

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 136. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. III. SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1884.

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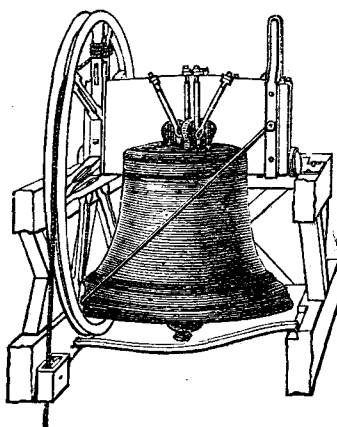
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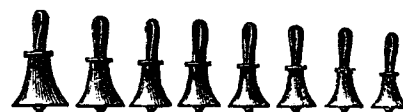
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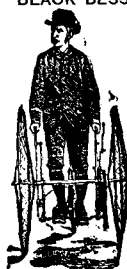
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ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE
DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THIS Annual Meeting was held on Monday, October 27th, at Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was well attended by members from Bishop Wearmouth, Carlisle, Chester-le-Street, Durham (St. Oswald's), Heighington, Hexham, Jarrow (Christ Church and St. Peter's), Newcastle (the old Society, St. John's, and Stephen's), North Shields, Ripon, South Shields, Staindrop, Stockton, and Winlaton. The meeting of the Committee was held in the morning at the "Crown and Mitre," the Rev. R. Steavenson, rector of Newton Hall, presiding. Amongst other things it was decided that all peals of 5000 changes be entered in a peal-book, when rung entirely by members of the Association; it was also decided that an alteration in the rules was necessary, so that three years' arrears in subscriptions should terminate membership in cases where no formal resignation had been made; this important alteration was by inadvertence not submitted to the vote of the General Meeting. At the Special Service in St. John's church at 2 o'clock there was a good attendance, and an appropriate sermon was delivered by the Vicar, the Rev. W. C. Houldey, who was too unwell to attend the dinner immediately afterwards at the "Crown and Mitre," where 82 sat down. The chair was occupied by the Rev. Canon Blunt, supported by the Revs. F. N. Thicknesse and W. M. Wadsworth: the vice-chairs being occupied by Messrs. R. S. Story and Lees. At the conclusion of the dinner, the proceedings commenced with the toast of "The Queen," followed by that of "The Bishops and Clergy of the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle," coupled with the name of Canon Blunt. In proposing this toast,

Mr. STORY regretted the absence, through ill health, of the Vicar of St. John's, and stated how gratifying it was to find how closely the clergy allied themselves to bell-ringers. They had received great encouragement and assistance from the clergy, who were always ready to do all in their power for their Association.

Canon BLUNT responded. After regretting the enforced absence of the Rev. W. C. Houldey, who was well known to take a great interest in bell-ringing, he read a letter from the Bishop of Newcastle regretting his inability to attend the Annual Meeting this year. He said the clergy sympathised with the Association, and those who were connected with peals in the two counties were rapidly coming over to them, offering sympathy and encouragement. This Association seemed the only remaining link connecting the new diocese of Newcastle with the ancient diocese of Durham. Although his own skill in the art was at present confined to ringing a bell in rounds, he wished to consider himself a performing member who desired to make satisfactory progress in time; and referred to the peal of 5040 recently rung by eight clergymen. At this stage of the proceedings, the Rev. Canon had to leave the meeting, which was then presided over by the Rev. E. N. Thicknesse.

In proposing "The Honorary Members," the SECRETARY said that letters had been received from Canon Chester and Mr. Cruddas regretting their inability to be present, and the Vicar of All Saints had also been prevented by having to attend a funeral. The toast was suitably responded to by the Rev. E. N. Thicknesse and Mr. Dain.

The Secretary's seventh Annual Report was then read, and unanimously adopted on the motion of the chairman, seconded by the Rev. W. M. Wadsworth. The election of officers for the ensuing year was as follows: President, Mr. R. S. Story; Vice-presidents, Messrs. Lees and Whitfield; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Clarkson. Eighteen new members were elected, and some members who have hitherto subscribed as performing members expressed their intention to subscribe in future as honorary members. A vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary, to the retiring President (Mr. Reed, who was prevented by ill health from attending the meeting), to the chairmen for presiding, and to the Vicars of the churches for the use of the bells. During the day a party visited St. Stephen's tower, and rang some excellent Kent Treble Bob Major in attempting a touch of 1344, and during the day there was some excellent ringing at St. John's. Nothing of note was accomplished at All Saints or the Cathedral. From a physical point of view, the greatest feat of the day was accomplished at the Cathedral, where the unwieldy tenor is considered a good handful for two ringers of ordinary strength to manage as a cover, but which was, on this occasion, turned into Bob Minor by a modern Hercules hailing from Jarrow. After an animated discussion, during which Winlaton, Chester-le-Street, Heighington, and Staindrop were proposed, it was decided to hold the February meeting at Winlaton.

ERECTION OF A PEAL TABLET.—The members of the St. Mary's society, Old Battersea, Surrey, have just placed a handsome mahogany tablet, written in gold, in the tower of St. Mary's, recording the half-muffled peal rung on the 8th of July last, which duly appeared in our peal column. The following inscription appears at the foot of same: "This tablet was presented by the members as a memorial of the late Mr. E. E. Robins, an active member of this society."

THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, BATTERSEA, SURREY.

A full meeting of members and friends took place at the above Society's Meeting Room, on Tuesday evening, November 4th, to witness the presentation of a testimonial, consisting of a very handsome marble clock, with side ornaments, and silver plate with inscription affixed, to their honorary secretary, Mr. Henry S. Thomas, by the Vicar of Battersea, the Rev. Canon Erskine Clarke, M.A., who, in the opening remarks of a rather lengthy speech, expressed his great admiration of the determined and energetic manner in which Mr. Thomas had persevered to bring the art of change-ringing in this society to the perfection it had now reached, and he could further say that such had been his strenuous efforts in the direction of belfry reform in general, that various Clergymen, not only in London, but in the provinces, were fast following his worthy example. Continuing, the rev. gentleman then said that he had met the ringers on many occasions, but never under such favourable circumstances as on the present, and in viewing the whole of Mr. Thomas' connexion with the belfry, which he believed extended over the period of some ten years, he said that the members had rightly shown their just appreciation of his long, valuable and faithful services by the presentation this evening, and it gave him, as their President, very great pleasure to be among them, and to present, on their behalf, such a magnificent token of their respect to such a meritorious person as Mr. Henry Thomas.

Mr. Thomas, who on rising to reply was received with loud cheers, said he could hardly find words to express his gratitude to the members for the very handsome acknowledgement of his efforts in the direction of change-ringing and belfry reform in this and other societies, the latter of which he considered so necessary in the present day. He had worked with his whole energy for a period extending over ten years, and during that time had not been absent from Sunday or practice-night ringing more than five or six times except under circumstances beyond his control, and he was only speaking the truth when he said it would be impossible for him to centre more interest or throw more energy into the ringing than he was doing at the present time. He said he owed a debt of gratitude to Mr. Baron, and to the rest of the members who have so actively backed him up in his best endeavours, which have been fully realized by the fact that the members of the society have accomplished four peals of Grandsire Triples during the present year, and he had succeeded through the kindness of his supporters in placing boards in the tower to record the same. Again thanking the members for the handsome present which he said he should prize beyond anything else, coming as it did so unexpectedly upon him, and assuring them that efforts would never tire when working for their interests, Mr. Thomas, who was greatly overcome during the whole of the speech, resumed his seat amidst a round of well-earned applause.

At the vicar's request, the Rev. J. Toone, vicar of St. John's, Battersea, under whose auspices the society was first formed, then addressed the members, and said he was very pleased to see the society had made such rapid strides during the past few years under the able direction of his friend Mr. Thomas, of whom it would be impossible of him to speak too highly, and of Mr. Baron, under whose guidance the youthful scions of the art were taught to handle their ropes, and of whose ability in the ringing world it be unnecessary for him to dwell on; suffice it to say he considered the testimonial more than deserved, and he was glad to see the members so heartily appreciate the good qualities of their Secretary.

After a few very good touches of Grandsire Caters on the handbells by Messrs. Hopkins, Baron, Mansfield and other friends, some excellent tune playing by a brother ringer from Richmond was listened to with great attention, and on finishing the gentleman was loudly applauded. Votes of thanks to the executive committee for the energy they displayed in getting together the testimonial, and to Mr. Baron, the much-respected instructor to the society, for his perseverance in overcoming the difficulties with which he was beset in starting the method in St. Mary's steeple, were relied to in suitable terms, and three cheers for Mr. J. Mansfield, the Royal Cumberlands' jester, who provided plenty of fun, brought to a close one of the most agreeable and social evenings the St. Mary's ringers have ever spent together.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of this Association will be held at Hampton-in-Arden, on Saturday, November 15th. The Secretary would be glad if all members who attend will have a copy of rules with them, as it is his intention to draw their attention to some of the rules, especially No. 11. rule. The tower of the parish church will be open from two o'clock in the afternoon. The business of the Association will be transacted at "The Ring of Bells," at seven sharp. Trains leave Birmingham (New Street), at 1.35, 2.10, 3.30 and 5.40; last return train, 10.4.

Kings' Norton, Worcestershire.

JOHN WRIGHT,

Hon. Sec.

A RINGING TOUR BY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

BY ONE OF THEM.

(Continued from page 364).

A pleasant walk found us at Eccles Road Station; here we booked for Watton, being the nearest station for Carbrooke, the native place of our conductor. Arriving here, we were met by that gentleman's father, who escorted us to his house, a distance of two miles. We are greatly indebted to Mr. Newson, sen., for the kind manner in which we were treated, and through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS" beg to thank him very much. After refreshing ourselves, we made for the church, which has a ring of five, tenor 12 cwt., and rang several 6-scores of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, in which Mr. Matthew Murrell took part, that gentleman being a great enthusiast of ringing. We then adjourned to the meeting house, rang several touches on the handbells, and a few tunes by Messrs. Newson and Hopkins Brothers; this brought the evening to a close. Returning to Mr. Newson's house for the night, a very pleasant hour was spent before retiring. The next day (Saturday), found us after a pleasant drive of about seven miles, at Hingham; here we attempted a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, which was successfully brought round in 3 hrs. 14 mins. After refreshing the inner man, we were driven by Mr. Matthew Jarvis, (steeple keeper at the last named place), to Kimberley Station, en route for Norwich, which was reached about eight o'clock; lodgings having been secured by our friend Mr. Kedddington, of the "White Horse." Our next interview was with Mr. Fredk. Knights, who made the necessary arrangements for a pull on the following day at St. Peter Mancroft, Stedman Cinqes being rung for Divine Service in the morning. In the afternoon, some Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung at St. Giles's, and for evening service at St. Peter's, Stedman Cinqes and Stedman Triples. Being Harvest Thanksgiving at St. Laurence, a peal of six, touches of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Minor were rung before and after the evening service. Arrangements having been made for a peal the next day at St. Peter's, we were soon at the tower preparing for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, which was accomplished in excellent style in 3 hrs. 33 mins. Previous to starting, Messrs. Fredk. Knights, George Smith, Philip Sadler, and James Skinner, were proposed members of the Cumberlands. This last named performance, with the two previous ones at Hingham and Kenninghall, appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" of the 27th ult. After the peal, we were congratulated by the Rev. N. Bolingbroke and Gervas Holmes, Esq., on our success. It being now time for dinner, an adjournment was made, and at three o'clock we met again at St. Peter's, and rang four courses of Stedman Caters, in which the Rev. N. Bolingbroke took part. From St. Peter's we were conducted by the rev. gentleman to St. Michael at Coslany, where two courses of Oxford Treble Bob Major was rung. Returning by way of St. Gregory, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob was attempted, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing 500. It being the meeting night at St. Peter's, we made our way back to the tower. Treble twelve and Stedman Cinqes being the order of the evening, conducted by Mr. George Newson. Descending the tower, we were soon in the meeting room of the Norwich Scholars, examining the peal book, etc., finishing the evening by touches on the handbells. Tuesday morning, eight o'clock, found us at Yarmouth, arrangements having been made the previous evening for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal, which came to grief after ringing about 4000 changes in 2 hrs. 35 mins., through the rope slipping the wheel of the fifth. A pleasant time was spent at the house of Mr. Fox, a veteran ringer, who told us it was the finest ringing he had heard in Yarmouth for over forty years. The time having arrived for the departure of some of our Norwich friends, who we accompanied to the railway station, we were reluctantly compelled to say good-bye, so expressing a hope that we should meet again shortly, we left them, and returned to host Fox's, where we lodged the night. The following morning at 6.15 a.m. found us at South Town Station, booking for Beccles, which we reached soon after seven o'clock, and after a good breakfast repaired to the tower, and rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples. After thanking the gentlemen who were kind enough to meet us, we pushed on to Alburgh, arriving there about eleven o'clock. This church contains a peal of eight, tenor 11 cwt., but go very badly. An attempt was made for a peal of Kent Treble Bob, in which Mr. George Prime took part, but after rigging three courses, the ringer of the third bell "set up," remarking that he had had quite enough of it. After leaving the tower, we accompanied Mr. Prime to his house, and after a little refreshment, bade him good-bye. A pleasant walk of about two miles across the fields brought us to Redenhall, where we met Captain Moore, who had just completed the preparations for a peal. Ascending the tower, we pulled off for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, which was successfully brought round in 3 hrs. 17 mins. A comfortable evening having been spent at the meeting house, we, under the leadership of Mr. John Smith, of the Redenhall Foundry, found ourselves after a walk of a mile, safely lodged at the "Cardinal Cap Inn," Harleston, this being our desti-

nation for the night. The following morning (Thursday), we left Harleston by the 6.45 train for Eye, reaching that place about eight o'clock, where we met Mr. Gibbs, sen., and Mr. George Day. Having satisfied the cravings of the inner man, we made our way to the church of SS. Peter and Paul, and accomplished in 3 hrs. 14 mins., a well struck peal of Kent Treble Bob Major. Coming out of the tower, we were complimented by Mr. Gibbs, who said we had rung a very good peal. The time for our departure being close at hand, thanking our two friends for their kindness towards us during our short stay, bid them adieu. A few minutes' later found us at the station, booking for Ipswich, where we arrived about 6 o'clock. Here Mr. Edgar Pemberton was waiting for us, and very kindly escorted us to the meeting house of the Ipswich ringers. A little disappointment was felt on discovering that we could not attempt a peal at St. Mary-le-Tower until Saturday. As this was our first appearance here, and having a great desire to ring on the twelve (which by the way are in capital good going order), we agreed to remain until Saturday. This being the meeting night at St. Margaret's (a very good peal of six, tenor 19 cwt., we were soon in the tower, ringing Oxford and Kent Treble Minor. After the ringing, an adjournment was made to the meeting house, and arrangements were made the next day for a peal at Coddendam. We finished up the evening by touches on the handbells. The following day (Friday), according to arrangement, Mr. E. Pemberton appeared at the club house with a very nice trap, which was to convey us to Coddendam, and after seating ourselves comfortably within it, a pleasant drive of about seven miles found us at the church, where is a nice musical ring of eight, tenor 16 cwt., recently rehung by George Day and Son, of Eye. Here our efforts were crowned with success, for after ringing 2 hrs. 59 mins., we had the pleasure of hearing the bells come into rounds, having accomplished a 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major. Coming from the tower, we spent a short time with one of the churchwardens, who said he was very pleased we had been successful, and hoped we should pay Coddendam another visit on some future occasion. Thanking that gentleman for his kindness in allowing us the use of the bells, we assured him that if we came that way again, we should be only too pleased to have another ring. Departing time having arrived we were soon sitting behind our coachman, (having wished our Coddendam friends good bye), making for Ipswich, where we arrived just before ten o'clock. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Pemberton personally, for his kindness on this occasion, as I believe some little difficulty was experienced in carrying out this arrangement. Wishing him good night, with the hope that we should be successful the next day, we retired to rest at 11.30. The next day (Saturday), being our last previous to our return to London, we enjoyed a very nice trip to Harwich by the boat, and after a stroll about the town for a few hours, we returned to Ipswich in time for tea. Having got this meal over, we were soon at St. Mary-le-Tower, preparing for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus. "Go" being called, we struck off into changes at a quarter to six, and at seven o'clock, much to our dismay, down came the sixth rope. Mr. Catchpole said he was truly sorry for more than one reason that this had happened, but hoped we would come on some future occasion and attempt it again. This finished a tour which will long be remembered by those who took part in it. On leaving the tower, we adjourned for the last time to the meeting house, and after a pleasant hour had been passed, we found ourselves at the railway station, nearly all the ringers having accompanied us. After a hearty shake hands with all, we steamed out of Ipswich station at 8.40, reaching London at ten minutes past eleven.

We wish through "THE BELL NEWS," to thank our friend Mr. Catchpole, and the Ipswich ringers, for their kindness in meeting us, and endeavouring to make everything comfortable. To the clergy and churchwardens of the different churches, throughout this tour, we are also indebted, and beg to thank them very kindly. In conclusion, I hope if I have accidentally omitted to thank any gentleman who has tried to make this tour a success, that he will take the will for the deed.

ST. MARGARET'S, LEICESTER.

THE fine peal of ten bells at this church having been recently restored by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, the following members of the Leicester Branch of the Midland Counties' Association started for a peal of Grandsire Caters on Saturday afternoon, October 25th, when after ringing 1 hr. 27 mins., the person who cleans the church, very thoughtlessly turned the gas off at the meter, it was then found too late to make a fresh start owing to Divine Service in the evening. James Jarvis, 1; John Wilson, 2; Stephen Cooper, 3; George Burrows, 4; W. P. Cooper, 5; John Buttery, (conductor), 6; John Cooper, 7; Thomas Wilson, 8; John Marlow, 9; Charles Biddles, 10. Tenor 30 cwt. The ringers afterwards went to the house of host Stephen Cooper, of the "Defiance Inn," where an excellent supper was being prepared in anticipation of the peal being successfully rung, and although great annoyance was felt at the circumstance already stated, it did not prevent them enjoying the good things provided.

LEWES, SUSSEX.

ON Wednesday, the 29th ult., the Southover Society celebrated their forty-fifth anniversary. Messrs. H. P. Bennett, L. Huggett, Harding, S. Deadman, and Rollinson from Eastbourne, W. Bone (Reigate), J. Baker (Uckfield), met the Southover men, and it had been hoped that some of the Brighton company would have been present, but from various causes they were unable to do so. Three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by B. Burfield, Bennett, Harding, Huggett and Baker, the 7th (Rollinson) covering, 6 8, behind, and two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, by Bone, Bennett, Harding, Huggett and Deadman, with 7 6 8 behind. At the dinner held afterwards at the "King's Head," the subject of the formation of an Association for Sussex was broached by Mr. C. A. Miller (Lewes), who said his opinion in the good done by these Associations was strengthened by the success that invariably attended them. When a week or so ago he read in "THE BELL NEWS" the reports of the various quarterly meetings all over the country, he was sorry to think that Sussex could find no place amongst them. Of late years, ringing had had a revival, the outcome of which was the banding together of the various societies for their mutual benefit. That ringers had become an organized body was proved by their having a journal and record of their own, the contents of which was wholly devoted to their craft. The sister counties of Surrey and Kent were well to the fore, and he was certain that Sussex by an effort could hold its own. These associations were the means of promulgating campanology, and conducive to belfry reform, and from his experience in other places such reform was necessary. It was too often forgotten that the tower was as much a part of God's House as the chancel, but he was afraid that many ministers often ignored the ringing-chamber. Where the minister exercised his influence over the ringers, there one saw clean belfries, and heard as a rule good ringing. But nothing could be done without unity; differences of opinions as to one town's claims over another, and one company's superiority over another, must be sunk, and the advancement of ringing be the main object. He was sorry that no one from Brighton was present, as he knew that a County Association had been mooted there. On behalf of the Lewes ringers, he thanked those gentlemen who had so kindly attended their anniversary, and was truly sorry that they had been unable to secure a peal of Triples or something more tangible than Grandsire Doubles. He had ventured those remarks so that the subject of an Association might at least be ventilated. Mr. H. P. Bennett (Eastbourne), said he had not gone so deeply into the subject as Mr. Miller had evidently done, but he thought the matter would bear their thinking over. He was sure Eastbourne would be pleased to do its share towards advancing campanology in the county. He should like to propose the toast of "Success to the Lewes Society." Many years ago, before Eastbourne was so well up in ringing as at present, he had come to Lewes, and received some very useful information, for which he had been thankful. He hoped the old town would soon have a band of half-pull ringers. He was disappointed at not having met some of the Brighton band, and concluded his remarks, which were enthusiastically received, by giving some good advice to the members. The evening's proceedings were enlivened by several applicable toasts, songs, and tunes on the handbells, and the company dispersed well pleased with their forty-fifth anniversary. On Saturday last, a band from Reigate successfully accomplished Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, which was listened to with much attention, and at the finish, the party were congratulated by friends from Eastbourne and others who had come over to hear them. The peal will be found in another column.

SAINT MARY MAGDALENE, TAUNTON.

AT a meeting of the Bells Committee, held recently, a sub-committee was appointed to meet Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough, bell founder, at the tower, and confer with him respecting the new bell cage and the re-casting or re-tuning of the bells. The committee presented their report to the General Committee on Thursday evening, recommending that Mr. Taylor's estimate of £299 6s. for supplying a combined iron and wood cage to take ten bells, and for re-tuning and re-hanging the present peal of eight bells and putting them in perfect working order, be accepted. The committee adopted that recommendation, and Mr. Taylor was called in, and the resolution was read to him. He thanked the meeting for giving him the order, and promised that the work should be carried out in the best possible manner, and it is proposed to commence the work on Monday next. With regard to the new clock and chimes, it was explained that the carillon was a most expensive apparatus, and it seemed to be a pity to have such a valuable machine to play only eight notes. Mr. Taylor suggested that two smaller bells for ringing—one of 7 cwt. in F., and one of 7½ cwt. in E., should be added to the present peal of ringing bells, and that a ten cwt. bell in C., without clapper or wheels, should be suspended above for the use of the carillon chimes, as this would enable a greater variety of tunes to be played than at present.

OPENING OF THE NEW BELLS AT ST. EDMUND'S, SALISBURY.

THE heavy peal of six at the above church has been recently augmented to eight, the second having been given by one of the company of ringers, and the treble having been purchased by public subscription. The new bells were cast and hung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and are very satisfactory in tone.

The opening took place on Thursday, October 30th. About noon some Doubles were rung by the local company upon the old six bells. Then followed a short dedication service, after which the local company rang rounds on all the eight bells for a short time. A luncheon was afterwards held at the St. Edmund's Home, at which the rector (the Rev. W. J. Tait) presided. The Rev. A. D. Hill, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. C. L. Bode, the Mayor of Salisbury, the churchwardens, the Rev. Dr. Bourne, and several other gentlemen were also present. The St. Edmund's company of ringers, and a select band, under the direction of the Rev. A. D. Hill were also present. The rector and several other gentlemen made a few appropriate remarks after dinner, thanking the donor of the second bell for his generosity. At 3 p.m., the select band engaged for the occasion ascended the tower alone, and rang a 1008 of Grandsire Triples, stationed thus—W. Alley, 1; W. W. Gifford, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; Rev. A. D. Hill, 4; T. Blackburn, 5; J. R. Jerram, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 7; Rev. C. L. Bode and J. Cooper, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. Time not taken. 336 and 489 of Grandsire Triples were also rung by the same band, stationed somewhat differently. The doors were then unlocked, and the company proceeded to the St. Edmund's Home, and partook of tea. This concluded the day's proceedings. It is a pity that while the work of hanging the new bells was about, the striking of some of the old bells was not rectified, as several are very false, and caused some difficulty to the company who handled them.

THE ST. SIDWELL'S SOCIETY, EXETER.

A meeting of the above society was held at the Poltimore Inn, on Friday, October 31st, for the purpose of presenting one of the members (Mr. G. T. Townsend, who is leaving this town for Bristol), with a handsome set of gold studs. Mr. H. Swift, who made the present on behalf of the members, spoke very feelingly of the loss to the society that his departure would occasion, and as an evidence of it he would call to mind that only two days previously he had conducted his first quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples at the first attempt. He also spoke of his gentlemanly conduct, both in and out of the belfry, which gained for him the respect and goodwill of every member of the society.

Mr. Townsend, in thanking his brother members for the handsome present, impressed upon them that he was very sorry to leave, but as his present situation involved a great deal of night work, and his future one all day work, he felt in duty bound for the sake of his health to accept it, and he would try and visit them at Christmas, and have some ringing with them.

After some good songs, toasts, &c., the chairman, Mr. W. Goss, in a speech on the conviviality of the gathering, referred to the excellent manner in which their conductor (Mr. Ferris Shepherd) had arranged peal meetings and ringing generally during the past eighteen months, and asked him to accept of a little present that had been purchased by the members as a token of their respect and esteem for him. Mr. S. Herbert endorsed all the chairman had said, and hoped to have the pleasure of ringing in a good many more peals with him yet.

Mr. F. Shepherd, in returning thanks, said that he had been enjoying Mr. Townsend's surprise so much that this had perfectly astounded him, and so must excuse him for not having suitable words at hand.

Courses of Caters, Major, and Triples were afterwards rung, and the members (about two score) concluded a very pleasant and agreeable evening by singing "The Queen."

AUSTRALIA.

For practice on Wednesday evening, September 3rd, 1884, the local handbell ringers rang six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. J. A. Cross, 1; H. Boyle, 2; W. J. Newman, 3; M. Devereux, 4-5. This is the longest touch performed by the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd ringers, and the longest performed by the conductor with 4-5 retained in hand. The 6-scores are in two and three parts, with the 5th bell the observation. M. Devereux is a member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, England.

Mr. C. L. Rcutledge, 8, Westmorland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne, asks if any of the readers of "THE BELL NEWS" would kindly forward him two or three touches of Grandsire Triples, of from 800 to 2000 changes, taken from Holt's Original.

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

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

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

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Wallhamstow, 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.

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

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.

AUDITOR TANTUM.—Received.

Touches, correspondence, and other matters which arrived late, are unavoidably left over till next week.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1884.

THE concluding sentences of our last editorial comment pointed out the fact that among the many methods now at the disposal of the Exercise only a moiety of them are practised. This is a subject which we have written upon before, and it can very well bear further consideration. The question has often been asked—Where is the spirit that encouraged REEVES and SHIPWAY to spend their time in devising and collecting the new methods and peals with which their books abound? the spirit that supplied the names of Cumberland Treble Bob and College Exercise; variations unknown at the head quarters of the Royal Cumberlands, and unpractised where the College Youths assemble.

To many ringers, the idea of leaving the well-trodden path savours of madness. Do we not often see an enterprising member of a company endeavouring to induce his brethren to try some other method than the one they have always rung? We know of one ringer who will not look at Stedman "till there is a band to ring it," as he in his wisdom observes. Sometimes the persuasion to enter upon a new field appears to be successful; the method is explained in the tower, and it may be a copy of a lead, with the requisite observations, is given to each ringer. This is studied for a few seconds, and a touch is essayed. But no good may be done the first evening. The member who is anxious to excel in the new venture, remarks—"We'll try next meeting-night." The rest agree to do so, and promise to become well read-up in the method by the time appointed. The evening arrives; the energetic member looks forward to the pleasure of a long touch in another method, and upon his suggesting entering upon it, first one member of the company, then another, ask "What do you do after dodging in four-five?" "Suppose the treble takes you off?" Or "How do you make a bob?"

Then some of them have lost the scrap of paper which they had given them with the method written upon it at full length, others make some lame defence, with the ultimate result that they all fall back into the old groove, disgusting by their apathy the most skilful of their band, who eventually leaves them for some other company where his energy and talents have free scope afforded him. To be logical, scientific ringers should yearn after the practice of new methods, striving to excel, not only in one or two of them, but in all. We should be glad to have to record a few handbell peals in various methods, (for we look upon handbell ringing as an accomplishment in no wise inferior, so far as skill is concerned, to the more prominent part of the science). Lastly, ringers all, we beg you, we entreat you, to give our composers an opportunity to set up some other line than that worn out sentence, "A peal of Grandsire Triples," or the equally stale phrase, "Treble Bob Major in the Kent Variation."

The Metropolis.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.—LONDON.

On Friday, October 31, 1884, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT ST. MARTIN'S-IN-THE-FIELDS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5014 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in C#.

HENRY W. HALEY Treble.	HENRY DAINS 7.
CHARLES H. HATTERSLEY .. 2.	WILLIAM BARON 8.
JOHN W. ROWBOTHAM .. 3.	HENRY A. HOPKINS.. .. 9.
RICHARD FRENCH 4.	GEORGE NEWSON 10.
CHALLIS F. WINNY 5.	EDWIN HORREX.. .. 11.
FRANCIS E. DAWE 6.	JOHN MANSFIELD Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by H. W. HALEY.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt.

ARTHUR H. GARDOM Treble.	GEORGE GRICE 5.
HARRY RANDALL 2.	GEORGE HARVEY 6.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL .. 3.	WILLIAM H. DORAN.. .. 7.
THOMAS TITCHENER 4.	GEORGE NEWSON Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW and Conducted by
ARTHUR H. GARDOM.

The peal has the 6th the extent home at nine out of the last-course-ends, and is now rung for the first time.

The Provinces.

ROCHDALE, LANCASHIRE.

THE ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 21, 1884, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT ST. ALBAN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

CARTER'S BOB AND SINGLE. Tenor 18½ cwt. in F.

JOHN MILLETT Treble.	ALBERT E. WREAKS .. 5.
JOHN E. POLLITT 2.	JOHN HARRISON.. .. 6.
JOHN W. HEALEY 3.	JOSEPH STREET 7.
SAMUEL WEST 4.	WILLIAM BUTTERWORTH.. Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN HARRISON.

Messrs. Millett, Harrison and Street hail from Heywood, Pollitt, West, and Wreaks from Manchester, Healey and Butterworth are members of local company. All are members of the Lancashire Association except Healey and Butterworth.

THE MOTTRAM AND ASHTON SOCIETY.
MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

On Wednesday, October 29, 1884, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

At St. Michael's Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROBERT WRIGHT Treble.	GEORGE BRADDOCK 5.
GEORGE D. HATFIELD 2.	WILLIAM FRITH 6.
JOHN SIDEBOTHAM 3.	JOHN THORP 7.
WILLIAM MIDDLETON 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Composed by J. THORP and conducted by
FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

The peal contains the 6th its extent at home, and is now rung for the first time.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

Birthday Peal.

On Friday, October 31, 1884, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

At St. George's Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15½ cwt.

JAMES S. WILDE Treble.	GEORGE LONGDEN 5.
RALPH PRICHARD 2.	THOMAS WILDE 6.
ROBERT WOOLLEY 3.	JOHN THORPE 7.
WALTER SLATER 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP, and Conducted by F. G. NEWMAN.

This peal was rung to commemorate the 25th birthday of the conductor, his brother-strings wishing him many happy returns of the day,

HERTFORD.—HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.

[ESTABLISHED 1767.]

On Friday, October 31, 1884, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,

At St. Andrew's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

STEPHEN KNIGHT* Treble.	WILLIAM A. ALPS 5.
HERBERT BAKER 2.	JOHN GODFREY 6.
HENRY J. TUCKER 3.	THOMAS GATHARD 7.
JASPER G. CRAWLEY 4.	FREDERICK GEORGE Tenor.

Conducted by HERBERT BAKER.

* First peal.

LEWES SUSSEX.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 19 cwt.

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

Conducted by FRANCIS T. HOAD.

J. Burkin hails from Nutfield; the rest from Reigate, Surrey. * Members of the Surrey Association and the Ancient Society of College Youths.

HEPTONSTALL, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:—

Oxford Treble Bob; New London Treble Bob; Kent Treble Bob;
Violet Treble Bob;
Oxford Single Bob; College Single; Plain Bob Minor.

J. ROBERTSHAW Treble.	J. HARTLEY 4.
A. BURN 2.	J. NOWELL 5.
J. ARMSTRONG 3.	W. ROBERTSHAW Tenor.

Conducted by W. ROBERTSHAW.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—SADDLEWORTH.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

At St. Chad's Church.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12 cwt.

J. J. BRIERLEY Treble.	EDGAR BUCKLEY 5.
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE 2.	JAMES RADCLIFFE 6.
JOHN T. HOLDEN 3.	JOSEPH WOOD 7.
JOHN HOLDEN 4.	JOHN T. DICKEN Tenor.

Composed by the late WM. HARRISON, and conducted by
JOHN HOLDEN.

THE MOTTRAM AND ASHTON SOCIETY.

MOTTRAM-IN-LONGDENDALE, CHESHIRE.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

At St. Michael's Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6048 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROBERT WRIGHT Treble.	GEORGE LONGDEN 5.
JOHN HARROP 2.	THOMAS BRADDOCK 6.
WILLIAM MIDDLETON 3.	JOHN THORP 7.
JAMES WOOD 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Composed by SAMUEL WOOD and conducted by
FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

HALEWOOD, LANCASHIRE.

On Saturday, November 1, 1884, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

At the Parish Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 11½ cwt.

WILLIAM DAVIES* Treble.	RICHARD HILL 5.
THOMAS FIELDING 2.	HARRY SPENCER 6.
JOHN ASPINWALL 3.	*GEORGE W. HUGHES 7.
WILLIAM JAMES* 4.	CHARLES F. HEYWOOD .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP, and conducted by
CHARLES T. HEYWOOD.

This is the first peal in this method rung on these bells.

Messrs. Aspinwall, James, and Davies belong to the St. Luke's society, Liverpool Geo. W. Hughes of the local company. The rest of the band hail from Southport.

*First peal in the method.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

On Monday, November 3, 1884, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

At St. George's Church,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 15½ cwt.

THOMAS BRADLEY Treble.	BENJAMIN BROADBENT .. 5.
JAMES S. WILDE 2.	GEORGE LONGDEN 6.
JAMES WOOD 3.	JOHN THORP 7.
ROBERT WOOLLEY 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Composed by J. THORP and conducted by F. G. NEWMAN.

First peal in the method on these bells.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—HULL.

Birthday Peal.

On Wednesday, October 29, 1884, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

At St. James's Church,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;
Tenor 15 cwt.

FREDK. MERRISON Treble.	SAML. SLINGSBY 5.
FRANK DRABBLE 2.	CHAS. BENNETT 6.
JAMES DIXEY 3.	J. W. STICKNEY 7.
ROBT. CHAFFER 4.	CHAS. JACKSON Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by CHAS. JACKSON.

This peal, which has the 5th and 6th twelve times each way, is the reverse of the peal rung on August 4th, p. 223, and was rung to celebrate the 29th birthday of R. Bruce Reed, Sec. of the Holy Trinity Society.

Date Touches.

BROUGHTON, NEAR PRESTON (Lancashire).—On Saturday, November 1st, five of the local company of All Saints, Higher Walton, and Mr. John Robinson, of St. Leonard's, Walton-le-dale, journeyed to this place, and rung on the new peal at St. John's church, lately hung by Mears and Stainbank, of London, a date touch of 1884 changes in the following methods: 444 of Oxford Bob, 720 of College Single, and 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 1 hr. 9 mins. Geo. Thornley (conductor), 1; Jas. Harwood, 2; John Robinson, 3; Henry Brewer, 4; John Eccles, 5; Jas. Mather, 6. Tenor about 10½ cwt.

WALSALL (Staffordshire).—On Wednesday, October 22nd, at St. Matthew's church, a date touch of Stedman Caters, 1884 changes, in 1 hr. 15 mins. D. Chapman, 1; W. Walker, 2; J. Astbury, sen., 3; F. G. Newman, 4; E. Lightwood, 5; D. Westley, 6; J. Lees, 7; E. Hallsworth, 8; W. Hallsworth (conductor), 9; J. Carter (Birmingham), 10. Tenor 24 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—*Muffled Peal.*—On Tuesday evening, November 4th, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, the following members of the above Society rang a muffled peal as a last mark of respect to the late Mr. T. Bugby, of Rotherhithe, Kent, aged 38 years, a member of this Society. Jas. Pettit (conductor), 1; G. Muskett, 2; C. Winny, 3; R. French, 4; H. J. Shade, 5; W. Tanner, 6; G. Mash, 7; G. Dorrington, 8; E. Gibbs, 9; I. G. Shade, 10; F. E. Dawe, 11; E. Horrex and W. Jones, 12. After which two courses of Stedman Cinques was rung, the band standing as before, conducted by Jas. Pettit. Tenor 52 cwt.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WOBURN (Beds).—On Saturday, October 25th, on the occasion of a friendly gathering, a 620 of Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. George Harbert, 1; Charles Herbert, 2; Jas. Carwell-Cook, 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; Walter Chibnall (conductor), 5; W. E. Turney, 6. Jas. Carwell-Cook and Walter Chibnall hail from Aspley Guise, Rev. W. W. C. Baker from Eversholt, the rest belong to Woburn.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Monday, October 27th, at the church of St. John-the-Baptist, being the occasion of the annual meeting of the above association, 1024 of Kent Treble Bob Major. F. Lees, 1; —, Newton, 2; R. S. Story, 3; —, Clarke, 4; W. G. Routledge, 5; E. Wallis, 6; —, Stephenson, 7; G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 8. And a 1120 of Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Bowers, 1; Jno. Moffitt, 2; R. Smith, 3; E. Wallis, 4; C. L. Routledge, 5; F. W. Appleby, 6; W. Story, 7; F. Lees (conductor), 8. Also a 720 of College Single. —, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; R. Wignall, 3; R. MacGoun, 4; —, Ross, 5; F. Harrison (conductor), 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Saturday, November 1st, the local company rang at St. Gregory's, and rang for practice 1024 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major. F. Tolliday, 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Bacon, 5; W. Howell, 6; A. Scott (conductor), 7; H. Harper, 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

HORNCHURCH (Essex).—On Sunday, November 2nd, after Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Double Court Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 31 mins. I. Dear, 1; B. Keeble, 2; J. Nunn, 3; A. J. Perkins, 4; A. Pye, 5; A. Porter (conductor), 6. Tenor 21 cwt. This is the first in the method upon this magnificent ring for upwards of forty years.

ROMFORD.—On Sunday evening, November 2nd, at St. Edward's, 720 of Double Court Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 29 mins. *W. J. Aldridge, 1; *A. J. Perkins (conductor), 2; *J. Nunn, 3; B. Keeble, 4; A. Pye, 5; *A. Porter, 6. *First in the method. It is supposed to be the first upon these bells for upwards of half a century. It is the first by any band in the Southern Division of the county of the above Association, and was rung under the following circumstances. Recently a desire was expressed by one of the band for a 720 in the method. Mr. B. Keeble, who undertook to secure a band, after looking round for a *bona fide* member of the Association, selected Mr. Nunn, and accordingly sent off a rule to that gentleman with a request that he would "look it up." This was done upon the 23rd ult., a couple of days afterwards a reply came to hand from Mr. Nunn—who, it might be mentioned, only commenced change-ringing after he had seen upwards of forty summers—that he should be down the following Saturday, and ready, but owing to the death of a member the attempt was postponed till the following evening.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

DOVER (Kent).—On Monday, October 27th, the Aldington branch of the above Association visited this place, and rung at St. James's, a 720 of Bob Minor, with six bobs and fourteen singles, in 26½ mins. Charles Slingsby, 1; Thomas Hooker, 2; Albert Tanton (Lyminge), 3; Thomas Hodgkin, 4; William Hyder (conductor), 5; Philip Hodgkin, 6. These are cast steel bells, tenor about 12 cwt.

CHERITON (Kent).—On Monday, October 27th, at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, with twenty-six singles, in 25 mins. W. Post, jun., 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; F. Wanstall, 3; T. Hodgkin, 4; T. Hooker, 5; P. Hodgkin (conductor), 6. Also another 720 in the same method, with four bobs and twenty-six singles, in 26 mins. Frank Wanstall, 1; T. Hodgkin, 2; Edward Hyder, 3; C. Slingsby, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. Tenor 7½ cwt. in A. All the above hail from Aldington.

MAIDSTONE (Kent).—On Tuesday, October 28th, at St. Michael and All Angels, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. D. Betts, 1; W. Elliott, 2; R. Simmonds, 3; A. H. Woolley, 4; J. Horton, 5; G. Pawley, 6. And another 720 in 24 mins., standing as before, with the exception of the 5th and 6th men, who changed places. Both were conducted by G. Pawley. Tenor about 9 cwt.

FOLKESTONE (Kent).—On Sunday, October 26th, for Divine Service in the afternoon, at the parish church, 672 of Grandsire Triples. C. Relf, 1; F. Finn, 2; A. H. Woolley, 2; R. Simmonds, 3; H. Croucher, 5; S. Barker, 6; S. Snelling, 7; W. Marsh, 8. And for Divine Service in the evening, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 46 mins. F. Finn, 1; J. Harrison, 2; J. Fisher, 3; R. Simmonds, 4; H. Croucher, 5; S. Barker, 6; S. Snelling, 7; A. H. Woolley, 8. Tenor 25½ cwt. Messrs. Relf, Woolley and Simmonds hail from Maidstone, Snelling from Sittingbourne, the rest belong to the local company. The visitors wish to thank the Rev. M. Woodward for his kindness in giving permission to ring. Our correspondent adds:—We cannot understand why the inhabitants subscribed £1000. about nine years ago for this splendid ring of bells, and will only allow one hour a week for the bells to be rung. On Monday, October 27th, on the back six bells, a 720 of Bob Minor, with six bobs and fourteen singles, in 29 mins. William Post, jun., 1; David Hodgkin, 2; Fred Wanstall, 3; T. Hooker, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. The above is supposed to be the first 720 of Bob Minor rang on these bells. Also another 720 of Bob Minor, with six bobs and fourteen singles, in 30 mins. Frank Wanstall, 1; Thomas Post, 2; James Andrews, 3; T. Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; William Post, sen., 6. J. Andrews hails from Lyminge, the rest from Aldington.

SITTINGBOURNE (Kent).—On Monday, November 3rd, for practice at St. Michael's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (Tittums, Queens and Rounds), in 45 mins. Joseph Greensted, 1; F. C. Mattison (conductor), 2; Jas. Harrison (Folkestone), 3; Jno. Cooper, 4; W. G. Gordelier, 5; Capt. Wood (Faversham), 6; S. Snelling, 7; W. H. Judd, 8. Tenor 21 cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BURFORD (Oxon).—On Sunday, October 19th, at the parish church, for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with the tenor behind. J. Smith, 1; T. Brown, 2; F. E. Ward, 3; T. E. Glanville, 4; H. Bond, 5; D. Francis, 6; W. Launchbury, 7. And on Sunday evening, October 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. H. Smith, 1; W. Large, 2; F. E. Ward, 3; J. Smith, 4; T. E. Glanville, 5; H. Bond, 6; D. Francis, 7; W. Launchbury, 8. Both the above were conducted by Mr. F. E. Ward, of Cheltenham, who was formerly one of the Burford company.

THE WORCESTER DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NETHERTON (Worcestershire).—On Thursday evening, October 23rd, for Harvest Thanksgiving service, six of the local company rang a 360 of Grandsire Minor. Also after service, four of the local company with two from Dudley, rang a 720 in the same method, in 24½ mins. And on Sunday morning, October 26th, at 8 o'clock, a 360 of Grandsire Minor, in 15 mins., and for Divine Service at 11 o'clock, a 720 of Plain Bob, in 26 mins., by six of the local company. And for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Plain Bob, in 26 mins., and a 360 of Grandsire Minor, in 14 mins. B. Townsend, 1; R. Round, 2; J. Townsend, 3; J. Robinson, 4; W. Micklewright, 5; J. Smith, 6. The rest of the ringers were J. Fellows, J. Prestidge, F. Hotchkiss, and T. Felton, who are all members of the above Association. The ringing for evening service was conducted by W. Micklewright, being his first attempt to conduct any Grandsire Minor, the other part being conducted by J. Smith. Tenor 12½ cwt.

CLIFTON, NEAR BRISTOL.—On Monday, October 27th, at the Parish Church, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 25 mins. G. Hunt, 1; C. Walters, 2; C. Thomas, 3; T. Salter (conductor), 4; R. Knill, 5; T. Parish, 6; J. Davies, 7; H. Bray, 8.

ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.—On Thursday evening, October 30th, at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, 1260 changes, in 48 mins. H. Bastable, 1; A. Jones, 2; T. Miller, 3; T. Reynolds, 3; B. Wittchell, 5; J. Carter (conductor), 6; C. Standbridge, 7; A. Thomas, 8.

DERBY.—On Monday, October 27th, at St. Andrew's, Litchurch, five of the local company, with Mr. R. Bosworth, rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 30 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; A. E. Thompson, 2; C. Hart, 3; W. Midgley, 4; H. Found, 5; R. Bosworth (conductor), 6. Tenor 20½ cwt. The above is the first 720 of Grandsire Minor performed by the St. Andrew's ringers, and since the opening peal is the first time of its performance. Tenor 20 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lbs. in Eb.

ELTHAM (Kent).—On Thursday, October 23rd, at the church of St. John-the-Baptist, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles. R. Johnson, 1; J. Upton, 2; G. Conyard, 3; T. G. Deal, 4; G. Sheppard (conductor), 5; F. Fraser, 6. The above was rung in honour of the marriage of C. Mussett, who is a member of the Eltham Society. On Sunday, November 2nd, for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with twenty-two bobs and twenty-six singles. R. Johnson, 1; J. King, 2; W. Gosling, 3; C. Mussett, 4; G. Sheppard (conductor), 5; F. Fraser, 6.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—On Thursday, October 23rd, at St. Nicholas church, on the occasion of the visit of the Bishop of Norwich for Confirmation, a 504 of Grandsire Triples was rung on the back eight. W. H. George, 1; W. Lee (conductor), 2; W. Blyth, 3; W. Secrett, 4; D. Hayward, 5; T. Tooley, 6; W. Fletcher, 7; M. Long, 8. And on Sunday, October 26th, for morning and afternoon services, a touch of Grandsire Caters. W. H. George, 1; W. Blyth, 2; M. Long, 3; W. Lee (conductor), 4; T. Tooley, 5; W. Chaplin, 6; W. Secrett, 7; W. Fletcher, 8; D. Hayward, 9; G. Crow, 10. And on Thursday, October 30th, on the occasion of a wedding, two touches of Grandsire Triples, about 1000 changes, on the back eight. W. Lee (conductor), 1; W. Blyth, 2; T. Tooley, 3; W. Secrett, 4; J. F. W. Bray, 5; W. Fletcher, 6; *W. H. George, 7; *D. Hayward, 8. *Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

HAMPSTEAD (Middlesex).—On Sunday, October 5th, at St. Stephen's church, for Divine Service in the evening, six members of the local company with Messrs. Thomas Steward and James Nixon, rang 448 of Grandsire Triples on the back eight. S. Clarke, 1; B. Payne, 2; Thos. Steward, 3; James Nixon, 4; C. Deal, 5; N. Alderman (conductor), 6; B. Foskett, 7; W. Arscott, 8. On Sunday, October 12th, for Divine Service in the morning, six of the local company, with Messrs. Wood and Titchener, rang 588 of Grandsire Triples. S. Clarke, 1; B. Foskett, 2; H. Tylor, 3; C. Deal, 4; N. Alderman, 5; J. Wood, 6; T. Titchener (conductor), 7; W. Arscott, 8. And on Tuesday, October 14th, five of the local company, with Messrs. James Nixon, J. Leach and W. H. Fussell, rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by N. Alderman. Touches of Treble Bob Major, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Triples were also rung, conducted by George Newson. And on Tuesday, October 28th, seven of the local company with Messrs. W. Hutt, J. Nixon, and T. Stewart, rang a 324 of Grandsire Caters. S. Clarke, 1; C. Deal, 2; J. Nixon (first touch of Caters), 3; B. Foskett (conductor), 4; T. Stewart, 5; E. F. Cole, 6; E. Chapman, 7; W. Hutt, 8; H. Tylor, 9; W. Arscott, 10. Also a 504 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. Chapman.

LEICESTER.—On Monday, October 27th, at St. Saviour's church, an attempt was made to ring a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples, as a token of respect to the late vicar, the Rev. F. P. B. N. Hutton, but after ringing 2 hrs. 20 mins., it unfortunately came to grief. E. D. Taylor, 1; A. Millis (conductor), 2; J. Metcalf, 3; J. W. Taylor, sen., 4; J. Needham, 5; H. W. Needham, 6; J. W. Taylor, jun., 7; E. Wightman, 8. Tenor 27 cwt. in E. The Messrs. Taylor and Wightman hail from Loughborough; the rest are Leicester men.

NORWICH.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Tuesday, October 28th, in consequence of the ringing at St. Giles' being interfered with by the breaking of ropes, etc., an adjournment was made to the "Red Cow" Inn, where some Grandsire Caters were rung upon the handbells. D. Hayward, 1-2; J. Smith, 3-4; J. Fiddament, 5-6; F. Knights (conductor), 7-8; W. H. George, 9-10.

PRESTBURY (Gloucestershire).—On Wednesday, October 29th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. F. Musty, 1; F. E. Ward, Esq., 2; G. Holmes, Esq., 3; W. T. Pates (conductor), 4; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 5; H. Karn, 6. Mr. Holmes hails from Harleston, Norfolk, and is one of the well known firm of Messrs. Moore, Holmes and Mackenzie, Bell Founders.

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Thursday, October 30th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, with fourteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. H. Symonds (conductor), 1; W. Hollocks, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; Jas. Levitt, 4; W. Snell, 5; A. Symonds, 6. And another 720 in the same method, with three bobs and eighteen singles, in 25 mins. H. Symonds (conductor), 1; W. Hollocks, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; W. Snell,

4; A. Symonds, 5; Jno. Levitt, 6. And on handbells, 96 of Kent Treble Bob Major. Jas. Levitt, 1-2-3-4; A. Symonds, 5-6-7-8. Messrs. Snell and Symonds hail from Lavenham.

SALISBURY (Wilts).—On Saturday, November 1st, at St. Martin's, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 29 mins. J. Short, 1; E. A. Foster (first 720 in the method), 2; C. A. Clements, 3; J. R. Jerram, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; T. Blackburn, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

SKIRBECK (Lincolnshire).—On Thursday, October 22nd, at St. Nicholas Church, being the Harvest Festival, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, three of Plain Bob, and two of Hudibras. T. Rogers, 1; C. Clarke, 2; E. Mason, 3; W. F. Harwood, 4; J. M. Rylatt, 5. And on Saturday, November 1st, two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, two of Plain Bob, by F. Dovoto, 1; the others as before. And on Sunday, November 2nd, for Divine Service in the evening, two 6-scores of Plain Bob, two of Grandsire Doubles, and two of Hudibras. After service, two of Dream, two of Grandsire Doubles, T. Rogers ringing the treble, the others as before.

SPALDING (Lancashire).—On Sunday evening, November 2nd, for Divine Service at the church of SS. Mary and Nicolas, 360 of Double Court Bob. And after Divine Service a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. S. Wright, 1; J. Wilson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman, 4; E. Brown, 5; J. Brown, 6.

SUTTON (Lincolnshire).—On Saturday, (All Saints' day), November 1st, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins. J. Russell, 1; G. Watson, 2; J. W. Manby, 3; J. Stennett, 4; W. Cunningham, 5. Third and fifth the observation alternately. Also six 6-scores of Plain Bob Doubles, in 25 mins. J. Russell, 1; G. Watson, 2; J. W. Manby, 3; Stennett, 4; W. Cunningham, 5. Called on four different bells. Tenor 5 cwt.

STANDISH (Lancashire).—On Saturday, October 25th, a 720 of Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, in 27 mins. John Grounds (conductor), 1; Ralph Rainford, 2; Richard Farrimond (first 720), 3; Walter Heyes, 4; Thomas Walker, 5; James Higson, 6. Also a 360 of Bob Minor, with three bobs and six singles, in 14 mins. Dennis Booth (conductor), 1; Ralph Rainford, 2; John Grounds, 3; William Croston, 4; Thomas Walker, 5; James Higson, 6. Tenor 11 cwt. Messrs. Higson and Croston hail from Blackrod, the rest belong to Standish.

WALTON (Lancashire).—On Tuesday evening, October 28th, at St. Mary's parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with thirty-four bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. J. Hurst (aged 17), 1; C. J. Rogers (aged 18), 2; T. R. Somerville (aged 16), 3; T. Rushton (aged 17), 4; R. A. Simpson (aged 17), 5; C. E. Wilson (aged 23; conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt. This is the first 720 by all except the conductor. It is interesting to note that the above company have only been together twelve months, and during that time rapid progress has been made in the way of change-ringing and tune-playing.

WOOLWICH (Kent).—On Saturday, November 1st, an attempt was made by the following members of the St. James's and Waterloo Societies to ring Holt's Original one-part peal of Grandsire Triples, at St. Mary Magdalene's church, but a mishap with one of the ropes brought the peal to grief, after ringing 2730 changes in 1 hr. 31 mins. William Pead, 1; Abraham George Freeman, 2; Henry Harvey, 3; James Charles Harvey (conductor), 4; Frederick William Thornton, 5; Edward Richards, 6; William Henry Freeman, 7; Henry Bright, 8.

THE PEAL AT HERTFORD.

WITH the report of this peal—which will be found among our records—our representative for the district sends the following:—

This peal was rung to commemorate the coming of age of our respected friend Mr. Baker, he having attained his majority on that day. His friends and brother ringers consider that this performance has placed him among the very few conductors who have at the age of 21 succeeded in calling the Original. On October 16th, he called his first peal (Holt's ten-part) at Hertford (as reported in our paper), which is believed to be the first peal ever conducted by an Hertford man, if not, it is the first during this century. Within three weeks he has attempted seven peals and has rung five, which proves him to be a dear lover of ringing. At the finish of the peal on the 31st, an adjournment was made to the "Maidenhead" Inn, where other members of the society met, who also congratulated their conductor upon his success, and in proposing his health, Mr. W. A. Alps said that if they, as ringers, continued to listen to his (Mr. Baker's) counsel their society would still continue to prosper, for anyone who knew what is meant by calling the Original must know that those who do so must take a great interest in change-ringing. Mr. Alps continued—And now gentlemen, I have great pleasure in proposing "Long life and happiness to our friend, Mr. Baker." This was applauded by all present, and Mr. Baker having expressed himself as highly pleased with the result of the peal, and having thanked his friends for their attendance, the eventful day was brought to a close.

PROPOSED ASSOCIATION FOR HERTFORDSHIRE.

ON Wednesday, October 29th, a meeting was held at the Rectory, St. Albans, for the purpose of forming a county Association of change-ringers for Hertfordshire. The following ringers were present: Messrs. N. N. Hills, H. L. Waddington, C. Hulks, T. Grant, H. Lewis, A. Godman, sen., and A. Godman, jun., St. Albans; Rev. W. Wigram, and H. Baker, Hertford; G. Rochester, and N. Tarling, Sawbridgeworth; R. Swarder, Great Hallingbury; H. J. Tucker, Bishops Stortford; M. Ellsmore, Ware; J. Phillips, Baldock. The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance, Rector of St. Albans Abbey, presided, supported by the Rev. T. G. Gibbons, curate. In opening the proceedings the chairman said that letters had been received from several gentlemen who were unable to attend, but who were quite in favour of forming an Association. He felt himself that a Diocesan Association would be best, but as the proposal to make the Essex Association a Diocesan one had failed, it would be best to form a county Association. He called upon the Rev. W. Wigram, who was also in favour of a Diocesan Society, but if they could not get it at the present time, they must wait for it. He proposed that an Association be formed to be called "The Hertfordshire County Association of Change-Ringers." This was seconded by N. N. Hills, and carried unanimously.

The Rev. T. G. Gibbons suggested that the Bishop of St. Albans be asked to become the President. The Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance was elected a Vice-President, and it was decided to ask several other gentlemen whose names were mentioned, to also become Vice-Presidents. The 21st of January was fixed for the first Quarterly Meeting to be held at Hertford. Mr. H. L. Waddington and Rev. W. Wigram were unanimously elected Treasurer and Secretary respectively, Mr. H. Baker offering his services as assistant Secretary.

Several matters of detail were left to the Committee, which is to be composed of the conductor and one elected member from each Society in union. Previous to the meeting some Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Major, conducted by Mr. Tucker, were rung at St. Peter's church. After the meeting several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung at the Cathedral.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. LAWRENCE'S SOCIETY, LONG EATON.

ON Saturday evening, October 25th, members and friends to the number of twenty-two sat down to an excellent supper, provided by host William Smith, of the "Locomotive Inn," Union Street, Long Eaton. Before supper some touches of Plain Bob Minor, Stedman Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung, assisted by Messrs. Wibberley, Hickman, and Archer, from Nottingham, and Messrs. E. D. Taylor, Fox, and Smith, from Loughborough, on the bells of the parish church. After justice had been done to the good things provided, and the cloth being removed, Mr. Gutteridge was voted to the chair. The rest of the evening was spent in ringing courses of Triples and Caters upon handbells, interspersed with some very good singing.

There will in future be a regular meeting for change-ringing on the second Saturday in the month at 4 o'clock, when the local company will be very pleased to see any members or friends that can make it convenient to attend. The "Locomotive," Union Street, is the meeting house of the Long Eaton ringers. Any communications may be addressed to John Ward, Trafalgar Terrace, Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

RINGERS' TRIP TO LINCOLN.

On Thursday, October 30th, the SS. Mary and Nicolas company, of Spalding, through the generosity of H. S. Maples, Esq., of that place, paid a visit to the city of Lincoln. The church of St Peter at Gowts was chosen for the ringing, permission having been previously given by the Vicar. This church has a very nice peal of six bells, cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1872, which are in very good going order, and give the firm great credit for the manner in which they are hung. The visitors arrived at the Church about 11 o'clock, and after oiling the bells and adjusting one or two of the ropes, they were raised in peal, and 1500 changes was rung in the following Methods: Double Court Bob, Oxford Single Bob, and Plain Bob. After attending to the wants of the inner man, the Cathedral and other places of interest were visited, and at 4.45. the ringers returned to the belfry, when 1120 changes were rung, Mr. C. Wells, one of the St Peter's company, ringing the treble, the methods being Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and London Single. The hour for return having come, after bidding farewell to the local ringers, the visitors left Lincoln well pleased with their treat, and wish to take this opportunity to thank the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells.

HANDBELL MUSIC.—Just out, Christmas Number, four tunes, viz.: "Christmas Hymn," "Pilgrim," with one variation, air "Always Cheerful," "Waltz Carol," for any number of men or bells, price 3s. 6d.—F. Shaw, Shelley, Huddersfield.

PROPOSED NEW TREBLES FOR SS. MARY AND NICOLAS, SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

At a meeting convened to provide two bells to complete the octave in the tower of the above church, held on Monday, October 20th, present—The Rev. Canon E. Moore (chairman), the Rev. J. L. Gardner, Capt. Hilliam, and Messrs. H. T. Maples, T. H. Nicholls, Reginald Cartwright, Fredk. Pennington, Giles Ham, John Willmott, and Rd. Mackman, the following resolutions were agreed to:—

"That two new bells be added to the present ring in the tower of the church of SS. Mary and Nicolas, and that according to the estimates rendered, the probable cost would be £160 to £200."

"That the following gentlemen be invited to act on the committee: The Rev. Canon E. Moore, the Rev. B. Mathews, the Rev. J. L. Gardner, Capt. Hilliam, Messrs. C. F. Bonner, Fitzalan Howard, H. T. Maples, Augustus Maples, Dr. Perry, Dr. Stiles, Dr. Morris, Sharp, Nicholls, Johnston, Reginald Cartwright, Ham, Pennington, John Willmott, Wright, Mackman, W. J. E. Hobson, with power to add to their number."

"That Mr. J. H. Nicholls be appointed treasurer, and W. J. E. Hobson be appointed Secretary. The secretary be requested to write to several whose names were then mentioned."

The meeting was adjourned to Monday, October 27th, on which day there were present—the Rev. Canon E. Moore (chairman), Capt. Hilliam, Dr. Perry, Dr. Morris, Mr. W. H. Sharp, Mr. Reginald Cartwright, Mr. F. Pennington, Mr. John Willmott, and W. J. E. Hobson (Hon. Sec). The minutes of the former meeting were read and confirmed, and the secretary stated he had written to several, and has received replies from the Lord Bishop of Nottingham, who had promised £5; the Rev. Canon E. Moore, £5; J. M. S. Johnson, Esq., £20. It was then resolved:—

"That the following gentlemen be invited to act on the committee: N. Manby, Esq., H. Clark, Esq., Capt. Bury, E. Cammell, Esq., Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Newton. The secretary be requested to write to several whose names were mentioned. The Rev. Canon E. Moore to see John Wright, and with him ascertain an approximate estimate for the bells, hanging, etc., and the requisite securing the safety of the tower."

Obituary.

THE members of the Romford and Little Heath branches of the Essex Association record with great regret the death of Mr. H. Skinsgley, a fellow-member of this Association, who expired on Monday, the 27th ult., at the early age of thirty, after a long and painful illness. The deceased, whose death was owing to that fatal malady—consumption—was a genial and manly companion, willing at all times to do his utmost to assist if necessary, or to stand out if not required, and thus he won respect from all who knew him, and his premature death will be generally regretted. The funeral took place on Sunday at mid-day, and was attended by Messrs. A. J. Perkins, and B. Keeble, accompanied by Mr. J. Nunn of Walthamstow. The bells of St. Edward's were muffled the previous evening, and a 720 of Bob Minor rang by W. Nash, 1; B. Keeble, 2; J. Nunn, 3; W. J. Aldridge, 4; A. J. Perkins, 5; A. Pye, 6. On Sunday afternoon, touches of Double Court were rung, and in the evening, the muffles having been removed, a 720 in the same method was rang, particulars of which will be found in another column.

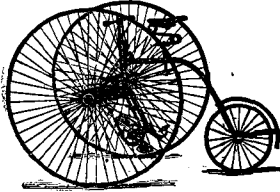
ON Saturday, November 1st., at the parish church, Padiham, the funeral of the late Mr. James Hacking, took place, who died after a very short illness, on Tuesday, October 28th, aged 38 years, leaving a widow and five children, for whom the greatest sympathy are felt. The deceased was organist at the above church for the last twenty years, and was very highly esteemed. On the day of the interment, the shopkeepers and others in the neighbourhood of the church had their shutters up and blinds drawn. The mournful procession arrived at the church about a quarter-past two p.m., where the service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. J. A. M. Johnstone; the church being thronged with relatives and sympathising friends. A suitable hymn having been sung, the "Dead March" in *Saul* was rendered very effectually by Mr. Watson, organist of Trinity Church, Burnley. The procession then left the church in the following order: the young choristers, who were followed by members of the Freemasons, of which body deceased was a member; following came members of the Free Gardeners, showing the esteem and respect that was felt for the deceased by that society; then the coffin, borne on the shoulders of the choir, (on whose faces the loss they had sustained was plainly seen), followed by the relatives and sympathising friends, with numerous wreaths and other tokens of affection. The bells were muffled and slowly rung, their doleful tones adding greatly to the solemnity of the occasion. As the procession slowly wended its way towards the cemetery, where the last sad rites were performed, the following local ringers rung a muffled 720 of Plain Bob. *Th. Duxbury (conductor), 1; *Fredk. Pollard, 2; *Edw. Baker, 3; *Robt. Hargreaves, 4; *Fredk. Wagner, 5; Thos. Green, 6. Thus ended the career of one who in life always took the greatest pleasure in doing his duty as organist, and taking a hearty interest in everything connected with the welfare of the Church. *Members of the Lancashire Association.

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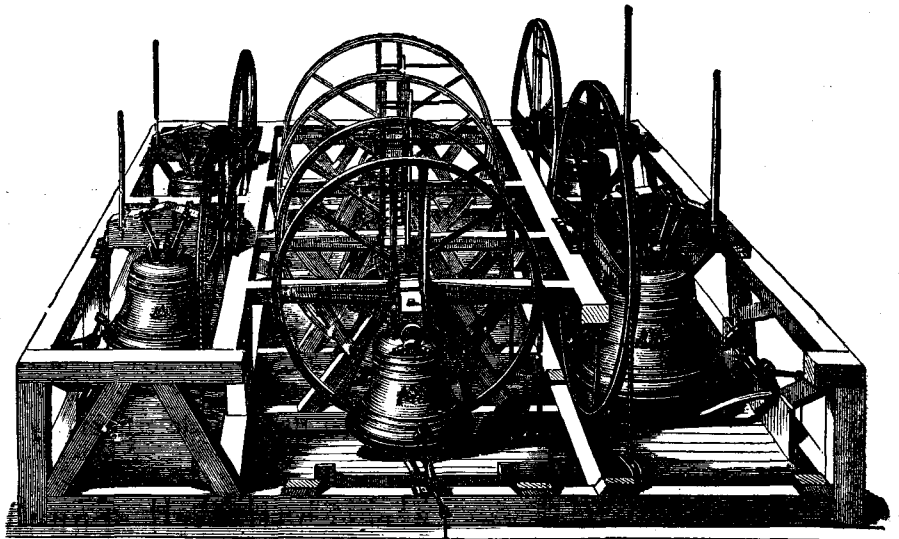
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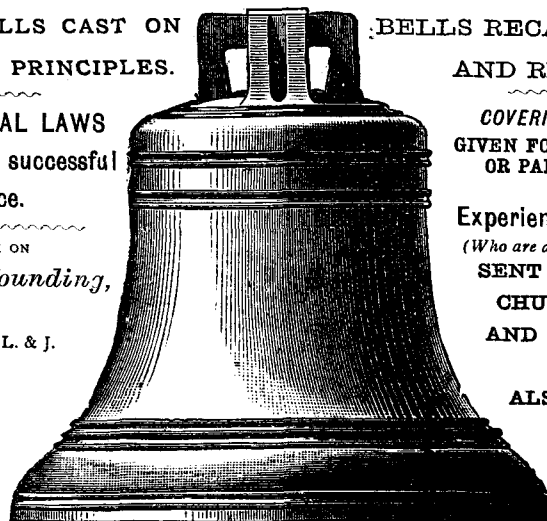
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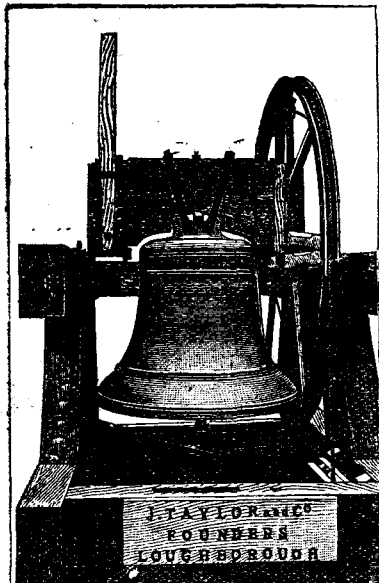
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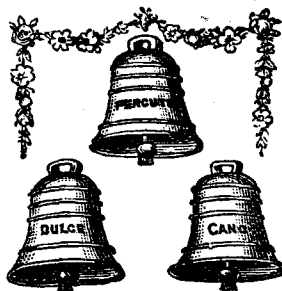
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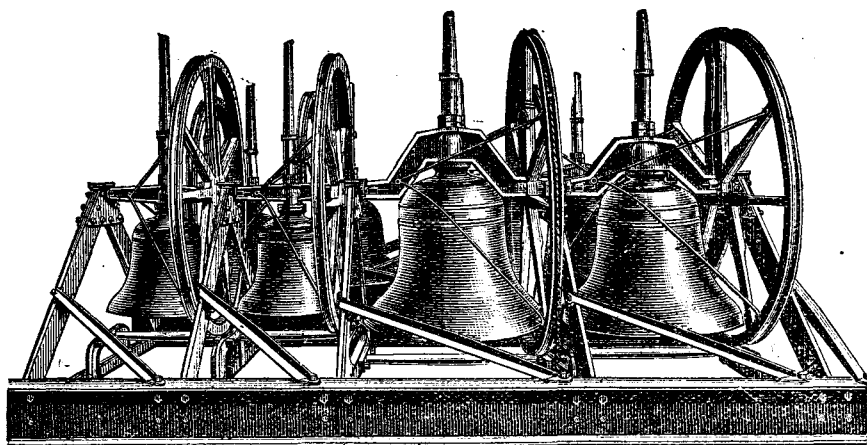
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