

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 87. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. II.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1883.

[ONE PENNY.]

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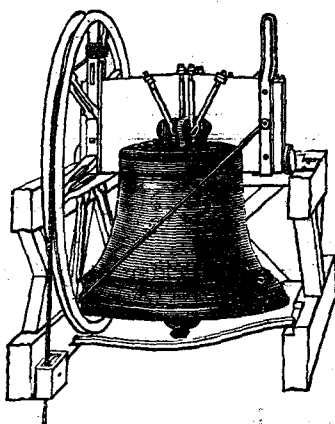
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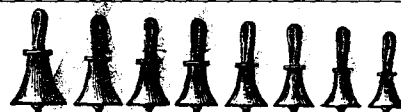
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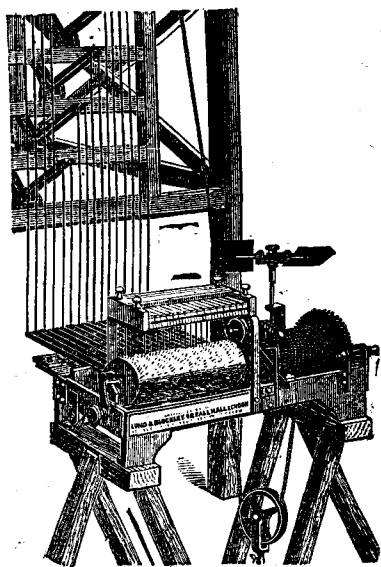
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PENWORTHAM BELLS.

There may be disadvantages in living at Broadgate, in Preston, but that locality is entitled to put down the music of Penwortham bells as something unmistakably in its favour. Few there are who are not susceptible of the sweet, and even sometimes saddening, influences of a peal from a church steeple, when heard on a Christmas night in the stillness of the country, or in some quiet corner of a great town from across the water and over some distance on a summer's eve,

In cadence sweet, now dying all away,
Now pealing loud again and louder still,
Clear and sonorous as the gale comes on.

There is indeed, to our mind, something so much akin to churchmanship in bellringing that we used to find compensation in the melody of the Penwortham bells, smoothed and softened by the good offices of the Ribble, for the absence of some little comforts and charms of churchmanship as we have known them in other neighbourhoods than this. Residence at Broadgate settled us more than ever in the firm conviction that the music of bells is so interwoven with the principal events of a Christian life that there is good reason for specially dedicating them to holy purposes in a building set apart entirely for Divine worship. They preach to all of death and judgment, of heaven and hell; they invite the loiterer and absentee, warn the neglecter of religious ordinances, and urge the Christian to pursue his course heavenward; they preach to those who never hear another preacher, and who seldom or never come within the walls of a church. When lonely, sick, and dispirited, we have occasionally listened with refreshment to the ringing of the Penwortham bells, for

The bells themselves are the best of preachers,
Their brazen lips are learned teachers,
From their pulpits of stone in the open air;
Sounding aloft without crack or flaw,
Shriller than trumpets under the law—
Now a sermon and now a prayer.

"Who is likeliest to know anything of such traditions and superstitions as linger about the Penwortham bells?" we asked the other night. "Ah," was the reply, "you should have had a talk with Godbert, he knew all about them; but try Southworth, or Webster, or Johnson, or Wright. They are all ringers, or have been in their time, and each in his way loves the bells as if they were living things, and not mere metal." And so we set off through the Penwortham lanes seeking out these worthies, and as proof positive of what we said at the outset about the relationship between Churchmanship and bell-ringing, we bear witness with pleasure—why should we not add with pride—that the kindly and courteous wife of one of these men, finding, in the absence of her husband, what was our errand, entered into the subject pending his arrival with a warmth and cordiality which showed that her interest was inspired by something higher and deeper than even her good man's passion for campanology. At last we found two of these old Penwortham ringers together, and though they could rehearse no ancient legend relating to the Penwortham bells, though they knew of no usage other than usual in relation to them, their eyes glistened with something of a zealous glow at the thought that any public mention of Penwortham bells would help to increase the interest of the rising generation of parishioners in their melodious use. And then one said, "There used to be a song about Penwortham bells when I was a lad; have you ever heard it? Let me see; how did it run?"

'Tis sweet neath the shade of the elm to be lying,
When the thrush with its melody wakens the grove,
When the heart aches with throbbing, the bosom with sighing,
And all the fond soul melts in passionate love.
But oh with what joy, and oh with what emotion
My bosom is filled, and my heart how it swells,
When I hear, with a feeling of lowly devotion,
The sweet sounding music of Penwortham bells."

Charles Lamb, in one of his delightful essays, talks about the effect of the curfew bell being that, though people might sit up in the dark and talk to each other, they would have to grope each other's faces at a humorous sally in order to ascertain whether the countenance they could not see had relaxed into a smile or not. Now, there was just sufficient light in the Penwortham house where this interview took place to make darkness visible, but had we all been wrapt in Egyptian darkness, which could be felt, that honest fellow's voice would have told, without any need for touching his features, the fond memories that verse conjured up, for he recited it with tremulous emotion and most intelligent emphasis. And though as a matter of fact, there is, we believe no belfry literature at Penwortham, though the present set of ringers, all good fellows in their way, are comparatively new beginners, though the old ringers preserve no forgotten customs, though, in short, the history of the Penwortham peal of bells is only just beginning, the Penwortham bells, for all that,

must have a history of their own which we can pretty well divine without the aid of mouldy records if we but take the trouble to think of it. Remember that glorious park-like approach to the church unequalled in the most rustical part of dear old rural England; think of the centuries of bridal processions that have trod it; think of the many and deep graven tombstones, underneath which lie the enmities of many generations, and think of the part the bells of Penwortham have played in relation to all those joyous and solemn cavalcades. We cannot linger in that graveyard among the moss-grown records of mouldering humanity which lie about like bits of wreck upon the shore of a boundless sea without fancying that Penwortham bells had to them in their day and generation all the hopes and fears they have to us to night. Wandering in that ancient "temple of silence and reconciliation," no sound disturbing the stately stillness of the hallowed shrine in its midst except where the wind plays with the grass between the burial mounds and the daws caw from their lofty rookeries hard by, we cannot loiter there and not feel strangely, mysteriously affected by the faint hum of the busy town of Preston, which slowly steals in upon the senses like the murmurs of life from some ruder world. Then when the Penwortham bells peal out their melody on the night air they have the magical effect that the harp of David had upon the troubled soul of Saul.

Still may they ring when struggles cease,
Still may they ring for joys increase,
For progress in the arts of peace,
And friendly trophies won,
When rival nations join their hands,
When plenty crowns the happy lands,
When knowledge gives new blessings birth,
And freedom reigns o'er all the earth,
Hurrah! the work is done.

Of course we are aware that it is only within a very few years that such a thing as a peal of bells has existed at Penwortham—that is to say, in modern times. We insert that clause because it pleases us to think that one very notable man of the middle ages lived at Penwortham, and either listened to actual Penwortham bells in that far-off day, or from Penwortham heard bells pealing across the water from Preston. Penwortham, we do know, was a cell of the great monastery of Evesham, and the brethren were continually passing from the one place to the other, but, of the two, the solitary seclusion of Penwortham was infinitely more calculated to inspire awful meditations than the bustle and splendour and magnificence of the other. The Revelation of the Monk of Evesham, if it were not, should have been written in Christ's Croft, in Lancashire, of which Penwortham formed a part. By whom it was written is unknown as much as it is where it was written. The author was probably an Englishman, and wrote "in this gronde of inglonde," using the English of his time, which was to some extent the English of to-day as it is spoken around Penwortham. Brooding over the wrongs and tyrannies of this epoch and animated by a fervent piety and deep spiritual aspirations, "a thought," as he says, "fell into my mind that I should pray our Lord God that he would vouchsafe to reveal and show to me in some manner of wise the state of the world that is to come, and the condition of the souls that be past their bodies after this life; and then, this openly known, I might the better understand what within short space were, as I supposed, to be dread, and what I might hope after when I should pass from this world to that world; and so by this to establish myself in the dread and love of God as long as I should live in this doubtful life." It is such a book as John Bunyan might have written had he lived five centuries earlier, and been, as he probably would have become, a monk. This young monk, lulled by the melody of bells, falls into a sleep only to be terrified with the revelation of the sights of purgatory, as he wished. Step by step he leads us from the darkness, the horror and the agony, until he shows us the glimpse he had of Paradise in his dream. In his rapturous welcome of it, no less than in the absence of any sympathy on his part with the suffering he had witnessed, we trace the true piety of the author. A man to whom the melody of "singing lauds to God" amid "the mansions of the blessed" was inestimably joyous, was himself "not far from the kingdom of heaven." Whatever criticism we may bestow upon the conception and execution of this Monk's Revelation, whom we shall always believe to have been a sojourner at Penwortham, we cannot but believe him to have been a spiritual-minded man, doing what in that dark age he thought to be a Christian work. At last the gate of heaven came in sight to him, and though that was all he saw of the glories of Jerusalem the Golden, it filled him with ineffable joy. And now we have a touch which rivals even Bunyan's famous look through the gates of the Celestial City. The Monk of Evesham, the Monk of Penwortham, as it pleases us to regard him, sad to the heart, is without the gate, with his back upon it and the crystal wall. "And while the Holy Confessor Saint Nicholas on this wise spake yet with me, suddenly I heard there a solemn peal and a ringing of a marvellous sweetness, and as all the bells in the world, or whatsoever is of sounding had been rung together at once. Truly in this peal and ringing broke out also a marvellous sweetness; a variant melody of

melody sounded withal, and I wot not whether the greatness of melody or the sweetness of the sounding of bells were more to be wondered at. And to so great a noise I took good heed, and full greatly my mind was suspended to hear it. Soothly anon as that great and marvellous sounding and noise was ceased, suddenly I saw myself departed from the sweet fellowship of my duke and leader Saint Nicholas; then I was returned to myself again." That solemn peal and marvellous sweet ringing of the bells, ringing in the Easter morn of heaven—so graphically described that we seem to hear them—is one of the crowning inventions of English literature, and not once nor twice the pealing of Penwortham bells across the placid waters of the Ribble has set us dreaming over again in Broadgate, that wonderful Monkish dream which we shall never be able to dissociate from Penwortham Priory, for it fits in better with its surroundings than with those of the "lords of fat Evesham and of Lincoln fen."—*Preston Herald*.

ST. MARGARET'S, UXBRIDGE, MIDDLESEX.

In 1716 a ring of six bells was placed in the tower of this church, cast by R. Phelps of London. Ninety-two years later, however, the 3rd was broken, and recast by Thomas Mears and Sons, of London—1808. Lord Paget was a benefactor towards these six bells, as the inscription on the treble informs one, while on the 2nd we read—"Lord Osulston, Earl of Tankerfield, was a benefactor;" both bearing the date and founders' initials. On the 4th is mentioned the name of the Honourable James Bertie, Member of Parliament for Middlesex. He contributed largely toward the expense of providing the peal. The tenor weighs between 14 and 15 cwt., measuring 42 inches in diameter, in F#. The inscription on the bell is as follows:—

: Wolfe: M.A. Vicar } of Uxbridge. Mic: Browne: } Chappel Wardens.
: Jacques: M.A. Lecturer } Mic: Ravis: }
D. Norton gave the carriage of the old and new bells to &:
R. Phelps made these six bells 1716: from London:

Norton is a very old name in Uxbridge, and can be traced back for some centuries.

Soon after 1840 a society of parish ringers was formed, rules drawn up, and a board affixed giving their names, viz:—

Ringers for St. Margaret's, Uxbridge.		March 25th, 1843.
Appointed.		Geo: Hill
Warren Hastings		Alf: Mercer
Wm. Gowllett		W. Hill, S. Smith.
Jn. Douglass		J. Wheeler.
Thos. Moore		
Willm. Harrison		Church Wardens.
No Smoking allowed.		

In the rules I observed several peculiar regulations. It was evident the members of the society were particularly to understand that no smoking was allowed, being as much as to say that "this part of the House of God was not to be used as a smoking compartment." A fine of one penny was imposed on anyone pulling a bell off singly, after they were all up. Each member was to spend one shilling on receiving his payments—I have no doubt that the benefit of this rule was appreciably felt by the landlord of "The Bell Inn," which hostelry is situated on the opposite side of the main road from London to Beaconsfield, forming the High Street of Uxbridge. The townhall and market-place stands fronting this thoroughfare, just opposite "The Bell," the church being at the rear of the townhall.

A new vestry has recently been added on the north side of the tower, and was opened a few days ago. At the same time, I believe, the bells were also overhauled, and some improvements effected in the going of them. For my friend Tiny Hastings tells me "they had the best let down last Sunday week for the morning as ever he'd heard," and he has dwelt there forty years. Warren Hastings, or "Tiny," as he is usually called, from his low stature, was born in Farringdon (Berks), and served his apprenticeship at Oxford with Samuel Hounslow, and while being acquainted with him he not only learned to ring, but learned to swim also, Hounslow being an adept in the art of natation. Of all the ringers who started with him at St. Margaret's, he is the only survivor, and he will soon attain his 70th year.

On Saturday last, a party of ringers from Farnham and Slough paid him a visit, and as everything had been previously arranged, they were soon in the tower, and a very pleasant evening's ringing was enjoyed: several 720's of Minor were rung, being the first ever performed on the bells. The weather was most inclement, rain falling heavily during the day. This seemed, however, to have a tendency to sharpen the appetites of the company, for after leaving the steeple, an excellent meal was thoroughly appreciated, perhaps more so on account of the unexpected resources of the local commissariat.

Uxbridge is what may be termed the head quarters of the West Middlesex Association, and it was intended, by the kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. C. T. Mayo), to visit St. Andrew's church, but after staying so long at the old church, the hour of departure had to be considered, and a ride home by the 10.45 train concluded an enjoyable visit.

W. H. F.

DEATH OF THE VICAR OF CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS. MUFFLED RINGING AT BOURNEMOUTH.

ON Saturday night, November 17th, the Rev. Zachary Nash, Vicar of Christchurch Priory, passed to his rest. A very long and lingering illness had prepared his parishioners (over whom he had ministered for upwards of twenty-six years) for the sad event. Endeared to the hearts of all by his kind, affable, and generous disposition, charitable even to a fault, his memory will long be cherished in the hearts of many who loved him well, and his place can scarce find a successor.

The funeral took place on Thursday last in the churchyard, and in accordance with the late vicar's written directions, was conducted with as little ceremony as possible. An immense number of persons were, however, at the funeral, including many clergy from the neighbourhood, and personal friends of the deceased; the Mayor and Corporation of Christchurch; the Trades' Benefit Society, the children of the parochial and workhouse schools, the Royal Artillery stationed at the barracks, the local Rifle Volunteer Corps, and almost every tradesman in the town. The coffin was literally embedded in white wreaths and crosses, and other floral emblems, which had been sent as tokens of affection.

To commemorate the solemn event, the ringers of St. Peter's, Bournemouth, instead of proceeding with their usual Thursday evening practice, rang the bells muffled as a mark of respect to the late vicar. The Rev. A. Copeman, Curate of Sopley, and W. W. C. Baker, Esq., of Clare College, Cambridge, who was on a visit to Bournemouth, lent assistance, and several short touches of Grandsire Triples and Doubles were rung with the back stroke only muffled. Each change being struck whole pull, sounded like an echo, and was exceedingly effective. The bells of the old Priory at Christchurch were muffled and rung at intervals during the day.

DEATH OF T. C. COBBOLD, ESQ., OF IPSWICH.

ON Monday last, November 26th, the remains of Mr. T. C. Cobbold, C.B., and M.P. for the borough of Ipswich, were interred in the Ipswich Cemetery. During the day the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, in which parish the late member resided, were rung deeply muffled, and, remarkable to say, he was born in the same house in which he died, and although within a stone's throw of the tower, and he having undergone four very painful operations within the last twelve months, the weekly practice has continued as usual, except upon two or three occasions, one being the night before his death, which proves that the so called nuisance of bell-ringing is more imaginary than real. Touches of Grandsire Cinques were rung before the first part of the Burial Service, which took place in the above church, and during the time of the corpse being conveyed to the cemetery, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung. It was then decided to attempt a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, which was successfully accomplished, the particulars of which appears in another page. The above named gentleman was the third son of the late J. C. Cobbold, Esq., of Holy Wells, Ipswich, to whom the town is chiefly indebted for so excellent a peal of bells, and whose death was noticed in "THE BELL NEWS" about twelve months since.

DEATH OF THE OLDEST CHANGE-RINGER IN SUFFOLK.

ON Monday evening last, a muffled peal was rung upon the bells of Stowmarket Church by the ringers of the town and district, as a last tribute of respect to the late John Elmer, who has just died. Elmer had been a ringer at Stowmarket for a great many years, having rung his first peal on the Stowmarket bells in 1815, being then in his 18th year. Since then he has composed and rung various lughts on the Stowmarket bells of which I will give a fuller account in "THE BELL NEWS" later on. Elmer presented me with his ms. peal-book about twelve months ago, also a small ms. book which he had written, and named "The Conductor, or Bob Major in Miniature," which he had composed for the jun. society of ringers.

Glemsford.

S. SLATER.

THE ST. PETER'S (TIVERTON) CLOCK AND BELLS.

A CLOCK has been presented to St. Peter's church, Tiverton, by H. S. Gill, Esq. J.P. The peal of eight bells has undergone a thorough revonation, and a service to mark the completion of the work will be held in St. Peter's church on December 5th. All the bells have been lowered from their pits, and the existing frame has been considerably strengthened. Four of the bells have been quartered. Each bell has received a new set of fittings, the old ones having become worn out and past work, and the bells have been rehung.

A special service, on the re-opening of the bells will be held at 4.30 p.m., on Wednesday, December 5th, when a sermon will be preached by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, of Chacely, Tewkesbury.

DISPUTE AS TO OWNERSHIP OF BELLS.

A dispute between the vicar and churchwardens of St. Mary's, Hunslet, and Mr. Geo. Fothergill and seven others, formerly bell-ringers at the church, as to the ownership of a set of handbells, was the subject of an action in the Leeds county court recently—before Mr. Greenhow, the judge, and a jury. Mr. Tindal Atkinson, barrister (instructed by Mr. Brooke), was for the plaintiffs; Mr. Warren for the defendants.—Mr. Atkinson, in opening the case, said the old church of St. Mary's, Hunslet, was rebuilt in 1864. Up to that time, there had been only one bell, but when the church was rebuilt, a peal of eight was obtained. And in addition to this peal of eight there was purchased, also out of the building fund, a set of handbells for the use of the ringers at the church. After being in use a number of years those handbells wore out, and in 1877 it was considered desirable to replace them by a fresh set. The defendant Fothergill consulted at the time Mr. Nicholson, the churchwarden, as to how the necessary funds should be raised, and that gentleman suggested that it should be done by public subscription. This was accordingly done; the hat went round, and the necessary sum was subscribed by the parishioners and others, the churchwardens giving a guinea, and the vicar and others also subscribing. Fothergill was chiefly instrumental in getting up those subscriptions. He went round and collected money, was the chief of the ringers, he communicated with the bell-makers, and the invoice was made out to him. He was the agent of the vicar and churchwardens for obtaining the bells, and there was an interesting ceremony when the bells were formally presented. The vicar presided on that occasion, and on one of the bells was an inscription, which had a very important bearing on that action. The inscription was:—"St. Mary's church, Hunslet. This peal of 56 bells were purchased by subscription, and presented by the vicar and churchwardens for the use of the company of ringers in this church for the time being and for ever." Then followed the names:—Rev. Ed. Wilson, B.A., vicar; Mr. William Handforth, and Mr. Ed. Oaks churchwardens, and Mr. Jos. Nicholson, Ex-churchwarden, and the date 22nd June, 1878. On the other side of the bell was inscribed—"Geo. Fothergill, President." This inscription seemed to him (Mr. Atkinson), to prove two things. First of all, that the bells must originally have been the property of the vicar and churchwardens, or they could not have presented them, and next, that the vicar and churchwardens presented them for the use of the company of ringers at "this church for the time being and for ever." In April of the present year the ringers were requested to take less pay, they refused, and in consequence, three months' notice was given them to terminate their engagement. On the expiry of this time, the ringers left and took the bells away with them, and Fothergill had them in his possession now and refused to give them up. Hence the present action to recover possession of the bells, or their value, which with expenses of the action, was put to £29 odd. The Rev. Ed. Wilson, vicar of St. Mary's at the time the bells were purchased, but who had since resigned the living, Mr. Jos. Nicholson, ex-churchwarden, Mr. Richard Kilburn, present churchwarden, and John Thackeray, parish clerk, were called in support of the opening statement. Mr. Nicholson and Mr. Kilburn, who gave subscriptions towards the purchase of the bells, both stated that nothing was said to them, when asked to subscribe, about the bells becoming the property of the ringers, that they gave their money with the intention that the bells should be the property of the church, and that they would not have subscribed on any other understanding. Mr. Kilburn also stated that after notice was given to the ringers that their salary would be reduced from £32 to £24 a-year a complaint was made to the ringers of the handbells being used during service, and requesting that this should cease, and that the handbells should in future be kept in the church to prevent a repetition of such disgraceful conduct.

To this request, made in writing, no answer was returned. Mr. Thackeray said that the old bells were at first kept at the belfry, but at times the bells were taken to the Green Man public-house for practice, and were sometimes kept there. Mr. A. E. Hinchley (clerk to Mr. Brooke, solicitor for the plaintiffs) deposed to waiting upon Fothergill and asking him for the bells. Fothergill asked who was going to refund the money they had been out of pocket towards the purchase of the bells if they gave them up. Witness replied that he knew nothing about that, and Fothergill refused to give them up.

For the defence Mr. Warren urged that it was ridiculous to assume that these working-men bell-ringers would set afoot a subscription, and be a considerable sum of money out of pocket themselves, in order to buy a peal of bells for the church. The bells cost £26. Towards the subscription the ringers paid £4 10s., and then finding there was a deficiency of £2 5s., they first obtained the loan of that sum, and then raised the money among themselves. A considerable sum was also collected, not from members of the church, but from frequenters of the Green Man. The defendant Fothergill in his evidence said that the subscription was first begun at the Green Man. A list was hung up in one of the rooms, and in collecting subscriptions he never in a

single instance represented that the bells were for the church, but intended from the first that they should be the property of the company of bell-ringers. In ordering the bells he never consulted either the vicar or churchwardens, and he never rendered to them any account of the moneys received and paid. The new bells had never been at the church. An addition of eight bells had been made to the original peal of fifty-six, and he had never solicited subscriptions for those additional bells. Mr. Asquith, the landlord of the Green Man, said he gave his subscription of £2 to purchase the bells for the ringers, not for the church. The judge said the question the jury had to try was whom the persons subscribing intended to give the bells to. Several of the witnesses said they gave their money with the intention of the bells being given to the church, whilst Asquith gave his with the contrary intention. But if it was intended that the bells should be the property of the ringers, why should the vicar and the churchwardens have been called upon? The jury retired, and returning into court in about half-an-hour, the Foreman announced that they could not agree, there being four in favour of plaintiff and one against. The judge ordered the jury to again retire, and endeavour to come to an agreement, intimating that the circumstances of the case were such that he should not for a long time discharge them unless they found a verdict. Eventually the jury returned a verdict for the plaintiffs.

CHRIST CHURCH AND ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY, BATH.

The members will meet for practice as follows:—At Christ Church, Julian Road, Wednesdays, December 5th and 19th. At St. Andrew's Church, Julian Road, Wednesday, December 12th, ringing from 7.30 to 8.45 p.m.

On Tuesday, December 25th (Christmas Day), there will be morning ringing as follows:—at St. Andrew's from six till seven, and at Christ Church from seven till eight.

Monday, December 31st, (New Year's Eve), a muffled peal will be rung at St. Andrew's Church, commencing at 11.45, and terminating at 12 o'clock, to mark the expiration of the present year, after which a peal will be rung with opened bells to welcome the incoming of the new year 1884.

BELLS FOR AMERICA.

We take the following from the *Philadelphia Inquirer*:—

The chime of twenty-five bells, presented by Joseph E. Temple, to the Holy Trinity P. E. Church, are in their place in the tower, and their regular ringing will be inaugurated at the meeting of the General Convention in that church, on Wednesday, October 3rd. Like the bells, the framework to support them was made in Belgium, and is of heavy oak wood. The attachment connecting the clappers of the bells with the key-board was made under the supervision of a skilled machinist, sent over to this country by the founder, to superintend the work.

The total weight of the bells is 13,982 pounds. The larger ones have a medallion likeness of Mr. and Mrs. Temple cast on them, and also the following inscription:—

"Presented to
The Church of the Holy Trinity,
Philadelphia,
By Joseph E. Temple,
In Memory of His Wife,
Martha Anna Kirtley,
Born in England, May 11, 1821.
Died in Philadelphia, Dec. 7, 1864."
Cast by Severin Van Aerschoot, Louvain, Belgium,
1882.

In order to place the character of the bells beyond question the Church appointed Dr. John Stainer, her Majesty's Inspector of Music, and organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London, as an expert to test the bells on behalf of the church. He accepted the appointment. Dr. Stainer's report was that the bells were of beautiful tone and in good tune, and would be a lasting pleasure to the city where they were to be placed. They are hung in the belfry at a height of 110 feet above the street, far above all surrounding buildings, making them, when rung, free from all reverberations.

It is not intended to ring the bells at unusual or early hours. They will be rung before morning and evening service on Sundays and other holy days and holidays, and at weddings and other suitable occasions. The regular ringing of the bells will be inaugurated at the meeting General Convention, which assembles in the church on Wednesday, October 3rd. They will be rung daily during the sessions of the Convention.

The bells were imported to America free of duty, by a special Act of Congress at Washington, else a heavy import duty as manufactured articles would have had to be paid.

The Ancient Society of College Youths, not having been successful in their recent attempt for the 11,111 Stedman Caters, at All Saints, Fulham, intend, by the kind permission of the vicar, to make another attempt on Saturday, December 8th. Hour of meeting, two o'clock.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

On Saturday, December 22nd, will be published, the

CHRISTMAS NUMBER

OF THIS PAPER.

The number will comprise 16 pages at least, and will contain, in addition to the usual contents of the weekly issue, a variety of amusing and interesting matter.

A PORTRAIT

Of a distinguished Change-Ringer, with Biographical Sketch,

Will be a prominent feature of this number. Further particulars will be announced.

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

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

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

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

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

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

DODGER.—You will get what you want in Snowdon's Treatise on Treble Bob. See advertisement on front page.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1883.

The pressure on the space at our disposal compels us to hold over several matters until next week. We hope the time for a further enlargement of our journal is not far off, and that our friends will use further exertions in extending our circulation to a degree required to make such enlargement permanent.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.
STRATFORD-LE-BOW, MIDDLESEX.

On Wednesday, November 28, 1883, in Three Hours,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

LEWIS GREEN*	Treble.	HENRY SPRINGHALL.. .. .	5.
JAMES PETTIT	2.	RICHARD TURNER	6.
ARTHUR CUTMORE*	3.	WILLIAM D. SMITH.. .. .	7.
WALTER B. JONES	4.	*DANIEL SUTTON	Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

* First peal.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.—BETHNAL GREEN.

On Saturday, November 24, 1883, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

JAMES R. HAWORTH*	Treble.	*ARTHUR JACOB	5.
THOMAS TITCHENER*	2.	*WINGFIELD MEADOWS	6.
JAMES HANNINGTON*	3.	†GEORGE NEWSON	7.
MATTHEW A. WOOD	4.	JAMES BARRETT	Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and conducted by G. NEWSON.

*First peal in the method. †First peal with a bob bell.

This peal has the 6th twelve times each way in 5-6, and is the first peal ever rung upon this plan, see "THE BELL NEWS," No. 33, page 259. It is also the first peal in the method on the bells.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—WALTHAMSTOW.

On Tuesday, November 27, 1883, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT ST. SAVIOUR'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; PENNING'S VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

R. MAYNARD	Treble.	W. B. MANNING	5.
W. KEIT*	2.	H. SCARLETT	6.
J. NUNN	3.	F. W. BINES	7.
A. H. GARDOM	4.	W. CROCKFORD	Tenor.

Conducted by A. H. GARDOM.

*First peal.

The Provinces.

THE SS. PETER AND NICHOLAS (BRIGHTON) SOCIETIES.

On Thursday, November 14, 1883, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 14 cwt.

O. ST. JOHN, ESQ.*	Treble.	C. TYLER	5.
E. HILDER	2.	G. F. ATTREE, ESQ.	6.
H. BOAST	3.	J. JAY	7.
J. JAY, JUN.	4.	H. WESTON*	Tenor.

Conducted by J. JAY.

This was rung by kind permission of the vicar, the Rev. A. D. Wagner, and this is the only peal yet obtained on these bells, which have just been put in good order by him. *First peal.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

On Monday, November 17, 1883, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt in Eb.

EDWARD SMITH	Treble.	GEORGE MOBBS	5.
WILLIAM SHELDRAKE	2.	ROBERT WHITING	6.
WILLIAM MATTHEWS	3.	FREDERICK SMITH	7.
GEORGE PRIME	4.	CAPTAIN MOORE	Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, of Saffron Walden, and conducted by EDWARD SMITH.

This peal will be found in Snowdon's "Treatise," Part ii., Page 56.

LEESFIELD, LEES, NEAR OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

On Friday, November 23, 1883, in Three Hours,

AT ST. THOMAS'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; J. CARTER'S 12-PART BOB AND SINGLE. Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES HY. GARTSIDE.. .. .	Treble.	JAMES BAILEY	5.
FRED CROSLAND	2.	WM. HOLDEN	6.
SAMUEL STOTT	3.	JOHN HOLTON	7.
THOMAS EGERTON	4.	EDWIN SHAW	Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL STOTT.

The above peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. John Ashworth, who was a member of the Leesfield society previous to leaving England to fulfil an engagement in India.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.
NOTTINGHAM DISTRICT.

On Thursday, November 22, 1883, in Three Hours and One Minute,
At St. Peter's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION. Tenor 21 cwt.

ALFRED ARCHER.. .. Treble.	ADOLPHUS R. PEET .. 5.
SAMUEL WILKINS 2.	JOHN HICKMAN 6.
HORACE W. ABBOTT* .. 3.	† WILLIAM BIRKINSHAW .. 7.
SAMSON BURTON.. .. 4.	ALBERT W. SADLER.. .. Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN HICKMAN.
(First peal as conductor.)

*St. Stephen's Society, Bristol. †Yorkshire Association.

The above was intended to be rung by the newly-formed band of St. Peter's Society, to commemorate the accession of a company of change-ringers to the church, but owing to the sudden illness of one of their company, Mr. H. W. Abbott, of All Saints, was called upon at the last moment to take his place. Such a thing as a regular company of change-ringers at St. Peter's church is unknown to the oldest ringer, as the tower has been in the hands of bell-haulers up to the first Sunday in October, when the company of change-ringers took possession.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 24th, 1883, in Four Hours and Three Minutes,
At St. Peter's Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6608 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

JOHN HOPWOOD Treble.	SAMUEL WOOD 5.
JOSEPH BOWCOCK 2.	BENJAMIN BROADBENT .. 6.
WILLIAM SMITH.. .. 3.	JOHN THORP 7.
JAMES WOOD 4.	GEORGE LONGDEN Tenor.

Composed and conducted by JOHN THORP.

This peal is supposed to be the longest composed without a single with the tenors together.

CANTERBURY, KENT.

On Saturday, November 24, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
At St. Stephen's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

WALTER ANDREWS Treble.	ALFRED A. ANDREWS .. 5.
G. STANCOMBE 2.	CAPTAIN W. WOOD 6.
HENRY G. FAIRBRASS .. 3.	JOHN H. SMALL 7.
GEORGE T. OVENDEN .. 4.	RICHARD GOODBOURNE .. Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE STANCOMBE.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.
THE HYDE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, November 24, 1883, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
At St. Michael's Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN SIDEBOTTOM Treble.	ROBERT WRIGHT 5.
RALPH PRICHARD 2.	JAMES SHAW 6.
THOMAS BRADLEY 3.	THOMAS WILDE 7.
WALTER SLATER 4.	JAMES S. WILDE Tenor.

Composed and conducted by JAMES S. WILDE.

The above peal has the 6th its extent wrong and right. Messrs. Sidebottom and Wright belong to Mottram.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONY OF STAFFORD.
WEST BROMWICH.

On Saturday, November 24, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
At All Saints' Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S SIX-PART. Tenor 14 cwt.

HENRY HIPKISS Treble.	WILLIAM BEESON 5.
THOMAS HORTON 2.	WILLIAM ROCK SMALL .. 6.
REUBEN HALL 3.	SAMUEL REEVES 7.
WILLIAM MALIN.. .. 4.	WILLIAM ELESMORE Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

This is the first peal rung by the above association, and was achieved by members of the Christ Church branch.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
BRANDESTON, SUFFOLK.

On Saturday, November 24, 1883, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,
At All Saints' Church,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS
UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:—

720 LONDON NEW BOB; 720 GRANDSIRE MINOR; 720	CANTERBURY PLEASURE; 720 COURT SINGLE;
720 COLLEGE SINGLE; 720 OXFORD BOB; 720 PLAIN BOB MINOR.	Tenor 9 cwt.

WALTER BEDINGFIELD .. Treble.	ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN .. 4.
DAVID G. WIGHTMAN .. 2.	GEORGE WICKS.. .. 5.
HORIS BEDINGFIELD .. 3.	STEPHEN WIGHTMAN .. Tenor.

Conducted by STEPHEN WIGHTMAN.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—IPSWICH.

Bluffed Peal

On Monday, November 26, 1883, in Three Hours and Forty-nine Minutes.

At the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5136 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 32 cwt. in C#.

WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE .. Treble.	CHARLES SAUL 7.
EDGAR PEMBERTON 2.	HENRY BOWELL 8.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER .. 3.	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE .. 9.
WILLIAM MOTTS 4.	EDWARD REEVE 10.
JAMES MOTTS 5.	ROBERT HAWES 11.
WILLIAM MEADOWS 6.	SAMUEL TILLET Tenor.

Composed by J. REEVES, and conducted by W. L. CATCHPOLE.

[An account of the melancholy event which led to this peal being rung, will be found in another column.]

STALYBRIDGE.—THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

On Monday, November 26, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,
At Holy Trinity Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

JOHN POWNALL* Treble.	EDMUND SCHOFIELD.. .. 5.
HUGH SHAW 2.	JOHN THORP 6.
JAMES WOOD 3.	SAMUEL WOOD 7.
BENJAMIN BROADBENT .. 4.	GEORGE LONGDEN Tenor.

Composed and conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

* First peal in the method.

This peal was published in "The Bell News," vol. 1, No. 19, page 147.

Messrs. Pownall, Shaw, and Schofield belong to Stalybridge; the rest hail from Ashton.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, AND THE
HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY.—HULL.

On Monday, November 26, 1883, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At Holy Trinity Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 25 cwt.

FREDERICK MERRISON .. Treble.	FRANK DRABBLE 5.
ALFRED TAYLOR 2.	JAMES DIXEY 6.
HARRY CUTTER* 3.	*CHAS. BENNETT 7.
HENRY JENKINS 4.	*CHAS. JACKSON Tenor.

Composed and conducted by CHARLES JACKSON.

* College Youths.

The above peal, which has the 5th and 6th twelve times each way, was rung to commemorate Mr. Charles Jackson's 34th birthday, and his brother ringers wish him many happy returns.

Date Touch.

LEICESTER.—On Monday, November 26th, at St. Saviour's church, six members of the Midland Counties' Association, with Mr. E. Ashwell and Mr. G. Needham, rang a date touch of 1883 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. and 9 mins. Enos. Garner, 1; Guydo Dickinson, 2; Samuel Smith, 3; Edwin Ashwell, 4; Joseph Needham, 5; Herbert W. Needham, 6; Alfred Millis (conductor), 7; George Needham, 8. Tenor 27 cwt in E. Mr. S. Smith hails from Loughborough, the rest are Leicester ringers.

Miscellaneous.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CARDINGTON.—On Saturday, November 17th, by the kind permission of the vicar, eight members of the above Association met at this place and attempted Holt's 10-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 600 changes, the 6th rope got out of the wheel, and brought it to grief. Another start was then made with a similar result. It was then found to be too late to start for the peal, so after falling the bell, and putting on another rope, they succeeded in ringing the last half, with three leads to get them into course, making in all 2562 changes, in 1 hr. 35 mins. S. Cullip, 1; W. Biggs (conductor), 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; W. Allen, 4; J. Frossell, 5; J. Adkin, 6; I. Hills, 7; J. Spencer, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. in Eb.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

KING'S NORTON (Worcestershire).—On Saturday, November 24th, seven of the King's Norton branch, with Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham, made their first attempt to ring Penning's Peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 2 hrs. a slip occurred, and the conductor called stand: J. Ashmole, 1; W. H. Sumner, 2; J. Carter (conductor), 3; J. Cooks, 4; J. Wright, 5; F. Scrivens, 6; W. Palmer, 7; D. Taylor, 8. Tenor 18½ cwt.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

GLEMSFORD.—On Saturday, November 24th, a 720 of Morning Exercise. Frederick Wells, 1; Oliver Garwood, 2; Samuel Slater, 3; F. P. Adams, 4; Zachariah Slater, 5; A. Hurst (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday evening, November 25th, a 720 of Plain Bob. S. Slater, 1; Z. Slater, 2; O. Garwood, 3; A. Ives, 4; H. Thompson, 5; A. Hurst (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. A. Ives, 1; Z. Slater, 2; A. Hurst, 3; O. Garwood, 4; H. Thompson, 5; S. Slater (conductor), 6.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

CLERKENWELL.—On Sunday morning last, for Divine Service at St. James's church, the last 700 of Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples. J. M. Routh, Esq. (conductor), 1; Henry Hopkins, 2; John Nelms, 3; William Hovard, 4; Edward Moses, 5; Henry Swain, 6; Henry Dains, 7; Charles Hopkins, 8.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WALKDEN.—On Saturday, November 24th, at St. Paul's church, six members of the above Association rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. C. Cash, 1; E. Cash (conductor), 2; J. Worthington, 3; J. Welsby, 4; J. Brookes, 5; W. Denner, 6. Tenor 13½ cwt. Messrs. C. and E. Cash hail from Swinton.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

KENNINGHALL (Norfolk).—On Tuesday, November 20th, for practice, 1600 of Oxford Treble Bob Major. J. Mordey, 1; J. Saunders, 2; G. Edwards, 3; J. Hawes, 4; R. Patrick, 5; H. Eagling, 6; J. Woods, 7; R. Hutton (conductor), 8. Also a course of Double London Court Bob Major, by the above.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Wednesday, November 21st, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 28 mins. F. Fells, 1; A. Fussell, 2; W. Fussell, 3; A. Batten, 4; J. Parker (conductor), 5; C. Clarke, 6.

UXBRIDGE (Middlesex).—On Saturday, November 24th, at the parish church of St. Margaret's, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 27 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Basden, 2; J. Parker, 3; A. Batten, 4; A. Fussell, 5; W. Fussell, 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in five parts, with thirty bobs and thirty singles, in 29 mins. J. Parker (composer), 1; J. Basden, 2; F. Fells, 3; A. Batten, 4; A. Fussell, 5; W. Fussell, 6. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27½ mins. F. Fells, 1; A. Batten, 2; A. Fussell, 3; J. Basden, 4; J. Parker, 5; W. Fussell, 6. Conducted by J. Parker. Tenor 15 cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, AND THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

OXFORD.—On Saturday, November 24th, at New College, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, on Seage's apparatus, in 28 mins. J. R. Vincent, Esq., 1; F. A. H. Du Boulay, Esq., 2; J. W. Washbrook, 3; C. W. H. Griffith, Esq., 4; W. Finch, 5; G. F. Coleridge, Esq. (conductor), 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT-ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

CHEDDLETON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, November 25th, for Divine Service in the afternoon, a 720 of Bob Minor, with forty-two singles, in 25½ mins. J. James, 1; E. Spooner, 2; J. Gilbert, 3; H. Rodgers, 4; F. Clowes (conductor), 5; J. Renshaw, 6.

WOLSTANTON (Staffordshire).—On Tuesday, November 27th, at the usual weekly practice at St. Margaret's church, a 720 of Court Bob Minor, in 26 mins. S. Walker, 1; L. Miller, 2; W. Miller, 3; S. Wooton, 4; W. Priestman, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6.

ST. THOMAS-YE-MARTYR SOCIETY.

OXFORD.—On Wednesday, November 14th, at St. Thomas-ye-Martyr, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. W. Wakelin, 1; F. Castle, 2; J. Washbrook (conductor), 3; J. Howes, 4; O. Thomas, 5; W. C. Baston, 6. Also on Friday, November 16th, at St. Mary Magdalen, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. W. Wakelin, 1; F. Castle, 2; W. C. Baston, 3; J. Howes, 4; O. Thomas, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, November 18th, for morning service at St. Thomas-ye-Martyr, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. W. Wakelin, 1; F. Castle, 2; O. Thomas, 3; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 4; J. Howes, 5; W. C. Baston, 6. Also on Tuesday, November 20th, at the same church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. F. Castle, 1; W. Wakelin, 2; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 3; O. Thomas, 4; J. Howes, 5; W. C. Baston, 6. Also the same evening, a 720 of Plain Bob, in 25 mins. W. Wakelin, 1; F. Castle, 2; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 3; J. Howes, 4; O. Thomas, 5; W. C. Baston, 6. After retiring from the belfry, an excellent touch of Grandsire Eaters on handbells, retained in hand, consisting of 701 changes. O. Thomas, 1-2; C. Hounslow, 3-4; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 5-6; W. C. Baston, 7-8; S. Hounslow, 9-10.

ABINGDON (Berks).—On Sunday, November 25th, five members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild paid a visit to the above place, and by permission, rang at St. Nicholas's church a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. *John Howes, 1; H. Holifield, 2; *F. Castle, 3; *J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 4; *Job Howes, 5; *W. C. Baston, 6. *Hail from Oxford. Also another 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. F. Castle, 1; H. Holifield, 2; W. Sandell, 3; W. C. Baston, 4; Job Howes, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6.

BRISTOL.—On Friday, November 23rd, the ringers of All Saints' church, started for a peal of Grandsire Triples, in honour of the birthday of one of its members, but after ringing 3200 changes in good style it suddenly came to grief. George Morgan (conductor), 1; Edward Duckham, 2; Alfred York, 3; John Norton, 4; Francis Price, 5; Edward Beake, 6; William Parson, 7; William Emery, 8.

BURFORD (Oxon).—On Wednesday, November 21st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 45 mins. H. Smith, 1; W. Francis, 2; J. Smith, 3; W. Large, 4; F. E. Ward, 5; H. Bond, jun., 6; T. E. Glanville, 7; W. Launchbury, 8. All the above, with the exception of H. Bond, are Members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. On Saturday, November 24th, an attempt was made to ring the first half of Holt's ten-part peal, but unfortunately when the end was reached in 1 hr. 31 mins., it was found that two of the bells had changed places.

CAVENDISH (Suffolk).—On Monday, November 26th, at St. Mary's, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 26 mins. F. J. Thompson, 1; C. W. Hurst, 2; J. S. Page, 3; A. Ives, 4; G. Maxim, 5; A. Hurst (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob, with thirty-six calls, in 27 mins. F. J. Thompson, 1; C. W. Hurst, 2; A. Ives, 3; J. S. Page, 4; G. Maxim, 5; A. Hurst (conductor), 6.

GREAT BROMLEY (Essex).—On Wednesday, November 21st, for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. A. Bloice, 1; G. Bowell, 2; J. Jaylor (conductor), 3; S. Bloice, 4; W. Nevard, 5; J. Starling, 6. Tenor 18 cwt. in F.

GREAT HALLINGBURY (Essex).—On Friday, November 23rd, at St. Giles's church, was rung for practice by the following company, four 120's of Bob Doubles, each called differently. F. Gowers, 1; H. R. Saunders, 2; R. S. Sworder, 3; F. Sworder (conductor), 4; A. Pryor, 5. Tenor 12½ cwt. This is the longest length for the treble man, who nine weeks previous could not handle a bell.

HORSHAM (Sussex).—On Sunday, November 25th, for Divine Service in the evening at St. Mary's church, the following members of the local society rang the first part of Shipway's peal of Oxford Bob Triples, 840 changes, in 32 mins. Harry Cook, 1; Jacob Browne, 2; William Short, 3; Harry Wood, 4; Harry Chantler, 5; Felix Knight, 6; Henry Burstow (conductor), 7; James Jeat, 8.

LEWISHAM (Kent).—On Sunday morning, November 25th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 38 mins. H. Grout, 1; E. Freeman, 2; G. Freeman, 3; F. Smith, Esq., 4; W. Shade, 5; C. Barham, 6; I. G. Shade (composer and conductor), 7; W. Bowles, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. The above was rung on the occasion of the annual church parade of the First Kent Artillery Rifle Volunteers.

RANMOOR, SHEFFIELD (Yorkshire).—On Sunday, the 18th instant, the Norton society visited this church, and rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with fourteen singles and four bobs, on the back six, in 28 mins. F. Ward, 1; H. Ward, 2; W. Biggin, 3; J. Goucher, 4; J. Atkin, 5; J. Allen (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qrs. This is the first 720 on the bells.

READING (Berks).—On Tuesday, November 27th, at St. Lawrence's church, for practice, a 840 of Grandsire Triples, in 32 mins. F. Round, 1; W. R. Pocock, 2; W. Johnson, 3; W. Goseltine (Oxford Diocesan Guild), 4; E. Bishop, 5; W. Newell (conductor), 6; W. J. Williams, 7; C. Guy (Oxford Diocesan Guild), 8. Also a 336 in the same method, containing Queens and Tittums. H. Bawden, 1; W. J. Williams (conductor), 2; W. Johnson, 3; W. R. Pocock, 4; W. Newell, 5; E. Bishop, 6; J. E. Willshire, 7; W. Goseltine, 8.

ROSS (Herefordshire).—On Thursday, November 22nd, the Ross company, with Mr. Gardener, of Gloucester, attempted Taylor's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but a change-course having occurred, "stand" had to be called, after having rung five parts. H. Bird, 1; J. G. Wall, 2; J. Atkins, 3; H. G. Gardner, 4; E. Barnett, 5; A. Bird, 6; C. Young (conductor), 7; R. Clark, 8. Also on Saturday, November 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples by the same company, with the exception of the 4th and 7th men changing places. Conducted by Mr. Gardner. Tenor 25 cwt.

ROTHERHITHE (Surrey).—On Sunday morning, November 25th, at St. Mary's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1512 changes, being the occasion of a church parade of the 6th Surrey Rifle Volunteers. F. W. Thornton (first quarter-peal), 1; William Pead, 2; J. Taylor, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; Wm. Weatherstone (conductor), 5; W. H. Freeman, 6; Wingfield Meadows, 7; George Thatcher, 8. Also in the afternoon a 504 by the same band in the same order. Tenor 18 cwt. in F. These bells are very false, and but rarely used, it being several years since a peal was rung on them.

SEELY OAK (Worcestershire).—Four of the local society, with Messrs. Perks and Day, late of the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, rang at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 minutes. Edward Bryant, 1; Henry Smith, 2; John Perks, 3; Edward Boylin, 4; John Day, 5; Alfred Cole (conductor), 6. Tenor 11 cwt. [No date given.]

STANSTED (Essex).—On Thursday, November 15th, at St. Mary's church, four of the local company, with the assistance of F. and R. S. Sworder, of Great Hallingbury, rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. J. Cavill, 1; C. Prior, 2; R. S. Sworder, 3; F. Sworder, 4; J. Luckey, 5; H. Prior (conductor), 6. Also a 360 of Double Court Bob Minor was afterwards rung standing as above. Also on Thursday, November 22nd, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, with the 2nd bell the observation, in 27 mins. J. Cavill, 1; H. Prior (conductor), 2; R. S. Sworder, 3; F. Sworder, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; C. Prior, 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, November 25th, on the occasion of the Mayor and Corporation attending Divine Service at the Cathedral, the local society, with Mr. Perks, of Malvern, rang a touch of Grandsire Caters, 828 changes; and after service at St. Helen's a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 47 mins. G. Cleal, 1; N. Wale, 2; J. Perks, 3; H. Pheasant, 4; J. Reynolds, 5; H. Wilkes (conductor), 6; G. Hobbs, 7; T. Malin, 8.

AN ERRATIC COMPOSITION.

In our issue of November 17th we devoted a page to the publication of figures of various peals. Among these was what purported to be a peal of Treble Bob Major, 5184 changes, composed by Mr. Thorp. It was forwarded for insertion by Mr. Thomas Wilde, of Hyde, and coming from such a source, we had not the least hesitation in allowing it to appear in the form sent, without even the slightest attempt at proof, or checking the course-ends. Our security, however, has to a certain extent been dispelled, for having had our attention drawn to the matter, it became evident that the published figures represent no peal at all. In writing to us, the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer says: "I find it false in itself, quite independently of all misprints. The first course-end in each part produces changes alike; to be more exact, the fifth lead of the second course (first part), corresponding to the natural third lead of the plain course, is false with the treble in 5-6 up against the seventh lead of the second course (second part), corresponding to the natural fifth lead of the plain course, with the treble in 5-6 down. The call 'before' in the second course is the cause of the mischief, but so far as I can see, it is not susceptible of correction by adopting the alternative calling, without recasting the whole peal."

Much more to the same effect may be quoted. In the hope that our friend Mr. Wilde will be able and willing to explain how he came to send us such a peal—or rather no peal—for insertion, we forbear saying anything more beyond the fact that we have preserved the manuscript in case of need.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—DISTRICT MEETING.

A DISTRICT MEETING was held at Maldon on Saturday, November 24th, when about thirty ringing members put in an appearance. The two rings of six bells at All Saints' and St. Mary's churches were set going soon after one o'clock, and during the afternoon and evening two 720's of Bob Minor, one of College Exercise (by the Braintree company), several touches of Minor, and some 6-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, were rung. The business meeting was held at 4.45 in the vestry at All Saints, the Rev. H. E. Horwood in the chair. The following honorary members were present; Rev. A. L. Hunt, Vicar of St. Mary's; and Messrs. S. Ratcliff and T. E. Bland, churchwardens of All Saints. Among the ringing members present were, Messrs. S. and H. E. Hammond, A. Hucks, F. Rudkin, etc. (Braintree), W. Rowland, and W. Hawkes (Widford), W. Moore (Bocking), D. Elliot (Kelvedon), J. Young (Boreham), A. Fryett and E. Garnett (Witham), G. Jones and W. Jay (Rettendon), J. Taylor and W. Neverd (Great Bromley), C. Ablitt and W. Smith (Higham, Suffolk). The usual office having been read by the Secretary, and one ringing member, Mr. J. Savill, of Rayne, having been elected, Mr. S. Hammond suggested that the Secretary should communicate with the authorities of the G.E.R. before the next meeting, with a view to obtaining cheap tickets for members attending meetings of the Association. Another suggestion was made by the same gentleman with reference to certificates of membership, that they should be printed on cards the same size as those used for the record of peals. Mr. F. Rudkin gave notice of a motion to be brought forward at the Annual Meeting "That a set of handbells should be purchased for the use of members at meetings of the Association." Mr. Horwood, in reply to a vote of thanks to him, the Rev. A. L. Hunt, and the churchwardens, proposed by the Rev. H. A. Cockey, said that it was a great pleasure to see such a gathering in his church. He was pleased that the restoration and reform now going on so universally in our churches, had not stopped short at the belfry. The clergy used in olden times to ring the bells themselves, and this helps to remind us what an ancient high and sacred office is that of the ringers. Whatever the occasion might be on which they met in the belfry, whether to celebrate a wedding or some other joyous event, or for a funeral peal, or to call people to worship in God's house, let the ringers take heed that their feelings be in accordance to it, and let them remember the inscription on an old bell—

"Who rings this bell, let him look well
To hand and head and heart,
The hand for work, the head for wit, the heart for worship."

At the close of the meeting, an adjournment was made to the "White Horse," where a good tea was provided and done full justice to. After the tea, a course of Grandsire Triples and a course of Bob Major were rung on the handbells by Mr. F. Calthorpe, 1-2; Mr. S. Hammond, 3-4; Mr. F. Rudkin, 5-6; Rev. H. A. Cockey, 7-8. The Vicar and churchwardens of All Saints very kindly subscribed towards the expenses of the tea.

WINTERTON CHURCH BELLS, NORFOLK.

On Thursday, December 6th, the bells of Winterton church, which have lately been recast and rehung by Messrs. Moore, Holmes, and Mackenzie, of the Redenhall Bell Foundry, Harleston, Norfolk, will be re-opened. There will be service in the church at 2.30 p.m., with sermon by the Rector of Great Yarmouth. As the days are so short and the weather so uncertain, it has been decided to postpone the opening ringing meeting to May next.

A SATISFACTORY PEAL-BOOK.

The peal-book supplied by Mr. Keeble, Romford, Essex, to the Birmingham and District Association, has given very great satisfaction, the material being of first rate quality, and the workmanship and finish of the book is all that can be desired. We wish also to add that any company or association wishing to purchase a peal-book will do well in giving Mr. Keeble an order. We take this the first opportunity of expressing our approval of the book. J. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

King's Norton.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Luton, on Saturday, December 15th. The eight bells of Saint Mary's church will be at the service of the ringers. Ringing at 2 p.m., or sooner, if a company is made up. St. Albans and Hertford friends please notice.

CHARLES HERBERT, Hon. Sec.

Woburn, November 27th, 1883.

In the report of the peal of Grandsire Triples rung at St. George's, Camberwell, given in our issue of November 17th, the name of the ringer of the 7th should be Robins, not Roberts.

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."

THE GALLEYWOOD PEAL AND MR. SCARLETT.

SIR,—In the *Essex Weekly News* for November 23rd, there is an account of a peal rung at Galleywood, which contains the following: "Mr. Scarlett may be congratulated upon the successful manner in which he conducted the peal, it being his eleventh peal in about twelve months, and his first as conductor." I see, by referring to my numbers of "THE BELL NEWS," that Mr. Scarlett has five peals to his credit in about the last twelvemonths, being one peal at the following places: Loughton, Edmonton, Walthamstow, Enfield, and Galleywood. Perhaps Mr. S. will enlighten us as to where the remaining six peals were rung? A BROTHER STRING.

PREVENTING EGRESS OF SOUND OF BELLS FROM CHURCH TOWERS.

SIR,—Mr. Cunningham's letter in last issue bears much upon what has been written in this paper from time to time, on tower design. Having witnessed the Edinburgh Cathedral erecting during the year 1877, it always occurred to me how the proposed bells would be accepted in that very particular locality: swarming in medical men, who always hate bells; and members of another religion—"Presbyterian true blue." When towers have spires with slits, there is no reason why the usual four belfry windows, with architectural elaboration, need be perforate at all. As an instance of the entire absence of the windows in question, I may mention Leeds, in Kent, which is a stump of a very large twelfth-century tower, having a spirelet with openings set very low in the bell-chamber, so that the last few feet of the tower forms a parapet, which rises much above the spire or cot windows. The ten bells hang all one level. At the last County meeting, I went into the village schools, just opposite, and questioned the master and mistress as to whether we were a nuisance, and the reply was directly negative.

In cases where there are no upper openings, one or two windows might be closed by shutters as suggested. The best method of treating (in every respect) belfry opening has yet to be demonstrated.

I have stated that the medical profession are generally averse to bells. Dr. Jarvis, of Margate, left £50 for ever to the ringers, early in this century; and some few living are change-ringers at this moment. Objections to bells mostly come from those who object to churches at all.

Mr. Cunningham should give us an account of how they have got on from first to last in change-ringing at Edinburgh, and if the steeple has shown any weakness in the building. F. G.

THE PEAL-BOARD AT ST. SAVIOUR'S, RELATING TO "BOB MAJOR ROYAL."

SIR,—In answer to my friend Mr. Mash, I must inform him that I cannot exactly say whence I got the information about the above performance, but feel pretty sure that it was from a pamphlet published by Mr. Snowden and Mr. Tuke, some years ago, which I believe is a reproduction of the Union Scholars' peal-book. Unfortunately I have not a copy of this by me, but I am pretty certain a performance of something there called "Bob Major Royal" (what that is I don't know, as I said before) is recorded as rung by that society on the date mentioned. It appears that there is no tablet relating to the same, although I was under the impression that there was, or at least if there ever was one, it has long since disappeared. Thanking Mr. Mash for his correction, and hoping that if any error should occur in the account of any of the other steeples, some one will correct it, I am, yours respectfully, J. R. JERRAM.

A REJOINDER.

SIR,—In your impression of November 17th, there appeared a letter from A. Brown, complaining that "A Lover of Good Ringing" should find fault with the ringing at the parish church on October 17th last. Now, sir, it appears to me that the truth has raised the ire of A. Brown, who to appease his anger rushes into print, and blames me as prompter to your correspondent—"A Lover of Good Ringing." Now, sir, allow me to tell him that when the letter headed "Doubts" appeared, I did not know who the writer was, and therefore I could not be his prompter. Mr. Brown goes on to say—"It would have been more to my credit to have collected my company together, and gone to our tower, and rung two peals half as well." Now, sir, my company are all voluntary ringers, who practise at least once a week, and then ring twice each Sunday for service, while the company to which A. Brown belongs are all paid men, and I greatly question if he would have handled a rope if there had been no pay attached to it. At all events, I am perfectly satisfied, as also are the inhabitants, with the manner the bells are rung at St. Paul's. It is no idle boast that

we are continually receiving compliments for our proficiency in the art of change-ringing; that is more than can be said of your correspondent A. Brown. He also gives us credit of have among our company one of forty years' standing; perhaps he may not be aware that I learnt change-ringing at the same time and at the same church as he did, viz.: SS. Mary and Nicholas, Spalding. As regards being able to judge what good ringing is, it is a long time since I heard any at his steeple, and I would give him this advice—to pay attention to his striking, and also what his captain tells him, so that he may become proficient in the art before he can give advice to his superiors. I trust he will profit by this advice, and take more pains in future, so that children coming from school shall not say—as they did in my hearing on the day in question—"What is the matter with the bells?" Any further correspondence from him we shall take no notice of.

Monks House Lane, Spalding.

RICHD. CREASEY.

THE FIRST 720 OF STEDMAN'S SLOW COURSE.

SIR,—In your number for November 17th I was pleased to see the record of a 720 being rung at Hornsey, in a very difficult method, although in a small way, viz.: "Double Stedman's Slow Course." As nothing further has transpired respecting this performance, I humbly beg to draw the attention of the ringing world to the following facts: 1st—It was the first 720 in the method performed on the bells; 2nd—I know it to be the first 720 achieved by any of the band; 3rd—I have never seen, heard, read, or known of a 720 being rung upon church bells in this complicated method previous to the one in question. I think, therefore, they are entitled to claim the first performance in the method on six bells. Now it is quite likely that there may be some controversy on the subject, and so that the matter may be firmly decided, I shall be glad to see what proofs your correspondents can produce to the contrary. W. H. FUSSELL.

DISCLAIMERS.

SIR,—Your correspondent is evidently an egotist. The fact of his being connected with bell-ringing for such a lengthy period does not render him infallible, therefore the sobriquet "Churchyard Bob" is doubtless applicable to himself also. Apparently he is unaware that the present society of St. Andrew's ringers, and the one existing about twelve months since are alien. We, the members of the present society reiterate our statement that no single member of the above St. Andrew's society participated in the 720 in question. We hope your correspondent's mistake will not prove too humiliating, and beg to state this is definite and final, having no desire for any further correspondence. W. H. BARTRAM,

Clifton.

Manager.

BEXHILL-ON-SEA, SUSSEX.

ON Saturday evening, November 24th, seven members of the St. Mary's Society of old Eastbourne, paid a visit to the above church in response to a kind invitation from the vicar, and rang several 120's of Grandsire and Bob Doubles, two of the local members joining in the former. The bells are in good going order, tenor 13 cwt., but we are sorry to add that they cannot muster six members for Churchyard Bob. Several touches of Grandsire Triples were lapped on the handbells, and a few tunes closed a happy evening.

BENEFIT CONCERT AT HANLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.—The Mayor of Hanley recently presided in the townhall at a concert for the benefit of a sugar-maker named Oliver Columbello, who has met with an accident to one of his fingers, resulting in his arm being poisoned, and himself totally incapacitated from work. The room was crowded to inconvenience. The Longton Victoria Handbell Ringers gave valuable aid in interesting the large audience. The ringers were Frederick Warren, 5-6-7-8; Thomas Goodwin, 1st bass; William Maskery, 2nd bass; James Wilson, 3rd bass; Herbert Davies, bottom bass; conductor—F. Warren. The music was arranged (for six ringers) by Mr. W. Gordon, of Crowther Street, Stockport.

The Winter Number of *Society* for this year will be called "ROUND THE FIRESIDE," and will contain several complete stories by such well-known authors as Richard Dowling, Godfrey Turner, J. Palgrave Simpson, Ernest Warren, William Mackay, C. C. Rhys, etc., and will be illustrated by Frank Feller, Rudolf Blind, Frederick Waddy, etc. The price is to be sixpence, and the number will be ready on December 8th.

A large clock has just been erected in the tower of Wenvoe church, near Cardiff. It shows time on one large dial, and strikes the hours upon the largest church bell. It is fitted with all the latest improvements, and has a pendulum with 1 cwt. bob. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of the Midland Clock Works, Derby, have carried out the work.

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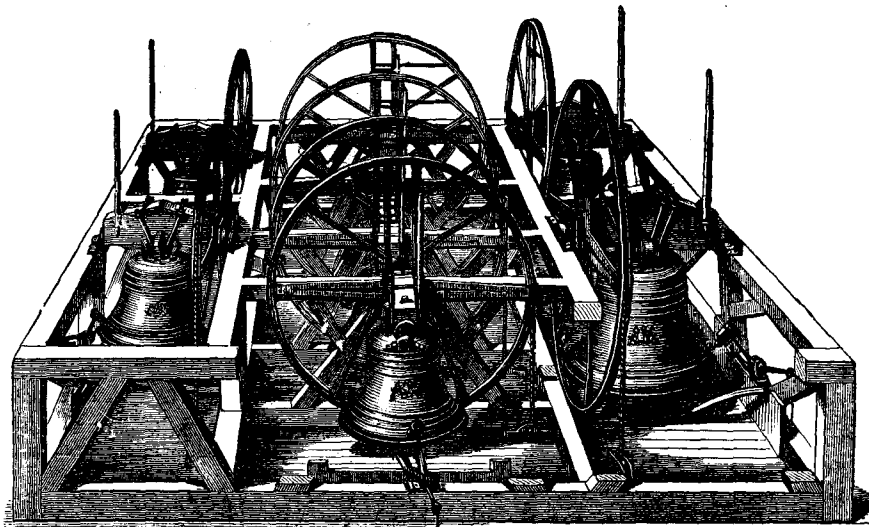
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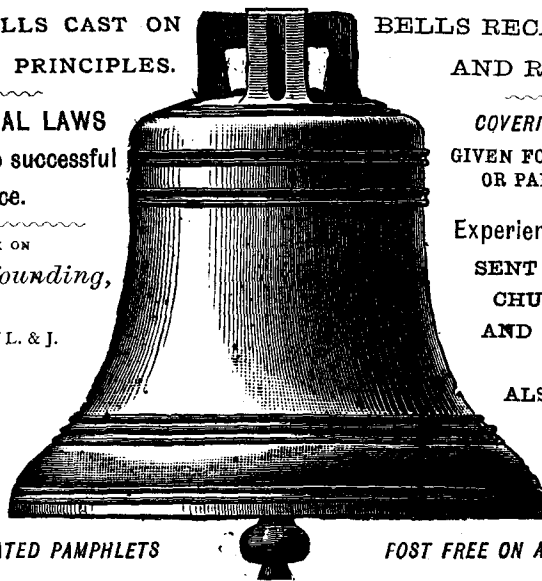
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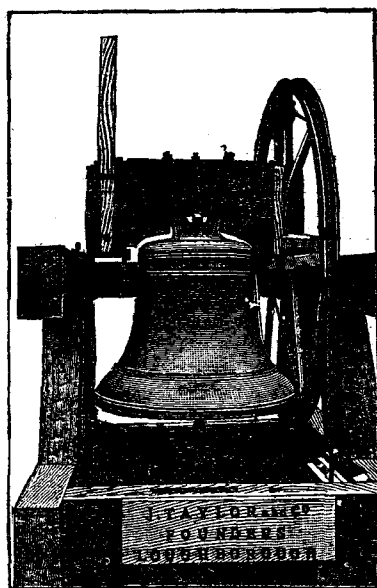
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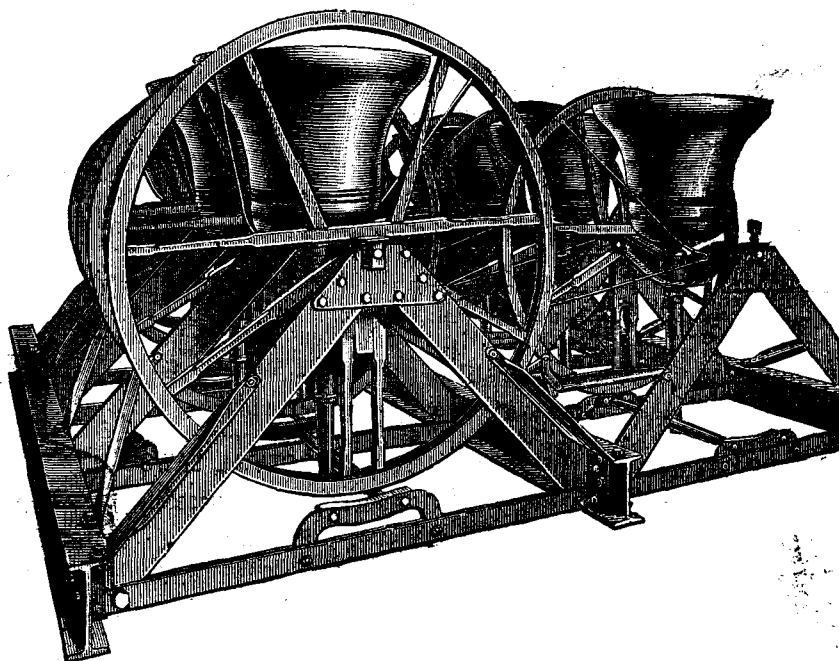
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