

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 161. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1885.

[ONE PENNY.]

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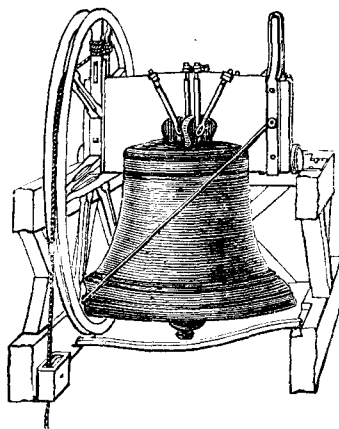
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THE LONDON SOCIETIES.

It would be wrong to say that the question of re-organization affecting the Metropolitan ringing companies had occupied the minds of many people, perhaps, though the existing state of things in connection with them has been the subject of criticism by several writers in "THE BELL NEWS." It appears at the present day open to doubt whether the present aspect of ringing affairs in London is the best that could be devised to meet the growing requirements of the Exercise. One of the principal objects every ringer should have in view is the extension of scientific ringing to places where it is not only unrecognised, but actually tabooed, and we question whether, under existing arrangements, the metropolitan companies do not consider this as of secondary importance. This certainly should not be so. If London is to be taken as a species of head centre from which smaller organisations seek to obtain inspiration and guidance, it follows that those who claim to lead should endeavour to do so effectually. We are compelled to believe, and with sorrow, that singleness of purpose is not always foremost among the ringers of the metropolis. We may preach and rave about following ringing "for the love of the thing" as long as we like, but it must be confessed that there are those who have a stronger liking for its concomitants than for ringing itself. The "loaves and fishes" are a very important factor in the estimation of some, and if these *benefits* were dispensed with, the result, we are afraid, would be an exodus from the ranks of the science to a much greater extent than anyone can foresee. But this is not the chief evil to be deplored in connection with the ringers of London—though it is one which must be greatly taken into account when a survey is taken of the position the Exercise holds therein.

The various Diocesan Guilds and Associations may have not yet come up to the level, collectively, of the London Societies, in point of ringing ability, but to endeavour to blink the growing conviction that the time will soon arrive when they will do so is vain. This is owing to the fact that the objects they aim at are on a much broader and less exclusive basis, and the almost total absence of these petty jealousies, instances of which we too frequently become acquainted with. In London, as is well known, there are two distinct societies, said to be in friendly rivalry. No one can belong to both these organizations at one time; membership of one of them bars admittance to the other. Then we have a third society open to all comers, whether members of the ones we have just alluded to, or not. There is also a fourth organization whose objects we are not able to define accurately, but many old members of the societies first named consider the existence of the last one as totally unnecessary. Now let us see the alleged objects of the first three. The College Youths and Royal Cumberlands are said to maintain an attitude of friendly rivalry—and this friendly rivalry is supposed to act as a great incentive to progress and advancement. Unfortunately, this rivalry is not always of the most friendly nature. As under these conditions it would be impossible for a peal rung by a band composed of members of both these societies to be entered in the peal-book of either company, the establishment of the St. James Society is said to be established for the purpose of recording these hybrid performances. The fourth organization—the Waterloo Society—may be considered as a kind of supplement to the St. James's.

Now we have no reason to find fault with these specific objects, only that they are not sufficient for the present day. Alone they appear to indicate a narrow-mindedness, if we may use such a term. And what is too readily seen among many of the members is that the rivalry is far from friendly, even among the societies themselves. The harmony of both College Youths and Cumberland Societies are now and then embittered by feuds and jealousies among their own individual members, and there are to be found those who will not give a vestige of support to the St. James's—in our opinion the most important ringing society in the metropolis, were its intentions carried out and heartily promoted by the rival societies. The internal economy of these organizations need revision, many questions relating to their management require adjusting, and broader, more liberal-minded, and cosmopolitan views affecting ringing are now become necessary.

A NEW MAN.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Monday evening, April 27th, a General Meeting of members of the Derby district of this Association was held in All Saints' Belfry, for the purpose of electing officers for the next twelve months.

On the motion of Mr. A. Taberer, seconded by Mr. G. Beeson, Mr. J. Beresford was called to the chair. The meeting then proceeded to elect a Local Secretary and Committee, and the following gentlemen were unanimously appointed:—Local Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. B. Ward; Committee, Messrs. A. P. Heywood and H. C. Woodward.

A vote of thanks to the retiring officers was then passed, and in reply Mr. H. C. Woodward said that, as regards himself, he had always endeavoured to attend every meeting of the Association, and had only once failed, though through no fault of his own; and as the members had thought fit to re-elect him, he should continue in the future, as he had done in the past, to do his utmost to forward the interests of the Association, particularly the Derby branch.

The Secretary informed the meeting that two Honorary Members and 23 Ringing Members had joined during the past twelve months, and expressed the hope that the Derby district would still go on increasing at the same rate in the future.

It was then stated by Mr. John Howe that A. P. Heywood, Esq., of Duffield Bank, intended to invite the Association to Duffield on the first Saturday in June, and desired to know if that date would suit the Derby district, and after a little conversation the opinion was expressed that that date would be most convenient to the members present.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding brought a most successful meeting to a close.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Diss (Norfolk).—On Monday, April 27th, eight members of the above Association attempted a peal of Oxford Treble Bob, but after ringing two courses it suddenly came to a stand, owing to the 6th bell casting her rope. After this was rectified, time would not permit of a second attempt, owing to service in the church, but a date touch of Oxford Treble Bob, in 1 hr. 15 mins. E. Francis, 1; F. Knights (conductor), 2; W. Ireland, 3; B. Francis, 4; T. Clarke, 5; J. Souter, 6; J. Skinner, 7; Captain Moore, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. F. Knights and J. Skinner belong to St. Peter's Mancroft Society, Norwich, and Captain Moore to the Redenhall company. Composed by B. Smith, of Plumstead. An interesting event of the day was the opening of a new peal of handbells, nineteen in number, D. No. 21, which were supplied by Messrs. Shaw and Co., of Bradford. After ringing different touches in Grandsire and Treble Bob methods on eight and ten, the company expressed themselves highly delighted with the tone and fittings of the bells. At five o'clock a shift was made to a capital knife and fork tea, at which Captain Moore presided. The ringers wish, through this paper, to thank the Rector for the use of the bells, and also the owner of the new handbells (Mr. J. Souter), for his kindness in providing refreshments. It is hoped that the visitors will be more fortunate next time they visit Diss for a peal.

ROSTHERNE, CHESHIRE.

ROSTHERNE lies midway between Bowdon and Knutsford in mid-Cheshire, about two miles from Ashley station, Cheshire Lines Railway. The church is dedicated to St. Mary, and the memorials in this beautiful old edifice are particularly worthy of inspection. The present tower, it appears, was built in 1742, and, like a many other towers, it is kept rather untidy. On a beam in the clock room is—"1696 + R. S. + V. R. + T. A. + I. S. W. H." The bells are rung for service twice on Sundays at 10.30 and 3 o'clock. They bear the following inscriptions:—

Treble.—"The gift of Saul, Egerton, of Tatton Park, T.R. 1771."

2nd.—"Chas. and John Rudhall, Fecit, 1785."

3rd.—"Peace and Good Neighbourhood, A.R. 1717."

4th.—"A.L.L. GLORY. B.E. T.O. G.O.D. 1630."

5th.—"Thos. Rudhall, Gloucester, Founder, 1782."

Tenor.—"A.M.V.H.B.W.N. EGGBNON, NOBISDOMI, NI, NONNOR IS, S, ED, NOMI, NI, T, VO, DA. GLORIAM 1655. JC. WARDENS, GOLD. F. ELL. MADE MEE."

It was not an easy task to take the inscription on the tenor, on account of it being very cold in the tower. I am afraid I have made a little mistake; the diameter at mouth is about 48 inches. I shall be very glad if any readers of "THE BELL NEWS" can give me any information with reference to the inscription on this bell.

THOMAS WOOD.

STAPLEHURST, KENT.

THE NEW PEAL OF BELLS.—On Saturday, St. Mark's Day, the new peal of eight bells, cast by Mears and Stainbank, of London, at a cost of £445 10s. 3d., was dedicated in the presence of a crowded congregation. The first service in the belfry was conducted by the Lord Bishop of Hereford, formerly Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, the Rectory of Staplehurst being in the patronage of that body. This consisted of a few prayers, and a formal admission of the members of the Staplehurst Ringers' Guild, 16 in number. The Bishop also gave a brief and practical address to the newly-admitted on the duties and responsibilities of their holy office. At 3 p.m. the belfry steps were again mounted, and the Bishop read the prayers, which formally dedicated the new peal, in the presence of the Rector, the Rev. G. F. Reyner, D.D., the Curate, the Rev. J. H. McGill, M.A., W. Hoare, Esq., Major Osborne, Messrs. Nunn and W. Wickings, Churchwardens; Messrs. Brooks, J. Harris, the Staplehurst Bell Ringers' Guild, and a band of the Ancient Society of College Youths, who had come down from London to ring the opening peal. Immediately after the prayers were concluded, the bells sounded forth, being rung with the greatest precision by the experts to whose hands the ropes were entrusted. At 3.30 the general service was commenced with the Old Hundredth Psalm, as a processional hymn. The Curate read shortened evensong, the 122nd and 150th being chanted as special psalms, while the Rector read two passages of Scripture, viz., Exodus xxviii. v. 30—v. 37, and Zechariah xiv. v. 20. After the Magnificat hymn 316 (Church Hymns) was sung, and after the 3rd collect, the anthem "Oh! how amiable." The prayers being ended, a short touch on the bells ensued, which was followed by a special hymn. The Bishop then preached a most suitable and earnest sermon from Exodus xxxix. v. 43, which was listened to with rapt attention. Hymn 509 was then sung, and an offertory to cover some expenses connected with preparing the tower for the reception of the bells, collected, which amounted to £20 2s. 7½d. The clergy present were the Archdeacon of Maidstone; Canon Carter, Rural Dean of Sutton, Canon Alcock, Canon Welldon, the Revs. T. W. Nowell, Rector of Poplar, T. A. Carr, Vicar of Marden, A. H. Harrison, Vicar of Cranbrook, J. S. Clarke, Vicar of Goudhurst, W. J. Kilpeck, Vicar of Sissinghurst, R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, late Rector of Mersham, T. D. Platt, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Portsea, D. Lamplugh, Vicar of Yalding, T. W. O. Hallward, Rector of Frittenden, R. S. Oldham, Rector of Little Chart, E. J. Selwyn, Rector of Pluckley, W. Peterson, Rector of Biddenham, J. S. Madden, Smeeth Hill, and J. MacLachlan, Rector of Sevington.

The weights of the bells are:—

cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
21	15	12	9	8	7	6	6

The inscriptions are:—

- Treble.—"Praise to God the Eternal Father. G. F. Reyner S.T.P., Rector, 1885."
 2nd.—"Praise to God the Eternal Son. J. H. C. McGill, M.A. Curate, 1885."
 3rd.—"Praise to God the Eternal Spirit. J. Nunn, William Wickings, Churchwardens, 1885."
 4th.—"This Bell is in place of one cast in 1748. God bless the church."
 5th.—"This bell is in place of one cast in 1663. God bless the Queen."
 6th.—"This Bell is in place of one cast in 1594. God bless Staplehurst."
 7th.—"Joseph Hatch made me. Henry Turner, C.W., William Woolless, C.W. 1605 T.S."

Tenor.—"This Tenor, which is in place of one cast in 1659, and 6th, 5th, 4th, 3rd, 2nd, and Treble Bells were cast by Mears and Stainbank in 1885. Dona Dei Deo."

The College Youths who opened the bells were as follows:—Messrs. Pettit, Smith, Dorrington, Mash, Winny, Muskett, Horrex, and Hayes. They rang six courses of Stedman Triples before the service; a plain course of Stedman during the pause in the service, and at the conclusion two courses of Kent Treble Bob Major.

THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday last, April 25th, the half-yearly meeting of this Association was held at Low Moor, near Bradford, when the following companies were represented: Low Moor, Mirfield, Lightcliffe, Holey Hill, Halifax (late parish), Halifax parish, Birstall, Brighouse, Tong, Kirkheaton, Liversedge, and Drighlington. The welcome peal was rung by the Mirfield ringers. During the afternoon and evening short touches in various methods were rung by the different companies upon the tower bells. Short selections were also given in fair style upon the handbells. At 5 o'clock the ringers were most hospitably entertained to a good knife and fork tea, in the church schoolroom, by the following gentlemen: The Vicar, the Rev. T. H. Flynn, the Curate, the Rev. M. Thorman, Laurence Hardy, Esq., J.P., the Churchwardens, Messrs. James Ackroyd and Barri Briggs, the Sidesmen, Messrs. R. Edmondson and T. Clarkson, and the Chairman of the Local Board, Mr. Edwin Briggs; the Vicar presiding, supported by the above gentlemen. After tea the Vicar spoke a few well-chosen words of welcome, and mentioned the gradual improved tone generally now to be seen among ringers in reference to attending church service,

sobriety, etc., and contrasted it most favourably with that of previous years, when disputes between ringers and churchwardens, neglect of attendance at Divine Service, etc., were the order of the day. Laurence Hardy, Esq., addressed the ringers, and spoke of the pleasure it gave him to welcome the Association to Low Moor, and likewise the pleasure it was for him to hear the bells well rung. He also paid a most graceful tribute to the memory of the late Hon. Harold Hardy, and said that his ambition was to follow in his footsteps, in respect to supporting the church and its officers and officials in every capacity, both morally and materially. The Secretary briefly acknowledged on behalf of the Society the welcome given, and thanked the gentlemen for their remarks. Afterwards an adjournment was made to the "Chapel House" Inn, where a meeting was held, at which it was decided to hold the next meeting at Lightcliffe, in October next. A special vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mr. Hardy, and the other gentlemen for their kindness was passed, to be officially forwarded by the Secretary. Mr. Ackroyd addressed the meeting, endorsing the words of previous speakers, and promised on behalf of himself and co-warden to provide an official pew for the bell-ringers in the church if required. Mr. Edwin Briggs proposed in a very neat speech the toast of the evening—"Success to The West Riding of Yorkshire Association," which was seconded by the junior Warden, Mr. Barri Briggs. A vote of thanks to the host brought a most successful meeting to a close, after which ringing was resumed until a late hour.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

A COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the Church Room, Stoke-upon-Trent, at Four p.m., on Saturday, May 9th. Business: election of new Clerical Secretary, arrangement of Annual Meeting, &c.

H. WALSHAM HOW, Hon. Sec.

BELL RINGERS' RULES IN RHYME.—The following curious rhyme was formerly to be seen on the south wall of the belfry of Hathersage church, Derby. Its date is thought to be about 1660:

"You Gentlemen that here wish to ring,
 See that these laws you keep in every thing;
 Or else be sure you must without delay.
 The penalty thereof to the ringers pay.

First, when you do unto the bell-house come,
 Look if the ringers have convenient room;
 For if you do be an hindrance unto them,
 Fourpence you forfeit unto these gentlemen.

Next, if you do here intend to ring,
 With hat nor spur, do not touch a string;
 For if you do, your forfeit is for that,
 Just fourpence down to pay, lose your hat.

If you a bell turn over, without delay,
 Fourpence unto the ringers you must pay,
 Or if you strike, miscall, or so abuse,
 You must pay fourpence for the ringers' use.

For every oath here sworn, ere you go hence,
 Unto the poor then you must pay twelvepence;
 And if that you desire to be enrolled
 A ringer here, these words keep and hold!

But whoso these orders disobey,
 Unto the stocks we will take him straightway;
 There to remain until he be willing
 To pay his forfeit and the clerk a shilling."

In the belfry at Tideswell church, a variation of the above was won to be found, up to a comparatively recent date. It is as follows:—

"All gentlemen that here intend to ring,
 See that these laws you keep in everything;
 When first that you into the belfry come,
 See that the ringers have convenient room;
 For if you be an hindrance unto them,
 Fourpence you forfeit unto these gentlemen.
 For every oath you swear ere you go hence,
 You must immediately just pay sixpence.
 For every bell turned o'er, without delay
 Fourpence you must unto the present clerk pay;
 Or if that you're desirous for to ring
 With hats or spurs on, do not touch one string;
 For if you do, your forfeit is for that
 Fourpence pay down or else you lose your hat.
 And if you have a mind to be enrolled
 A ringer here, these orders you must hold."

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

9600.

By JOHN CARTER, *Birmingham.*

2 3 4 5 6 w 5th 4th H

6 4 3 5 2 - - -
 2 3 5 6 4 - - -
 4 5 6 2 3 - - -
 3 6 2 4 5 - - -
 5 2 4 3 6 - - -

6 4 2 3 5 - - -
 5 2 3 6 4 - - -
 4 3 6 5 2 - - -
 2 6 5 4 3 - - -
 3 4 5 2 6 - - - s

6 5 4 2 3 - - -
 3 4 2 6 5 - - -
 5 2 6 3 4 - - -
 4 6 3 5 2 - - -
 2 5 3 4 6 - - - s

6 3 5 4 2 - - -
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 3 4 6 2 5 - - -
 5 6 2 3 4 - - -
 4 2 3 5 6 - - -

Five times repeated. Bob for a single at the tenth course of the second and fifth parts, and contains the 120 course-ends.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

5040.

By N. J. PITSTOW, *Saffron Walden.*

2 3 4 5 6 W M H

4 3 6 5 2 - - -
 6 3 2 5 4 - - -
 2 6 4 3 5 - - -

4 2 5 6 3 - - -
 5 2 3 6 4 - - -
 3 2 4 6 5 - - -
 5 4 3 2 6 - - -
 3 5 4 2 6 - - -
 4 3 5 2 6 - - -

5 4 6 3 2 - - -
 6 4 2 3 5 - - -
 2 6 5 4 3 - - -
 5 6 3 4 2 - - -
 4 5 3 6 2 - - -
 3 4 2 5 6 - - -

Twice repeated.

TWO PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

By JOHN J. BRIERLEY, *Saddleworth.*

5760.

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

4 6 5 3 2 I I 2
 4 5 3 6 2 I - 2 2
 3 2 6 5 4 2 - 2 2
 6 4 5 2 3 2 - 2 2
 3 5 4 2 6 2 - I I

Twice repeated.

5760.

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

3 6 4 5 2 2 - I 2
 3 4 5 6 2 I - 2 2
 5 4 6 3 2 2 I
 6 2 3 4 5 2 - 2 2
 3 5 4 2 6 2 - 2 2

Twice repeated.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

15,120.

By W. WOOD, *Birmingham.*

2 3 4 5 6

4 3 6 5 2 9 7.
 4 3 6 5 2 7th in & out at 3 with a double.
 5 3 2 4 6 8th in two and a 7 8.
 2 3 6 4 5 8 9.
 6 3 5 4 2 8 9.
 3 5 6 4 2 7 8.
 4 5 2 3 6 8th in two and a 7 8.
 2 5 6 3 4 8 9.
 6 5 4 3 2 8 9.
 3 5 2 6 4 8th in two and a 7 8.

Fourteen times repeated.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5088.

By JOHN THORP, *Ashton-under-Lyne.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

3 6 4 5 2 2 - I 2
 3 4 5 6 2 I 2
 5 4 6 3 2 2 I
 4 5 2 3 6 2 2
 3 4 2 5 6 I - 2

Twice repeated.

Rung at Mottram, on Monday, February 9th, 1885.
 Conducted by Robert Wright.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

6720.

By GEORGE H. HARDY, *Earlsheaton.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

5 6 3 4 2 2 - 2
 4 5 6 2 3 - 2
 5 3 6 2 4 2 - I 2
 3 4 6 2 5 I 2

Four times repeated.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

5152.

A. KNIGHTS, *Chesterfield.*

2 3 4 5 4 W M H

6 4 2 3 5 - - -
 3 6 2 4 5 - - -
 2 4 3 6 5 - - -
 6 2 3 4 5 - - -
 4 6 3 2 5 - - -
 3 2 4 6 5 - - -
 6 3 4 2 5 - - -
 2 6 4 3 5 - - -
 4 3 2 6 5 - - -
 2 4 5 3 6 - - -
 3 2 5 4 6 - - -
 4 3 5 2 6 - - -
 6 5 4 3 2 - - -
 4 6 5 3 2 - - -
 5 4 6 3 2 - - -
 6 3 5 4 2 - - -
 5 6 3 4 2 - - -
 3 4 5 6 2 - - -
 5 3 4 6 2 - - -
 4 5 3 6 2 - - -
 3 4 2 5 6 - - -
 5 3 2 4 6 - - -
 4 5 2 3 6 - - -

Repeated. The 6th twelve times wrong and right.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5056

By CHARLES PRICE, *Eccleston.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

2 4 5 3 6 I - 2 2
 3 2 4 6 5 - - 2
 6 3 2 5 4 - - 2
 5 6 3 4 2 - - 2

4 5 6 2 3 2 - 2 2
 4 6 2 5 3 I 2

4 2 5 6 3 I - 2 2
 6 4 2 3 5 - - 2
 3 6 4 5 2 - - 2
 5 3 6 2 4 - - 2

3 5 4 2 6 2 - 2

2 3 5 6 4 - - 2
 3 4 5 6 2 2 - I 2

3 4 6 2 5 2 - 2 I
 2 3 4 5 6 2 - 2 2

TWO PEALS OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL.

By DANIEL PRENTICE, *Ipswich.*

6000.

2 3 4 5 6 M W H

5 2 3 6 4 2 2 2
 5 3 6 2 4 I 2
 5 4 3 2 6 2 I
 4 2 3 5 6 2

Twice repeated.

6000.

2 3 4 5 6 M W H

5 6 3 4 2 I 2 2
 4 2 6 3 5 I 2 2
 4 5 2 3 6 2 I
 3 4 2 5 6 I

Twice repeated.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5088.

By HENRY DAINS, *Royal Cumberland Youths.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

3 2 6 5 4 - - I 2
 5 4 2 6 3 I - 2 2
 4 3 2 6 5 2 - I 2
 3 5 2 6 4 I - 2
 5 3 4 6 2 - - I 2

6 4 3 5 2 - 2 2
 4 6 2 5 3 - I 2
 5 3 6 2 4 I - 2 2
 3 4 6 2 5 2 - I 2

3 4 2 5 6 - - I
 4 5 2 3 6 I -
 3 2 5 4 6 I - 2
 2 4 5 3 6 I -
 3 5 4 2 6 I - 2
 5 2 4 3 6 I -
 2 3 4 5 6 I -

Rung for the first time at All Hallows, Tottenham, Middlesex, on January 31st, 1885, by the St. James's Society. Conducted by A. H. Gardom.

"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, 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.

A dozen of cards, with a copy of the record of a peal, as it appears in our pages, sent post free on receipt of twenty-six halfpenny stamps.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1885.

THOUGH it may be taken for granted that there are many unsuccessful attempts made for peals of 5000 and upwards which we never hear of, it must at the same time be conceded that instances occur in which these unsuccessful essays come to be recorded merely as touches rung under the usual ordinary conditions of practice. Without beating about the bush we may at once remark that the publication this week of a touch of 3500 of Grandsire Triples, stated as having been rung for practice merely, leads to the idea that it was an attempt for a peal. There may be, it is true, circumstances existing why such a lengthy touch could be rung for practice, and we do not deny such was the case. We are only pointing out an idea which has occurred to us, and which we think will present itself to many minds when reading the report of this performance.

To say, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal has been made, that such ringing was "only for practice," is a very old and well-worn joke. When such facetiousness is indulged in by the company among themselves, no objection can be made. A little pleasantry of this character certainly does no harm, and perhaps tends to lighten the disappointment caused by failure. But it is a good plan not to use the words above quoted too often, because a constant repetition of a phrase, though apparently ridiculous at the onset, ultimately creates positive belief. Therefore it would be better that the assertion "only for practice," when made after an unsuccessful attempt, should be localised as much as possible, at any rate not allowed to find its way into print unless absolutely correct.

Those who critically peruse the reports of the various performances which week by week appear—those who, so to speak, read between the lines—now and then point out to us their peculiarities, commenting at the same time in

a similar strain to our present remarks. Some of these "touches," brought under our observation, glaringly appear to have been mere attempts at something else, and the object of our dealing with the matter is only to point out that such ambiguity in reporting these performances is open to discovery. We think it would be better in all instances where there is a failure to boldly admit it. "'Tis not in mortals to command success," but whoever is courageous enough when failure overtakes him to candidly admit it, and not shelter his want of success under an equivocal subterfuge, certainly deserves to prosper in every undertaking.

The Provinces.

ORMSKIRK, LANCASHIRE.

On Tuesday, April 21, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 25½ cwt.

JOHN ASPINWALL Treble.	WILLIAM BENTHAM 5.
WILLIAM J. TAYLOR* 2.	CHARLES SHARPLES 6.
WILLIAM ELLIS* 3.	*GEORGE PRESCOTT 7.
JAMES SHOLICAR* 4.	*WILLIAM LLOYD Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JOHN ASPINWALL.

*First peal.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

On Thursday, April 23, 1885, in Three Hours and Twenty-six Minutes.

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 26 cwt.

JOHN JAGGAR Treble.	HARRY WAKLEY 5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE 2.	ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by JOSEPH GRIFFIN.

This peal is a two-part peal, and contains the 6th twenty-four times wrong and right; see Snowdon's "Double Norwich," page 37; and is now rang for the first time.

ECCLES, LANCASHIRE.

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION. Tenor 13½ cwt.

WILLIAM CROSSLEY Treble.	CHARLES CASH 5.
JAMES COLLIER 2.	JOSEPH HIGSON 6.
RICHARD PEARCE 3.	EDWARD CASH 7.
JOHN WELSBY 4.	EDWARD OWEN Tenor.

Conducted by EDWARD CASH.

The above was rung as a complimentary peal to Mr. Higson (formerly a ringer at St. Peter's, Swinton), he having been in the United States over three years. He has only come over on a visit and will return in a few days. Messrs. Cash Brothers hail from Eccles; Welsby from Walkden; the rest are from Swinton.

SADDLEWORTH.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Three Hours.

AT ST. CHAD'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 12 cwt.

JOHN J. BRIERLEY Treble.	JOS. L. BUCKLEY 5.
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE 2.	EDGAR BUCKLEY 6.
JOHN HOLDEN 3.	EDWARD WOOD 7.
JAMES WRIGLEY 4.	JOSEPH WOOD Tenor.

Composed by JOHN J. BRIERLEY, and Conducted by JOHN HOLDEN.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

At St. Martin's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

JOSEPH JONES* Treble.	*THOMAS HORTON 5.
WILLIAM ROCK SMALL 2.	REUBEN HALL 6.
JOHN TINSLEY 3.	WILLIAM SMITH 7.
WILLIAM PARDOE† 4.	JOSEPH FULLWOOD Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH FULLWOOD.

*First peal of Major. †First peal.

Messrs. Small, Horton, Hall, and Fullwood hail from West Bromwich; Tinsley and Smith from Darlaston; and Jones and Pardoe belong to the local band.

MANCHESTER.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Birthday Peal.

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

At THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in Eb.

THOMAS THORPE* Treble.	JAMES THORPE 6.
THOMAS G. DOWNS 2.	ALBERT E. WREAKS 7.
JOSEPH GRIMSHAW 3.	GEORGE MEE 8.
SAMUEL WEST 4.	JOHN EACHUS 9.
GEORGE E. TURNER 5.	HENRY MEE Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by ALBERT E. WREAKS.

*First peal; aged 14 years.

It was intended to have rung a peal of Bob Royal, but the conductor not putting in an appearance it was frustrated. A peal of Caters was therefore composed in the tower and attempted, with the above result. The above was rung to celebrate Mr. Turner's 23rd birthday, the ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Three Hours,

At St. Andrew's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

W. BARON Treble.	*REV. C. T. MAYO 5.
H. A. HOPKINS 2.	G. NEWSON 6.
J. ROGERS 3.	W. WILDER 7.
C. T. HOPKINS 4.	J. PERRYMAN Tenor.

Conducted by W. BARON.

*First peal.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

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

On Saturday, April 25, 1885, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

At St. Mary-le-Tower Church,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES. Tenor 32 cwt.

WILLIAM MEADOWS* Treble.	WILLIAM MOTTS 5.
EDGAR PEMBERTON 2.	†ARTHUR R. ALDHAM 6.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER 3.	JAMES MOTTS 7.
HENRY BOWELL* 4.	WILLIAM CATCHPOLE Tenor.

Composed by H. HUBBARD, and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

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

The whole of the above belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower Company.

MEMORIAL WINDOW.—During the afternoon service at St. Mark's Church, Coburg Road, Old Kent Road, on Saturday—which was the dedication festival—a stained glass window, which has been erected to the memory of the late John Sutton Utterton, Canon of Winchester, Archdeacon of Surrey, and Bishop-Suffragan of Guildford, was unveiled in the presence of a large congregation. A sermon was afterwards delivered by the Rev. W. Chetwynd Stapylton, M.A., hon. canon of Rochester, and Vicar of Malden, Surrey.

SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE ST. PETER'S AMALGAMATED SOCIETY AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 27, 1885, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

At St. Marie's Church,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 25 cwt.

WILLIAM MIDGLEY Treble.	CHAS. H. HATTERSEY 5.
JOHN GOACHER* 2.	THOMAS HATTERSLEY 6.
JOHN MULLIGAN† 3.	JAMES A. DIXON 7.
WILLIAM GARDINER 4.	*JAMES KEW Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN MULLIGAN.

†First peal as conductor. *First peal.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Muffled Peal.

On Wednesday, April 29, 1885, in Three Hours and Twenty-two Minutes,

At St. Paul's Church,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES. Tenor 26 cwt.

REV. JAMES H. FISH Treble.	HARRY WAKLEY 5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE 2.	JOHN JAGGAR 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed by H. DAINS and Conducted by JOSEPH GRIFFIN.

This peal was rung with the bells half-muffled on the first Anniversary of the death of Michael Thomas Bass, Founder of St. Paul's and St. Margaret's churches, Burton-on-Trent, and donor of the bells.

It is a one-part peal, and contains the 6th twenty-four times wrong and right, see Snowden's "Double Norwich," page 38, being the original peal. And is now rung for the first time.

Date Touch.

CHESTERFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday, April 28th, at the parish church, the local company rang a date touch of 1885 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 6 mins. John Goodwin, 1; David Farthing, 2; George Toplis, 3; William Ellis, 4; John Ellis, 5; Harry Nuttall, jun., 6; Arthur Knights (conductor), 7; Thomas Mee, 8. Composed by Charles Jackson, of Hull, and taken from "THE BELL NEWS" of March 21st. Tenor 24½ cwt. in Eb.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LAMBETH (Surrey).—On Saturday, April 25th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. E. F. Strange (conductor), 1; J. Waghorn, jun., 2; *A. Tennant, 3; F. T. Gover, 4; *E. Rogers, 5; *M. Murphy, 6. Tenor 20 cwt. *First 720 in the method.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BROMHAM (Beds).—On Thursday, April 23rd, at St. Owen's church, for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). I. Hills, 1; M. Warrick, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; W. King, 4; W. Biggs (conductor), 5; H. King, 6.

BIDDENHAM (Beds).—On Friday, April 24th, at St. James's church, for practice, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). W. Hall, 1; C. West, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; M. Warrick, 4; I. Hills, 5; W. Biggs, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

CARDINGTON (Beds).—On Saturday, April 25th, eight members of the above Association attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples, Taylor's bob-and-single variation, but after ringing 3140 changes, in 1 hr. 55 mins., two bells shifted course, so the conductor brought the bells round. C. West, 1; W. Biggs, 2; S. Cullip, 3; W. Hall, 4; J. Atkins, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6; J. Frossell, 7; I. Hills, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

WOBURN (Beds).—On Thursday, April 23rd, the day of the marriage of F. T. Tanqueray, Esq. (a member of the Association), after ringing some touches of Bob Major, a 720 was rung on the front six bells, the tenors covering. G. Archer, 1; Walter Mynard (first 720 with a bob bell), 2; T. Foote (Bedford), 3; C. Herbert, 4; W. Chibnall (conductor), 5; J. C. Cooke, 6; A. Morrison, 7; E. Keech, 8.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Friday, April 24th, at St. John's, Deritend, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 47 mins. William Baldwin, 1; Charles Carmell, 2; John Callaghan, 3; Charles Barnacle, 4; Richard Hackley, 5; John T. Perry (conductor), 6; Albert Hackley, 7; James E. King, 8. This quarter-peal was composed by the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS." All the above are members of the Birmingham and District Association.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Saturday, April 25th, eight members of the above Association started for a 5000 of Treble Bob, at All Saints' church, by the kind permission of the Vicar, but after ringing the first part it was advisable to stop owing to the tenor going very badly, in consequence of the recent hot weather. Arthur Scott, 1; Alexander Hurst, 2; William Bacon, 3; Walter Griggs, 4; Harry Thompson, 5; William Howell, 6; Paul Adams, 7; Harry Harper, 8. Tenor 28 cwt in D.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD (Essex).—Handbell Ringing.—On Saturday evening, April 25th, a 630 of Grandsire Triples. A. Pye, 1-2; B. Keeble, 3-4; A. J. Perkins, 5-6; W. Nash, 7-8.

SPRINGFIELD (Essex).—On Tuesday, April 28th, at All Saints', a 720 of Cambridge Surprise Minor, in 24 mins. W. Harvey, 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake (conductor), 5; M. Rolfe, 6. Tenor about 11 cwt. Dains and Harvey hail from Widford, Drake and Rowland from Chelmsford, Hawkes and Rolfe belong to Springfield. This is the first 720 in the method on the bells.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CAVERSHAM (Oxon).—On Tuesday, April 21st, by the St. Peter's Society, a 720 of Yorkshire Court, in 28 mins. E. Menday, 1; J. Butler, 2; G. Essex, 3; T. Newman, 4; E. Pottinger, 5; Rev. G. F. Coleridge (conductor), 6. Tenor 16½ cwt.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent).—On Monday evening, April 27th, at St. Peter's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles), from Troyte, in 25 mins. James Muggeridge, 1; Job Colthup, 2; Richard Sharville, 3; William Latter, 4; Henry Barefield (conductor), 5; George Kimber, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qrs. This is the first 720 by all except the conductor.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ECCLES (Lancashire).—On Monday evening, April 27th, six of the local company rang their first 120 of Stedman Doubles. Edward Cash, 1; Thomas Yates, 2; James Barratt, 3; Alfred Eggington, 4; George Henry Johnson (conductor), 5; Richard Ashcroft, 6.

WALDEN (Lancashire).—On Easter Day, April 5th, at St. Paul's Church, for the 6 a.m. service, a 720 of Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, in 26½ mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; J. Brookes, 5; W. Dennes (conductor), 6. Also on Monday evening, April 27th, for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor, with twenty-one bobs and twelve singles in 26 mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Williamson, 4; W. Denner, 5; J. Brookes (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Bob Minor, with nine bobs and six singles, in 26 mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; W. Denner, 4; J. Brookes, 5; R. Ridyard (conductor), 6. Tenor 13½ cwt. R. Ridyard hails from Worsley. These are their first 720's as conductors by both Messrs. Brookes and Ridyard.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, April 26th, for Divine Service in the morning, 252 Stedman Triples. William Grice, 1; George Bradley, 2; Samuel Clark, 3; John C. Dickens, 4; William Gilson, 5; Joseph Barrow (conductor), 6; John Ward, 7. And for service in the evening, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major. William Grice, 1; Richard Hickton, 2; George Bradley, 3; Samuel Clark, 4; John C. Dickens, 5; William Gilson, 6; Joseph Barrow, 7; John Ward (conductor), 8. Tenor 11 cwt.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

HELMINGHAM (Suffolk).—On Saturday, April 25th, eight members of the above Association attempted a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 2016 changes in 1 hr. 20 mins. it came to grief through a change-course. G. Birch, 1; G. Perry, 2; A. S. Barrell, 3; J. Howard, 4; W. P. Garrett, 5; S. Whitman, 6; A. Ward, 7; W. A. Ward (conductor), 8.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

NORTON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, April 26th, for evening service, 720 Court Bob Minor, in 25 mins. W. Holdcroft, E. Glover, 2; J. Morton, 3; G. Walker, 4; J. W. Brough, 5; J. Baddeley (conductor), 6.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

STREATHAM (Surrey).—On Monday, April 27th, for practice a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. H. Daniels, jun., 1; W. Sheppard, 1; J. Russel, 3; S. Greenwood, 4; O. Daddy (conductor), 5; G. Pell, 6. And two 6-scores, of Stedman Doubles.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

SOBERTON (Hants).—On Saturday evening April 18th, for practice, 3500 Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 4 mins. R. Linter, 1; F. Linter, 2; H. Mason, 3; G. H. Child, 4; G. Grafham, 5; J. Whiting, 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; W. Belstone, 8. On Sunday, April 19th, for morning service, 840 Grandsire Triples. W. Emslie, 1; G. H. Child, 2; H. H. Emslie, 3; F. Linter, 4; H. Mathews, 5; H. Mason, 6; G. Williams (conductor), 7; H. Upton, 8. Tenor 14½ cwt.

ACCINGTON (Lancashire).—Muffled Peal.—On Sunday, April 26th, at St. James's parish church, the bells were muffled as a last token of respect to the late Mr. John Higson, Secretary of the Lancashire Association of six-bell ringers, various touches were also rung for Divine in the evening. A. Scholes, 1; Wm. Duckworth, 2; Thos. Newall, 3; John Hindle, 4; Wm. Ashworth, 5; C. D. Pierce, 6. And after service a muffled 720 (sixteen bobs and two singles). T. Newall (conductor), 1; Wm. Duckworth, 2; Tom Hodgson, 3; John Hindle, 4; Wm. Ashworth, 5; Wm. Gill, 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

BATLEY CARR (Yorkshire).—On Friday, April 24th, for practice, 724 College Pleasure, in 27 mins. Squire Mitchell (conductor), 1; J. W. Simon, 2; W. H. Stead, 3; John Blackburn, 4; Geo. H. Simon, 5; H. Senior, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. First 720 in the method by all.

BOLTON.—On Sunday, April 26th, at the Parish Church, being the Annual Sermons in behalf of the week day and Sunday schools connected with the parish church, seven of the local company, with Mr. John Curtis of Bolton, rang before service the first half of a peal of Grandsire Triples (Taylor's variation) consisting of 2520 changes, in 1 hr. and 27 mins. William Davies (conductor), 1; John E. Newton, 2; William L. Holden, 3; John Curtis, 4; Peter Nuttall, 5; James May, 6; John Whitehead, 7; James Thorpe, 6. Tenor 15½ cwt.

CHEPSTOW (Monmouthshire).—On Sunday, April 26th, the local company of St. Mary's Church, rang for Divine Service several plain courses of Bob Triples. J. Morley, 1; J. Evans, 2; W. Green, 3; C. James, 4; G. Watkins, 5; Wm. Woods, 6; Tom Rosser, 7; R. D. Morley (conductor), 8. This is the first Bob Triples ever rung by any local company on the bells. Tenor 21 cwt.

COPDOCK (Suffolk).—On Thursday, April 23rd, at St. Peter's church, a 6-score of Plain Doubles was rung. G. Bishop, 1; W. Brown, 2; W. L. Catchpole, 3; R. Grimwood, 4; A. R. Aldham, 5. And another 6-score. W. Brown, 1; G. Bishop, 2; W. L. Catchpole, 3; A. R. Aldham, 4; W. Bishop, 5; Aldham and Catchpole hail from Ipswich, the rest are local men.

DEERHURST (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday afternoon, April 26th, some members of the Tewkesbury Abbey Society visited Deerhurst, and rang a 720 of Bob Minor. R. H. Witherington, 1; J. Wathen, 2; F. J. Moore, 3; J. Hale, 4; G. Willis, 5; Jos. Wathen (conductor), 6. Some 120s of Stedman Doubles were rung, J. Bartlett, G. Willis, and C. Willis, of the Deerhurst Society, taking a bell each.

DERBY.—On Saturday, April 25th, for practice at St. Andrew's a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 51 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; J. W. Thompson, 2; C. Hart, 3; W. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; Dr. Knipe, 6; A. E. Thompson (conductor), 7; T. Alton, 8. Tenor 20½ cwt. in Eb. Dr. Knipe hails from London, the rest are local ringers.

FAVERSHAM (Kent).—On Saturday, April 25th, by the local band, at the funeral of E. Crosoer, one of their members, who died April 21st, aged 23, deeply regretted by all the members of the band, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor with the bells half-muffled. J. Smith, 1; A. Biggs, 2; J. Barnard, 3; C. L. Graham, 4; C. Couchman, 5; W. Wood (conductor), 6; H. Hogben, tenor.

EDWARDSTONE (Suffolk).—On Sunday, April 26th, at St. Mary's Church, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25 mins. G. Death, 1; J. Taylor, 2; J. Newman, 3; H. Bowers, 4; W. Smith, 5; W. Nevard (conductor), 6. Also a 216 of Plain Bob with fourteen singles. C. Ablitt, 1; G. Scowen, 2; J. Scowen, 3; H. Bowers, 4; J. Newman (conductor), 5; H. Diggins, 6. Also a 300 of Plain Bob. G. Scowen, 1; H. Bowers, 2; J. Scowen, 3; W. Smith, 4; J. Taylor (conductor), 5; W. Nevard, 6. And after service the following rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob in 27 mins. J. Taylor, 1; A. Keeble, 2; J. Newman, 3; C. Parker (conductor), 4; W. Smith, 5; W. Nevard, 6. This is the first 720 of this method that has been rung on these bells for the past twenty years. W. Nevard hails from Great Bentley; J. Taylor from Great Bromley; C. Ablitt and W.

Smith from Higham; J. and C. Scowen from Hadleigh; A. Keeble and C. Parker from Monks Leigh; H. Bowers and H. Diggins from Great Waldingfield; the rest are local men.

LEISTON (Suffolk).—On Saturday, April 25th, six members of the local company rang two 720's of Plain Bob Minor, in 56 mins., and two 360's of Plain Bob Minor in 28 mins. Also on Friday, April 24th, on handbells retained in hand, a 720 and 360 in the same method, each called differently. H. Button (aged 14), 1; E. Stauley (aged 15), 2; G. Baxter (aged 16), 3; G. Morling (aged 17), 4; W. Button (19), 5; T. E. Shearing, aged 16 (conductor), 6. Tenor 20½ cwt. These are the first 720's rung by the above company, who have only been in practice for two months, and have had no instructor.

MANCHESTER.—On Friday, April 24th, at St. Philip's church, Hulme, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. Jas. Heald (first 720 in the method), 1; T. Collinge, 2; E. Ettock, 3; H. Wood, 4; A. Wood, 5; T. Heald (first 720 as conductor in this method), 6.

NOTTINGHAM.—*Muffled Peal*.—On Saturday, April 25th, at St. Peter's Church, the following members of the Midland Counties' Association, assisted by Mr. M. Tomlinson, of Holbeck, rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins., with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. Lennard, an old Nottingham ringer, who died on Wednesday, April 22nd. S. Wilkinson, 1; M. Tomlinson, 2; H. Needham, 3; A. Archer, 4; A. R. Peet, 5; J. Hickman, 6; H. W. Abbott (conductor), 7; A. W. Sadler, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. H. Needham hails from Leicester.

NUNEATON (Warwickshire).—On Tuesday, April 28th, the Bishop of Worcester held a confirmation service at the parish church, at 11 a.m., when the local company rang his Lordship in with five 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, called differently, with 7 6 8 behind. W. Adler, 1; T. Lingard, 2; H. Bacon, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; T. Bates, 5; C. Draper, 6; G. E. Swain, 7; J. Ballar, 8. And after service several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, called differently, by the same band. Tenor 14 cwt. in E.

SUTTON (Lincolnshire).—On Sunday, April 26th, at St. Nicholas Church, after Divine Service in the morning, four 120's of Plain Bob Doubles called on the last four, and two 120's of Grandsire Doubles called on the fifth, in 25 mins. G. Stennett, 1; G. Watson, 2; J. W. Mawby, 3; J. Stennett, 4; W. Cunningham, 5.

SALISBURY.—On Saturday, April 25th, (St Mark's Day), at St. Martin's Church, a 720 of Bob Minor in 27 mins. J. Short, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; A. Anderson, 3; W. Gifford, 4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5; J. R. Jerram, 6.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Sunday, April 26th, at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, a 720 of Bob Minor. *J. Harding, 1; W. Harper, 2; W. Martin, 3; G. Hayes, 4; B. Spinner, 5; G. Martin (conductor), 6. *First 720. First 720 as conductor. Also for evening service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. J. Broom, 1; B. Spinner, 2; W. Martin, 3; G. Hayes, 3; G. Hayes, 4; G. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

TIBENHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday evening, April 26th, a 240 of Bob Minor, with Bob Minor, with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to Mr. Joseph Coleman, who was for 30 years parish clerk. G. Manser (conductor), 1; T. Wick, 2; G. Manser, jun., 3; J. Hinchley, 4; R. Seager, 5; E. Wibsdale, 6. And a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob. G. Manser (conductor), 1; T. Wick, 2; G. Manser, jun., 3; J. Jackson, 4; J. Hinchley, 5; E. Wibsdale, 6. J. Hinchley hails from Bunwell, the rest are local men.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Thursday evening, April 23rd, at St. Mary's parish church, a 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. E. Yates, 1; R. H. Barton, 2; W. Short, 3; W. Rushton, 4; C. E. Wilson, 5; J. Bradshaw (conductor), 6. All the above hail from Bootle, with the exception of C. E. Wilson. And on Sunday morning for Divine Service, a 576 of Grandsire Minor, with twenty-two bobs and two singles; and in the evening a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with fifteen bobs and six singles, in 26 mins. J. Hurst, 1; C. J. Rodgers, T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. The above peal is the composition of the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. Tenor 10 cwt.

WILLESDEN (Middlesex).—On Thursday, April 23rd, a 720 of Bob Minor, with eight bobs and six singles, in 24 mins. A. Kirby, 1; F. Weare, 2; R. Kilby, 3; M. Murphy, 4; A. Tennant, 5; A. Pillian (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday evening, a 360 of Bob Minor, with nineteen bobs. J. Tennant, 1; R. Kilby, 2; A. Tennant, 3; A. Pillian, 4; M. Murphy, 5; F. Weare (conductor), 6.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY SOCIETY.

OFFICERS FOR THE SUMMER TERM, 1885.

Master, J. R. VINCENT, ST. JOHN'S.

Secretary, C. W. H. GRIFFITH, Corpus Christi Coll.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE first general Annual Meeting of the members of this Association was held at Lincoln on Saturday, April 25th, and was attended with the greatest possible success. Prior to the meeting, several touches were rung on the St. Peter-at-Gowts bells by mixed bands. By the kindness of the vicar of the parish, the meeting was held in the St. Peter-at-Gowts schoolroom, where at 4 o'clock in the afternoon a large number of members attended from Gainsboro', Market Rasen, Nocton, Dunston, the three Lincoln branches also being well represented. In addition to these, the Association was honoured with the presence of brethren from Spalding, Boston, Retford, Nottingham, Newark, and other places. In the absence of the president (F. A. Dorrington, Esq.), Mr. F. F. Linley, of Gainsboro', one of the vice-presidents, was voted to the chair. A number of letters were read from several gentlemen apologising for their absence, and amongst the correspondence was a communication from Sir Charles Anderson, expressing his willingness to become a subscriber. The accounts for the past year, which had been audited, were presented and passed, and showed a balance in hand of over £8. F. A. Dorrington, Esq., of Nettleton Lodge, Caistor, was unanimously re-elected president, and the Rev. A. G. Musson, of Lincoln, and F. F. Linley, of Gainsboro' vice-presidents. As Mr. T. Gibbons, of Market Rasen, had expressed a desire to relinquish the duties of secretary, Mr. W. Lunn, of Market Rasen, was unanimously chosen to fill the vacancy, and Mr. H. Gadd of Market Rasen was re-appointed treasurer. Over twenty new members were enrolled, as well as several honorary members. Before the meeting closed, votes of thanks were accorded to the Rev. A. G. Musson, and the Lincoln executive for the excellent arrangements made for this meeting of the Association; to the vicar of the parish for the use of the schoolroom, and to the chairman for presiding. A model of a bell hung in position for ringing was exhibited in the room, as well as some interesting relics. After the meeting, the members of the Association and the visiting ringers partook of an excellent tea together in an adjoining room, the cost being defrayed out of the Association funds. In the evening, many of the members visited four of the towers in the grand old city, and rang a variety of touches. Every part of the meeting was thoroughly harmonious in its character and augured well for the future success of the Association. Whilst the repast was being discussed, six of the Lincoln brethren played several tunes on their musical handbells, and they were followed with a course each of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, double-handed, by four of their Market Rasen brethren. Before closing this report, the members of the Association wish to publicly thank the Rev. A. G. Musson, the Lincoln executive, and the rev. gentlemen concerned, for the manner in which they contributed towards the great success of this the first annual meeting of the Association.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

ON Thursday, April 16th, a District Meeting was held at Guildford. The Committee met at 3 o'clock at the "White Lion" Hotel. Upwards of sixty new members were elected, the following bands having joined the Guild: Twyford, Basingstoke, Bagshot, Chobham, Shalford, and Walton-on-Thames. Two other bands are preparing to join. It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting at Bournemouth this year, from which place a pressing invitation has been received. The day of meeting has not yet been finally decided. Some very good ringing was done in the evening at St. Nicholas, Guildford, and at Shalford. Members were present from Leatherhead, Godalming, Bramley, Cranleigh, Alton, Farnham, and Weybridge.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

ON Saturday, April 25th, Messrs. Baron, Newson, Rogers, and H. A. and C. T. Hopkins, of London, and Messrs. Perryman and Wilder, of Slough, journeyed to Hillingdon, for the express purpose of accomplishing a peal of Grandsire Triples, with the Rev. C. T. Mayo, Vicar of St. Andrew's, which was successfully performed in 3 hrs., Messrs. C. E. Malin, H. S. and A. G. Thomas receiving an invitation to join the band at supper in the Vicarage. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the vicar promised to erect, and the band accepted, with many thanks, a tablet in the tower recording the peal.

THE ACCIDENT TO A RINGING PARTY.—Any contribution towards recouping the great loss sustained by Mr. H. F. Wood in this unfortunate affair will be gladly received and acknowledged by Mr. Matthew A. Wood, Church Row, Bethnal Green, or by Mr. James Monday, 4, Mount Street, New Road, Whitechapel, London, E. We shall be happy to answer any enquiries which may be thought necessary relative to an occurrence which we believe has led to more serious results than at first imagined.

THE CLOCK AT EXETER CATHEDRAL.

It is generally accepted that the wonderful clock in the north transept of Exeter Cathedral was erected by Bishop Peter Courtenay, who was Bishop of Exeter from 1478 to 1485; but Briton and some other authorities are of opinion that it dates from Edward II's time (A.D. 1307 to 1327). There is a reference to a clock in the "Falni Rolls," A.D. 1376-77, and in A.D. 1424 one John Bunde was paid what must then have been the large sum of £3 13s. 4d. for painting it. Some historians, among whom I may mention Izacke (A.D. 1676), Vowell (A.D. 1765), content themselves by saying Bishop Courtenay gave the big bell in the tower over the clock, and upon which it strikes. Lytleton, in his "Exeter Cathedral" (A.D. 1784), illustrated by Carter, ascribes the clock to Courtenay, and so does Jenkins in his "History of Exeter" (A.D. 1806). Worth, in his "History of Exeter Cathedral," says—"The clock is generally regarded as the gift of Bishop Courtenay, but this is doubtful. The rude, though strong workmanship of the present clock, its general design, and the appearance of antiquity it possesses, seems more particularly to belong to the reign of Edward II. than to the more advanced period of Courtenay's time." An old guidebook to the Cathedral, published in Exeter by Woolmer, early in this century, says:—"The clock was erected by Bishop Courtenay in the year 1480, on the old principle of astronomy," &c., &c. The motto upon this clock is "Pereunt et Imputantur" (*i.e.*, The [the hours] pass, and are placed to our account.) The face of the venerable old dial is about 7 ft. in diameter. Upon it are two circles, one marked from 1 to 30 for the moon's age, the other figured from I. to XII. twice over for the hours. In the centre is a semi-globe, representing the earth, around which a smaller ball, the moon, painted half white and half black, revolves monthly, and, by turning on its axis, shows the varying phases of the luminary which it represents. Between the two circles is yet a third ball, representing the sun, with a fleur-de-lis, which points to the hours as it daily revolves around the earth. The minute-hand was not added until A.D. 1760. The clock is wound up daily, and the hours are struck on the great bell, which is known as Peter, in commemoration of its donor. Bishop Courtenay brought it from Llandaff; it weighs 125 cwt., has a diameter of 76 in., and is 56 in. high. The other eleven bells are in the opposite (*i.e.*, the south) tower, and are the heaviest peal in England. Unitedly they weigh (exclusive of Peter) 31,252 lbs. In consequence of the vibration in the ancient Norman tower, in which they hang (built by Bishop Warelwast, 1107-36), they are only rung four or five times a year. There is a popular idea that this vibration is so great that the joints between the old stones open wide enough between each swing of these bells that a person might push his coat-tail therein, and that the cloth would remain fast until the next roll of oscillation released it again. The first time I heard these bells ring in Exeter I tried to give verification to this legend by rushing up into the belfry, coat-tail in hand, ready to thrust it into any friendly open joint I could find; but, although I searched the tower thoroughly, and quite appreciated the tremor caused by the ringing, I realised that this remarkable gaping of the masonry is not actually a fact.

HARRY HEMS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, April 23rd, five of the Burford local company with their leader, Mr. T. Brown, visited the town of Northleach, for the purpose of trying the go of the bells. The town was reached shortly after five, and the belfry was resorted to at once. After a rise the following took part in a 720 of Grandsire Minor, rung in 30 mins. H. Smith, 1; T. Brown, 2; T. E. Glanville (conductor), 3; D. Francis, 4; J. Smith, 5; H. Bond, jun., 6. Several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles followed, in which some of the local company joined. After lowering the bells a substantial repast was enjoyed at "The Wheatsheaf," when several of the inhabitants sat down with the visitors and the Northleach ringers. The remainder of the evening was spent in some touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters rung by the Burford company double-handed, interspersed with songs. The bells at Northleach are rather a heavy ring for six, the tenor being 21 cwt.

NEW CLOCK AT THE LAW COURTS.—An ornamental clock, which was designed by the late Mr. Street, R.A., is now being fixed over the northern balcony in the central hall of the Royal Courts of Justice. The clock is fitted with a white dial, with black hands and figures.

REVIEWS.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—We have received a copy of this Report, which certainly compares favourably with either of its predecessors. Twenty-three peals have been rang by members of the Association during the year, and these comprise one peal of Double Norwich, and five of Superlative, all being performed by the St. Paul's Society of Burton-on-Trent. The energy of the Burton Company is too well known to need any allusion here, but on reading the reports of the peals rung by these gentlemen, we not only come into contact with the same names, but the order in which they stand shows little variation. Thus the conductor of a peal of Treble Bob of any kind is always at the tenor; or in a peal of Stedman, he takes the 7th, while another worthy member of the same band invariably rings the 4th bell, whether calling or not. There is nothing in this, of course. It is merely alluded to as an occurrence not always seen. The remainder of the performances are two peals of Stedman Triples, ten of Grandsire Triples, and five of Kent Treble Bob. These scarcely call for any comment. It is in the Midland Counties' Report that we read of a peal being called by a master bellfounder, Mr. John Taylor, jun., of Loughborough, having called a peal of Grandsire Triples, and this instance we should like to see generally imitated by the bellfounders of the present day. The Report of the Committee is, on the whole, creditable. A letter from the Rector of St. Peter's, Nottingham, is included in this Report, which we cannot refrain from giving in full. It is as follows:—

"S. Peter's Rectory, Nottingham.
"DEAR SIR, I wish I could have found time to attend the meeting this afternoon. I have just been up in our belfry. The change since last I went up is great indeed. The present set of ringers are well-conducted men. They have papered and painted the belfry themselves, and are showing great interest in their work. These results I feel can fairly be attributed to the altered views as to what bell ringing should be, taught and inculcated by your Association.

Yours very sincerely,

"GEORGE EDGECOME, Rector of St. Peter's."

We should rejoice in seeing a similar letter in this annual document for next year from the Vicar of St. Mary's, in the same town. The Report contains the usual compliment to our journal.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO IRELAND.—The visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland has been made the happy occasion for Mr. Louis Collins, an Irish gentleman residing in London, and having Advertisement Offices at Wine Office Court, to pay a fitting tribute of Welcome of Royalty to Erin's shores. Taking "The Genius of the Irish Nation," an engraving in the form of a beautiful female figure, most poetically placed, and which adorned the *Hibernian Magazine* as far back as 1777, as its frontispiece, he has had it zincographed, and has placed this latter opposite the Irish Section of *The Advertiser's Guardian*, a book just written by him. The original picture, accompanied by a copy of *The Advertiser's Guardian*, a work of 312 pages, and literally stocked with poetic quotations from the old authors, Mr. Collins sent to the Prince of Wales, and both were very graciously accepted by his Royal Highness.

MUFFLED PEALS AT SALISBURY.

The funeral of the late Rev. C. L. Bode, curate of St. Edmund's, and one of the committee of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild, took place on Wednesday, April 22nd, and was attended by a large number of persons. Muffled peals were rung as follows: at St. Edmund's a plain course of Grandsire Triples by Messrs. Harris, Anderson, Parsons, Foster, Rigden, Jerram, Blackburn, Gifford, Allett and Printz; tenor 30 cwt.; and at St. Martin's, 360 of Bob Minor by A. Anderson, 1; E. A. Foster, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; W. W. Gifford, 4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5; J. R. Jerram, 6. After which the age of the deceased (32) was rung, whole pull and stand, and tenor a whole pull. Tenor 15 cwt.

DEATH OF AN OLD RINGER.

On Sunday, April 19th, Mr. William Brittain, died at Wednesbury, Staffordshire in his 76th year. Deceased had been a good ringer in his day, having rung a good many peals of 5000 and upwards in the Grandsire method. He was buried in the family vault at Wednesbury Parish Church, on Friday, April 24th, when ringers from Dudley, West Bromwich, Tipton, and Wednesbury, rung muffled peals as a last tribute of respect to his memory. An attempt was made also to ring a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, but was not successful, owing to the bad condition of the bells. James Foster, 1; Edwin Fellows, 2; William Rock Small, 3; Thomas Foster, 4; Joseph Lawton, 5; Samuel Spittal (conductor), 6; James Foster, sen., 7; Joseph Fullwood, 8. Tenor 23 cwt.

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Total Funds £3,148,166

Total Annual Income 343,271

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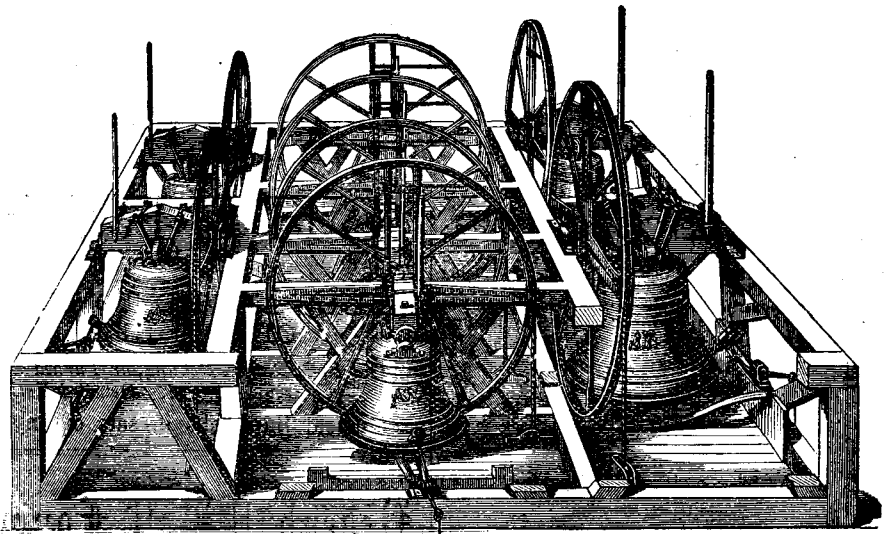
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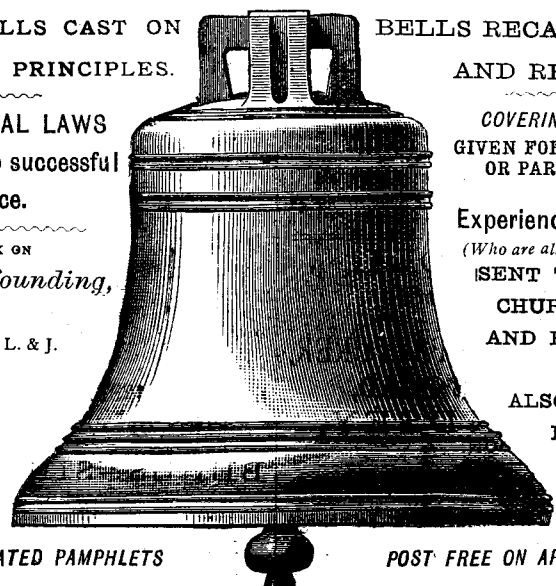
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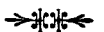
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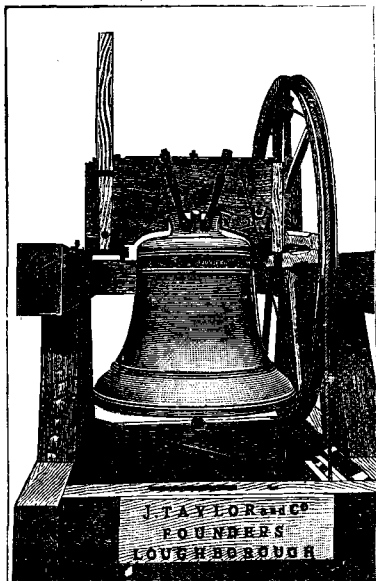
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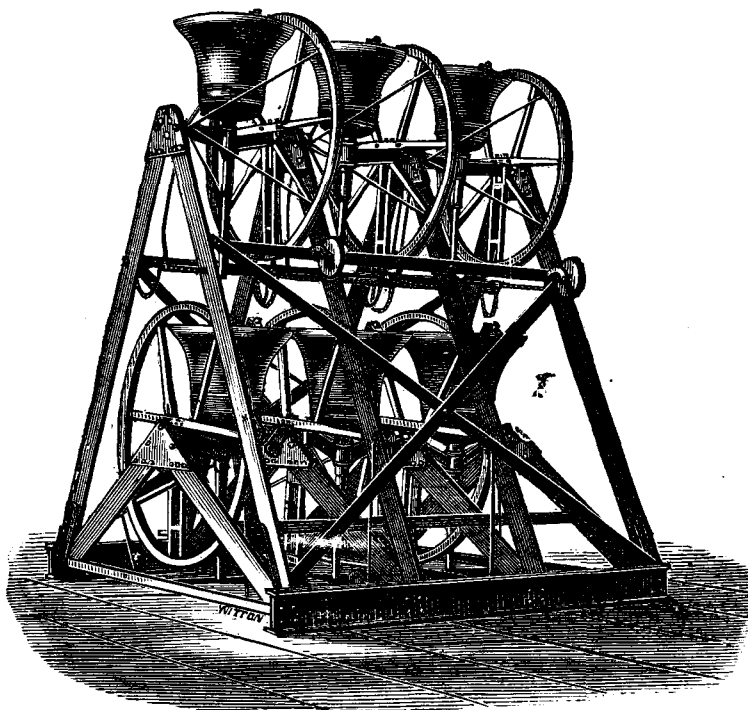
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