, the ringers have now in most of these places fallen back into the old groove.

Not the least remarkable success which he attained was the hand-bell ringing of his family. Well do we remember, when staying in his house, being fetched from our room in the morning by the discordant clashing of hand-bells at the bottom of the stairs, soon to be followed by an ordeal of no mean sort. As we descended, the clashing ceased, and we soon found ourselves seated, bells in hand, with him, Mrs. Trelawny, and the children—the youngest only 10 years old—to make attempts at courses of Grandsire Cinques, and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. We were younger in those days by some twenty years: and the way those children picked one up, and the disdain in their countenances when we broke the whole thing down, was something to be remembered.

The same party often performed in public; and on one occasion illustrated a lecture by the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe (Sir Stafford Northcote in the chair), at Exeter, ringing various methods in hand, from Grandsire and Stedman Triples to Grandsire Cinques.

Colonel Trelawny was not a great peal ringer, but he was an ardent supporter of Belfry Reform, and had he not lived so much "out of the world"—some people think Cornwall the other side of nowhere, which is very nearly true of it as regards ringing—he would undoubtedly have made a considerable mark in the Exercise. As it is, he will be remembered and regretted as long as any of his old ringing friends are left; and we sincerely hope that the Cornish ringers will not allow all his exertions on their behalf to be wasted, but that we may hear of further progress in the art in the far West.

NEW RING OF BELLS AT CHILHAM, KENT.

On Saturday, October 6th, a ring of eight bells was inaugurated at the parish church of Chilham. The old cracked treble has been recast by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, who also furnished two new bells, while the entire peal was rehung by Messrs. Finn, of Mersham. The cost was defrayed by the subscriptions of a few gentlemen, Mr. C. S. Hardy giving, we hear, a donation of £100. Ringers attended from Folkestone, Mersham, Canterbury, Ashford, Aldington, and other places. The bells were opened with a touch of 672 Grandsire Triples, followed by an 800 of Bob Major, and subsequently various touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Kent Treble Bob were given. During the ringing, the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, of Mersham, and other gentlemen, came up in the belfry. Luncheon was served for the ringers at the "White Hart," the churchwardens, Messrs. S. Huntley and John Knowler, taking the part of the entertainers; and subsequently tea took place at the same house. The following took part in the ringing: The Rev. Knatchbull-Hugessen, Hon. Sec. of the Kent County Association; Messrs. Ovenden, Fairbrass, Foreman, and Andrews, of Canterbury; J. Laker and T. Foord, of Ashford; J. Harrison, S. Barker, and F. Finn, jun., of Folkestone; F. Finn, sen., G. Finn, sen., G. Finn, jun., Edward Ruck, William Jay, G. Pain, and D. Pain, of Mersham.

CORRECTION.—In the peal of Grandsire Caters rung at Wrexham, published in our number for Oct. 27th, the ringer of the 3rd should have been Robert Jones; and the 6th, Edward Rowland. We cannot be responsible for the correctness of names when the writing is not sufficiently clear.

THE PARISH CHURCH BELLS, LANCASTER.

A vestry meeting of the parishioners of Lancaster has recently been held (the Vicar in the chair), for the purpose of taking into consideration the condition of the parish churchyard. After this question had been most amicably discussed,

The VICAR said he might perhaps be allowed to mention another matter which had been before his mind and that of the churchwardens for some time, and it concerned the state of the church bells. He had been told that the bells had probably never been renewed since 1600 or 1700. People who came to his house were frequently having their ears dinned by the ringing of one of the worst set of "tin pot kettles" that were ever hung (laughter). One of the ringers said that some of the bells were worn down to such an extent that they could put their fist into the hollow in the side of them. He was the last person in the world who would like to be thought narrow-minded or sectarian, but when they had got a Roman Catholic Church near them with a set of bells which were infinitely superior, he thought it was a reflection upon the people of Lancaster if they did not have their bells recast, or at least have something done to them so that they should not be behind the church of St. Peter, as they were at the present time. The musical notes of the bells of the Roman Catholic Church were a great contrast to the jangling notes of those of the parish church, and it was rather a reproach to them.

Mr. SEWARD said he was a churchwarden there in 1846, and the bells were then put into good order—in fact, two or three new bells were put up at that time.

The VICAR said he was only speaking from hearsay, but he had been told that some of the bells had not been recast since 1600 or 1700.

Mr. HATCH said a good deal had been spent upon the repairs of the bells, and he thought the information given to the Vicar was rather overdrawn.

The VICAR thought that some competent person ought to be engaged to examine the bells and report upon their condltion.

Mr. SEWARD said the funds for the bells in 1846 were raised by subscription. Vicar Turner and himself went round collecting, and the money was got very readily. He believed they raised about £150.

The VICAR said there was no doubt that the bells of St. Peter's completely overshadowed those of the parish church, and he thought there ought to be sufficient Protestant spirit in the town to provide a better peal.

Mr. HATCH said No. 2 bell seemed to be the worst.

Mr. Seward said one of the old bells went to Mr. Marton's. It had the name "Edward Marton" upon it, He bought it at the price of old metal. It was sound enough, but out of tune.

The VICAR said he should like to see not only a good set of bells but a good clock in the tower, which occupied a fine position.

The meeting then terminated.

CONCERT AT SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

ON Saturday, November 3rd, the second tea-party and concert, in aid of the fund now being raised for the addition of two new trebles to the present ring of six at Saddleworth, took place. The tea was laid in the schoolroom; the entertainment was afterwards held in the Mechanics' Hall, presided over by the Rev. Hugh Doig, M.A., Vicar. The programme embraced handbell ringing, by Mr. J. Davenporte's talented young troupe from Oldham; dramatic and humorous recitals by Mr. F. Firth, of Greenfield; and the church choir very efficiently rendered a selection of part songs, glees, &c. It is gratifying to hear that such a meeting as this, in aid of so laudable an object as the augmentation of a peal of bells, has been a great success, as after the expenses incurred had been liquidated, there remained a balance of upwards of £10 in aid of the new bell fund. Votes of thanks to Mrs. Meanock (wife of the Vicar's Warden) for her hospitality, to the organist, ringers, singers, Mr. Firth, and the Vicar, concluded these interesting proceedings.

MEETING AT ST. ALBANS.

ON Wednesday, October 31st, L. Proctor, Esq., of Bennington, with his company of ringers, visited St. Albans, Herts. They were joined by Messrs. Haworth, Pettit, and Winny (London); J. W. Taylor, junr. (Loughborough); W. W. C. Baker (Eversholt Rectory, Woburn, Beds.); H. Baker (Hertford); C. Chapman (Hampstead); F. G. Newman (Maidstone, Kent). and Messrs. Lewis and Hills of St. Albans. St. Peter's church was first visited, where Stedman and Grandsire Caters, Cambridge Surprise Major, and Stedman Triples were rung. After dining at the "Peaken" hotel, the company assembled at the Cathedral, where the Bennington band rang Stedman Triples and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, followed by a touch of Stedman Triples by the other visitors. The company left the town early in the evening, having spent a very enjoyable day.

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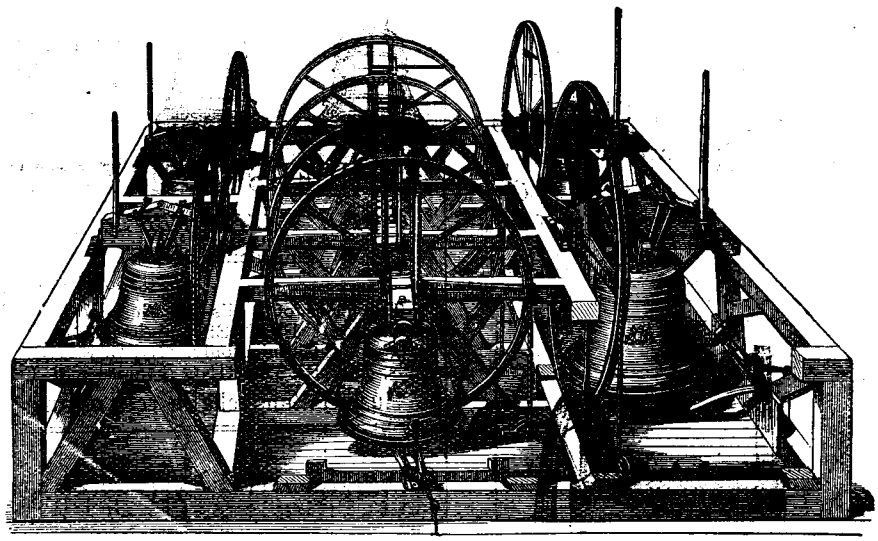
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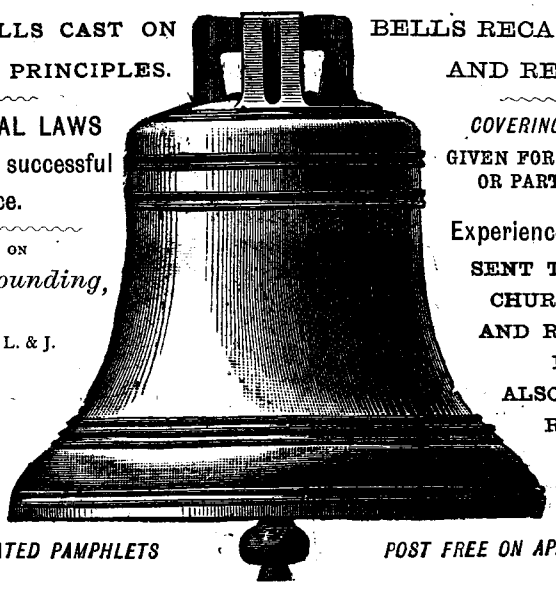
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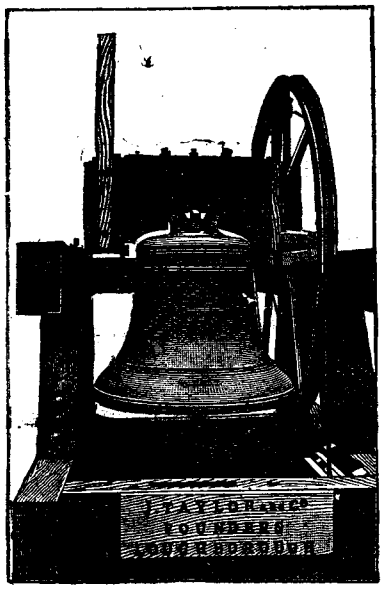
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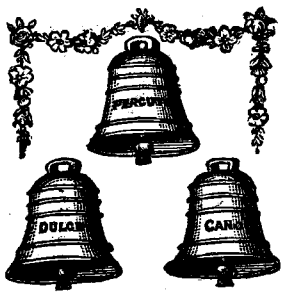
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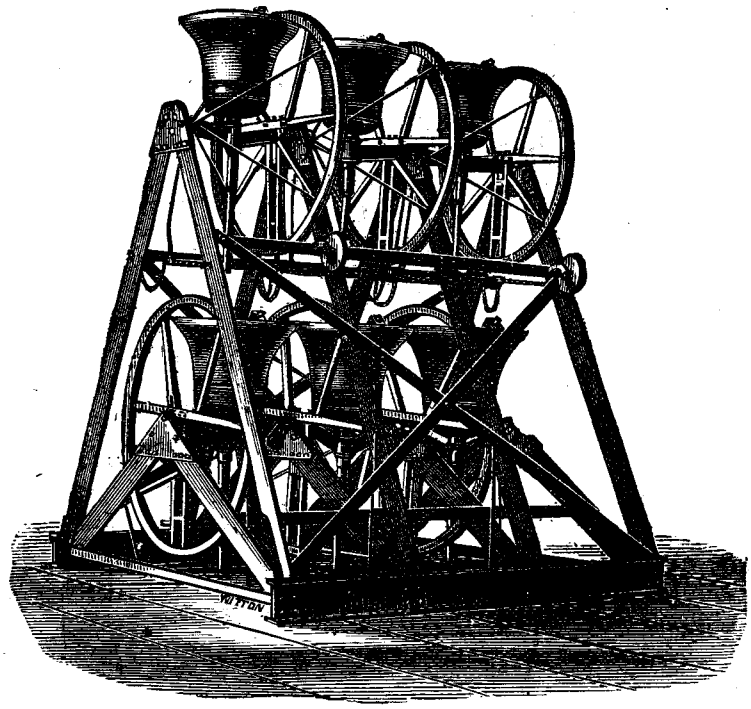


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