

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 93. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. II.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1884.

[ONE PENNY.]

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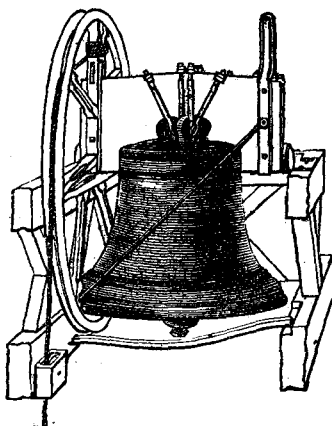
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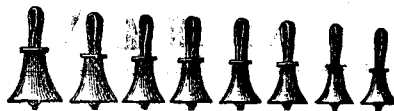
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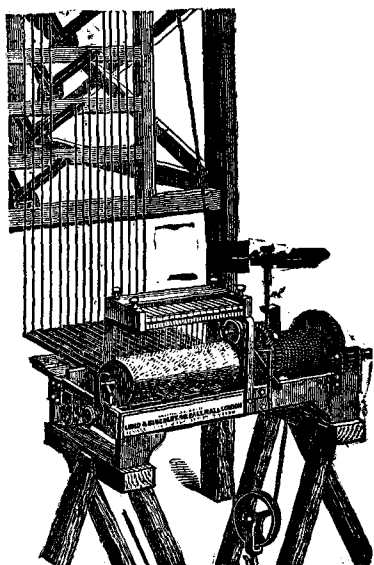
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GRANDSIRE CATERS.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

HAVING followed Grandsire Caters up to the long peal at Painswick, my task would be concluded, did I not wish to call attention to a peal which, although of a subsequent date and a smaller number of changes, is still worthy of remark. As I am endeavouring to state correctly the precise lengths attained in this method, the following example will show the necessity of all ringers co-operating to arrive at correct conclusions in such matters. The incompleteness of the information possessed in the case I am about to mention by persons who it might have been thought would be in full possession of such particulars, will be a matter of surprise, and were it not that the facts are before us, they might not readily be credited. In 1837 the St. James's Society, after ringing unsuccessfully over 9000 changes on a previous date, accomplished, on May 15th, 12,096 changes at All Saints', Fulham. This peal they recorded as "the greatest number of changes ever performed by ten men only," and as such the performance was generally accepted by London ringers. Unfortunately, just twenty years ago, the Painswick men had rung their peal, which was 216 changes longer than this one; and thus, by the want of correct information on the point, this arduous performance stands only second on the list of single-handed lengths, and by the lack of a few hundred changes its original purpose was entirely defeated. It is, indeed very hard to go so far, and yet not get to the top of the tree. The following are the particulars of this performance:—

Tablet in the belfry of All Saints', Fulham.—"To record an extraordinary performance by the young ringers of St. James's society, who on Whit-Monday, 15th of May, 1837, rung in this steeple, a true and complete peal of 12,096 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 7 hrs. and 50 minutes, being the greatest amount of changes ever performed by ten men only; the truth of which is attested by several of the ablest judges of the art, who witnessed the whole performance, and which can only be equalled by the same ability and persevering exertions.

The performers were:		
T. Tolladay, <i>Treble.</i>	Jos. Harrison, <i>Fourth.</i>	Rich. Turner, <i>Eighth.</i>
Jas. Rogers, <i>Second.</i>	Geo. Stockham, <i>Fifth.</i>	Jno. Bradley, <i>Ninth.</i>
Jno. Fairbairn, <i>Third.</i>	Chas. Randall, <i>Sixth.</i>	Rt. Burgess, <i>Tenor.</i>
	Geo. Clayton, <i>Seventh.</i>	

The peal was composed by T. Brooke, and conducted by T. Tolladay. The Revd. R. G. Baker, Vicar, Wm. Matyear, Wm. Hicker, Churchwardens."

On December 26th, 1877, a band of the Society of Cumberland Youths attempted to beat the Painswick peal, but after ringing 7 hrs. 35 mins. "stand" was called when 11,412 changes had been rung, as two bells had changed courses. Probably it was as well that the performance terminated in this manner, as additional chagrin would have awaited the performers had they rung the length they were going for, as on investigation the composition turned out to be false! All honour, nevertheless, to those who attempted the peal. "Tis better to have tried and lost than never to have tried at all," or, in other words, it is better to have lost a peal than never to have attempted one, or merely to have stayed at home and talked about what one *could* do.

On Christmas-eve last, the Birmingham St. Martin's Society met at Aston, at 8 a.m., to attempt a peal of 13,104 changes of Grandsire Caters, but owing to a funeral which was to take place during the day, there was not time enough to make the attempt. The company therefore started for a 6354, but had the misfortune to get out when only eight leads from the finish. The band, however, intend to attempt the 13 104 changes this day, Saturday, January 12th.

GRANDSIRE CINQUES.

In Cater ringing Grandsire is more than one thousand changes ahead of the length of any peal rung on the same number of bells on Stedman's principle; but on eleven bells, there does not seem

to have been so much rivalry in Grandsire ringing, and thus on this number of bells the facts are reversed; in late years Stedman has invariably been chosen for all great feats in Cinques. At an early period there seems to have been a good deal of rivalry in Grandsire Cinques, but as all the long peals then accomplished were rung with some of the bells double-handed, these contests have not the same interest in these days as some of the great performances in other methods. I will, now place before my readers the few facts I have been able to gather together concerning long peals of Grandsire Cinques.

On Tuesday, January 19th, 1724-5; the College Youths rang at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, 5060 Grandsire Cinques, being the first that ever was done; besides being the first peal ever rang on eleven bells, it is noteworthy as being also rung single-handed. Appended are particulars of this peal:—

Tablet in the belfry of St. Bride's, Fleet St.—"On Tuesday, the 19th of January, 1724, the Society of College Youths rung completely a peal of 5060 Grandsire Cinques, being ye first that ever was done. Ye persons that performed the same were as follows, viz. :—

Wm. Woodruff, 1;	Jno. Pearson, 5;	Wm. Jackson, 9;
Benjn. Annable, 2;	Robt. Catlin, 6;	P. Merrygarths, 10;
Edward Chadwell, 3;	Robt. Carter, 7;	Math. East, 11;
Jno. Ward, 4;	Wm. Thompson, 8;	Thos. Rowland, 12.

Abraham Goodwin, Aaron Jex, Churchwardens."

Of the three peals known to have been rung by the London Scholars, one is the peal of Grandsire Caters previously mentioned, the two others are Grandsire Cinques: it seems, therefore, that this Society must have comprised a very able body of ringers, and our limited knowledge of their doings probably deprives us of the particulars of many interesting performances during these early days. I am inclined to think that the London Scholars were the ringers connected with St. Martin-in-the-Fields, as they rang the opening peal at that church. The building was consecrated on October 26th, 1726, when an item for the entertainment of the ringers appears in the churchwardens' accounts; on March 14th, 1727, the London Scholars rang a peal of 6006 Grandsire Cinques, the first peal on the bells. I also imagine that they kept the bells to themselves until they had accomplished the first peal, because, on the day following, the College Youths rang 6314 of Grandsire Cinques, "the longest that had been rung at that time." The following records give the details of these two performances:—

Tablet in the belfry of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.—"Thursday, March 14th, 1727, the Society of London Scholars rung in this steeple, the first compleat peal of six thousand and six:—

Wm. James, 1;	Fras. Billtop, 5;	Robt. Powell, 9;
Wm. Underwood, 2;	Fras. Preston, 6;	Wm. Gordon, 10;
Jos. Wintitt, 3;	Mich. Shott, 7;	Lant. Bland, 11;
Wm. Rendall, 4;	Tho. Warburton, 8;	Wm. Saunders,
		Wm. Price, 12."

From the College Youths' Records.—"St. Martin's-in-the-Field. The company rung on Friday, March 15, 1727, a complete peal of 6314 Grandsire Cinques, being the longest that was rung:—

Wm. Woodrove, 1;	Wm. Laughton, 5;	Jno. Edwards, 9;
Robert Catlin, 2;	Wm. Thompson, 6;	P. Merrygarths, 10;
James Richardson, 3;	Wm. Jackson, 7;	Benjm. Annable, 11;
John Dearmor, 4;	Saml. Jeacocke, 8;	John Trenell and
		Andrew Milham, 12.

Mr. B. Annable called bobs."

It is pleasing to see from the foregoing records that at this time, whatever may have been the rivalry between these two societies, it was confined to a wish to supplant each others performances, and that when one company had the privilege of admission to a steeple, that its rights were not exercised to the exclusion of others from the bells. This fact may also be gathered from the following extract from *Foy's Journal* for Saturday, November 15th, 1729:—

"London, Nov. 15, 1729.—Yesterday 7night at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the Society of ringers called the College Youths, rung a 5000 changes in 4 hours and 8 minutes, and on Monday last the London Scholars began to ring the changes on the same bells at 55

minutes after XI. in the forenoon, and continued ringing until 5 minutes after 3 in the afternoon, in which time they rung 4200 changes."

Here it would seem that the College Youths had the place of honour, but the fact is gathered that when either Society could not be the first to ring a peal on the bells that they were contented to take their turn, and did not hold themselves aloof altogether. The above extract is interesting, as it furnishes the time in which the College Youths rang their peal, which, by the way, was one of 5126 changes, and is entered in the Society's books as 'the first that was done in that steeple'; it also affords another record of the doings of the London Scholars, but although the performance was not completed, we may gather their intentions from the fact that the only other known achievement of the Society is a peal of 6204 Grandsire Cinques, rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on November 27th in the same year, that is, a little more than a fortnight after this unsuccessful attempt. The further doings of this Society form a matter for contemplation, as perhaps they may have in some way been the incentive to the next performances I shall mention, and particulars of which are given below. These are two peals rung by the College Youths, one at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the other at St. Saviour's, Southwark. The former, which was accomplished on February 14th, 1731, was 7018, "the longest peal that had been rung on twelve bells at that time;" and the latter, which was also the longest at that time, and has not yet been exceeded in Grandsire Cinques, was 8008 changes, rung on December 15th, 1735, and is supposed to be the first peal rung on that mighty ring of twelve. These peals were, however, both rung double-handed. It will be seen from the appended details that they were both called by Benjamin Annable, as indeed was also the 6314 at St. Martin's; he also rang in all the peals by the College Youths that have been mentioned.

From the College Youths' Records.—"St. Michael's, Cornhill, London. The Company rung on Monday, Feb. 14th, 1731, a complete peal of 7018 Grandsire Cinques, being the longest that ever was done, and in 5 hours and 19 minutes it was completed:—

Wm. Pickard, treble;	Anthony Goodwin, 6;	Jno. Trenell, 10;
Jno. Hayward, 2;	Jno. Ward, 7;	Jno. Cundell, 11;
James Richardson, 3;	Richd. Spicer, 8;	B. Annable call'd bobs
Jno. Dearmor, 4;	Saml. Jeacocke, 9;	Matthew East, and
Wm. Laughton, 5;		William Coster, 12,"

From the College Youths' Records.—"St. Saviour's, Southwark. The Company rung on Monday, Dec. 15, 1735, a complete peal of 8008 Grandsire Cinques, being the longest peal that has ever been done on 12 bells, and in 6 hours and 25 minutes it was performed:—

William Pickard, 1;	Samuel Jeacocke, 6;	Benjamin Annable, 10;
Samuel Lee, 2;	John Ward, 7;	John Cundell, 11;
John Dearmor, 3;	John Trenell, 8;	Richard Spicer,
James Watson, 4;	George Elton Hill, 9;	Matthew East, and
Robert Mobbs, 5;		R. Wendleborough, 12.

Mr. Benjamin Annable call'd bobs."

As Grandsire Cinques has not promoted the competition remarkable in many other systems, the honour of having rung the longest length by twelve men has fallen, and seems as if it will long remain, in the hands of the St. James's Society, as the 7325 rung by that company on October 26th, 1837, at St. Martin's, has not yet been surpassed. The particulars of this peal are given below, it was composed by Thos. Brook, the composer of the 12,096 of Grandsire Caters rung at Fulham in the same year.

Tablet in the Belfry of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.—"On Monday, Oct. 26th, 1837, was rung in this steeple by the Society of St. James's Youths, a true and complete peal of Grandsire Cinques, containing 7325 changes, in 5 hours and 35 minutes, which was executed in a masterly manner by the following persons:—

J. Fairbairn, 1;	H. Burwash, 5;	T. Clayton, 9;
C. Clay, 2;	R. Turner, 6;	C. Wilson, 10;
J. Mash, 3;	J. Harrison, 7;	H. Smith, 11;
T. Tolladay, 4;	G. Stockham, 8;	A. Frost, 12.

Conducted by Mr. Thos. Tolladay.

J. Smith, Esq., R. Cuff, Esq., Churchwardens."

THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, EASTBOURNE.

THE Annual Dinner of this society was recently held at "The Star" inn, Eastbourne, the Rev. R. S. Woodward, hon. president of the society, in the chair, and Mr. Wood, hon. vice-president, in the vice-chair, supported by the Churchwardens, Messrs. A. Hurst and G. Homewood, Rev. A. Pridgeon (vicar of Steyning), Councillors Pocock and Coster, and a large number of the members of the society.

After full justice had been done to an ample spread, provided in his usual good style by Host Spooner, the CHAIRMAN gave "The Queen" in loyal terms.

Mr. H. BENNETT proposed "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," and said no body of men would receive this toast more heartily than the ringers of St. Mary's, particularly when he coupled it with the name of their respected President, the Rev. R. S. Woodward. The manner in which he had furthered the interests of the Society by becoming their President and the countenance and assistance of the clergy had always borne fruit. He had no hesitation in stating that the ringing in St. Mary's Church this Christmas had never been surpassed in Eastbourne. As one of the oldest members and ringers he felt able to give an opinion, and he was extremely pleased to say that the manner in which the young members had acquitted themselves gave them the greatest credit, and he had no hesitation in saying that in the course of two or three months, the St. Mary's Change-Ringing Society would be second to none in Sussex.

The Rev. R. S. Woodward, in replying, stated that it gave him very great pleasure to meet the ringers. There was a time when the tower was separated from the church, but he trusted now they were united they would never again be severed, and that the clergy and ringers would always work together hand in hand. He felt very proud of the position they had placed him in as President of the Society, and as long as he lived with them he would do his best to promote the interests of the Society.

The Rev. A. PRIDGEON proposed "Success to the St. Mary's Change-Ringing Society," and said what pleasure it gave him to be present again amongst his old friends, and he felt it a great honour to propose the toast of the evening. He referred in warm terms to the benefit it was to the society to have the assistance and interest of Mr. Woodward, and he felt sure, with his help, the society would be progressive, conducted in the way which he had known it while curate of St. Mary's. In conclusion, he invited the ringers to Steyning next summer.

Mr. S. HURST (secretary) replied in brief and appropriate terms, and stated that the ringing was now as good as it had ever been during the last twenty years.

Mr. L. HUGGETT, in proposing "The Health of the Churchwardens," referred to the constant support the ringers had always received from Mr. Hurst. Mr. Homewood had only lately come among them, but he felt sure he would give the ringers his assistance.

Mr. HURST thanked the company for the extremely kind way in which they had received the toast, and congratulated the society on the way in which it was now supported, and he assured them as long as he was churchwarden he would do all he possibly could to help them.

Mr. G. HOMEWOOD also responded, and said he should have great pleasure in presenting a clock for the belfry, in order that on Sundays the bell might be tolled punctually five minutes before the service commenced.

Mr. WELSH, in very flattering terms, proposed "The Health of their Vice-president, Mr. Wood," and congratulated the society in having that gentleman as a member, as from the interest he always took in matters with which he was connected, he felt sure that the society would benefit by his services.

Mr. Wood briefly responded, and shortly afterwards the members adjourned to the belfry.

ST. ALBAN'S, HERTS.

ON Tuesday evening, January 1st, a meeting was held in the Parish Room, St. Alban's, for the formation of a change-ringing society for St. Alban's Cathedral. The Rector (Ven. Archdeacon Lawrence), supported by the Rev. T. B. Gibbons, presided. Mr. N. N. Hills was appointed conductor, and Messrs. E. Hules and H. L. Waddington were elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively.

Although the Society has only just now been formed, the ringers have, under the instruction of Mr. Hills, been making progress in the art of Change-ringing for the past few months, and hope soon to report something to "THE BELL NEWS."

On Thursday, January 3rd, Archdeacon Lawrence entertained the choir and newly-formed company of ringers at supper, when a very enjoyable evening was spent.

ERRATUM.—The time of the Hughenden peal, given in our last should be 2 hrs. 55 mins.

CAVENDISH, SUFFOLK.—ANNIVERSARY DINNER.

A very pleasant gathering of the members of the Cavendish Society and their friends took place on January 1st, at the "Bells Inn," Cavendish, the occasion being the second anniversary of the formation of the Society. A good number of ringers and their friends sat down to a good and substantial repast, provided by the landlord, a member of the Society.

From the Master's speech it will be seen that a fair amount of work has been done by the members during the past year, one hundred 720's in ten different methods having been rung as follows: Oxford Treble Bob, 33; Kent Treble Bob, 14; Cambridge Surprise, 10; New London Pleasure, 9; Plain Bob, 10; Double Oxford, 9; Double Court, 6; Duke of York, 7; College Exercise, 1; and Woodbine, 1. The practical members of the Society are few, and this fact, coupled with such unforeseen circumstances as illness and personal engagements, has prevented the members from going into more methods. One feat deserves special mention, viz: the peal of 5040 changes in seven different methods, which was rung in March last. A good deal of work has been done by several of the members in connection with the Glemsford Society, at long Melford, where three peals of Treble Bob Major have been rung during the year, one of which, a 7008, is the longest length of Treble Bob which has been rung there.

The chair, at the dinner, was taken by the Master, Mr. Alexander Hurst, of Cavendish Grammar School, who was supported by Mr. Edgar Ambrose, and Mr. C. E. Hammond, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. H. Clark, churchwarden, supported by Mr. B. H. Hurst, and the Secretary, Mr. F. J. Thompson.

Due justice having been done to the dinner, the cloth was removed and the toast of the "Queen and Royal Family," given from the chair, was duly honoured.

The next toast, that of the "Rector and Churchwardens," was given by the Chairman, and responded to by Mr. H. Clark.

"Success to the Cavendish Society of Change-ringers," was then proposed by Mr. B. H. Hurst, who said that he had much pleasure in proposing what was, emphatically, the toast of the evening. At the same time, he felt a considerable amount of diffidence in so doing, owing to his ignorance of the art of change-ringing. But though unable to participate in the efforts of the Society to any great degree, yet he had a keen appreciation of the beautiful music uttered by the bells. He would remark how the poet, in all ages, has taught us to hear their melody aright, and to interpret it truly. He concluded by saying that they, in Cavendish, ought to consider themselves fortunate in possessing, not only a fine peal of bells, but also such able exponents of the art of change-ringing as they had, and called upon Mr. Harry Thompson, as one of the oldest representatives of the ringing talent of the village, and Mr. J. S. Page, as representative of the rising generation of ringers, to respond.

Mr. H. Thompson briefly acknowledged the graceful tribute Mr. Hurst had been pleased to pay the members of the Society, and expressed regret that there was not a greater gathering of ringers on an occasion like the present one.

Mr. PAGE also responded, and proposed in felicitous terms, "The Health of the Master, Mr. Alexander Hurst, referring to the great pleasure it always gave them all to see him on his "tenor-block" in the tower. The toast was drunk with musical honours.

The MASTER, in response, said his heartfelt thanks were due to the company for receiving the toast of his health in such a manner. The great enthusiasm he had for change-ringing, which had led him to go some way into the beautiful science of it, and qualify himself as a conductor, was no doubt the cause of his occupying such a proud position in the Cavendish Society of Change-Ringers. In briefly reviewing the work of the Society during the past year, he regretted very much that illness and other unforeseen circumstances had prevented the company from doing as much as, at the beginning of the year, he had hoped. Yet he had great pleasure in stating, that 100 complete 720's had been rung at Cavendish during 1883, in every one of which, he himself had taken a rope. Their greatest feat of the year was the ringing of a peal of 5040 changes in seven different methods; to record which a tablet had been placed in the belfry of St. Mary's, as a memento of the energy the young ringers had displayed in their practice of change-ringing. During the past year, he rejoiced to say, a ringers' Association had been formed for the diocese of Ely, which was a step in the right direction. The immense good these Diocesan and other Associations had done in different parts of the country was very plain to all who were interested enough in change-ringing to take "THE BELL NEWS." He would remind them of the time when gentlemen of distinction were the chief exponents of their grand art, and felt sure that true-hearted ringers of the present day would not rest content until change-ringing again occupied the position of eminence from which it has, through various causes and abuses, fallen, and for this reason he himself greatly rejoiced at the formation of the Ely Diocesan Association. Its powerful influence would, doubtless, soon be felt at those towers in the Diocese where the great wave of belfry reform had not yet reached, and where the

belfries and the approaches thereto look more like pig-sties, with their fifty years or more accumulation of dirt and rubbish, than what they ought to be, viz:—as clean and neat as any other portion of the sacred edifice. The status of the ringer as a church official was now recognized as being analogous to that of a member of the choir, and as a body of church officials, it became the duty of the church going parishioners to support the Society. He would impress upon them, the view taken by the change-ringing community and the clergy, "that what the choir and organ are to the congregation in the church, the ringers and bells are to the parish at large." In conclusion, he would remind them that this was in all probability the last time he should have the pleasure of presiding at the Cavendish Society's dinner, yet he trusted that as the Society began, so might it go on in the future, and he sincerely hoped that, at no distant date, strong efforts would be made to increase their peal to eight, and thus offer a wider scope for the fuller development of the talent of the Cavendish change-ringers, besides other obvious reasons too well known to all lovers of bell-ringing to need further explanation.

The toast of "The Host," and "The Visitors," brought the proceedings to a termination, the company separating after singing "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem. Several touches on the handbells were given by the ringers at intervals during the evening, and several songs sung, which were accompanied on the harmonium by Mr. Charles W. Hurst.

In Memoriam.

JAMES DIXON.

It is our painful duty to have to record the death of one of the oldest ringers in South Lincolnshire, Mr. James Dixon, late of St. Martin's, Stamford, which took place at Langwith, Nottinghamshire, on Sunday, December 23rd, 1883, at the advanced age of eighty-four. Mr. Dixon was for upwards of half-a-century connected with the Stamford bell-ringers' society, and for many years held the position of parish clerk at St. Mary's and St. Martin's churches, succeeding to the latter at the death of his father, who had held the office for nearly forty-five years. The deceased gentleman was well-known and highly respected amongst the change-ringers of Lincoln and Northamptonshire, and he assisted in composing a peal which is called Dixon's variation peal of Bob Minor, and which is still rung and highly prized by the ringers of South Lincolnshire, on account of the number of calls the peal contains.

The funeral took place on Thursday, December 27th, the mortal remains being interred in the parish churchyard of St. Martin's, Stamford, the burial service being read by the Rev. A. R. Webster, curate in charge of St. Martin's. The coffin was covered with splendid wreaths of flowers sent by friends of the deceased. In the evening the Stamford ringers rang a muffled peal on the six bells at St. Martin's, as a last token of respect to the deceased gentleman.

THE LATE MR. THOMAS BRITTEN.—The demise of this lamented gentleman (reported in our issue of last week) has caused such universal sorrow among those who were his contemporaries a generation ago, that we cannot refrain from again alluding to it. If many societies had had the good fortune to have among their members a continual supply of men possessing the same kind, unobtrusive, and conciliatory manner of their departed brother, we should hear less of those unhealthy excrescences of animosity and ill-feeling which now and then unfortunately become apparent. Mr. Britten was a fair specimen of that class of ringer who "keep their eyes and ears open, and their mouth closed," and many could be mentioned who would do well to closely adhere to and strive to copy such an example. We mentioned last week that the Abbey bells were rung muffled on the day of the funeral, and that Mr. Pettit was present from London. With their usual courtesy to visitors, the Waltham Abbey company invited that gentleman to call a touch, but he wisely declined on this occasion, pointing out that Mr. T. Powell, who had been so closely connected with Mr. Britten for more than thirty years, ringing several peals with him, was the local bob-caller, and that it would be the proper thing for him to conduct the whole of the ringing that day, which he did. A touch of 336 of Grandsire Triples was rung, also a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples by J. Pettit, 1; G. Thurgood, 2; E. Wallage, 3; W. A. Alps, 4; D. Tarling, 5; P. Cleverley, 6; T. Powell (conductor), 7; T. Colverd, 8. In another column will be found an account of muffled ringing at St. Michael's, Cornhill, and in the Treble-twelve and Stedman Cinques rung upon that occasion, an old brother-string of the deceased—Mr. James Dwight, took part.

We must again ask for the indulgent forbearance of our friends the publication of whose contributions are again postponed. We hope to be able to clear up all arrears next week.

"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.

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

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 1884.

The Provinces.

RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1883, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON 6 BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:

OXFORD TREBLE BOB; YORKSHIRE COURT BOB; COLLEGE LITTLE;
 OXFORD BOB; COLLEGE SINGLE; PLAIN BOB; LONDON SINGLE.

Tenor 20 cwt.

ARCHIBALD COLES Treble.	FRED GILBERT 4.
WILLIAM J. GILBERT 2.	JOHN WILLMOTT 5.
RICHARD PENDERED 3.	HENRY STUBBS Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY STUBBS.

CUCKFIELD, SUSSEX.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1883, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

ARTHUR WALLIS Treble.	GEORGE POTTER 5.
THOMAS BONIFACE 2.	WILLIAM WEBB 6.
JOHN BURKIN 3.	EDGAR KENWARD 7.
WILLIAM BURKIN 4.	JOHN BALCOMBE Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM BURKIN.

Messrs. Webb and Kenward are members of the Reigate Society; the rest hail from Bleckingley, Surrey. It is forty-one years since a peal was rung on these bells.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRANDESTON, SUFFOLK.

On Sunday, December 30, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON 6 BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:

DOUBLE COURT BOB; OXFORD TREBLE BOB; KENT TREBLE BOB;
 COLLEGE SINGLE;
 OXFORD BOB; CANTERBURY PLEASURE; BOB MINOR.

P. MEADOWS Treble.	A. S. WIGHTMAN 4.
D. G. WIGHTMAN 2.	G. WICKS 5.
H. BEDINGFIELD 3.	S. WIGHTMAN Tenor.

Conducted by S. WIGHTMAN.

CARSHALTON, SURREY.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 2, 1883, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

CHARLES BANCE Treble.	JAMES HARRIS 5.
JOHN BRANCH* 2.	JOHN PLOWMAN 6.
EDGAR BENNETT 3.	JAMES CAWLEY 7.
JAMES TRAPPITT 4.	CHARLES GORDON Tenor.

Composed by H. HALEY, SEN., conducted by EDGAR BENNETT.

*First peal in the method.

The above are all members of the Beddington branch of the above Societies, and the peal was rung as a new year's complement to its composer.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.—THE HYDE SOCIETY.

On Thursday, January 3, 1884, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

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

Composed by H. HUBBARD, and conducted by SAMUEL BENNETT.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—BURFORD, OXON.

On Thursday, January 3, 1884, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

T. BROWN, ESQ Treble.	W. LARGE 5.
J. FIELD 2.	J. SMITH 6.
T. E. GLANVILLE 3.	D. FRANCIS 7.
F. E. WARD 4.	W. LAUNCHBURY Tenor.

Conducted by J. FIELD.

This is the first peal by any members of the Burford ringers, and speaks well for their perseverance, as only two years ago nothing was known of the "Art of Ringing" at Burford.

CALVERLEY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 5, 1884, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT ST. WILFRED'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 11 cwt.

HERBERT ROBINSON Treble.	WILLIAM WILKS 5.
HENRY ODDY 2.	WILLIAM HOLLINGS 6.
EZRA KEIGHLEY 3.	GEORGE BOLLAND 7.
WILLIAM BOLLAND 4.	JOHN HALEY Tenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and conducted by GEORGE BOLLAND.

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

On Tuesday, January 8, 1884, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

ALFRED TAYLOR Treble.	WM. SOUTHWICK 5.
CHAS. JACKSON 2.	JAS. DIXEY 6.
HARRY CUTTER 3.	CHAS. BENNETT 7.
HENRY JENKINS 4.	FRANK DRABBLE Tenor.

Composed by JOHN F. PENNING, conducted by CHARLES JACKSON.

The peal will be found on page 477 of "The Bell News"

DEWSBURY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 5, 1884, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14½ cwt.

JAMES BARRACLOUGH.. .. Treble.	ROWLAND HILL.. .. 5.
JOHN GREEN HARDY 2.	CHARLES CLEGG 6.
TOM HAIGH 3.	JOSEPH PICKERING 7.
THOMAS STEAD 4.	JASPER W. SNOWDON, Esq. Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and conducted by J. W. SNOWDON.

This peal is the reverse of the last peal in "The Bell News" for March, 1882, p. 107.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

LONG CRENDON, BUCKS.

On Sunday, December 30, 1883, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM WAKELIN Treble.	THOMAS PAYNE.. .. 5.
SYDNEY J. BUCKLE 2.	WILLIAM WASHBROOK 6.
GEORGE LAPWORTH 3.	GEORGE WARNER 7.
CHARLES HOUNSLOW.. .. 4.	MATTHEW WARNER, } Tenor.
	JOHN WARNER, }

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

This is the first peal by Mr. W. Wakelin, he having not previously handled a bell in Triples.

Date Touches.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Wednesday evening, January 2nd, eight members of the local society met for practice and rang a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, 1884 changes, in 1 hr. 15 mins. William Grice, 1; Samuel Clarke, 2; John Chas. Dickens, 3; Frederic Wm. Wells, 4; John Ward, 5; William Gilson, 6; Arthur Widdowson, 7; Joseph Barrow (conductor), 8. Composed by Mr. John Hollis, of Wakefield, Yorks. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Tuesday, January 1st, a date touch of 1884 changes in the following methods: 84 of College Single, 360 of Oxford Treble Bob, 360 of Plain Bob, 360 of London Single, 720 of Oxford Bob, in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. Wilson, 1; J. S. Wright, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman (conductor), 4; A. Brown, 5; J. Brown, 6.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—*Muffled Peal*.—On Friday evening, January 4th, twelve members of the above society rang at St. Michael's, Cornhill, a deeply muffled peal in memory of the late Mr. Thomas Britten, of Waltham Abbey, who was one of the oldest of its members, and at one time one of the most prominent. The customary peal denoting the age of the deceased gentleman was rung. H. W. Haley (conductor), 1; J. W. Rowbotham, 2; W. Cooter, 3; J. Pettit, 4; R. Haworth, 5; R. Jameson, 6; G. Dorrington, 7; C. F. Winny, 8; G. Mash, 9; W. Jones, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; E. Horrex, 12. After which, three leads of Kent Treble Bob Maximus and two courses of Stedman Cinques.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Christmas Day, at St. Stephen's church, an attempt was made by several members of the above society to ring a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, but owing to the interruption of a stranger in the ringing-chamber the peal was lost, after having rung 1890 changes, in 1 hr. Robert Richardson, 1; Edward Pyle, 2; Ernest W. Scott, 3; Frances Ord, 4; Thomas Denton, 5; Edward Wallis (conductor), 6; Sengent P. Power, 7; George W. Stobart, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. Also on Sunday, January 6th, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, for Divine Service in the evening, 720 of Bob Minor in 28 mins. Fred. Sneath, 1; Francis Lees, 2; C. L. Routledge, 3; T. J. des Forges, 4; W. Story (conductor), 5; George Herdman, 6. Also on Monday, January 7th, for practice, 720 of College Pleasure in 28 mins. W. Egglestone, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; F. Lees, 3; T. J.

des Forges, 4; W. Story, 5; R. S. Story (conductor), 6. First 720 in this method by T. J. des Forges. Also a 720 of Bob Minor in 27 mins. F. Sneath, 1; R. S. Story, 2; F. Lees, 3; T. J. des Forges, 4; W. Story (conductor), 5; W. Egglestone, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Saturday, January 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor. F. Bumpstead, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; *A. Chaplin (Stisted), 3; H. E. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; S. Hammond (conductor), 6. *First 720 on a bob bell. Also a 720 of College Exercise. F. Bumpstead, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; H. E. Hammond, 3; W. Dyson, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; S. Hammond (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Christmas day, December 25th, 1883, at St. Martin's church, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Plain Bob (with eighteen bobs and two singles). William Post, jun., 1; David Hodgkin, 2; Edward Hyder, 3; Thomas Hodgkin, 4; William Hyder (conductor), 5; Philip Hodgkin, 6. Also on Thursday, December 27th, 720 in the same method (with eighteen singles and three bobs). W. Post, jun., 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; E. Hyder, 3; T. Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder, 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. Also on December 31st, New-year's Eve, another 720 Bob Minor (with twelve bobs and twenty-two singles). Charles Slingsby, 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; Thomas Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder, 5; William Post, sen., 6. Also on January 3rd, 720 Plain Bob Minor (with fourteen singles and four bobs), in 27 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; Fred Wanstall, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder, 5; Philip Hodgkin, 6. Tenor, 14 cwt. in G. All the above were conducted by W. Hyder. During the year 1883 the Aldington branch have rung twenty-four 720's, thirty-four 360's, and six 240's, making a total of 30,960 changes.

MAIDSTONE (Kent).—On Sunday, December 30th, for Divine Service in the evening at All Saints' church, the local company rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. George Pawley, 1; Jesse Constable, 2; Jabez Horton, 3; Reuben Simmonds, 4; James Fergusson, 5; Alfred Woolley (conductor), 6. On Thursday evening, January 3rd, the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen visited All Saints', and with the local company rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. R. Simmonds, 1; E. Elliott, 2; Harry Pearce, 3; Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, 4; J. Fergusson, 5; A. Woolley (conductor), 6. Also two touches of Grandsire Triples. W. Mercer, 1; Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, 2; R. Simmonds, 3; J. Horton, 4; E. Elliott, 5; A. H. Woolley, 6; Harry Pearce (conductor), 7; J. Fergusson, 8. Tenor 31 cwt.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DISS (Norfolk).—On Christmas morning, at St. Mary's church, this branch of the above Association rang a 1200 of Bob Major, in 48 mins. C. Webster, 1; J. Rudd, 2; W. Scales, 3; B. Francis, 4; T. Ford, 5; T. Clarke, 6; W. Ireland, 7; W. Brown, 8. Also a 504 of Grandsire Triples. The New Year was also ushered in with a 1036 of Grandsire Triples, W. Brown ringing the 6th, and E. Hayward the tenor. Conducted by W. Ireland. Tenor 24 cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

DRAYTON (Berks).—On Monday, January 7th, the following members of the above Guild rang at St. Peter's church a quarter-peal of College Single Triples, 1260 changes. E. Robinson, 1; E. Holfield, 2; B. Barrett, 3; W. Bennett, 4; J. Avery, 5; G. Holfield (composer and conductor), 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; H. Woodwards, 8. Tenor 9½ cwt.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Monday evening, December 31st, for Divine Service, 360 of Stedman Doubles, and 360 of Bob Minor. After service, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 26 mins. J. Parker, 1; F. Fells, 2; W. Fussell, 3; A. Batten, 3; J. Basden, 5; C. Clarke, 6. Also 360 of Oxford Treble Bob. The old year was rung out with 360 of Canterbury Pleasure, and the New Year was ushered in with a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. C. Chapman, 1; W. Fussell, 2; J. Basden, 3; A. Batten, 4; J. Parker (conductor), 5. C. Clarke, 6.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Saturday, January 5th, eight members of the Chesterfield and Staveley branches of the above Association attempted Reeves's peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 3800 changes in 2 hrs. 25 mins., a mishap occurred which brought the peal to grief. H. Madin, 1; W. Worthington, 2; G. Toplis, 3; A. Knights (conductor), 4; D. Farthing, 5; H. Nuttall, junr., 6; J. Hunt, 7; H. Mottershall, 8. Tenor 24½ cwt. in Eb.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

NOTTINGHAM.—On Thursday evening, December 27th, 1883, at St. Peter's church, it being the weekly practice night, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, was rung by the local society, it

being the 32nd birthday of Mr. A. R. Peet, one of them, in 47 mins. A. Archer, 1; S. Wilkins, 2; S. Simpkin, 3; S. Burton, 4; A. R. Peet, 5; W. Birkinshaw, 6; J. Hickman (conductor), 7; A. W. Sadler, 2. Tenor 21 cwt. And on Saturday afternoon, January 5th, 1884, the following members of this Association, with the assistance of Mr. W. Gosling, of Mansfield, rang at All Saints' church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 45 mins. J. Wiberley, 1; S. Wilkins, 2; H. W. Abbott, 3; A. Archer, 4; W. Gosling, 5; W. Birkinshaw, 6; J. Hickman (conductor), 7; A. R. Peet, 8. Tenor 17 cwt.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

WOLSTANTON.—On Christmas-day, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25½ mins. S. Walker, 1; L. Miller, 2; W. Miller, 3; W. Priestman, 4; A. Walker, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. The above is the first in the method by members of the Association, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, the first in the method, rung on February 27th, by the same company being incorrectly inserted as Oxford Treble Bob.

NORTON-LE-MOORS (Staffordshire).—On New Year's Eve, Monday, December 31st, 1883, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 28 mins. W. Holdcroft, 1; E. Glover, 2; J. Morton, 3; W. Brough, 4; G. Walker, (conductor), 5; James Baddeley, 6. Also in the first hour of 1884, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. Arthur Holdcroft (his first 720), 1; E. Glover, 2; J. Morton, 3; W. Brough, 4; G. Walker, 5; James Baddeley (conductor), 6.

TUNSTALL (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, December 23rd, 1883, ten 6-scores, five with the 3rd and five with the 5th the observation, making a total of 1200 changes, in 50 mins. George Gee, sen. (conductor), 1; George Gee, jun., 2; E. Horn, 3; Wm. Gee, 4; W. Saunders, 5; R. Miller, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

THE WORCESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 30th, six members of the St. Andrew's society, Netherton, and members of the above Association, rang at the above church for practice 720 of Grandsire Minor in 28 mins. B. Townsend, 1; F. Hotchkiss, 2; J. Townsend, 3; R. Round, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. Also for Divine Service in the morning, 720 Plain Bob in 27 mins. B. Townsend, 1; R. Round, 2; J. Townsend, 3; J. Robinson, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (composer and conductor), 6. Also for Divine Service in the evening, with the same band, a date touch of 1883 changes, in 1 hr. 8 mins., the touch contained 803 changes of Grandsire Minor and 1080 of Plain Bob. It was composed and conducted by J. Smith. Tenor 12½ cwt. The above was rung with the bells half-muffled, it being the tenth anniversary of the donor of the bells (the late Mrs. Blanche Skedmore), and in commemoration of the opening of a new reredos which has been placed in the chancel of the church to her memory by her son, H. P. Skedmore. The tenor bell bears the following inscription: "This peal of six bells were presented by B. S., as a late thank-offering to God for many mercies. J. J. Slade, Vicar, M.A."

ABINGDON (Berks).—On Sunday, December 16th, for Divine Service in the morning at St. Nicholas Church, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 29 mins. William Stroud, 1; Harry Holfield, 2; William Sandell, 3; John Brown, 4; Richard Giddings (conductor), 5; James Smart, 6.

BRENTWOOD (Essex).—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Saturday evening, upon handbells, the Brentwood society, with A. J. Perkins, of Romford, and Mr. Galley of Brentwood, rang 97, 140, 153, 168, 223, and 307 changes of Grandsire Triples. A. Haywood, 1; R. Gouldstone, 2; J. Mountford, 3; W. J. Aldridge, 4; A. J. Perkins, 5-6; W. Larkin, 7-8. Also several 6-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, and touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire Minor. Brentwood possesses one of the most magnificent churches in the county, it being only recently built, the tower is not yet finished. We understand that there is to be a peal of ten bells erected in the tower, as soon as possible, and that £1000 has already been given for this purpose.

BRIERLEY HILL.—*Muffled Peal*.—On Sunday morning, January 6th, two 6-scores of Bob Doubles, with the bells muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mr. H. Weaver, of Clent, formerly of Brierley Hill, and churchwarden of the church for upwards of 20 years. S. Morton, 1; A. Whatmore (conductor), 2; D. Garbett, 3; R. Perkins, 4; T. Allden, 5; A. Beddall, 6.

CRAYFORD (Kent).—On Monday evening, December 31st, being New Year's Eve, eight of the local company met and rung a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, from Holt's Original, in the last forty-five minutes of the Old Year. Also to welcome the New Year, a few good touches of Grandsire Triples. E. Saxby, 1; F. French, 2; G. Conyard, 3; C. Hammant, 4; F. M. Jacobs, 5; A. Coles, 6; J. Saxby, 7; T. Webb, 8. Tenor 12½ cwt.

EASTBOURNE (Sussex).—On Christmas Eve, at St. Mary's church a 504 of Grandsire Triples. Also on Saturday, December 29th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. S. Hart, 1; *T. Hunnesett, 2; H. Bennett (conductor), 3; L. Huggett, 4; *F. Harding, 5; J. Potter, 6; T. Hart, 7; *J. Andrews, 8. *First quarter-peal. The Old Year was rung out and the New Year in with a 560 of Grandsire Triples, J. Rolinson ringing the tenor, the rest of the band as before, and was conducted by L. Huggett. Also for church service, several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles have been rung with 7 6 8 behind, and several long touches were rung on New Year's Day.

EXETER.—On Christmas evening, eight members of the St. Sidwell's Society, rang at St. Sidwell's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, the striking being excellent throughout. Frank Shepherd, 1; Sydney Herbert, 2; H. Swift, 3; Alfred Shepherd, 4; Geo. Townsend, 5; Edwin Shepherd, 6; Ferris Shepherd (conductor), 7; Tom Townsend, 8.

HAMPSTEAD (Middlesex).—On Sunday, December 16th, at St. Stephen's church, for Divine Service in the morning, the local company assisted by F. Were, of Willesden, rang a 546 of Grandsire Triples, in 22 mins. S. Clark, 1; J. Combe, 2; B. Payne, 3; F. Were, 4; W. Pryor (conductor), 5; C. Deal, 6; B. Foksett, 7; W. Arscott, 8. And on Tuesday, December 18th, for practice, the same touch in 21 mins. A start was also made for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing about 800 changes it came to grief, through some persons entering the ringing room, W. Pryor conducting. On Sunday, December 30th, for Divine Service in the evening, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 21 mins. S. Clark, 1; J. Combe, 2; B. Foksett, 3; C. Deal, 4; H. Tylor, 5; N. Alderman (conductor), 6; E. Chapman, 7; W. Arscott, 8.

KINGSTEAD (Northamptonshire).—On Saturday, December 29th, six of the St. Peter's company, Raunds, rang at St. Mary's church, a 720 of London Single, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 24 mins. G. Kirk, 1; H. Stubbs, 2; J. Willmott, 3; F. Gilbert, 4; W. Hall, 5; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, with nine bobs, in 24½ mins. G. Kirk, 1; F. Gilbert, 2; W. J. Gilbert, 3; W. Hall, 4; J. Willmott, 5; H. Stubbs (conductor), 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

LIVERPOOL.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Boxing-day, December 26th, 1883, the members of the St. Luke's Society met for practice and rang on handbells retained in hand, upwards of 2000 changes of Grandsire Caters, time not permitting of any more, owing to the mid-day service. T. Beacall, 1-2; R. S. Mann, 3-4; J. Aspinwall (conductor), 5-6; J. R. Pritchard, 7-8; J. Davidson, 9-10. Also for service on the tower bells 504 Stedman Triples. T. Beacall (conductor), 1; R. S. Mann, 2; J. Davidson, 3; F. W. Moore, 4; R. Brannagan, 5; J. Aspinwall, 6; J. R. Pritchard, 7; R. Gowans, 8.

LLANFRECHFA (Monmouthshire).—On Sunday, December 23rd, at All Saints' church, the following company rang their first 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. — Powell, jun., 1; J. James, 2; — Powell, sen., 3; A. Harris, 4; J. Brown (conductor), 5; A. Ford, 6. Tenor 7½ cwt. in Bb. This is the first time half-pull changes have been rang on these bells, which were cast in 1863.

MILDENHALL (Suffolk).—On Christmas morning, the local company rang two 720's of Plain Bob Minor, the first with eighteen bobs and eighteen singles, the second with forty-two singles, in 50 mins. George Sharpe, 1; Henry Turner, 2; Isaac Carpenter, 3; George Turner, 4; Robert Taylor, 5; George Flatt (conductor), 6.

REIGATE (Surrey).—On Christmas-day, eight members of the Reigate Society rang at the parish church, the first half of Reeves' variation of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 34 mins. E. Dewey, 1; F. T. Hoad (conductor), 2; W. Bone, 3; T. Fuller, 4; W. Argent, 5; E. Kenward, 6; W. Webb, 7; J. Howard, 8. Tenor 21 cwt.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Sunday evening, December 30th, after evening service, a 720 of Bob Minor, with twenty-two singles, in 29 mins. J. Porter, 1; G. Garnett, 2; B. Keeble, 3; A. J. Perkins, 4; G. Roughton, 5; A. Pye (conductor), 6.

RUSHDEN (Northamptonshire).—On Friday, December 28th, six of the St. Peter's company, Raunds, rang at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, with 26 singles, in 25 mins. G. Kirk, 1; W. Hall, 2; H. Stubbs, 3; J. Willmott, 4; F. Gilbert, 5; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, with nine bobs, in 25 mins. G. Kirk, 1; F. Gilbert, 2; W. J. Gilbert, 3; W. Hall, 4; J. Willmott, 5; H. Stubbs (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of College Little, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 24 mins. G. Kirk, 1; J. Willmott, 2; F. Gilbert, 3; H. Stubbs, 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. Tenor 21 cwt.

SELLY OAK (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, December 30th, after evening service at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob, in 26½ mins. Edward Bryant, 1; Henry Smith, 2; John Nix, 3; Edward Boylin, 4; Thomas Lewis, 5; Alfred Cole (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in this method by any of the above.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Christmas morning, the St. Paul's company were entertained at breakfast at the Vicarage by the Rev. R. G. Ash, vicar, after ringing early in the morning, at St. Paul's, Fulnney, and on New Year's Eve were also entertained to a sumptuous supper at the same place; this is an annual supper given by the vicar. Afterwards handbell ringing and singing was the order of the evening's amusement until 11.30, when the ringers commenced ringing the old year out and the new year in, unfortunately the quarter-peal was lost at the last course owing to a man coming into the belfry, and taking the attention of some of them. R. Skeef, 1; R. Creasey, 2; E. Mason, 3; E. Quinton, 4; A. W. Walker, 5; J. A. Croxford, 6; J. W. Creasey, 7; A. Creasey, 8. And on Monday, December 31st, at the church of SS. Mary and Nicholas, after evening service, a 720 of London Single, with eighteen bobs and two singles, conducted by J. Brown. For ringing the Old Year out and the New Year in, a 720 of Oxford Bob, with eighteen bobs and two singles. Also on January 1st, for early service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, with nine bobs, and 360 of Plain Bob, with nine bobs, conducted by J. Brown.

TREDUNNOCK (Monmouthshire).—On Monday, January 7th, the Llanfrehfa company rang a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles, the first on the bells, the first five of which were recast in 1882. Tenor 10 cwt. in G♯. The company were well entertained after the ringing by the Rev. C. T. Salisbury, Vicar.

WITHINGTON (Gloucestershire).—On Thursday, December 27th, the local company, with two friends from Chedworth, rang thirteen 6-scores of Plain Bob Doubles, in 55 mins. Thos. Belcher, 1; C. Humphries, 2; J. Robins (conductor), 3; H. Bliss, 4; O. Bliss, 5; J. Miles, 6. Tenor 13 cwt. in F♯.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

ESTABLISHED 1637.

On Tuesday, January 7th, at the head quarters, St. Saviour's, Southwark, notice was given that a silver cup would be presented to the company on Tuesday, January 22nd, in connection with a peal of 5040 changes, which was rung at Sonning, Berks, on August 4th, 1883, to celebrate the centenary of the College Youths' victory over the Oxford and Farnham ringers, on August 4th, 1783, when a silver cup was presented by Mr. Peter Bluck of that place, now in the possession of the company.

WEST MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

The members will meet for practice at the following belfries:—

S. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST, HILLINGDON.—Thursdays: Jan. 17th, and Feb. 21st, at 7.45.

ISLEWORTH.—Saturdays: Jan. 19th, and Feb. 23rd, at 7.

ST. ANDREW, HILLINGDON.—Saturdays: Jan. 26th, and March 1st, at 7.30.

RUISLIP.—Saturdays: Feb. 9th, and March 8th, at 7.30.

SLOUGH.—Saturdays: Feb. 16th, and March 22nd, at 6.40.

The ringing will be under the direction of Mr. Baron, instructor to the Association. C. T. MAYO, *Hon. Sec.*

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

STOKE.—The first meeting of 1884 was held at Stoke, the centre and mother of the Association, and was, we are sorry to record, a failure. Only two of the home company put in an appearance, the other belfries represented being Norton and Ellastone. The whole muster was six, including the two Secretaries. These made the best of it and lamented the apathy of their brethren.

The next fixture is Wolstanton, on Saturday, January 19th.

T. H. B. FEARON, } *Hon. Secs.*
ENDON GLOVER, }

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual meeting of the above Association will take place at Haughton, Lancashire, on Saturday, January 19th, 1884. There will be a business meeting held at 4 p.m., in the vestry of St. Anne's church. JAMES S. WILDE, *Hon. Sec.*

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The next Committee Meeting will be held in the vestry at All Saints' church, Maidstone, on Saturday, January 12th, at 3 p.m. Business: Admission of bands and new members; and to make arrangements for the next district meeting, which is likely to be held at Wrotham, on or about the 22nd of January, of which due notice will be given. Ringing members attending the committee meeting will please to note that the ten bells at All Saints' church will be at their disposal from 5.30 till 9.30.

DESTRUCTION OF EAST HANNINGFIELD CHURCH BY FIRE.

The Church of East Hanningfield, near Chelmsford, was destroyed by fire on Sunday afternoon, December 30th. The church had been locked up after the morning service, and the clerk had taken the keys with him to the village, which is some distance from the church; consequently, when fire was first observed by some lads who were in the churchyard, the only means of ingress was through the vestry window, which was broken in, and the Communion plate rescued. The fire had obtained such a hold upon the roof by the time that help arrived, that nothing besides the two chairs and altar were saved, they being dragged out with a rope through one of the windows. The bell turret contained three bells, and being built of timber, speedily fell a prey to the flames, the bells being melted to atoms. Fortunately, the inscriptions and dimensions had only been taken in the summer, with a view to publication in a work on the bells of Essex, by Mr. Thomas North, F.S.A. They were as follows:—

Treble.—Diam. 26½ inches: "Thomas Mears, Founder, London, 1842."

Second.—Diameter 29 inches and one eighth: "Isaac Robinson, c.n. Warden R: P: Fecit, 1735"

Tenor.—Diam. 32 inches and three eighths: "M. Roberson C.W. Tho. Gardiner + Sudbury + Fecit 1750."

Nothing now remains of the church beyond the bare walls. The fire broke out in the roof by the stove chimney. The woodwork is entirely destroyed, with the exception of a few massive oak beams.

A curious and probably unprecedented scene was witnessed on the 3rd inst., when the new Rector, the Rev. J. T. Fowler, was inducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Carey. Standing in the ruined doorway, the Archdeacon read the Bishop's mandate in the presence of the churchwardens, a few villagers, and a band of workmen, who had been engaged in sifting the ashes, in order to find the bell metal. The usual custom of locking himself into the church, and ringing one of the bells, had of course to be foregone by the Rector.

SUDBURY, SUFFOLK.

On New Year's Eve, the members of the local company with some friends met at "The George" Inn, in response to an invitation given by the worthy landlord, Mr. Gooday, to partake of a supper on the occasion of opening a new peal of handbells, which he has obtained for the use of the ringers. The chair was occupied by Mr. Councillor Constable; the vice chair by Mr. James Campin. Justice having been done to the good things provided, the cloth was removed, and the chairman proposed the usual loyal toasts, which were drank with enthusiasm. The handbells were then brought in and were opened with a course of Grandsire Cinques, by the following: M. Silvester, 1-2; A. Scott, 3-4; C. Sillitoe, 5-6; F. Tolliday, 7; H. Harper, 8; W. Howell, 9-10; J. Campin, 11-12. Various other toasts were proposed, and responded to by members of the company, and several songs were sung by Messrs Harper, Tolliday, Silvester and others, and touches of Treble Bob, Plain Bob, Grandsire Triples and Caters, were rung on handbells till close on midnight when (rather loth to leave such comfortable quarters) an adjournment was made to St. Peter's belfry, where the following members rang the old year out and the new year in with 672 changes of Bob Major. G. L. Andrews, Esq., 1; C. Sillitoe, 2; M. Silvester, 3; J. Campin, 4; W. Griggs, 5; W. Howell, 6; H. Harper, 7; A. Scott (conductor), and F. Tolliday, 8. Having descended the belfry, new year's greetings were passed between the members, and all wended their way homewards, having passed a very enjoyable evening.

THE NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, December 26th, this society held their annual dinner at the "Mason's Arms," Newgate Street, the chair being occupied by Mr. T. Simm, steeple-keeper of St. Nicholas' Cathedral, and President of the Society; and the vice-chair by Mr. J. Weddle, of St. Andrew's. After dinner, the usual loyal toasts being honoured, the President commented strongly upon the falling-off of the members of this old-established Society, hoping that the New Year would be a turning-point with them, and that the members and friends then present would use every effort to get other ringers of the city to join them, and make this the most successful of years that has been known for some time. Mr. S. Power proposed the health of the officers of the Society. Mr. J. Diboll proposed the health of the strangers, coupled with the name of Mr. E. Wallis, steeple-keeper of St. Stephen's, remarking that he, Mr. Wallis, could scarcely be said to have left the society, yet so seldom did he come amongst them, he had entitled himself to be called a stranger. Mr. Wallis made a very suitable reply, which it is hoped will be acted upon. Some excellent songs were also well rendered by the company, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

This Society held its Quarterly Meeting at Wolverhampton, on Saturday, January 5th. Proceedings commenced with ringing in St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. The members attended evening service at 5 o'clock, when an excellent address was given to them by the rector, the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock. After service a committee meeting was held in the vestry, when several new members were elected, and the date of the next meeting was fixed. The members then met for tea, when it was announced that since the last quarterly meeting two peals, one of Grandsire Triples, the other of Major, had been rung by members of the Society. The Willenhall and Tettenhall steeples were also open to members during the afternoon.

It seems remarkable that so large a town as Wolverhampton, with thirteen or fourteen churches, should only have one ring of bells, and that on these change-ringing should almost have died out. We hope, however, that matters are on the mend in this respect, and that this meeting will not be without results. St. Peter's is one of the grandest churches in England; it has a fine ring of ten bells, and its ringers ought not to be contented till they rank among the best bands of Staffordshire.

The next meeting will be held at Walsall, on Saturday, April 19th.

FESTIVITY AT EYNSFORD, KENT.

On Friday evening last, the local band of ringers belonging to St. Michael's church, Eynsford, had their fourth annual supper at the "Plough Inn," where an excellent repast was provided, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all present. A pleasant evening was spent in toast and song. A few experienced ringers are greatly wanted in this part of Kent to act as instructors to bands, of which there are several who are totally unacquainted with any method whatever. The bells of the parish church of Eynsford are probably some of the oldest in the district, being cast in 1651, and are now undergoing thorough repair at the hands of Messrs. Gibson and Sons, founders, of Eynsford.

BELL FOUNDING OPERATIONS.

ST. LUKE'S, BIRKENHEAD.—The bell of this church, weighing 5½ cwt., has just been recast and rehung by Messrs. Llewellyns and James, of Bristol. The same firm have also been employed as follows:—

STROKE PRIOR (near Leicester).—The bells of this church have just been rehung, and a new treble, weighing 3¾ cwt., added, thus augmenting them to a ring of four. The frame has been erected to accommodate two more bells, which will be placed in the tower as soon as the necessary funds can be raised.

CLIFFORD (near Leominster).—The bells of this church have recently been refitted and rehung. It is in contemplation to increase this ring by the addition of two new bells from the above foundry.

KNILL (near Preston).—One of the bells at this church is being recast, and the remainder are being rehung.

Correspondence.

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

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

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

SIR.—There is another and better variation of the five-part peals of Grandsire Triples than that given by Mr. Penning. It is here annexed. While this shares the advantage possessed by Mr. Penning's variation of reserving the singles till close upon the end, it contains another advantage in which his is wanting, viz.: that the part-ends are the leads of the plain course. This I deem a point of great value, as the part-ends are then the simplest possible, and any part or parts may be rung as a touch.

The 2nd, too, is kept clear of the singles. In Mr. Penning's variation the first-single is called at the bob corresponding to 2 4 6 7 5 3.

5040.

7 5 2 6 3 4	2 4 6 7 5 3	3 5 2 6 4 7	5 4 5 6 3 2 7
6 5 7 4 2 3	7 4 2 3 6 5	7 6 3 4 5 2	7 3 4 2 5 6
3 4 6 2 5 7	5 3 7 6 4 2	6 3 7 4 5 2	6 2 7 5 3 4
4 6 3 2 5 7	6 3 5 2 7 4	4 3 6 2 7 5	5 4 6 3 2 7
2 6 4 7 3 5	7 4 6 5 2 3	7 5 4 6 2 3	2 7 5 6 3 4
5 7 2 3 6 4	5 4 7 3 6 2	4 2 7 5 3 6	
6 4 5 2 3 7	2 3 5 6 4 7	6 5 4 3 2 7	

Four times repeated.

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

A CORRECTION.

SIR.—In your account of ringing at Cheam, Surrey, on December 15th, 1883, the Surrey Association claim to have rung the first 720 on the bells in the present tower. I beg to state that we (the Epsom

ringers), rang the first 720 in the tower on December 5th, 1871; the method was Oxford Single Bob Minor. Also on February 16th, 1874, we rang another 720 in the same method, and in December, 1878, we rang 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor and some 120's of Stedman Doubles.

GEO. MILES.

A QUESTION.

SIR,—“A Happy New Year” to you! In your admirable Christmas number the weight of the tenor of the ring of eight in the Curfew Tower at Windsor, was given as 36 cwt., its diameter being 52 inches and its note D. Is it possible a bell of that size and note could weigh as much? Allowing for large cannons, which bells of that date generally carry, would it weigh more than 28 cwt. or 29 cwt. The tenor of the peal of six at Olney (Bucks) has same diameter as the Windsor bell, and is also stated to be 36 cwt. The local ringers always say it is same as the bell in the Curfew Tower, Windsor.

TENOR.

EXPLANATIONS WANTED.

SIR,—I see in our paper of December 15th, a peal by Henry Dains, of London, of 5720 changes. I should like him to explain where he gets them from, as I cannot find more than 5312 in the calling of it. I am surprised at you London folks being so sharp. I think Mr. Francis, of Diss, must be wrong in his peal of Treble Bob Maximus—5088 changes—published in *Church Bells* December 29th, 1883. It is a two-part peal, and he says: “This peal has the 4th, 5th, and 6th the extent in 6th's place.” I don't see how it is that way.

Mottram.

ROBERT WRIGHT.

QUICK PEALS.

SIR,—Referring to the letters in our paper of December 8th and 15th, respecting a quick peal, I beg to inform you that I was one of eight who rang a peal at St. Michael's parish church, Mottram-in-Longdendale, in 1821, being 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 17½ mins. I am the only survivor of the eight, and rang the tenor, which weighs 12½ cwt. I may just inform you that I am in my 92nd year.

Mottram.

JAMES HAMILTON.

SIR,—In your issue of the 15th instant, one of your correspondents vouches for a peal of Grandsire Triples at North Shields in 2 hrs. 31 mins., tenor 19 cwt. Can you tell me what is the size of the wheel, and whether it is possible to swing a bell of that weight at a fraction over thirty-three strokes per minute? My own experience tells me that bells cannot be struck clear at that rate. It would be greatly appreciated if the company would try another peal, to see whether there had not been a mistake.

Garston.

G. W. HUGHES.

REPLY TO MR. CATCHPOLE.

SIR,—For the information of Mr. Catchpole and others, I beg to state that I composed the 5038 of Grandsire Cinques referred to by him in the year 1874, and rang it upon handbells on Saturday, the 14th of November, in the same year, at the “King's Head,” West Ham, where there is a small tablet to commemorate it. I hope this explanation will be satisfactory.

H. C. HALEY.

TOUCHES OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

SIR.—There is some mistake in the first touch of Treble Bob Major in your issue of December 22th. If rang by the calling given, there would be a repetition of changes in the fourth and sixth leads of second course, as compared with fourth and third leads of first course, and the number of changes would be 544 instead of 572. Below I give two ways of using the same course-ends, which I think will run true:—

672.					640.												
2	3	4	5	6	M	W	H	2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H	
3	5	2	6	4	2	2	3	5	2	6	4	-					
2	3	4	5	6	4ths and in.		2	3	4	5	6	2	4ths & in & H				

GEORGE NEWSON.

ORWELL PARK, IPSWICH.—Messrs. Lund and Blockley, the church clock and carillon manufacturers, of Pall Mall, have effected the restoration of, and added many improvements to, the clock and chimes at Orwell Park, the country seat of Colonel Tomline.

A correspondent wishes to know the name of method, a lead of which is here given:—

1 2 3 4 5 6	6 2 1 4 3 5	4 5 3 2 1 6	4 1 3 2 5 6
2 1 4 3 6 5	2 6 4 1 5 3	4 3 5 2 6 1	1 4 2 3 6 5
1 2 4 6 3 5	6 2 4 5 1 3	3 4 2 5 1 6	4 1 2 6 3 5
2 1 6 4 5 3	2 6 5 4 3 1	4 3 2 1 5 6	1 4 6 2 5 3
2 6 1 4 3 5	2 5 6 4 1 3	3 4 1 2 6 5	1 6 4 5 2
6 2 4 1 5 3	5 2 4 6 3 1	3 4 2 1 5 6	
	5 4 2 3 6 1	4 3 1 2 6 5	

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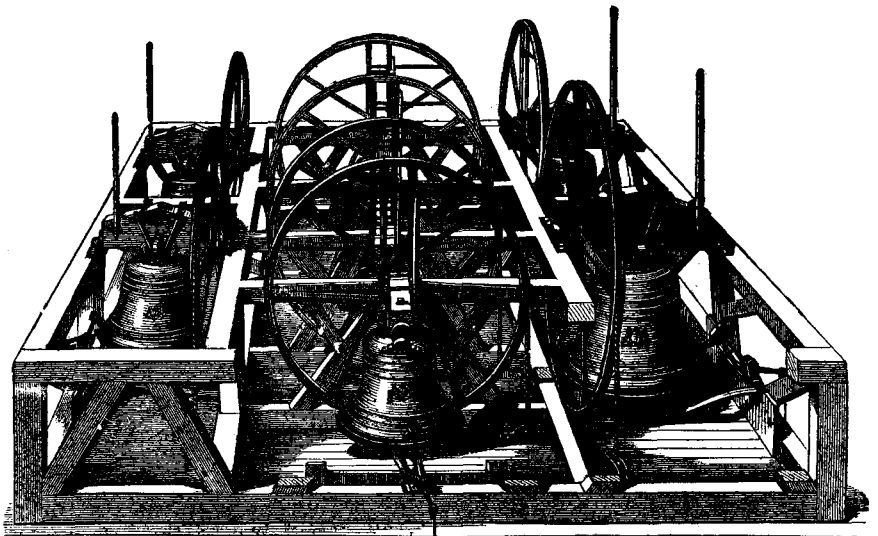
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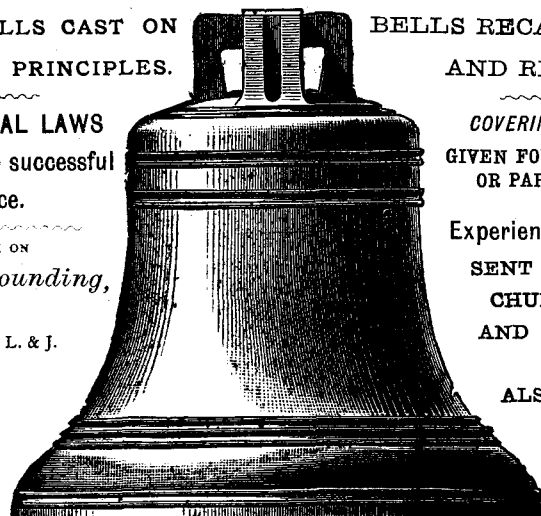
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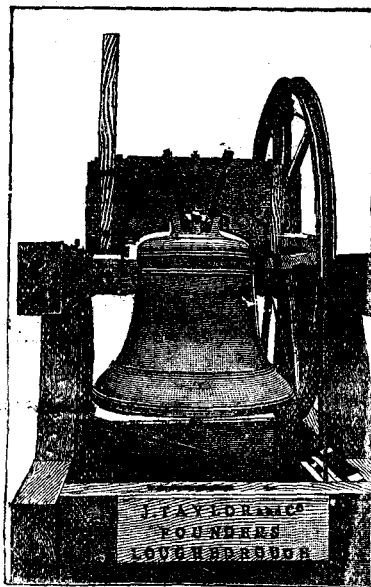
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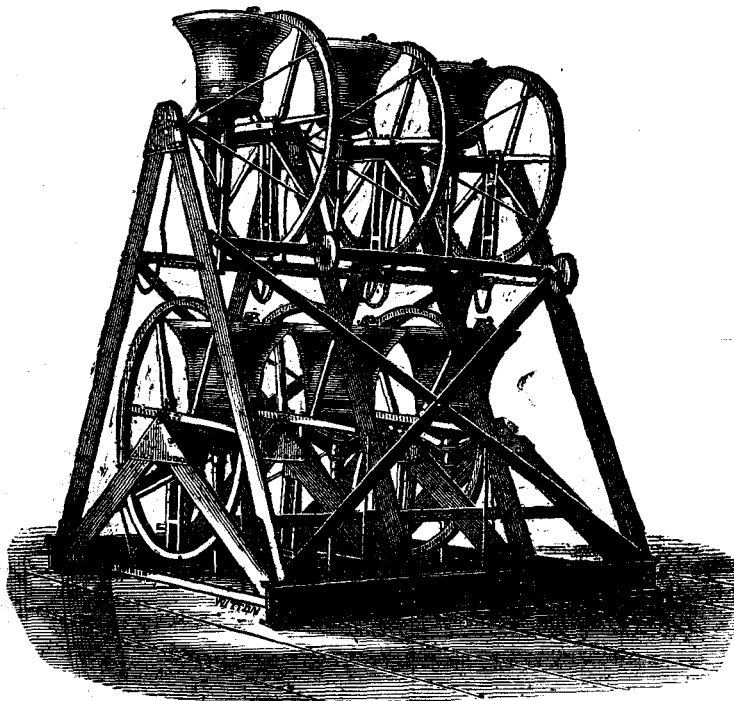
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