THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 113. [NEW SERIES.]—*VOL. III.* SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1884. [ONE PENNY.

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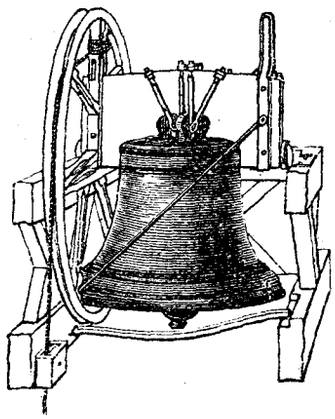
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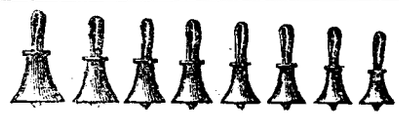
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PRINTED BY REQUEST.

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Secretaries of Ringing Guilds and Associations, and all change-ringers, should labour to promote the circulation of this pamphlet among Clergymen and Churchwardens.

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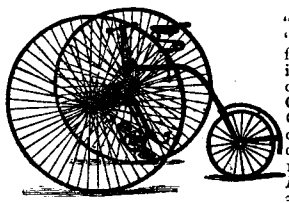
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CHURCH BELLS.—USAGES, CEREMONIES, AND INSCRIPTIONS.

(Extracted from the "Newcastle Courant.")

THE great bell of St. Paul's has tolled for kings of England, for Bishops of London, and for deans of the cathedral, for 170 years, the deep tones issuing from its mouth, of 6·7 feet in diameter, having been heard as far as Windsor, And the hours and the quarter hours have rung out from the clock tower with unfailing regularity for many a year.

Switzerland had not a bell till 1020, and the inhabitants of Augsburg were very proud of the two first heard from the belfry of their cathedral about the same date. Nothing is more curious in bell-history than the obscurity of the places which are found to be the richest in these musical treasures. Thus the little town of Erfurt, according to Baedeker, famous chiefly in these days for its watercresses, is said to have the finest toned bell in Europe. Its size is not very great, the weight being only 275 cwt. There have been and there are much heavier bells. Notre Dame, in Paris, and St. Stephen's, in Vienna, have heavier bells. The Great bell of Moscow, cast by order of the Empress Anne, in 1734, was 21 ft. high, and weighed nineteen tons. It was broken in 1737. St. Ivan's bell, hung on the Ivan Tower, on the Kremlin, weighs 127,830 lbs. But the greatest bell of all is at Jeddo. Though only 17ft. 6in. in height, it is said to weigh 1,700,000 lbs., an estimate of which we should be glad to have a verification. That weight is nearly four times that of the Great Moscow bell, and fifty-six times that of Big Ben, at Westminster, rated at 30,324 lbs. At Vienna is a bell 9·8 ft. in diameter. At Sens, one of 8·6. The great bell of Notre Dame, Paris, is of the same diameter as that of Sens. But while the latter weighs 34,000 lbs., the Parisian bell only weighs 28,672 lbs. Great Peter, at York, 8·3 ft. in diameter, weighs 10¾ tons. Great Tom, at Oxford, 7·1 ft. in diameter, weighs 18,000 lbs. Great Tom, at Lincoln, 6·8 ft. in diameter, 5½ tons. The great bell at St. Paul's, cast in 1709, weighs 11,470 lbs., and is 6·7 ft. in diameter.

In some monasteries they seem to have prayers in the chapel every two hours; and the summons tells the hearers what they have to do—each peal being different according to the time and office. So with the summons to the Brethren of the Misericordia. We outsiders do not know the difference; but those who belong to the order read a whole history in the bell which tolls, say from the campanile at Florence, when they are summoned to attend a death, an accident, an illness—and where—according to the words clanged out on the swinging iron book aloft. At Siena, the great bell of the Campo Santa rings out at four in the morning to call the workmen to their day's labour.

Odd usages have been associated with bells. In the Roman Church bells were anointed and baptized. The usage dates from about the tenth century. With regard to the blessings of the bells at St. Paul's, the Bishop of London wrote to the *Times* at the time to explain the service, the prayer being that the bells in their use might be blessed to the well-being of mankind. On the other hand Papal history associates cursing as well as benison with the sound of bells. When the famous collection of Strawberry Hill was sold in 1842, one of the lots which fetched most was a silver cursing bell. It had belonged to Pope Clement VII., for whom it had been designed and beautifully chased by Benvenuto Cellini. One of the Popes ordered the bells to be rung as a defence against thunder and lightning. As late as 1816, the great bell of Notre Dame was baptised in the name of the Duke of Angouleme, and in the Priory of Little Dunmow, Essex, the bells were baptised in 1510, and still bear the original names of St. Michael and St. John. On the eve of the feast of Corpus Christi, the choristers of Durham Cathedral mount the old tower in their fluttering robes, and chant from its heights a solemn *Te Deum*. For four centuries this practice has kept green the memory of that night when, as the monks were busy at midnight prayer, the great belfry over their heads was struck with lightning. All night the flames raged, and the fire did not cease to burn till the middle of the next day, when it was found that the tower had escaped serious damage, and that the bells were wholly uninjured. Such safety was but little less than miraculous, and the miracle was attributed to the presence of the body of St. Cuthbert enshrined in the Cathedral.

The following motto may still be seen on some of the bells that have swung in their steeples for centuries. It will be observed to entitle them to a six-fold efficacy.

Men's death I tell by doleful knell,
Lightning and thunder I break asunder;
On Sabbath all to church I call,
The sleepy head I raise from bed,
The winds so fierce I do disperse,
Men's cruel rage I do assuage.

The following inscriptions are on the bells of St. Michael's Coventry, cast in 1774:—

I.
Although I am both light and small,
I will be heard above you all.

II.
If you have a judicious ear,
You'll own my voice to be sweet and clear.

III.
Such wondrous power to music's given,
It elevates the soul to heaven.

IV.
While thus we join in cheerful sound,
May love and loyalty abound.

V.
To honour both of God and King,
Our voices shall in concert sing.

VI.
Music is a medicine to the mind.

VII.
Ye ringers all, that prize your health and happiness,
Be sober, merry, wise, and you'll the same possess.

VIII.
Ye people all that hear me ring,
Be faithful to your God and King.

IX.
In wedlock's bands all ye who join,
With hearts your hands unite;
So shall our tuneful tongues combine,
To laud the nuptial rite.

X.
I am and have been called the common bell,
To ring when fire breaks out, to tell.

Sometimes the legends are loyal, as in the Elizabethan bell at Bury, in Sussex, where the inscription is "God Save the Queen," which is also to be found in one of the bells of Magdalen College, Oxford; in one instance, in the time of James the First the legend runs:

"Fear God and honner the King,
For obedience is a vertuous thing."

The gift of a bell, or of a peal of bells, was a common exercise of munificence, and on many of the old English bells are found the coats of arms of the donors. One of the old windows of York Minister gives the various processes then in use for casting, cleansing, and tuning the bells. After the Reformation, inscriptions were not permitted to be addressed to heaven, but only to man. It had been otherwise before. Thus at St. Michael's, Alnwick, the legend of the bell runs thus: "Archangel Michael, Come to the help of the people of God;" and many others were addressed to the Virgin Mary, to St. Peter, and St. Paul.

STRATTON, DEVON.

THE FOLLOWING EPITAPH, which the contributor does not remember ever having noticed in print, may be seen in the belfry of Launcells Church, near Stratton:—

Life is an inn; think man this truth upon;
Some only breakfast, and are quickly gone;
Others to dinner stay, and are full fed;
The oldest man but sups, and goes to bed.
Large is his debt who lingers out the day;
Who goes the soonest has the least to pay.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—In visiting this Exhibition we noticed that Messrs. Mears and Stainbank have erected a kind of campanile, which has an excellent peal of eight bells, with fittings complete. Messrs. Warner and Sons are also exhibitors.

Mr. E. J. Dennes, of Wellingborough, writes:—"I should be much obliged if you or one of your Kentish readers could tell me the sizes and weights of the bells of Tenterden parish church, Kent."

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 24th, being the Queen's Birthday, a mixed company of the members of the above Association attended at Woburn, for the purpose of ringing a 5040 of Bob Major. Three unsuccessful attempts were made, and after ringing a variety of touches from 9 a.m. till noon, started for Eversholt, a village three miles distance from Woburn, where other ringing friends awaited them. W. W. C. Baker, Esq., the revered son of the Rector of Eversholt, had given a generous invitation to all members of the Association to luncheon at the Rectory at 1 p.m., and ringers were present from Bedford, Bromham, Biddenham, Elstow, Aspley Guise, and Woburn.

Mr. Baker, whose genial soul inspired him to arrange this happy gathering before leaving home for clerical duties in Nottingham, is a member of the committee of this Association, and has been unceasing in his endeavours to assist the objects of the Association, being himself an accomplished ringer, ever ready and willing to encourage and assist in the teaching of new members. His removal will be much regretted by the Woburn and Bedford companies, as well as by the members of the Association generally. He will carry with him the best wishes of all who have ever had the pleasure of his acquaintance and leave behind him in their hearts many happy and pleasing memories.

On arrival at the Rectory of Eversholt, the ringers were heartily welcomed by the Rector, and for the personal comfort of all an excellent lavatory had been provided for their use, which added much to the enjoyment of the day's proceedings. In fact, the whole of the arrangements and proceedings at Eversholt on Saturday had in it the true ring of Christian fellowship and brotherhood.

The luncheon was a sumptuous one in every respect. The Rector took the head of the table, and the Rev. J. C. Maltby, the Rector of Aspley Guise, faced him, while Mrs. Baker and Mr. W. W. C. Baker, similarly officiated at the second table, the Misses Baker, too, graced the company by their presence, doing all in their power to imprint happiness and enjoyment among the assembled guests.

After the luncheon, the company wended their way to the parish church, where there is an excellent ring of six bells, a new tenor bell having been supplied by Messrs. Taylor, in 1882. Ringing being the order of the day, the bells were spiritly kept going till seven o'clock, and among the touches were 120 of Grandsire Doubles, two 720's of Bob Minor, and 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, the particulars of which will be found more fully in another column. An adjournment to the Rectory followed, and tea was liberally supplied at the same tables as the previous luncheon. Handbell ringing on the lawn was then indulged in, some Grandsire Caters and Oxford Treble Bob Major being struck by the practitioners.

Mr. C. Herbert, Hon. Sec., on behalf of the Association, briefly returned thanks to the Rector, Mrs. Baker, and family, for the very kind and hospitable reception which had been given to the ringers that day; this was seconded by Mr. I. Hills of Bedford, who wished Mr. W. W. C. Baker God-speed in his new sphere, and heartily and unanimously acquiesced in by all who had taken part in what may be called one of the pleasantest of the most pleasant gatherings of the Bedfordshire Association.

THE ART IN DEVON.

We cull the following extracts from a Devonshire paper :—

ATHERINGTON.—On Thursday evening last, the Highbickington Ringers performed for one hour and twenty minutes on the bells of St. Mary's, ringing 720 changes in most excellent style. It is the opinion of experienced campanologists that the ringing of these young men was of a very high character, and that not many sets could equal, and very few excel them in it. Subjoined are the names :—George Pedler (treble), John Cole (second), Harry Clements (third), James Goodwin (fourth), Samuel Cole (fifth), Charles Goodwin (tenor).

MERTON.—Some very good round ringing, the striking of which was remarked to be very clear and distinct, was heard from the old Parish Church tower on Sunday. 1st, Mr. Samuel Dicker, 2nd, Arthur Trickey, 3rd, Mr. W. Denford, 4th, Mr. W. Trickey, 5th, Mr. W. Heywood, while the tenor was exceedingly well-managed by Mr. Thomas Trickey. R. Dicker and Mr. Jas. Sanders also rendered valuable assistance.

MUFFLED PEAL AT PENZANCE, CORNWALL.

ON Sunday, May 25th, at St. Mary's church, touches of 882, 559, and 336 Grandsire Triples were rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of a former member of the Society, William Henry Dale, who had recently emigrated to South Adelaide, where he succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever, on the 21st of March, at the early age of 24. The deceased rang the 4th bell on the occasion of this Society's ringing the first 5040 in Cornwall, on the 4th of June last year.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Wednesday, May 21st, a numerous company of members of this society were entertained by the Rev. J. Lindsay, D.D., F.R.H.S., to dinner at their meeting-house, "The Shakespeare," in Wych Street, Strand. The rev. gentleman, who is the respected Rector of St. Clement Danes (the head quarters of the above society), presided, supported by the Rev. J. G. Harrison, M.A. (an intimate friend of the Rector's), J. M. Routh, Esq., and F. Rowney, Esq. Mr. Churchwarden Poole was also present.

It is known to many of our London readers that for some time past practice at St. Clement's has been almost entirely suspended, but through the Rector's energetic support and kindness, it has again been resumed. And we should be glad to hear that numbers of the most renowned of London ringers made it a point to periodically attend, and thus restore this society to the high and honourable position it formerly enjoyed.

After the removal of the cloth, the evening was spent in a very sociable manner. Mr. Rowbotham played an overture on the pianoforte; Mr. Newton indulged the company with a recitation; and several touches on the handbells were rung. Several toasts were proposed, among which were "The Health of the Rector and Mrs. Lindsay, and family." In responding, the Rector expressed his desire to assist the society in any way in which it was possible for him to do so. Mr. Routh proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for his timely aid in saving the society from an impending collapse, and his generous disposition in bringing about such a pleasant evening together. This was received with enthusiasm, the members expressing a wish that the Rector may be spared many years to minister among them.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

A correspondent writes :—"Having received an invitation to visit, along with my brother-ringers, the parish church of Bourton-on-the-Water, I, like other ringers, enquired of the local party if ever they had seen 'THE BELL NEWS.' The answer was—'What is it like?' so I took a copy from my pocket, and gave them, and I hope they will become permanent subscribers; I have been so from the commencement. In the belfry is a tablet and some lines on a cardboard, copies of which, together with the inscriptions on the bells, I send you for publication."

INSCRIPTIONS ON THE BELLS OF BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER CHURCH :—

Treble.—"Anthony Collett, Gent. My great Benefactor, A.R. 1718."
2.—"William Akerman & Richard Fox Churchwardens A.R. 1737."
3.—"Thomas Lambert & Joseph Payne, Churchwardens A.R. 1717."
4.—"Giles Venfield, Anthony Collett and William Fox, Overseers L. A. V. 1750."
5.—"Charles and John Rudhal Fecit 1785."
Tenor.—(No Inscription).

Grandsier Bob was rung in
Bourton on the Water Tower
February 10th, 1849 by

J. Berry ...	1st.	T. Mosen ...	4th.
D. Day... ...	2nd.	D. Hall	5th.
J. Palmer ...	3rd.	G. Hall	6th.

The peal consist of 16 bobs,
42 doges and two singles.
The Peal conducted by T. Mosen.

Whosoever will practice to play on these strings,
Must these orders observe amongst other things:
He that rings with his hat, boots, spurs on likewise,
To the sexton shall pay twopence exercise;
For Smoking tobacco, and drinking of drinks,
To the Sexton shall pay a Sixpence in chinks;
He that is heard to curse are to sware,
Shall twelve pence among the company share;
He also that does a bell overthrow,
A Groat to the Sexton shall pay are he go.
And he that will not to these orders attain,
Let him never come hither to practice again.
1793

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

DURING the month of June there will be meetings for ringing practice as follows: at Christ Church, Wednesdays 4th and 18th insts.; at St. Andrew's church, Wednesdays 11th and 25th insts. Time of meeting 7.30 p.m.

On Whit-Sunday, there will be morning ringing at St. Andrew's from 6 till 7, and at Christ Church from 7.15 till 8.

THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

The officers for this term are :—

Master: J. R. VINCENT (St. John's).
Secretary: G. WYNNE (Brasenose).

Any changes of address of Honorary or Life members since the last report should be sent to the Secretary without delay.

THE CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE-RINGING.—(*Continued.*)

By F. W. J. REES,

A Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

1797.—The ring at All Saints', Newcastle-on-Tyne, opened with a peal of Grandsire Triples.

1798.—A new ring of twelve at St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, original tenor 34 cwt., afterwards changed for one 41 cwt.
A new ring of ten at St. Peter's, Sheffield.
Ringers of Great Tey, Essex, rang 5120 Treble Bob Major.
Leeds (Yorkshire) ringers rang Caters on the new ring of ten at St. Peter's.
Cumberlands rang at Edmonton a peal of Court Treble Bob Eight in.

1799.—Cumberlands rang a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, composed by J. Noonan, and called from MSS., perhaps the first true peal rung in the method.
Ringers of Sheffield, Yorkshire, rang a peal of Grandsire Caters.
Shrewsbury ringers rang 6006 Grandsire Cinques.
Ringers of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples on the ring of eight at St. Mary's.
Ringers of Bradford, Wilts, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.
Ringers of King's Sutton, Northants, rang Bob Major.

1800.—The *Clavis* again reprinted.
Ringers of Soham, Cambs., rang a peal of Imperial.
Ringers of Chesterfield, Derbyshire, rang Grandsire Triples.
Cumberlands rang 10,112 Treble Bob Major at Edmonton; this cut the 10,080 rung at Norwich in 1727.
Shrewsbury ringers rang 5000 Treble Bob Royal at St. Chad's.
A new ring of eight at Trowbridge, Wilts.
Liverpool ringers rang a peal of Grandsire Triples at St Peter's.

1801.—A mixed band at Christ Church, Spitalfields, rang 5040 Double Norwich Court Bob Royal.
Cumberlands 5220 do., at St. Leonard's, the longest length in the method.
Caters at Kingston, Surrey, by College Youths.
Triples at Leighton Buzzard, Beds., by College Youths.
Triples at Cranbrook, Kent, by College Youths.

1802.—Cumberlands rang 7104 Treble Bob Maximus, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, single-handed; Marlton at tenor, 52 cwt.
The ring at Melton Mowbray increased to eight.

1803.—Cumberlands rang 5200 Treble Bob Royal, on Bow bells, single-handed; Marlton at tenor, 53 cwt.
Ringers of Kingston, Surrey, rang 10,386 Grandsire Caters.
Mr. G. Gross, sen., of the Cumberlands, died.
A peal of Stedman Triples at Kensington, by College Youths.
The ring at St. Ebbe's, Oxford, increased to eight, tenor 5 cwt. This was the lightest ring of eight; since reduced to six.
The ring at St. Mary's, Whittlesea, Cambs., increased to eight.

1804.—Cumberlands rang 7104 Treble Bob Maximus, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, single-handed, Marlton at tenor.
Ringers of Chelmsford, Essex, rang Treble Bob Major.

1805.—Cumberlands rang 6129 Stedman Caters at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.
The ring at Mottram, Cheshire, increased to eight.
The Westminster Youths rang Grandsire Triples at St. George's, Southwark.

1806.—First peal on the bells at Waltham Abbey, Essex, by Cumberlands.
6334 Stedman Cinques, at Christ Church, Spitalfields, by do.

1807.—The ring of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, increased to twelve.
Ringers of Saffron Walden, Essex, rang 6832 Bob Major.
The Coventry ringers rang Bob Royal.
The ringers of Oldham, Lancashire, rang 15,120 Bob Major.
A new ring of ten at Great Yarmouth, Norfolk.
Another edition of the *Clavis* in this year, or later.

1808.—The ring at Soham, Cambs., increased to ten.
Shrewsbury ringers rang 10,097 Grandsire Caters, at St. Chad's.
The ringers of Newcastle-on-Tyne rang Grandsire Triples.
A new ring of eight at St. John's, Peterborough.

1809.—First peal on Enfield bells by Junior Cumberlands.
Mr. Henry Johnson born at Lichfield.
The Isleworth Youths rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.

1810.—A new ring of eight at St. Austell, Cornwall.
The Crypt Society, Gloucester, rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.

1811.—The ringers of Bungay, Suffolk, rang Bob Major.
Ipswich ringers rang Bob Major on the old eight at St. Mary's.
The ringers of Keighley, Yorkshire, rang 5376 Cambridge Surprise Major. This peal turned out to be false.
Shrewsbury ringers rang Caters on St. Mary's bells, increased to ten.
The ring at Lavenham, Suffolk, increased to eight.
The ringers of Staveley, Derbyshire, rang Treble Bob Major.
Sheffield ringers rang a peal of Treble Bob Major on handbells; probably the first ever rung in hand.

1812.—Borden Union Youths, Kent, rang 10,080 Bob Major.
James Barham, aged 88, rang his last peal—Bob Major.

1813.—A new ring of twelve at St. Nicholas, Liverpool.
The ringers of Chelmsford, Essex, rang Bob Major.
The ringers of Faversham, Kent, rang Bob Major.
The ringers of Lavenham, Suffolk, rang Bob Major.
The ringers of Keighley, Yorkshire, rang 11,080 Kent Treble Bob Major.
The ringers of Ormskirk, Lancashire, rang Grandsire Triples.
The ringers of Romford, Essex, rang Bob Major.

1814.—The tenor of St. Peter's, Norwich, split and recast.
The Birmingham ringers rang 5020 Grandsire Royal; **first peal in the method.**

1814.—The ringers of Boxford, Suffolk, rang Bob Major.
A mixed band at Otley, Yorkshire, rang 12,320 Treble Bob Major. Eleven men rang, and another conducted.
A peal at East Grinstead, Sussex, by College Youths.
A peal at Hammersmith by do.
The ring at Wooburn, Bucks, increased to eight.
The ring at Framsden, Suffolk, increased to eight.
The ring at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, increased to eight.
The Bristol ringers rang Grandsire Caters at St. Nicholas.

1815.—Birmingham ringers rang at Aston 6000 Grandsire Royal, the longest length in the method.
A new ring of eight at Helmingham, Suffolk.
The ringers of Stowmarket, Suffolk, rang Bob Major.
At Oxford, New College, 10,008 Grandsire Caters, by the Junior Cumberlands; Jonathan Pavier rang the 9th.
Norwich ringers rang Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Miles.
A peal at All Hallows, Barking, by College Youths.
Do. at Cuckfield, Sussex, by do.
Folkestone (Kent) ringers rang Bob Major; first peal on the bells.
The ring of ten at St. Michael's, Macclesfield, reduced to eight.
Brighton ringers rang Grandsire Triples at St. Nicholas.
Wath-upon-Dearne, Yorkshire fourteen 720s of Minor.
Darton, Yorks., fifteen 720s of Minor.
Worcester ringers rang 8081 Grandsire Caters, at All Saints.

1816.—Painswick ringers rang 10,278 Grandsire Caters.
The *Campanologia, or Universal Instructor in the Art of Ringing*, by William Shipway.
The Canterbury ringers rang Grandsire Triples, second peal on the bells.
Bristol ringers rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, more than 10,278.
Painswick ringers rang 6440 Bob Royal.
The ring at Kendal, Westmoreland, increased to ten.
The ringers of Newark, Notts., rang Grandsire Triples.
Wath, Yorks., 15,120, or twenty-one 720s of Minor; a wonderful work.

1817.—Painswick ringers rang 12,312 Grandsire Caters, in 7 hrs. 44 mins., the longest length in the method.
Gravesend ringers rang 6000 Double London Court Bob Major, the longest length in the method.
Norwich ringers rang 5016 Double Court Bob Maximus, tenor double-handed; first and only peal in the method.
Redenhall ringers rang 6000 Bob Major.
Saffron Walden (Essex), ringers rang 5040 Double Norwich Court Major.
Ringers of Aylsham, Norfolk, rang Bob Major.
The Society at Appleton, Berks., established.
The ringers of Hythe, Kent, rang Bob Major.
A new ring of eight at the parish church, Stockport, Cheshire.

1818.—**The first peals of Treble Bob Royal ever rung in the west of England, at Stroud and Painswick, by Cumberlands.**

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

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

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

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, *Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication coming later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.*

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.

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

J. BARRATT (Eccles).—We are awaiting the completion of your letter.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1884.

WE have received from several hands a considerable quantity of correspondence on the position of affairs at Reading, a comment upon which, as our readers may remember, appeared in our last issue. We have now before us more extended information, but after a careful review of the whole of the circumstances, we cannot find grounds from altering to any great extent the opinions expressed in our article of last week.

In justice, however, to the St. Laurence Society, we hasten to state that, instead of closing their tower altogether to the Oxford Diocesan Guild, as was asserted at the meeting, they have now come to an arrangement by which it will be open for practice to the Guild at regular intervals. This conclusion has been arrived at since the meeting; but although this is a step in the right direction, we are sorry to be unable to find little prospect of a full, complete, and satisfactory reconciliation between the Guild and the society.

We are assured of what we already knew, viz.: that the St. Laurence's Society are doing a good work in connection with their own church. Is it not a great pity that they cannot unite their forces with the Diocesan Guild, and thus greatly extend the field of their valuable operations? Would not such a combination be for the mutual interest and credit of both? Personally, we should feel honoured by a connection with a Guild or Association in which the present Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild occupied a similar position. We cannot suppose that a spirit of rivalry has anything to do with the matter. Ringers and ringing have suffered so much in the past from *friendly* rivalry—we italicise the adjective—rivalry which has produced very little practical good, and in many cases altogether killed anything like Church work, that we are sure no one could desire a repetition of it, on however small a scale.

Among our correspondence this week is a letter from the Secretary of the St. Lawrence's Society. This letter has unfortunately got mislaid. We recollect some of its contents, however. That gentleman informs us that his society are merely within their rights in refusing to join the Guild. Granted: but when men standing on their mere rights create an offence, however trifling, they must expect to incur criticism.

We should be very sorry indeed to do anything to discourage a young band like the St. Laurence's Society of Reading, who appear to practice the art with assiduity, as our reports this week testify; much less to do anything which may lead to permanent irritation. Their social status being what it is renders them and their actions more liable to notice and criticism. They will not deny the existence of some unhealthy excitement which needs removal; and we ask them, as Churchmen, to attempt its abolition, even if it involves some amount of self-denial. With all respect, we cannot help thinking that if they had more experience; if they were in a position to look upon ringing affairs generally, as we do, from a comprehensive point of view; they would be among the first to see how necessary—especially in country towns, where the number of ringers is small—is complete unity; and they would oppose, in even stronger language than ours, any course of action which had the slightest tendency to engender discord and ill-feeling. We sincerely hope that more recent events, a knowledge of which has come to us while writing, may be an omen of good for the fortunes of ringing in the town of Reading.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A ringing mesting was held on Saturday, May 24th, at Church Kirk, near Accrington. Members were present from Padiham, Blackburn, and Accrington, in addition to the local ringers. Various touches of Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Minor were rung during the day by various mixed bands. A 720 of Plain Bob was rung in 26 mins. by Jas. Horrocks (conductor), 1; W. Chatterton, 2; Hy. Hayes, 3; Jas. Pickles, 4; Wm. Pattinson, 5; Thos. Horrocks, 6. Tenor 15¾ cwt.

The thanks of the Association are hereby tendered to the Vicar for his kindness in allowing the Association the use of the bells, and to the local ringers for the arrangements made for the comfort of the visitors.

W. J. CHATTERTON, }
JOEL REDFORD, } *Hon. Secs.*

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX BELL RINGERS.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above Association will be held at Preston on Whit-Saturday, June 7th. The bells of St. Mark's Church will be open for ringing from one o'clock. Tea in St. Mark's school at 4 o'clock, members free, after which the general meeting will be held.

JOHN HIGSON, *Secretary.*
Dootson Terrace, Blackrod.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Wednesday, May 14th, at SS. Mary and Nicholas, a 720 of Plain Bob. G. Skeef, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman (conductor), 4; E. Brown, 5; R. Sharp (Bourn), 6. Also on Thursday, May 22nd, being Ascension Day, at 7 a.m, a 720 of Yorkshire Court Bob. J. S. Wright, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman, 4; E. Brown, 5; J. Brown, 6. Also at 10 a.m., a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. S. Wright, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman (conductor), 4; G. Brown, 5; J. Brown, 6. Also on Saturday, May 24th, being the Queen's Birthday, at 7 a.m., a 720 of Plain Bob. J. S. Wright, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. Skeef, 3; R. Mackman, 4; E. Brown, 5; G. L. Richardson (conductor), 6.

BRIGHTLING, SUSSEX.

Among the endless varieties of bell inscriptions found in different parts of England, it is not often that we come across anything so unique as those at Brightling, Sussex. The back six bells were cast in 1815, to commemmorate the six victories then achieved by the Duke of Wellington, and the two trebles we added in 1818 to commemmorate the battle of Waterloo. The bells are thus inscribed :—

Treble.—"WATERLOO.—T. Mears of London Fecit 1818."

2nd.—"WATERLOO.—This peal of bells was compleated Anno Domini 1818 at the expense of John Fuller Esq. T. Mears of London Fecit."

3rd.—"TALLAVERA.—The Revd I.B. Hayley, Rector; Mr. James Bass and Mr. Henry Hoad Ch: Wardens. T. Mears of London fecit 1815."

4th.—"SALAMANCA.—T. Mears of London Fecit 1815."

5th.—"VITTORIA.—T. Mears of London Fecit 1815."

6th.—"PYRENEES.—T. Mears of London Fecit 1815."

7th.—"ORTHES.—T. Mears of London Fecit 1815."

Tenor.—"TOULOUSE.—The five bells recast and a new treble added at the expence of John Fuller, Esq., late member for the county, Anno Domini 1815. In honour of the illustrious Duke of Wellington, his last six victories are here recorded. T. Mears of London fecit."

The tenor weighs about 14 cwt.

ACTON (SUFFOLK) BELLS.

Acton is a quiet and small village three miles north-east from Sudbury, one from Long Melford, and near the river Stour. The church of All Saints has a low tower, which contains a peal of five bells, hanging in an unringable condition, bearing the following inscriptions:

Treble.—"John Thornton made me 1716."

2nd.—"Myles Graye made me 1657 Nicholas Kerrington."

3rd.—"Myles Graye made me 1663."

4th.—"Thomas Gardiner fecit. 1747."

Tenor.—"Myles Graye made me 1685."
"God save the King."

The Provinces.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

On Saturday, May 24, 1884, in Three Hours and Thirty-nine Minutes,

AT ST. MARY-LE-TOWER CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt.

JAMES MOTTS	*Treble.*	HENRY BOWELL	6.
WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE ..	2.	EZRA CARTER	7.
EDGAR PEMBERTON	3.	SAMUEL TILLETT	8.
WILLIAM MOTTS..	4.	ROBERT HAWES..	9.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER.. ..	5.	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE ..	*Tenor.*

Composed and conducted by WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE.

This peal was rung in honour of the Queen's Birthday.

This is the first peal in the method ever rung in the county, and the first by the Association or any of the band.

Mr. Carter hails from London, the rest belong to Ipswich.

THE ST. LAURENCE'S SOCIETY.

READING.

On Saturday, May 24, 1884, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT ST. LAURENCE'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 24 cwt. in Eb.

WILLIAM H. HOLLOWAY† ..	*Treble.*	WILLIAM JOHNSON	5.
WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS ..	2.	ERNEST BISHOP..	6.
W. R. POCOCK* (aged 18)	3.	WILLIAM NEWELL	7.
JOSEPH E. WILLSHIRE ..	4.	WILLIAM GOSELTINE ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM J. WILLIAMS.

*First peal. †First peal with the treble, having previously rung the tenor.

The above peal was rung in honour of Her Majesty's birthday.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Saturday, May 24, 1884, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

5100 CHANGES: IN EIGHT DIFFERENT METHODS, AS FOLLOWS:—

60 Double Court Bob; 720 Yorkshire Court Bob; 720 Kent Treble Bob; 720 College Single; 720 Oxford Treble Bob; 720 London Single; 720 Oxford Bob; 720 Plain Bob.

Tenor 18 cwt.

J. S. WRIGHT	*Treble.*	R. MACKMAN	4.
J. WILSON	2.	E. BROWN	5.
G. L. RICHARDSON	3.	J. BROWN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by RICHARD MACKMAN.

The above 5100 was rung in honour of Canon Moore's birthday, and was listened to by Canon and Mrs. Moore, and Rev. B. Matthews with great interest. After the peal the ringers were invited to the vicarage, to drink Canon and Mrs. Moore's health, who made the ringers a present, and congratulated them on their success.

SHEFFIELD.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 26, 1884, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

CHAS. HY. HATTERSLEY ..	*Treble.*	SAMUEL SEED*	5.
JOSEPH ROWLEY*	2.	JOHN MULLIGAN	6.
JOSEPH MULLIGAN	3.	THOMAS HATTERSLEY ..	7.
CHARLES BOWER..	4.	WILLIAM SMITHSON* ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by THOMAS HATTERSLEY.

*First peal in the method.

Date Touches.

THE HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.

HERTFORD.—On Saturday, May 24th, at All Saints' church, in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1884 changes), in 1 hr. 7 mins. Stephen Knight, 1; William L. Randall, 2; James Staples, 3; Herbert Baker (conductor), 4; Jasper G. Crawley, 5; John Godfrey, 6; Thomas Gathard 7; Frederick George, 8. Composed by Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham. Tenor 22 cwt.

STAFFORD.—On Tuesday evening, May 13th, at St. Mary's Church, eight members of the Stafford society rang 1884 changes of Grandsire Triples containing sixty-six bobs and twenty-four singles in 1 hr. 11 mins. T. Cartwright, 1; W. Micklewright, 2; W. Follows, 3; R. Perry, senr., 4; S. Thompson, 5; T. Perry (composer and conductor), 6; J. Follows, 7; W. C. Hall, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. in F.

Miscellaneous.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

EVERSHOLT (Beds).—On Saturday, May 24th, being the Queen's Birthday, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 28 mins. M. Warwick (Bedford), 1; W. Clarke (Bromham; conductor), 2; W. E. Turney (Woburn), 3; W. Chibnal (Aspley Guise), 4; W. W. C. Baker, Esq. (Eversholt), 5; J. N. Frossell (Bedford), 6. Also another 720 of Bob Minor. J. Carwell-Cooke (Aspley Guise), 1; Chas. Herbert (Woburn), 2; W. Hall (Elstow), 3; Mark Lane (Aspley Guise), 4; J. Adkins (Elstow), 5; W. Biggs (Bromham), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. S. J. Cullip (Bedford), 1; C. Stafferton (Bromham), 2; *W. E. Turney (Woburn), 3; Isaac Hills (Bedford), 4; J. Adkins (Elstow), 5; C. Clarke (Bromham; conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method. This is the first in the method on the bells. Tenor 17¾ cwt.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

HARBORNE (Staffordshire).—On Monday, May 26th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, at the parish church, in 25 mins. G. Farmer, 1; W. Baldwin, 2; H. Smith, 3; E. Boylin, 4; T. Lewis, 5; E. Bryant (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—On Saturday, May 24th, the bells of the parish church were rung in honour of Her Majesty's Birthday, the requisite funds being subscribed by a number of gentlemen in the town. During the day five 720's of Minor were rung in the methods of Double Court Bob, Oxford Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob, and Evening Exercise Treble Bob. The ringers who took part in the above were: T. Burdon, G. J. Clarkson, H. E. T. Glover, B.A., W. Newton, T. Stephenson, W. Stephenson, T. Whitfield, and T. W. Waller, who rang his first 720 of Oxford Treble Bob.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Thursday, May 22nd, being Ascension Day, after Divine Service in the evening at the Church of St. John the Baptist, a 720 of Bob Minor, on the back six, in 28 mins. C. L. Routledge, 1; F. Lees, 2; E. Wallis (St. Stephen's) 3; W. Bowes (first 720), 4; W. Story, 5; R. S. Story (conductor), 6. Also on Monday, May 26th, for practice, a 720 of Bob Major. W. Bowes, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; W. Egglestone, 3; F. Lees, 4; W. G. Routledge, 5; T. J. Des Forges, 6; W. Story, 7; R. S. Story (conductor), 8. And 960 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 37 mins. G. Campbell, 1; F. Lees, 2; W. Egglestone, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; R. S. Story, 5; H. Thompson (Hurworth-on-Tees), 6; W. Story, 7; W. G. Routledge (conductor), 8. Tenor 12½ cwt.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

REDENHALL (Norfolk).—On Saturday, May 24th, it being the Queen's Birthday, the local company celebrated the day in their fashion. They began by ringing twelve courses of Double Norwich Court Bob, and during the rest of the day rang touches in different methods: Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Superlative Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Bob Major, being seven different methods altogether. The following took part in the ringing: Edward Smith, George Prime, William Sheldrake, William Matthews, James Tann, Robert Whiting, George Mobbs, John Bentley, John Smith, and Captain Moore.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WOKINGHAM (Berks).—On Tuesday, May 27th, at St. Paul's church, the local company rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, on the front six with the 7th and 8th covering, in 30 mins. H. Houlton, 1; W. Taylor, 2; T. Harvey, 3; T. Houlton, 4; C. Page, 5; W. Houlton (conductor), 6; J. Heffer, 7; C. Fulker, 8. All are members of the Sonning Deanery branch of the above Guild. It was their first 720 in the method, and the striking was particularly good.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

LONDON.—On Sunday, May 25th, for Divine Service in the evening at the church of St. Clement Danes, Strand, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1439 changes), in 1 hr. 3 mins. J. Waghorn, jun. (aged 15 years), 1; H. Langdon, 2; F. G. Newman, 3; G. T. McLaughlin, 4; E. F. Strange, 5; J. Waghorn, sen., 6; E. Rogers, 7; M. Routh, Esq., 8; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 9; D. Newton, 10. This touch, which was composed by H. Hubbard, has the 6th the extent behind the 9th. Tenor 24 cwt.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

NORTON-LE-MOORS.—On Monday, May 12th, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. W. Holdcroft, 1; E. Glover, 2; John Morton, 3; J. W. Brough, 4; Jas. Baddeley, 5; G. Walker (conductor), 6.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

NETHERTON (Worcestershire).—On Saturday, May 24th, five members of the local company with G. H. Pagett, of Stourbridge, rang at St. Andrew's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins, in honour of the Queen's Birthday. F. Hotchkiss, 1; J. Townsend, 2; J. Smith (conductor), 3; J. Robinson, 4; G. H. Pagett, 5; J. Prestidge, 6. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

BRISTOL.—On Monday, May 19th, at Christ Church, Broad Street, by the kind permission of the Rector and Churchwardens, a 840 of Grandsire Triples. G. Hunt, 1; J. Davies, 2; C. Thomas, 3; T. Salter (conductor), 4; R. Knill, 5; J. Parish, 6; J. Brain, 7; H. Tuckler, 8. This is the greatest length that Mr. Parish has yet rung.

ALDFORD (Cheshire)—On Sunday, Dec. 29th, 1881, 720 of College Single, in 27 mins. J. Basnett, 1; T. Basnett, 2; W. Manning, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas, 5; S. Manning, 6. Also on December 30th, 720 Kent Treble Bob, in 26 mins. C. Manning, 1; T. Basnett, 2; S. Manning, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas, 5; W. Manning, 6. Also on January 3rd, 1882, a 720 of New London Pleasure, in 26 mins. S. Manning, 1; C. Manning, 2; T. Basnett, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas, 5; W. Manning, 6. Also on January 6th, 1882, 2160 of Treble Bob, being a 720 of Violet, 720 Woodbine, 720 of Oxford, in 1 hr. 16 mins. S. Manning, 1; C. Manning, 2; T. Basnett, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas, 5; W. Manning, 6. Also the same evening a 720 of Plain Bob, in 27 mins., and 720 of Grandsire, in 26 mins. J. Basnett, 1; C. Manning, 2; W. Manning, 3; T. Basnett, 4; C. Thomas, 5; S. Manning, 6. Also on January 13th, 1882, a 720 of Duke of York Treble Bob, in 26 mins. S. Manning, 1; C. Manning, 2; T. Basnett, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas, 5; W. Manning, 6. Also the same evening, a 720 of London Single, in 27 mins., the band standing as above. Conducted by Charles Thomas. Tenor 14⅜ cwt. in F. The above performances have never yet been published.

EAST PECKHAM (Kent).—On Wednesday, May 21st, a 720 of Bob Minor, with thirty-two bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. G. Newman, 1; G. Bishop, sen., 2; R. Bishop, 3; G. Bishop, jun., 4; F. G. Newman, 5; W. Eldridge (conductor), 6. Also another 720 in the same method, with nine bobs and six singles. J. Rogers, 1; R. Bishop, 2; W. Eldridge, 3; G. Bishop, 4; G. Newman, 5; F. G. Newman (conductor), 6. Tenor 16½ cwt.

FISHERTON-ANGER (Wilts).—On Monday, May 12th, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 30 mins. E. A. Foster, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; S. Smith, 3; T. Blackbourn, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; J. R. Jerram, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

GLEMSFORD (Suffolk).—On Saturday evening, May 17th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 29½ mins. *Philip O. Bixby (Melford), 1; Z. Slater, 2; S. Slater, 3; O. Garwood, 4; C. W. Downs, 5; J. Slater (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

HANDSWORTH (Staffordshire).—On Monday evening, May 26th, at the parish church, five members of the Holt Society, Aston, with Mr. W. Verry of Handsworth, rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. J. Sanders, 1; B. Witchell, 2; A. Hales, 3; J. Benn, 4; W. Verry, 5; J. Plant (conductor), 6.

HIGHER SUTTON (Cheshire).—On Wednesday, May 22nd, for practice, a 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, conducted by William Ingham. And on Sunday, May 26th, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 in the same method, in 26 mins. Wm. Walmsley (conductor), 1; Wm. H. Ingham, 2; W. J. Farrish, 3; J. M. Davenport, 4; Wr. Ingham, 5; Thos. Mottershead, 6. Also for Divine Service in the afternoon, a 360 of Grandsire Minor, with eighteen bobs, in 13 mins. And in the evening, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. Wm. Walmsley (conductor), 1; Wm. H. Ingham, 2; J. Holt, 3; Thos. Mottershead, 4; Wr. Ingham, 5; J. M. Davenport, 6. This is the first 720 in the method by James Holt. Also a 360 of Bob Minor, in 13 mins. Wm. H. Ingham (conductor), 1; Wm. Walmsley, 2; J. Holt, 3; J. M. Davenport, 4; Thos Mottershead, 5; Wr. Ingham, 6. Messrs. Holt and Farrish hail from Macclesfield, two miles distant.

LOWMOOR (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, May 24th, four of the local company with four of their instructors from Liversedge, rang at Holy Trinity church, 2528 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 33 mins. S. Pickard (Lowmoor), 1; A. Briggs (Liversedge), 2; A. Wilkingson (Lowmoor), 3; S. Goodall (Liversedge), 4; H. Brooke (Liversedge), 5; T. Briggs (Lowmoor), 6; L. Illingworth (Liversedge; conductor), 7; C. Dracup (Lowmoor), 8. Composed by William Sottanstall, of Sowerby. Tenor 15 cwt. The longest length in the method by the Lowmoor ringers.

St. ALBANS (Herts).—On Ascension Day, the Cathedral ringers rang for morning service, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles each called differently. T. Norman, 1; R. T. Kent, 2; E. Hulks, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; N. N. Hills (conductor), 5; H. Lewis, 6; F. B. Chandler, 7; H. L. Waddington, 8. After which, another 120 by the following. T. Grant (first 120), 1; R. A. Fowler (first 120 inside), 2; G. W. Cartmel, 3; H. Lewis, 4; N. N. Hills (conductor), 5; T. Norman, 6; H. L. Waddington, 7; E. Hulks, 8. (6,7,8, behind.) Tenor about 30 cwt. The ringers also rang morning and evening on the Queen's birthday.

RAUNDS (Northamptonshire).—On Sunday, May 25th, at St. Peter's church, for Divine Service in the morning, two 6-scores of Bob Doubles and a 360 of College Little, with nine bobs. A. Coles, 1; W. J. Gilbert, 2; H. Stubbs, 3; T. Stubbs, 4; F. Gilbert, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. Also for afternoon service, a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles, and a 6-score of Bob Doubles. Also for Divine Service in the evening, a 360 of Oxford Bob, with nine bobs. A. Coles, 1; J. Willmott, 2; W. Hall, 3; G. Kirk, 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; H. Stubbs (conductor), 6. Also a 360 of London Single, with nine bobs. H. Stubbs, 1; J. Stubbs, 2; R. Pendered, 3; T. Stubbs, 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; F. Gilbert (conductor), 6.

SALISBURY.—On Thursday, May 22nd, at St. Martin's church, it being Ascension Day, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles was rung by the local company.

THUMBNAIL SKETCHES.—XII.

We believe that it was a celebrated Irishman who, in addressing a correspondent, first made use of the historical remark, "I write this to you with a sword in one hand and a pistol in the other." Personally we are not Irish, or should without doubt express our feelings in an equally forcible strain; for since the publication of these sketches we have been compelled to think seriously of applying for a bodyguard; and have actually given orders to our staff to at once join the volunteers. (This latter precaution furnishes us with weapons gratis).

It seems hard, very hard, that one cannot write about a certain old stoney ringer without all the ringers of that persuasion in the district making it a personal matter; yet it is so. In a thoughtless moment we indited a sketch of a individual (an imaginary one) who was, unhappily for his fellows, dumb; and now it would do one's heart good to hear the sigh of relief which pervades the atmosphere when we hear a visitor speak, and learn from his own lips that he is not the man alluded to. Formerly we could, conscious of our own probity, look a drunkard in the face with the stern unflinching eye of justice; but now our over-wrought imagination sees the phantom of revenge in every inebriated scarecrow who stumbles around in our neighbourhood. It is too much; human nature can bear such a state of things no longer, and in defence of this paper, in defence of our happy home and fireside, in defence of our pocket, aye, of our life even, we are compelled to bring these sketches to a conclusion.

We are sorry to have to take this step; sorry for more reasons than one. It would have been our pleasure to introduce to our readers many more of the eccentricities of ringing. We had our eye on a certain reverend gentleman, than whom no one could be more precise and particular as to what goes on downstairs, but whose steeple and ringing-chamber is a masterpiece of dirt and neglect. We are proud to know another who, being a ringer himself, has everything, both upstairs and down, in apple-pie order. But if we were to immortalise these in this paper, we should add the whole of the clergy to the ranks of our enemies, and who would live to tell the tale?

No! with tears in our—well, pen, we must say good-bye. Henceforth our friends must weep, our foes rejoice; the former because we can no longer gratify them by smiting the failings of their acquaintances, the latter because they are no longer to be smitten. Still, remember, there is a limit even to editorial silence. If anyone goads us to desperation, let him beware. While we have a drop of ink in our pen we will lash him with the whip of ridicule till he comes for us armed with a gun. Then we will retire, gracefully. Meanwhile we intend to emulate that "dumb, wise man" before spoken of, and keep silence.

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 Proposed Diocesan Association for St. Alban's.

Sir,—It was not my intention to have written to you again upon this subject, but after what appeared in your last issue I feel I cannot remain silent, as the matter requires a little explanation. In the first place, Mr. Keeble states that the carrying out of the above remote idea would benefit one corner of the county, and that alone. Now I must say that I cannot agree with him, for in my opinion the extension of the Association to Hertford would mean an additional support, which would become a permanent wealth to the Association, if not in the first year, it would eventually. That alone should do away with the notion of supplying another county with peal-books, &c. With regard to that part of Mr. Keeble's letter which refers to our non-attendance at the meeting held in 1879, and that those who did attend were left to surmise that our desire was to see if the Association would obtain a footing—and if so how it would work—before we went hand-in-hand to carry out its objects, these must have been post-prandial ideas by those who imagined them. In the first place, we previously had arranged to visit Saffron Walden, which our company did. On receiving the circular from Mr. Seaman announcing the meeting for June 2nd, we immediately wrote to him to say who would join, and I was one among the number. My first receipt for payment of subscription is dated June, 1879, that being the time when the Association was founded (as per heading of Annual Report), therefore I claim to have been a member from the commencement. What I wish to convey is, that our names were sent to Mr. Seaman before Whit-Monday, 1879, and not held back until the result of the meeting was known. I well remember the discussion in 1880 upon the question of a Diocesan Association, and was sorry that such a decision was arrived at, but trust it may be reversed on Monday next. In 1881 I did say that my feelings were of a mixed nature, but I also stated that I had not seen any of those objectionable practices carried on in the county of Essex. With regard to belfry reform in Essex, the tone of Mr. Keeble's letter somewhat surprised me, for it is hardly consistent with the Annual Report of 1881-82. Last, but not least, is the want of justification of saying that what was done at West Ham was an injustice to those it concerns most, who were not present. This I cannot define to my satisfaction, for I consider that every member's interest should be considered, and that was and is my intention, for I will remind my friend that the resolution passed at West Ham was not one for taking action, but simply to express the opinion of the meeting, which was accomplished without opposition, and without any violation of the rules. So I fail to see where the injustice lies, as nothing can be done till the motion comes on at Chelmsford. I trust that I may meet my friend there that day in a happy frame of mind, so that we may then clear up what at present appears to be a misunderstanding.

Waltham Abbey, Essex. W. A. Alps.

"Variety is Charming."

Sir,—On opening my "Bell News" to-day, I was glad to see the report of another peal by the Saddleworth men. I have always had an idea that the men most likely to do justice to a ring of eight are those who have done well on six. Your readers will remember that this company rang a 5040 a short time ago in fourteen different Treble Bob Minor methods, and when we see the report of the third peal they have rung without assistance during the three mouths that has elapsed since their bells were opened as a ring of eight, one cannot help thinking that they are made of "ringing stuff." These three peals, however, are all in the Kent Treble Bob method, and the object of these few words is to warn this and other young companies against allowing themselves to drop into that one groove so prevalent in Yorkshire, viz.—competence in Kent, but Kent alone. What could be easier than for this company—whose skill in method ringing I have already alluded to—to tackle the Double Norwich, or any other method? I think, if the same tact and perseverance was brought to bear on any single eight-bell method, that is required to learn, and successfully accomplish fourteen six-bell methods, they would find themselves in a much higher position than many an older company. Let them look at what has been done at Burton-on-Trent.

May 17th. Observer.

P.S.—I don't want them to abandon the method I have named; let them get as many Treble Bob peals as they can, but let us have something else now and again.

Information Wanted.

Sir,—Could you or any readers of "The Bell News" inform me where a peal has been rung, or if ever, by a company so young as the peal rung at Earlsheaton on May 4th, 1884, which appeared in your issue of May 10th, by eight ringers who average about 20 years, composer included, and all natives of the town. I, as a lover of Campanology, think this performance a clever feat, and would like to know, if ever so young a company has had the same honour.

Progression.

ALDFORD, CHESHIRE.

The village of Aldford is situate five miles south of the city of Chester. The church is a new structure, built by the late Marquis of Westminster in 1867, with four bells, cast by Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel, London. In the year 1875 Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, added two trebles, and a very good splice that firm made of it. A company of ringers was formed in 1876, who have rung at various times both Grandsire and Stedman, and in 1881 they rang eight different methods of Treble Bob; in all 13,720 changes, in different methods.

Belfry Accident at St. Thomas's, Salisbury.—On the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, during the midday ringing, the clapper of the tenor, weighing about ¾ cwt., flew out with a tremendous crash, breaking part of the barrel chiming apparatus, so that the accustomed four changes could not be ground through on Sunday as usual.

TOUCHES OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

Collected and arranged by

THE REV. H. EARLE BULWER.

SERIES I.

TOUCHES OF LESS THAN 1000 CHANGES.

992.

Time 37 minutes.

In three courses.

The 6th home throughout.

23456	M	B	W	H
24536			1	2
54326			2	1
23456			2	2

23456	M	B	W	H
36452	1			2
32654	2			1
23456	2			2

23456				
43526	•		2	1
45236			1	2
23456	1	–	2	1

23456				
64352	2	–	1	1
62453	2			1
23456	1			2

The 6th one course-end each way.

23456			
52364	–		2
64523	2	1	
23456	1	2	2

The same.

23456				
35264	–			
64523	1		2	2
23456	1		2	2

23456				
62534	2		1	2
34625	2		1	
23456		–		2

In four courses.

23456			
63254	–	1	
35642	–		
35426	–		1
23456		1	

23456			
35264	–		
56342	–		
64352	1	–	
23456	1		1

SERIES II.

TOUCHES OF OVER 1000, AND UNDER 1600 CHANGES.

1472.

Time 54½ minutes.

23456	M	B	W	H
52364	2		2	2
64235	1		2	2
25346	1		1	2
23456			1	2

23456	M	B	W	H
36452	1			2
42563	1		1	2
34625	2		1	2
23456	2		2	2

23456				
24536			1	2
32465	2		2	2

Repeated.

(or this variation,)

23456				
52364	2		2	2
53624			1	2

Repeated.

23456				
52364	2		2	2
24365	1			2

Repeated.

23456				
52364		–		2
24365	2	–	1	2
62453	2		2	2
23456	2	–	1	2

23456	M	B	W	H
24536	1	–	2	2
32465	2		2	2
33625	1	–	2	2
23456		–		2

SERIES III.

TOUCHES OF OVER 1600 CHANGES.

2336.

Time 84¾ minutes.

The first of these touches has the 6th the extent home In the reverse, the 5th.

23456	M	B	W	H
32654	2			2
24653	1			2
35642	1		1	1
53246		–	1	2
52436	1	–	2	2
54326			1	2
23456	1	–		2

23456	M	B	W	H
36452	2	–	1	2
62453	1			2
42563	1	–		1
53624	1		1	2
56234			1	2
32654			2	2
23456		–	1	2

23456				
24536	1	–	2	2
25346	1	–	2	2
35426	1	–		1
23564		–		2
32465		–	1	2
34625	1	–	2	2
23456		–		2

23456				
23564		–		1
32465			–	1
25463	2	–	1	2
53462	2	–	1	2
65324		–		2
54326	2	–	1	2
23456		–	1	2

2368.

Time 85¾ minutes.

In eight courses.

The 6th the extent home at six course-ends. In the reverse, the 5th.

23456	M	B	W	H
65432	2	–	2	1
65324		–		1
54326	1			2
42356	1	–		
53246	1	–		2
34256	1	–		
52436	1	–		2
23456	1	–		

23456	M	B	W	H
32654		–	1	2
42356		–	1	
24653		–	1	2
34256		–	1	
43652		–	1	2
65432			1	1
65324		–		1
23456	2	–	2	

In nine courses.

The 6th four course-ends each way.

23456	M	B	W	H
23564			–	1
43265			–	1
45362			–	1	1
25463			–	1	
25634			–		1
53246			–		
34256	1		–		
52436	1		–		2
23456	1		–		

2400.

Time 87 minutes.

In seven courses.

The 6th the extent home.

23456	M	B	W	H
52364	2		2	2
34625	2	–	2	2
43526	2			2
25346	1	–		2
34256			1	1
52436			2	2
23456	1	–		

23456				
52364	2		2	2
24365	2	–	1	2
54632	2	–		1
35426		–		2
24536			2	2
25346			1	2
23456			1	2

The 6th the extent wrong.

23456	M	B	W	H
35264	2		2	
53462		–	1	2
52364	2			1
24365	1			2
42563		–	1	2
65243			2	2
23456	2	–	2	2

23456				
52364	2		2	2
24365	1			2
45362	1			2
54263	2			2
54632		–		1
25346		–	2	2
23456	1	–	2	2

In nine courses.

The 6th home at six course-ends; in the reverse, the 5th.

23456	M	B	W	H
35426	1	–		
24653	1		1	
24536		–		1

23456	M	B	W	H
35264		–		
62453	1		1	
63254		–	1	1

Twice repeated.

2432.

Time 88 minutes.

In seven courses.

The 6th the extent home.

23456	M	B	W	H
52364	2		2	2
24365	1			2
63425			2	2
35426	1			2
24536	1	–		2
25346			1	2
23456	1	–	2	2

The 4th the extent in 5ths.

23456	M	B	W	H
32654	2			2
36524			1	2
23645	2		2	2
35642	2	–	1	2
52643	1			2
25346		–	1	2
23456			1	2

The 5th the extent home.

23456				
32654		–	1	2
24653	2	–	1	2
35642	2	–	2	1
53246		–	1	2
52436			1	2
54326	1	–	2	2
23456	1	–		2

23456				
36452	1			2
46532	1	–		1
52364	2	–	2	2
53624	1	–	2	2
26354	1	–		2
62453		–		2
23456	1			2

In eight courses.

The 6th the extent home.

23456				
63254		–	1	
64352		–	1	1
32546	1		1	2
45236	1	–		2

23456				
54326	1	–		2
45623			–	1	2
32654	1		1	1
25634	1	–		

Repeated.

2464.

Time 89¼ mins.

The 6th the extent home.

23456	M	B	W	H
52364	2		2	2
24365	2	–	1	2
63425	1	–		2
35426	1			2
24536	1	–		2
25346			1	2
23456	1	–	2	2

The 6th the extent wrong.

23456	M	B	W	H
52364	2		2	2
24365	2	–	1	2
45362	1			2
54263		–	1	2
52643			1	2
25346		–	1	2
23456	1	–	2	2

23456				
32654	2			2
24653	2	–	1	2
35642	2	–	2	1
53246		–	1	2
34625	1			2
64235	1	–		1
54326	1	–	2	2
23456	1	–		2

23456				
54326			2	2
45623		–	1	2
53624	2	–	1	2
34625	1			2
64235	1	–		1
25346	2	–	2	2
23456	1	–	2	2

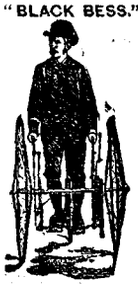
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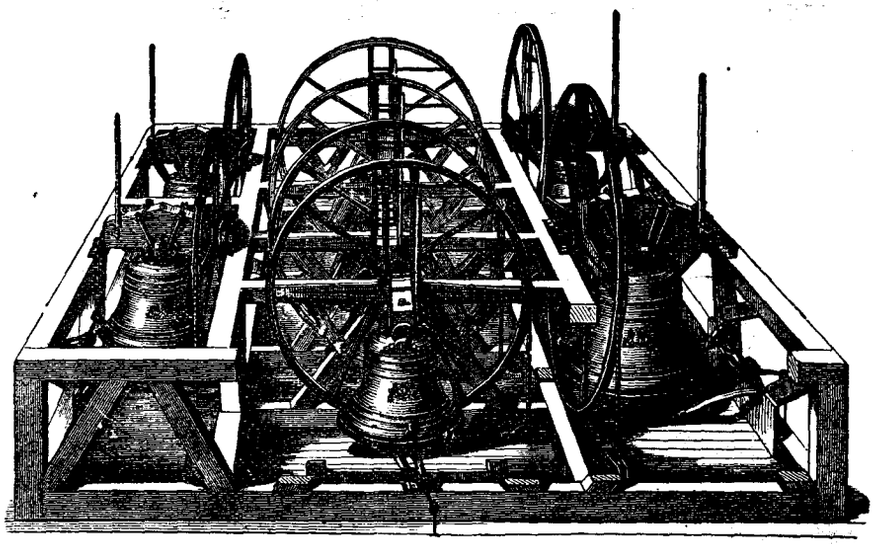
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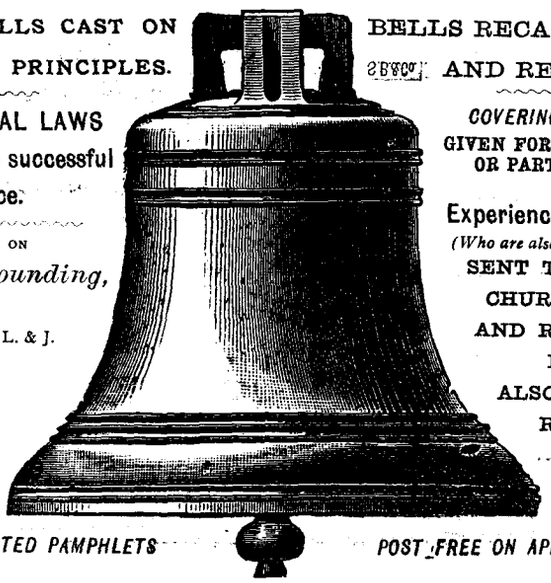
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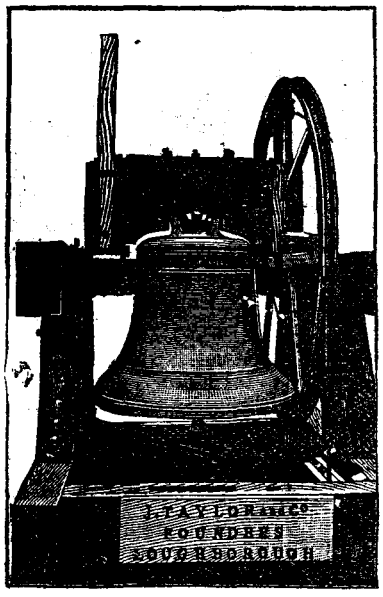
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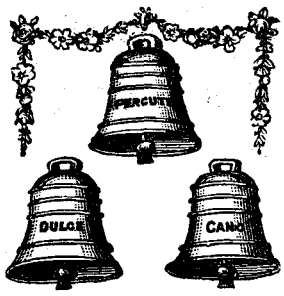
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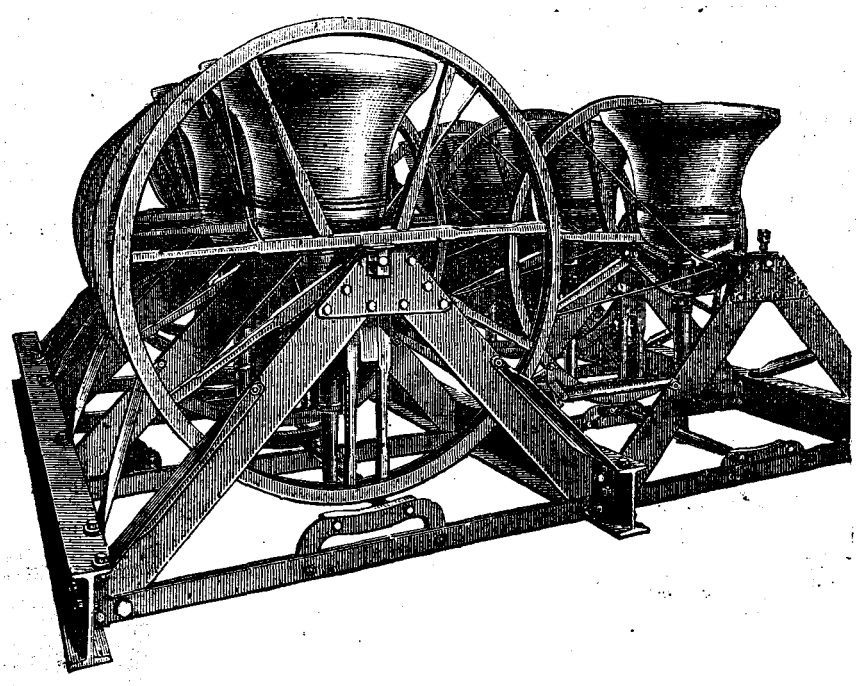
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