

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 175. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1885.

[ONE PENNY.]

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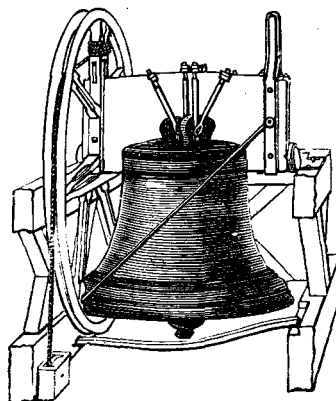
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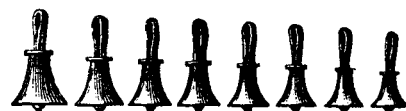
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London: Wells Gardner, Darton, & Co.

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ENGLISH BELL FOUNDRIES.—IV.

MESSRS. JOHN WARNER AND SONS, THE CRESCENT FOUNDRY,
CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON.

WE owe some kind of apology, perhaps, not only to our readers, but to the representatives of the remaining bellfoundries with whom in these chapters it is our province to deal, for the delay that has occurred between this and the previous notice of an English bell-foundry. If an apology be needed, however it must be required at the hands of the Editor of this journal, who will no doubt plead exigencies of space, etc., at his disposal. No one can have failed to notice the increasing interest which is now being taken in bells and ringing, not only by those immediately concerned, but by great numbers of the clergy, and influential churchmen, who have, as it were, suddenly become alive to the fact that a ring of bells form a most important ingredient in the accessories to public worship, and as one of the most costly parts of Church furniture, the idea that they require a much greater share of attention than were formerly given to them, happily gains ground. And this fact, no doubt, is one of the chief reasons why the pages of "THE BELL NEWS" are so taken up at the present time.

But this improvement in the recognition of the status of bells—and also ringers—i.e. the increased interest taken in them by those whose patronage must ere long have a most marked effect, gives an increased value to these short chapters on English Bell Foundries, so much so, that we have been persuaded to publish them, when complete, in book form, to serve as a kind of reference to any one who may be searching for information about bells and their founders. It has also been suggested that these articles may be extended to Church Clock Makers, and, in fact, to Church Furnishers of every description. Whether the publication of these chapters will fulfil the object prophesied for them, of course it is not for the writer of them to venture an opinion. But in yielding to the entreaties made, it is not out of place to give expression to the belief that in their present form these chapters have afforded some little interest, and will eventually do good, preventing in some measure, bells and their fittings being "tinkered" with by persons of very little or no experience, in other words, the advocacy of the employment of none but respectable firms. The continual demand for copies of this paper containing these chapters, gives reasonable grounds for such a belief.

But to the object before us—the establishment of Messrs. John Warner and Sons, the Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate, in London city. As we enter "the Crescent"—a thoroughfare befitting its name—we don't look for a large square block of building with as many windows as there are days in the year. Going our way quietly along the pavement, we are presently stopped by the announcement at the portals of the establishment that we have come to the place we are in quest of. A spacious passage, just what modern ideas have wisely suggested for the approaches to business premises, leads the way to the emporium not only of bells, but brass work of every description, for "Warner's" are not mere "bell-men," but brassfounders on as extensive a scale as any firm in the metropolis. We pass along the passage, but before going far our further progress is stayed by a Cerberus who demands the object of our visit. We whisper a word in his ear which seems to take effect, for the seemingly honest severity of his demeanour relaxes for an instant as he politely describes the route we are to take, and at length we find ourselves in the spacious counting-house of the firm, an apartment which evidently is the mainspring of all the extensive works which go on in the rear with the regularity and precision of clock-work.

We have just stated that Messrs. Warner and Sons' operations are not wholly devoted to bell-founding. The signs of activity in connection with the Crescent Foundry are plainly visible from a thoroughfare adjoining "The Crescent," informing the passer by that upon the extensive premises which he sees before him bounded by a high wall, all kinds of hydraulic machinery, centrifugal and other pumps, improved windmills, turbines, and other requirements of engineering skill are manufactured upon a very large scale, employing in their production some hundreds of hands. There is, in fact, nothing in the way of hydraulic machinery or brass work which is not manufactured at this establishment, and the influential connection enjoyed by the firm, being patronized by royalty, is a sufficient guarantee of the excellent quality of their products. They have also extensive works at Walton-on-the-Naze, in Essex, where are executed orders for which the somewhat limited range of premises in the City of London does not always give the greatest facilities.

But it is in their capacity of bellfounders that we have, primarily, to treat with the firm under consideration. And their success in this particular must not be placed, wholly, to the energy the management has shown in liberally announcing the business, in its various forms, through the usual and well-known channels of public information, but it is also owing to the excellence of their products, and their desire to excel in the art of bell-founding.

It is out of place here to particularise the principal of their works, though a fact might be mentioned regarding the first "Big Ben," which was cast by them, and was considered by most practical persons to be of excellent tone. The work of augmenting peals—that which is technically known as "splicing"—is carried out at the Crescent Foundry with almost uniform success, and good ringers, when talking upon this subject, invariably allude to the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, as an example of one of the most successful "splices" within their knowledge. This was effected by Messrs. Warner and Sons, in the year 1868.

The manufacture of handbells is also an important feature of this foundry. Here we must mention the individual—well-known among the ringers of the United Kingdom—who controls the tuning arrangements of these pleasant instruments, Mr. H. W. Haley, a prominent member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. When it is known that he can with ease "take down" a peal while being outside the tower, and can tell, almost instantly, if a bob too many or one too little has been called, affecting the truth of the performance, it does not require any very great stretch of the imagination to see that the employment of such a man in determining the tone and tune of bells is a wise course. Mention has often been made in this paper of the celebrated peal of handbells in use by the West Ham tune-playing company; these bells are among the manufactures of this establishment.

A notice of this foundry would be practically incomplete without a reference to the ability and genius of its manager, Mr. S. B. Goslin. The mention of this gentleman's name brings with it thoughts of a series of inventions and discoveries having relation to the metals employed in the establishment under his control. We are not in a position to say whether his knowledge of such matters caused him to be unanimously elected a member of the Livery of Founders' Company of the City of London, though we have no doubt of it. His latest invention is an improvement upon the hanging of large bells. A full account of it has already appeared in "THE BELL NEWS," but a brief allusion here will not be improper. On this principle of Mr. Goslin's the firm have rehung a peal of bells at the church of Tenterden, in Kent.

Respecting this mode of hanging, many ringers, who have

visited Tenterden for the purpose, have expressed their warm admiration, and we can speak from experience when we state that the bells in question work easy and free from the slightest roughness. The advantages claimed for this invention are: "That with these improvements the bell cage timbers are not cut into and weakened for the insertion of the bell bearings; the axles are always true one with the other, cannot shift, and are not affected by the shrinkage or swelling of wood bell stocks, or by changes of weather; the bearings are firm, cannot sway, and are easy of access; large bells will ring by this method of hanging easier than with the old methods, and at all times alike." In addition to the creation of numerous inventions, and the mental and physical strain involved in the management of a large concern, Mr. Goslin has found time to enter the field of literature. The *A B C of Musical Handbell Ringing*—which has gone through two or three editions—*The First Steps to Bell Ringing upon Church Bells*, and *The Musical Handbell Ringers Instructor*, are all from his pen, and are really interesting and useful brochures, got up in a characteristic manner. We say useful publications, because we believe that their dissemination has caused many people to become interested in bells and ringing who, previously to their reading them, knew nothing and cared less about such subjects.

At the Inventions' Exhibition, Messrs. Warner are exhibitors of "Goslin's Patent Hangings" for very large bells. We have already noticed this exhibit, but there may also be found a grand carillon, not before alluded to, shewn by the same firm.

Any of the books on ringing, or those having any relation to bells and ringing, may always be had on application at the foundry.

THE ST. JOHN'S GUILD, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

ON Monday, August 3rd (Bank Holiday), the members of this society held their annual excursion at their favorite place, Brancepeth in Durham. Arriving at the church, the bells were raised, after the usual amount of splicing ropes, oiling, etc., had been gone through. A start was made at once, and a 720 of Bob Minor was struck off in very good style. Some lunch was then partaken of on the roof of the church, the scenery from this point, and a lively flow of "chaff" etc., helping to digest the edibles. Lord Boyne and family being away, the visitors were enabled to see through his residence, Brancepeth Castle, where the splendid oil paintings and curiosities of all descriptions were admired. A 720 of Oxford Treble Bob was then rung to fill up the time before tea, the weather being too wet for outside games. An excellent tea was provided at the house of Mr. J. Bird, the head ringer, at four o'clock, the remarkably quick disappearance of the cakes, etc., testifying to their quality at once. Returning to the church, several attempts at a 720 of Double Court proved futile, although as far as 640 changes in that method were reached once. Several courses of Triples and Caters were rung during the day on the handbells at the church, station, castle, and in the train. At seven o'clock, all returned to the station to catch the last train home. Taking all in all, a very pleasant and successful day was spent, though it was considerably marred by a continuous but slight fall of rain. The members of the Guild wish through the medium of this paper, to tender their sincerest thanks to the rector, the Rev. A. D. Shafto, for the use of his handy peal of six, and also to Mr. Bird for his kind attention to the wants of the visitors, it being through his influence they were allowed to see the castle.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held on Saturday, August 15th, when important business will be transacted, also the election of officers for the ensuing year. The Hon. Sec. begs to thank all those members who have worked so zealously for the art of change-ringing, and hopes that others may work with more will than has been the case in some of the districts, and as he is resigning the secretaryship, he would be glad if those members who have not paid their subscriptions, would kindly do so on or before the 15th, so that the books may be in fit order for his successor. The meeting for the transaction of business will be held at the "Swan Hotel," Edmund Street, Birmingham, subsequent to the ringing at the various towers, which are St. Philip's, ten bells, Bishop Ryders, St. Chads, and St. John's, each containing eight bells. The Secretary also hopes that any member having any motion to bring forward will be early; and that any item from other meetings which have been held in his absence, may be brought or forwarded to St. Philip's tower, on Sunday morning next.

J. WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, PENZANCE.

THE members of the above society, on the occasion of their annual excursion, visited the towers of Ladock and St. Austell, on Tuesday, July 28th, having previously had the bells placed at their disposal, through the kindness of the Rev. S. Raffles Flint, and the Rev. J. Hammond, Vicars, respectively.

Leaving home by the first train soon after six o'clock, Grampound Road was the first destination; from which station, a pleasant walk through open meadows and richly wooded lane, fragrant with hay and briar, soon brought the party to Ladock Church, a building of stone, in the Early English style, dedicated to S. Ladoca, and situated on the brow of a hill in a prettily-wooded yard. The bells, which are six in number, were cast by Messrs. Taylor, and hung by W. Aggett, of Chagford, replacing three old ones. The following are the inscriptions:—

J. Taylor and Co.; Bellfounders, Loughborough, 1883 (which occurs on all).

1. R. F. Wise, Rector, A.D., 1883.
2. S. R. Flint: 1883.
3. W. T. Michell, H. Benny, Churchwardens, 1883.
4. William Aggett, Bellhanger, Chagford, Devon, 1883.
5. Guademus cum Gandenbitus, Dolemus cum Dolentibus.
6. R. F. Wise, Rector, 1883.

Tenor 11 cwt. 2 qrs. 3 lbs. in G.

Thanks are due to the local captain, Mr. Hore, and the other ringers, for getting everything ready for their visitors' welfare, and no time was lost on arrival, in raising the excellent little ring. After some 120's of Grandsire Doubles, an attempt was made for a 720 of Minor in the same method, but owing to the false (wide) striking of the tenor, it was deemed advisable to bring the bells round at the half-way. For Doubles, the 'go' of the bells is excellent, and it is hoped the ringers here will before long be induced to study half-pull change-ringing.

Retracing steps towards the Cornwall line, in the face of a welcome breeze, it was about mid-day that St. Austell was arrived at, when the company were received by their genial friend, the station master, Mr. Brewer, who is also captain of the local ringers; here also they were soon joined by Messrs. W. Banister from Devonport, and F. J. Batchelor, from Plymouth. Thanks to Mr. Brewer, everything in the tower had been put in complete preparation for their visitors' comfort and convenience; a slight alteration in the drop of the two treble ropes having been very efficiently carried out.

The church of the Holy Trinity, situated in the centre of the town, is a structure of Pentewan stone, and furnishes an admirable specimen of the Gothic style of the fifteenth century, though the chancel is a century older, is a large fabric and ornamented on the exterior with fanciful sculpture. The tower, ninety-six feet in height, is a particularly handsome one, adorned with foliated pinnacles, angels, human effigies, and a numerous display of uncouth animals; the second story contains on its western front six richly sculptured niches, within which are statues representing God the Father, bearing on his knees the crucified Saviour, Joseph and Mary, and others; four niches on each of the other sides contain figures representing the twelve Apostles. The stone font supported with pillars, is Norman, and very curious. The bells, eight in number, date from early in the present century, and bear the following inscriptions, which being read together, form a verse of eight lines on music.

1. By music minds an equal temper know (border ornament) J. R. Fect 1810.
2. Nor swell too high nor sink too low (border ornament) J. R. Fect 1810.
3. Music the fiercest grief can charm (border ornament) J. R. Fect 1810.
4. And Fate's Severest Rage Disarm (border ornament) J. Rudhall, Gloucester, Ft. 1810.
5. Music can soften pain to ease (border ornament) J. Rudhall, Fect 1810 (border ornament).
6. And make Despair and Madness please (border ornament) J. Rudhall, Gloucester, Fect 1810.
7. Our joys below it can improve (border ornament) J. Rudhall, Fect 1810, (border ornament).
8. And Antidote The Bliss Above (border ornament) Edmd Hennah and G. Geach, Churchwardens, 1810 (border ornament), J. Rudhall, Gloucester, Fect 1810 (border ornament).

Weight of tenor is said to be 15 cwt., though it may more correctly be stated to be nearer 17 cwt., in E.

After a short touch of Grandsire Triples, an early breakfast and a long morning were none the less conducive to a hearty onslaught on a cold luncheon awaiting the party at the "General Wolfe" hostelry; this touch have been run through true without a miscall or change of course, the tower was again resorted to, where several short touches of Grandsire Triples were rung off, the remainder of the time being given to rounds by mixed bands, in which the ringers from the

western part of the county were very pleased to have a friendly pull with some of their brother strings from other parts of the western peninsula. Ringing takes place from the basement, consequently the long draught of rope militates against any touch of any length being comfortably effected on this peal. In the tower, against the north-west corner may be seen a curious tablet recording the following Ringers' Rules.

18 (Here is a sketch of eight bells set in frames). 16.
England expects every man to do his duty.
Ye lovers of the loud harmonious peal,
Whose Music's wafted on the swelling gale,
While sweet the shrill ton'd treble strikes the Ear,
And thundering Tom comes rolling in the rear.
Let us agree ourselves to order tie,
And all who here shall ring must thus comply,
That he who swears or cursing loudly brawls,
And moved by passion names disgraceful calls,
Shall sixpence pay so shall he as well,
Who carelessly in ringing overturns his bell.
He too who whilst he rings his hat shall wear,
Or on his heel the spur the same shall fare
But more shall he who in some angry mood,
Shall strike or quarrel tho' he draws no blood
One shilling he such conduct we despise
And hope that in this place t'will ne'er arise
This then we all with social hearts agree
And if these rules we keep we keep in unity
And that all fines within a box appear
Nor its contents be known but once throughout the year.
(Here follows a sketch in colours of eight ringers 'ready.'
George Geach and Edmund Hennah, Churchwardens.

BOCKING, ESSEX.

ON Monday, August 3rd, a 720 of Bob Minor. F. Warren, 1; Wm. Moore, 2; Wm. Bearman, 3; S. Sargent, 4; J. Hayes, 5; C. Bearman (conductor), 6. The ringers of St. Mary's church, Harlow, also putting in an appearance, several touches, and a 720 of Bob Minor were rung. A. Spurge, 1; Wm. Bearman, 2; F. Warren, 3; Wm. Moore, 4; J. Hayes, 5; C. Bearman (conductor), 6. The two companies then adjourned to "The Black Boy" Inn, where by the liberality of William Walford, Esq., of Bocking, they sat down to a substantial hot dinner, served in excellent style by Host Lee. After dinner the handbells were brought out, and touches of Bob Minor, Oxford Treble Bob, and Court Single were rung by Thos. Grant (St. Albans) W. Moore, Wm. Bearman, F. Warren, J. Hayes, and C. Bearman. An adjournment was then made to the church, and a 720 of Bob Minor was rung. T. Grant (first 720), 1; W. Moore, 2; W. Bearman, 3; F. Warren, 4; J. Hayes, 5; C. Bearman (conductor), 6. Tenor 19 cwt.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

REPORT FOR THE FORTNIGHT ENDING AUGUST 5TH, 1885:—On Wednesday, July 22nd, at St. Peter's, Brighton, by the Brighton Branch, with the Rev. J. Mayo, vicar of Hillingdon, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 49 mins. A. Marshall, 1; J. Searle, 2; G. F. Attree, 3; G. King, 4; Rev. J. Mayo, 5; H. Weston (conductor), 6; J. Jay, 7; D. Ross, 8. Tenor 10½ cwt. On Thursday, July 23rd, at St. Mary's, Eastbourne, by the Eastbourne branch, an attempted peal of Grandsire Triples, Holt's Original, upwards of 3500 changes were rung, when a miscall brought the peal to grief, in two hours and a quarter. T. Lewis, 1; H. P. Bennett, 2; W. Bone (Reigate), 3; L. Huggett, 4; F. Harding (conductor), 5; T. Willoughby, 6; T. Hart, 7; J. Rollison, 8. On Monday, August 3rd, District Meeting (business and ringing), full account next week.

GEO. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

OF all sound of bells—bells, the music nighest bordering on Heaven—most solemn and touching, says Charles Lamb, is the peal which rings out the old year. I never heard it without a gathering up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelvemonth; all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time. I begin to know its worth, as when a person dies. It takes a personal colour; nor was it a poetical flight in a contemporary, when he exclaimed "I saw the skirts of the departing year!" It is no more than what in sober sadness every one of us seems to be conscious of, in that awful leave-taking. I am none of those who "welcome the coming, speed the parting guest." I am naturally, beforehand, shy of novelties—new books, new faces, new years—from some mental twist which makes it difficult in me to face the prospective. The ringing out of the old year! The sound of those midnight chimes never failed to bring a train of pensive imagery into my fancy.

DEATH OF THE REV. HENRY T. ELLACOMBE.

It is with regret that we record the death of the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, Rector of Clyst St. George, which took place at the advanced age of 95 years, at the St. George's Rectory, on Thursday. The deceased was educated at Oriol College, Oxford, and took his degree of B.A. in 1812, and M.A. four years later. He was ordained Deacon in 1816 by the then Bishop of Exeter, and Priest in 1817 by the Bishop of Gloucester. From 1816-17 he was Curate of Cricklade, and upon leaving that parish he became Curate of Bitton until 1835, when he became Vicar of Bitton. In 1850 he was appointed to the living of Clyst St. George, which he held till his decease. Of the Manor of Bitton and the parish of Clyst St. George he published interesting histories. The rev. gentleman took a deep interest in campanology, and was the author of several works in this direction. In 1867 he published 'The Bells of Devonshire,' and in 1871 a supplement thereto, with 'Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers.' 'The Bells of Exeter Cathedral' came under his notice in a most interesting edition in 1874. 'The Bells of Somersetshire' and the 'Voice of Church Bells' (a sermon) are the titles of other works by the rev. gentleman. The deceased was to have been an engineer, and for some time was a pupil of Brunel's, who thought highly of him. As will be seen by the works above enumerated, he was a great campanologist, and had ascended every tower in Devon and many in Somerset, taking inscriptions on bells, making notes of their size, &c., which he classified and published in the transactions of the 'Exeter Diocesan Architectural Society,' of which he was one of the earliest members. He was always accustomed to ring with his men up to within a few years of his death, and invariably rang out the old year. He was highly practical, and worked with his own hand in laying the tiles and in other renovations in his church at Clyst St. George. He was most enthusiastic on all architectural subjects. Within the past two months he had become a little tottering in his walk, but was still as clear as ever in his mind, and only recently superintended the introduction of some mural paintings in tiles into the splay of his windows. Deceased was held in high respect wherever he was known, and his death will be a great loss, not only to the parish in which he had so long and faithfully laboured, but also to many in Devonshire with whom he was closely associated in many good works.—*Exeter Daily Gazette*.

THE RECENT ACCIDENT TO A RINGING PARTY.

THE following sums have been received for the purpose of helping to defray the great loss sustained by Mr. H. F. Wood in this unfortunate affair:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Rev. E. S.	2	6	H. Lewis, St. Albans	5	0
J. West	2	0	S. Joyce	2	6
J. W. Snowdon, Esq.	10	0	J. H. Monday	5	6
W. Banister	5	0	M. A. Wood	10	0
Bedfordshire Association	5	0	A. Hayward	2	0
St. Martin's, Salisbury	10	0	W. Cecil	2	0
St. Peter's, Leeds, Yorks	5	0	A. B. Goody	5	6
H. Edwards	2	6	Mr. Lewis Green	2	0
J. Dwight	2	6	St. Mary's society, Walthamstow	10	0
I. Shade	5	0	Thomas Clark, Sharow, Ripon ...	5	0
R. S. Story	5	0	I. S.	5	0
E. Wallege	2	0	H. Dains	2	0
J. Barrett	2	0	C. A. Clements, Salisbury	2	6
J. Comb	5	0	W. Story, Newcastle-on-Tyne ...	2	6
Spalding, SS. Mary and Nicolas ...	3	0	G. Banks, Lower Kennington Lane	2	6
D. Newton	1	0	D. Newton (second subscription)	1	0
J. Dupen	2	0	Given by the following mem-		
C. Lee	1	0	of the St. Peter Mancroft		
C. Beecu	1	0	Society, Norwich—		
J. West (second donation)	3	0	F. Knights	5	0
J. Barry	1	0	H. Roberts	1	0
T. Powell, Waltham Abbey	2	6	F. H. Knights (Master)	1	0
J. Baxter, Leamington, late of			W. Bales	1	0
Devonport	5	0	G. Smith	1	0
J. R. Jerram, Salisbury	2	6	J. Skinner	1	0
S. Margaret's Society, Wolstanton,			B. Tungate	1	0
Staffordshire	5	0	J. Smith	1	0
G. Dorrington	2	0	G. Thurtall	1	0
H. J. Shade	2	6	R. Bacon	1	0
G. Russell, Croydon	1	0	E. Ward	1	0
H. Pearce	2	0	W. Cushing	1	0
F. Newman	2	0	J. Fiddament	1	0
R. Turner	2	0	P. Sadler	1	6
T. Dupen	2	6	W. H. Potter	1	0
W. Prime	2	0	Small sums	1	6
J. Davidson	3	0			
Widford and Galleywood C.R. ...	5	0			

Further donations, however small, are urgently solicited. Mr. Matthew Wood, 11 Church Row, Bethnal Green, London, will be happy to give any further information, and will thankfully acknowledge any sums forwarded to him.

THE SHIPWAY REPRINT

May now be obtained of all news agents in town and country. As in this shape the number of copies printed will only be just enough to cover the demand, it is obvious that those who neglect to obtain the numbers at once will not afterwards have the opportunity.

Each number contains sixteen pages, size of page being the same as the original work, and having about the same quantity of matter per page. Mr. Snowdon will probably add a valuable contribution to the work in the shape of an appendix.

The numbers are printed in a popular style, and on superior paper and will form a handsome volume when complete worthy of any library.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

PUBLISHED BY E. W. ALLEN, AVE MARIA LANE, LONDON.

"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.

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

A CORRECTION.—In our last issue, the name of the conductor of some ringing at Lewisham, Kent, was given as William W. Thornton, this should have been Frederick W. Thornton.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1885.

In this number will be found an extract from a Devon paper recording the demise of the Rev. HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE, Rector of Clyst St. George. Death has at last laid his hand upon this venerable man, who lived far beyond the space allotted by the Psalmist as he duration of our pilgrimage here below. At the ripe age of 95, he has found the haven of rest which no doubt his soul yearned to enjoy. In the decease of Mr. ELLACOMBE, a prominent man has gone from among us—figuratively speaking, a Prince has fallen in Israel. And this phrase is not one whit out of place. If the deceased gentleman could not be said to be at any time of his life a "distinguished ringer," he was certainly a great man, a prince almost—in matters relating to bells and ringers. His name appeared to be a kind of established symbol which was indicative of an important pursuit of his life. Before ringing literature, in the shape of journalism, had any existence, and when many of those who are now famous in the art were yet unborn, Mr. ELLACOMBE was held to be the sole independent authority upon bell matters. It is our honest belief that

many of the so-called scientific notions of recent would-be arbiters upon such subjects did not win his conscientious approval.

Others will no doubt, ere long, record their tribute to the goodness of heart of the deceased. Here in this place, where we have the opportunity of giving vent to our own personal convictions, we say that the death of Mr. ELLACOMBE is a great loss to the ringing community. Those who have their minds absorbed in attempting to ring as many peals as a lifetime will afford, cannot, perhaps, see the consistency of the statement that the death of one who never took part in any ringing worthy of note should cause such a void. We may well answer that the grand revival of ringing, and its introduction among those who from various causes were enabled to do it justice, are mainly owing to his efforts. If we stopped here, enough would be said to entitle him to the gratitude of every ringer. Perhaps no man ever had the welfare and prospects of the science more at heart than he had. He was weary of well-doing in the cause, and never so much at home, we believe, as when replying to his correspondents of the ringing community, and they were many. We recollect in our earlier years applying to him for advice about a work on ringing, which led to a connection lasting for a long time.

From the first appearance of our contemporary, Mr. ELLACOMBE was the presiding genius of its bell-ringing column, and in this capacity it might be said he found a occupation very agreeable to himself. Having the well-known spirit of all conductors, he stuck tenaciously to his post, and was jealous of any supposed slight infringement of his prerogative as controller of that column.

The Metropolis.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Handbell Ringing.

On Friday, July 31, 1885, in Two Hours and Twenty-nine Minutes,

AT THE "GOOSE AND GRIDIRON," ST. PAUL'S CHURCHYARD,
UPON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

GEORGE T. McLAUGHLIN .. 1-2.	FREDERICK T. GOVER .. 5-6.
CHALLIS F. WINNY .. 3-4.	*EDWARD ROGERS .. 7-8.

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNY.

Umpire: Mr. W. Baron, of the Royal Cumberland Society. H. A. Hopkins (Royal Cumberland), J. Martin Routh, Esq., and J. M. Hayes (College Youths), took down the peal as it was rung. The peal was rung at the first attempt. *First peal on handbells.

TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.—THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT ALL HALLOWS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5151 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

GEORGE BOWER Treble.	WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE 5.
WILLIAM B. MANNING .. 2.	ERNST E. VINEN .. 6.
JOSEPH WAGHORN, JUN. .. 3.	J. WAGHORN .. 7.
JOHN NUNN 4.	HENRY BARNETT .. Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE.

This is the first peal of Grandsire Major on the bells, and the first also by all the band except the conductor.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, WELL STREET,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION.

D. W. GRIGGS* Treble.	T. TITCHENER 5.
BENJAMIN FOSKETT 2.	GEORGE HARVEY 6.
N. J. PITSTOW 3.	EDWARD CHAPMAN 7.
ARTHUR JACOBS 4.	GEORGE NEWSON Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal in the method. This composition, which has never been previously performed, contains the sixth the extent home at nine course-ends, the second never dodging with the tenor at the wrong throughout. The calling was given to the conductor a short time before starting for the peal. The ringers wish to tender their sincere thanks to the Vicar for kindly allowing them the use of the bells on this occasion.

The Provinces.

BRANDESTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 29, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS
UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following—

Cambridge Surprise; Morning Exercise; New London Pleasure; Kent Treble Bob; Oxford Treble Bob; Double Court Bob; Bob Minor.
Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

SAMUEL MEADOWS* Treble.	DAVID G. WIGHTMAN 4.
ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN 2.	PETO MEADOWS 5.
HORACE BEDINGFIELD 3.	STEPHEN WIGHTMAN Tenor.

Conducted by STEPHEN WIGHTMAN.

*First peal on six bells.

EYE, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT SS. PETER AND PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM MOTTS Treble.	HENRY BOWELL 5.
GEO. DAY 2.	FREDERICK DAY 6.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER 3.	EDWARD REEVE 7.
JAMES MOTTS 4.	EDGAR PEMBERTON Tenor.

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

Messrs. J. and W. Motts, Alexander, Pemberton, Reeve, and Bowell belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich; and G. and F. Day, to the Eye company. The above members of the St. Mary-le-Tower society wish to thank Messrs. Day and Son for their kind courtesy in meeting them, and they were very pleased to find the bells in such excellent going order.

TONG, YORKSHIRE.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Muffled Peal.

On Tuesday, August 4, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS
UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:

Arnold's Victory, City Delight, College Pleasure, Duke of York, New London Pleasure, Oxford, Violet.
Tenor 12 cwt.

SIMEON LANGSTAFF Treble.	WILLIAM BOLLAND 4.
HENRY ODDY 2.	GEORGE BOLLAND 5.
EDWARD WEBSTER 3.	JOHN HALEY Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE BOLLAND.

The above was rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late George Carter, of Tong, a ringer at the above church for sixty years, having begun at an early age. Simeon Langstaff hails from Pudsey.

ARUNDEL, SUSSEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14½ cwt. in F♯.

GEORGE WILLIAMS Treble.	FREDERICK HILL 5.
JOHN STAPLES 2.	HENRY DAINS 6.
GEORGE GRAFHAM 3.	JOHN WHITING 7.
JAMES HEWETT 4.	WILLIAM NAYLOR Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

G. Williams hails from Reigate; Messrs. Staples and Naylor from Havant; Whiting, Gratham, and Hill from Fareham; Hewitt from Gosport; and Dains from London. W. Naylor is just on 70 years of age, and rang the tenor well.

ROSS, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt. in Eb.

THOMAS REYNOLDS Treble.	JOHN SAUNDERS 5.
HENRY BASTABLE 2.	CHARLES STANBRIDGE 6.
WILLIAM ROCK SMALL 3.	ALFRED THOMAS 7.
SAMUEL REEVES 4.	JOHN BUFFERY Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY BASTABLE.

This is the first peal of Stedman on the bells, and also in Herefordshire.

FAVERSHAM, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

C. WILLSHIRE Treble.	T. B. REED 5.
L. WILLSHIRE 2.	J. J. BRISTOW 6.
P. A. REED 3.	G. WILLSHIRE 7.
T. B. REED, JUN. 4.	S. FULCHER Tenor.

Conducted by LEON WILLSHIRE.

The band wish to tender their sincere thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells on this occasion.

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.

THE ALL SAINTS' JUNIOR SOCIETY.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

SAMUEL HARROP Treble.	WILLIAM J. HARGREAVES 5.
THOMAS HEALD 2.	ROBERT WINTERBOTTOM 6.
WILLIAM HARROP 3.	HENRY COOPER 7.
SAMUEL KNOTT, JUN. 4.	JOHN PYE, JUN. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, SEN., and Conducted by SAMUEL KNOTT.

Messrs. Heald and Hargreaves hail from St. Philip's, Hulme, Manchester. This peal was taken from Snowdon's "Treble Bob," Part II., page 88.

BEDFORD.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Fourteen and ½ Minutes,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION. Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

THOMAS FOOTE Treble.	JOHN ATKINS 5.
MORRIS WARWICK 2.	CHARLES WILLIAM CLARKE 6.
WILLIAM HALL 3.	ISAAC HILLS 7th and
SAMUEL J. CULLIP 4.	JAMES FROSSELL AND tenor
	FREDK. GILBERT in turns.

Conducted by CHARLES WILLIAM CLARKE.

This is the first peal of Grandsire Triples by all the company, and the first 5040 on the bells. The ringer of the 2nd bell is only 16 years of age, and the conductor has but very lately took to change-ringing, he is but 21 years of age, but has made rapid strides in the art. F. Gilbert hails from Raunds; the rest are of the local company.

Miscellaneous.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

WEST BROMWICH.—*Muffled Peal*.—On Sunday, July 26th, after evening service, the following members of the above Association rung at Christ Church a muffled peal (the usual whole pull and stand), as a token of respect to the late Mr. William Beeson, who had been a ringer for upwards of twenty years. S. Reeves (conductor), 1; E. Cashmore, 2; C. Timms, 3; J. Hall, 4; R. Hall, 5; C. Price, 6; H. Hipkiss, 7; W. H. Wayte, 8. And on Thursday, July 30th, a touch of Grandsire Triples, 504 changes. H. Hipkiss, 1; R. Hall (conductor), 2; W. R. Small, 3; J. Hall, 4; T. Horton, 5; C. Price, 6; S. Reeves, 7; C. Timms, 8.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ASPLEY GUISE.—On Tuesday evening, July 28th, for practice at the parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor (thirty-two bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. G. Usher, 1; M. Lane, 2; W. Mynard, 3; J. Carwell-Cooke, 4; Rev. W. W. C. Baker (Nottingham; conductor), 5; W. Chibnall, 6. Also another 720 of Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles), in 26 mins. G. Usher, 1; E. Lewin, 2; W. Mynard, 3; J. Carwell-Cooke, 4; W. Chibnall, 5; M. Lane (conductor), 6.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday, July 28th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Bob Minor (four bobs and fourteen singles), in 23 mins. F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; T. Foote, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; S. Cullip, 5; I. Hills, 6. And two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. F. Keech, 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; M. Warwick, 3; I. Hills, 4; S. Cullip, 5; T. Foote, 6. Tenor 8 cwt. in B. And on Thursday, July 30th, at St. Paul's church, 336 of Grandsire Triples. F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; S. Cullip, 3; T. Foote, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; J. Atkins, 6; I. Hills, 7; J. Frossell, 8.

On Monday, August 3rd, at the same church, 336 of Bob Major. S. Cullip, 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; J. C. Cook, 3; T. Foote, 4; W. Hall, 5; W. Biggs, 6; I. Hills, 7; F. Gilbert (conductor), 8. And a 336 of Grandsire Triples. J. C. Cook, 1; M. Warwick, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; T. Foote, 4; I. Hills, 5; F. Gilbert (conductor), 6; W. Biggs, 7; W. Hall, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. And at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 23½ mins. T. Foote, 1; J. Atkins, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; I. Hills, 4; W. Biggs, 5; F. Gilbert (conductor), 6.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

SOUTH HACKNEY (Middlesex).—On Monday, August 3rd, at the church of St. John of Jerusalem, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins., composed by M. A. Wood. J. Sumpter, 1; C. Lee (conductor), 2; W. Shade, 3; L. Green, 4; H. Springall, 5; Y. Green, 6; R. Turner, 7; D. Sutton, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRANCEPETH (Durham).—On Monday, August 3rd, a 720 of Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 24 mins. G. Campbell, 1; W. Eggleston, 2; W. G. Routledge, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; W. Story (conductor), 5; F. Lees, 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. G. Campbell, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; W. Eggleston, 3; F. Lees, 4; R. S. Story, 5; W. Story (conductor), 6. Tenor 9 cwt. in A.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BALDOCK (Herts).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Sunday, August 2nd, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, for Divine Service in the morning, two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, each called differently, with 7 6 8 covering. T. Webb (conductor), 1; J. Philips, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; Robert Jackson, 4; Richard Jackson, 5; W. Bidnell, 6; J. Roslyn, 7; G. Gentle, 8. Also in the evening, 448 of Triples. T. Webb, 1; J. Philips, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; A. Squires, 4; Robert Jackson, 5; Richard Jackson, 6; W. A. Tyler (conductor), 7; J. Roslyn, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled in memory of the late Rector, the Rev. Canon Kewley, who died on the previous Sunday.

EXETER (Devon).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Tuesday, August 4th, eight members of the St. Sidwell's society rang at their parish church, the first part of Hollis's 5-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 1050 changes, with the bells half-muffled, in memory of the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, the aged Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon, who was interred that day. J. Moss, 1; F. R. Shepherd, 2; W. G. Goss, 3; A. Shepherd, 4; W. Richardson, 5; E. Shepherd, 6; Ferris Shepherd (conductor), 7; T. J. Lake, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

SEDGLEY (Staffordshire).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Sunday, July 26th, the ringers of the Parish Church, rang a muffled peal consisting of 720 changes, with 7-8 covering, in 28 mins., in remembrance of Mr. H. Fowler, late of the Limes, Sedgley. John Goodman (Sedgley), 1; David Bruce (Sedgley), 2; Benjamin Johnson (Sedgley), 3; Samuel Bunn (Sedgley), 4; James Screen (Sedgley), 5; Robert Schofield (Sedgley; conductor), 6; George Harrison, 7; Joseph Sheldon, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. Composed by Henry Johnson, of Birmingham.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Tuesday evening, July 21st, at St. Mary's parish church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25½ mins. J. Hurst, 1; W. Booth, 2; W. Short, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, July 26th, for Divine Service in the morning, a plain course each of the following: Yorkshire Court, London Single, Grandsire, Oxford Single, Plain Bob and College Single. J. Hurst, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. W. Booth hails from Liverpool; and W. Short from Bootle. On Tuesday, July 28th, a 6-score of Plain Bob Doubles, and a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles, and a plain course of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor, and College Single Minor. J. Nightingale, 1; W. Booth, 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 5; R. Stockley, 6. And on Thursday evening, July 30th, several secular tunes were chimed on the bells by C. E. Wilson. On Sunday morning, August 2nd, for Divine Service, a 300 of Plain Bob Minor (six bobs), and in the evening a 720 in the same method (thirty singles and six bobs), the composition of Mr. N. J. Pittsow, in 23 mins. J. Hurst, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLESDEN (Middlesex).—On Sunday, July 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor, sixteen bobs and two singles, in 25 mins. J. Tennant (first 720), 1; R. Kilby, 2; J. Jackman, 3; A. Pittam, 4; F. Weare, 5; A. Tennant (conductor), 6.

VISIT TO ROSS, HEREFORDSHIRE.

On Monday, August 3rd, being Bank Holiday a very enjoyable excursion was made by a portion of the members of the St. Martin's society, Birmingham, to the above place, starting from Snow Hill Station, G.W.R., at 5 a.m., and arriving at their destination early in the morning. After partaking of breakfast, the bells of the parish church were raised in peal and a start made for a peal of Stedman Triples (Brook's variation), which was accomplished in three hours and ten minutes, a report of which will be found on another page. The band then adjourned to a refreshment hotel, and having satisfied themselves with the good things placed at their disposal, again visited the tower, when a touch of Grandsire Triples with some of the local ringers, and a plain course of Kent Treble Bob Major brought the ringing to a close, and after having ceased the bells several of the band remarked on the very easy "go" of them, stating that they had never rung a peal with so much ease before. The bells, the tenor of which is 25 cwt. in Eb., were rehung in 1881. After a stroll through the town, the company mustered at the Station Hotel, where the remainder of the time was spent in songs and toasts, &c. The ringers of the St. Martin's Society wish to thank the vicar, churchwardens, and ringers of Ross for the kind way in which they allowed them the use of their bells, and they hope on some future occasion to renew their visit.

In Memoriam.

GEORGE CARTER.

This veteran ringer died very suddenly on his way home from Birstall, on Sunday evening, July 19th, after being unwell for a few weeks. He had been a visiting ringer at Liversedge and Birstall for about fifty years, and was highly respected in that locality. He had taken part in many peals of 5000 and upwards upon six and eight bells, and had also assisted in winning a few prizes upon both six and eight, including a first prize at Hyde, Cheshire, of £12, with a Liversedge company upon eight; and a second at All Souls' church, Haley Hill, Halifax, upon eight; and a first at Ilkley with a mixed company from Tong and Pudsey, and other smaller prizes. The old veteran was in his 75th year. It would be very difficult to find one who has walked so many miles as he had after ringing.

EDWARD FOSTER.

On Sunday afternoon, July 26th, at the age of thirty-six, Edward Foster died at his residence, Greenwood Terrace, West Derby Road, Liverpool. Deceased was a highly respected member of St. Peter's Society, and died suddenly in ten minutes from the bursting of a blood vessel, having two hours before the sad occurrence partaken of a hearty dinner. His remains were laid at rest in West Derby Cemetery on Wednesday, July 29th. In the evening the members of the society met in their tower, and rang two muffled touches of Grandsire Caters, 503 and 395 changes, as a tribute of respect to his memory. The members were, Henry Meadows, Richard Williams, Robert Williams, Charles Williams, Edwin Booth, William Booth, John Brown, Thomas Hammond, William Brooks, William Woodhead, William Bigham, George Fisher, John Pritchard, William Davies. Conducted by Henry Meadows and Robert Williams.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ONE of the most successful gatherings of ringers that has taken place in the County of Lincolnshire, was that which took place at St. Margaret's Church, Sibsey, on Saturday, July 25th, being the first Annual Meeting of the above Society. Ringers begun to arrive by eight o'clock, and ringing was kept up very briskly until one o'clock, consisting of Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob, and Grandsire Doubles. Divine Service was held in the above church at one o'clock, the sermon being preached by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, a member of the Association, who took his text from the words "A Golden Bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe around about."—Exodus 28th chapter, 34th verse. There was a very large attendance of clergy and gentry of the district. At 2.30 in the afternoon a public luncheon was provided in the schoolroom, at which 147 ladies and supporters of bell-ringing were present. The chair was occupied by the Rev. H. J. Cheales, Vicar of Friskney, and President of the Association, who was supported by the Lord Bishop of Lincoln, the Rev. Canon Disbrowe, R. D. Bennington, Rev. Canon Fisher, Hagworthingham, Rev. Canon Pattenden, LL.D., Boston, Rev. R. E. Roy, Rector of Skirbeck, Rev. S. Stafforth, Frieston, Rev. W. W. Layng, Spilsby, Rev. I. S. Ladds, West Keal, Rev. F. Besant, Sibsey, Major White, Boston, T. C. Garfit, Esq., Boston, (Treasurer), A. Mercer Adams, Esq., M.D., Boston, C. Yeatman, Esq., Boston, C. Marvis, Esq., Boston, Dr. Smith, Sibsey, E. Waite, Esq., Sibsey, E. Mason and T. Rogers.

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The Health of The Queen," and alluded to the marriage of the Princess Beatrice, observing that the happy event seemed to draw closer the bonds of affection between her Majesty and her people. He wished the Royal bride and bridegroom much happiness. The toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. WAITE proposed "The Health of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese," and after expressing the great pleasure he and the parishioners of Sibsey felt at seeing his lordship amongst them, he congratulated him upon his elevation to the See of Lincoln.

HIS LORDSHIP, on rising to respond, was received with loud and continued applause. He said no reward a Bishop could have was equal to the love and confidence of his people, and he thanked Mr. Waite for the kind manner in which he had proposed the toast and the company for the generosity with which they had received it. Gatherings of that sort might be, and were, if properly conducted, as he was sure that would be, made fruitful of good work. There was often a time and an opportunity for people, whose minds were beginning to turn towards the great problems of life, to reflect a little upon what they were doing, and a gathering such as they had had that day must bring before them the reflection—"What am I doing to promote the kingdom of God?" They who had given themselves to the ringing of Church bells were helping on God's work, and although ladies could not ring, they could assist in other ways, and he urged them all to reflect and think what they could do in order to take a more useful step in life, and in assisting in improving the moral, intellectual and Christian condition of the world. There was a peculiar kind of sweetness in that kind of labour—a peculiar kind of brotherhood seemed to spring up amongst such labourers, be they men or women, which he did not think could be attained by any amount of high wages or wordly honours paid for toil and labour in any other sphere. It was, therefore, a great pleasure to him to come amongst them, to do what little he could to promote their united labours for the highest possible end, and he accorded them his hearty thanks for their grave responsibility. To a casual observer a Bishop's life might appear a nice, pleasant, easy one, but it was not all mere festive work—there were some very hard and difficult parts in it, and nothing was so refreshing, and nothing enabled him to perform his duties so well, as the feeling that he had the hearty confidence and goodwill of his people. They were all working for the same Lord and Master, and it was gratifying to him to be able to feel when he was away that their hearts were together unceasingly, although they might not meet very frequently in the body.

THE CHAIRMAN proposed "The Health of the Vicar and Churchwardens of the parish of Sibsey," and thanked them for having so kindly placed their magnificent peal of bells at their disposal. He stated that he had invited the Hon. M. E. G. Finch-Hatton, M.P., who was a skilled ringer, to be present, but his parliamentary duties rendered it impossible for him to attend. He thanked the Bishop, not only for the encouragement he had given them by his subscription to the funds, but for the still greater and more valuable encouragement given them by his presence and advice that day. He explained that the objects of the Association were to raise the tone of belfry management, intelligence and knowledge, and he believed they were making great progress. In the district of the diocese comprising Boston, Alford and Spilsby, and intervening parishes, a district so rich in fine churches, they had no less than 25 towers with peals of from five to eight bells each. The aim of the Society was to promote the art and science of bell-ringing, and with this view they had instructors, who were ready and willing to visit the belfries in the district and instruct their brother ringers.

The Rev. F. BESANT, in responding to the toast, said that Sibsey was an old ringing village, and it afforded him and the churchwardens very great pleasure to welcome the members of that association there that day. His Lordship had stated that ladies could not ring bells, but for his information he begged to state that the ladies in that parish were very enthusiastic in the art of handbell ringing. An old man died in that village not many years ago who had been ringing for a century, and about ten years since there was living in Sibsey a man who rang the bells on every coronation day from the day on which William IV. was crowned.

Canon DISBROWE proposed "Success to the East Lincolnshire Change Ringers' Association," and expressed his approval of the work the Association was doing. What they did, he said, should not be for their own end or amusement, but as the eight bells seemed to say, to the glory of God. Listening to the bells he could imagine he heard them say, "Do all to the glory of God," and on Sunday morning he had fancied he could hear them proclaim, "This is the day the Lord hath made," and when the services were about to begin, they seemed to say, "Come let ussing unto the Lord."

MR. MASON, in responding, thanked the Rev. Canon Disbrowe for the very kind way in which he had spoken on behalf of the Society, and also himself. He said it needed very few words from him after the very able address which they had had the pleasure of listening to from his Lordship, and as their worthy President had explained the object of the Society, he would not trouble them further only by reading the first Annual Report and proceedings of the Association, showing the number of members to exceed 100, and the progress the Association had made in ringing, especially in six-bell work, an account of which would be found in the Society's peal-book. He also referred to the loss the Society had sustained in the removal from among them the Right Rev. Christopher Wordsworth, late Lord Bishop of the Diocese, and a member of the Association. He concluded his report by presenting the balance sheet, which proved to be very satisfactory; after meeting all the expenses of the year, they had carried £4 4s. over for next year's accounts.

THE BISHOP, after hearing the remarks of the Rev. F. Besant, tendered his apologies to the ladies of Sibsey, for having under-rated their abilities as bell-ringers. He hoped their bobs and singles would become more even, if among the single gentlemen the number of single bobs became less.

T. C. GARFIT, Esq. proposed "The Health of the Rev. H. J. Cheales," the President of the Society, and congratulated him upon the success the Society had achieved. Personally he was very pleased to be present at that gathering because he found that some of the young men connected with his Bible class were among the members of the Association. He found that for a great number of years the village of Sibsey had taken a deep interest in the art of bell-ringing. In 1553 the belfry possessed three great bells, but in 1566 all three bells took to themselves wings and flew away, and no one could make out where they had gone. In 1770 the tower contained five bells, and in 1814 it rejoiced in eight bells. He hoped that the example Sibsey and Friskney were setting would be followed by other parishes, and he also hoped that the clergy, churchwardens and ringers would continue to work together.

The meeting for transacting the business was afterwards held in the schoolroom. The whole of the officers were re-elected with the exception of a slight change in the committee. Spilsby was fixed for the next meeting, which contains a very fine ring of six. The Rev. F. Besant placed the Vicarage grounds at the disposal of the members, and also provided tea at the Vicarage. The Great Northern Railway company had made provision for the two late trains to stop at Sibsey at 8 and 8.30, and the day was brought to a close.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

ON Monday, August 3rd, being the Annual Sunday School treat, and Bank Holiday, the ringers of St. Nicholas parish church assembled at 2.30 p.m. and rang six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles (each called differently), with 7,6,8 behind, during the procession of the children through the town. W. Adler, 1; W. Swain, 2; H. Bacon, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; T. Lingard, 5; T. Chapman, 6; C. Draper, 7; J. Ballard, 8. After a few rounds and a little firing the ringers, by the kind invitation of the vicar, the Rev. Canon Bellairs, partook of tea with the Sunday School Teachers and band, in the Vicarage grounds. After tea, a move was made to the belfry, where the ringers rang several 6-scores in the same method, standing as above. The bells were then ceased in peal, and the ringers then returned to the field and joined in the sports and pleasures of the evening, thoroughly happy in the enjoyment of their Bank Holiday. Our correspondent adds:—"Our old friend and brother ringer, H. Bacon, would accept this as a farewell touch and a hearty God speed. He is leaving us for brighter prospects in the neighbouring town of Leicester. We hope however to see him ever and anon in our belfry, where he will always find a hearty welcome."

PEALS OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE.

BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

In order to obtain a true peal of Cambridge Surprise to introduce into his work, Shipway had recourse to parting the tenors, by which means he obtained the following five-part peal. We have, therefore, only one peal with the tenors together, and one with them parted, to represent composition in this method.

5600.							
2 3 4 5 6 7 8	Continued.	Continued.					
5 7 3 8 2 6 4	7 4 2 8 6 3 5	- 4 7 3 8 6 2 5					
- 7 8 6 4 5 2 3	- 4 8 3 5 7 6 2	8 2 7 5 4 6 3					
- 8 4 2 3 7 5 6	5 6 8 2 4 7 3	- 2 5 6 3 8 4 7					
3 5 4 6 8 7 2	2 7 6 3 5 4 8	3 4 5 7 2 8 6					
- 5 6 7 2 3 8 4		7 8 4 6 3 2 5					
- 6 2 8 4 5 3 7	- 7 3 4 8 2 5 6	6 2 8 5 7 3 4					
4 3 2 7 6 5 8	8 5 3 6 7 2 4	5 3 2 4 6 7 8					
	- 5 6 2 4 8 7 3						
7 5 3 8 4 6 2	4 7 6 3 5 8 2	4 7 3 8 5 6 2					
8 6 5 2 7 4 3	3 8 7 2 4 5 6	- 7 8 6 2 4 5 3					
2 4 6 3 8 7 5	2 5 8 6 3 4 7	2 5 8 3 7 4 6					
- 4 3 7 5 2 8 6	6 4 5 7 2 3 8	3 4 5 6 2 7 8					
- 3 5 8 6 4 2 7							
6 2 5 7 3 4 8	W. SHIPWAY.						

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

In accordance with my promise to lay these different variations before my readers in the order in which they were first practised, I have now to draw their attention to Superlative Surprise.

This system is first given in *Clavis Campanologia*, followed by these remarks:—

"The above is an original composition of *our own* on purpose for this work, and has never yet been rung. The principle upon which it is founded will, we doubt not, give it credit with the amateurs of the art, for on inspection it will plainly appear the most even *Treble Bob* peal that has hitherto been discovered, and, if practised, will produce most excellent music."

Now, as the date of publication of the first edition of the *Clavis* is 1788, we can at once arrive at the time this variation has been before the public. Practice has proved the truth of the eulogy pronounced by the originators on their system. Not only is the work particularly even, and therefore easily acquired, but those who have heard this most musical of treble bob variations actually performed in the steeple, will most readily assent to its producing "most excellent music."

Although, as shewn above, this method was put before the Exercise in 1788, I was unable at first to find any earlier notice of a peal than 1821. In Thackrah's book he states that a peal of 5152 was rung at Huddersfield on November 5th, in that year. No tablet was erected to commemorate this performance, and although I have made many enquiries, I have been unable to gain any more information beyond that given in the book. When however, I first noticed this peal, and stated that it was the earliest record of a peal of Superlative, Mr. Haigh, of Huddersfield, kindly forwarded to me a printed notice of a peal of Superlative rung at Huddersfield on August 6th, 1821. This notice ran as follows:—

"Superior and unparalleled Change-ringing, August, 1821.—On Monday, the 6th instant, was rung at Huddersfield, by the Society of St. Peter's Youths, of that place, a complete peal of melodious changes on that grand peal called Superlative Surprise, consisting of 5600 changes, which was performed in 3 hrs. and 20 mins., with the fifth bell at home ten times, and the sixth twelve times, being the greatest performance ever achieved in the campanian art in so intricate a method. The Bob Changes were composed Mr. Benjamin Thackrah, who dexterously conducted the same, and was performed by the following persons:—

Treble.	1. Jonathan Womersley,	4. John Hanson,	6.
William Haigh,	John Womersley,	5. Benjamin Thackrah,	7.
William Clay,		Samuel Goodier,	Tenor.
John Thorpe,			

Weight of the tenor, 18 cwt."

On the same printed circular, the course-ends of the peal were given, the peal being as follows:—

5600.							
2 3 4 5 6	M	W	H	Continued.	M	W	H
6 4 3 5 2	-	-	-	6 3 2 5 4	-	-	-
3 6 4 5 2	-	-	-	2 6 3 5 4	-	-	-
4 3 6 5 2	-	-	-	3 2 6 5 4	-	-	-
2 5 6 3 4	-	-	-	4 5 6 2 3	-	-	-
6 2 5 3 4	-	-	-	6 4 5 2 3	-	-	-
4 3 5 2 6	-	-	-	3 2 5 4 6	-	-	-
5 4 3 2 6	-	-	-	5 3 2 4 6	-	-	-
3 5 4 2 6	-	-	-	2 5 3 4 6	-	-	-
4 2 3 5 6	-	-	-	3 4 2 5 6	-	-	-

This peal, it will be seen, is a 6048 reduced in the third part. No mention of it is made in Thackrah's book, and thus, as soon as it was put into my hand, I was suspicious that there was something amiss with the peal. This I had not much difficulty in proving, as it is a false peal—a very false peal—as several of the lead-ends at the M. are false. Even when pricked as a 6048, the peal will not be true. It is a wonder that Mr. Thackrah ever allowed such a false peal to be published as his composition, as its falsity could, if suspected, so easily be proved even by the veriest tyro in the science of proving peals. The reason why this performance had almost sunk into oblivion, and no mention is made of it in Thackrah's work, is accounted for by the fact that its falsity must, at some future time, have been proved either by himself or some one skilled in such investigations.

Another curious fact in connection with the record of this false peal, is that on the reverse of the printed notice is the rough draft, barely decipherable, of a reply to a challenge from the Middleton (Lancashire) ringers to ring any whole set, or a picked set, of ringers in the county of Yorkshire, for 20 guineas, three treble peals—Oxford, College Pleasure, College Treble, and a fourth peal from the three, with "Crown Bobs." The reply goes on to state that they will not consider the matter, as if they (the Middleton ringers), do not know "that such a peal with Crown Bobs will be false, they had better further the study the art of ringing, as it shall never be said of them (the writers), that they ring false peals." This being written on the back of a false peal, is a most appropriate realisation of the fable in which the pan calls the kettle black.

As previously stated, the first peal, that is the first true peal of Superlative ever rung, is therefore the one mentioned in Thackrah's book on ringing, from which I extract the following paragraph. It will be seen that it was rung by the same company that rung the false peal two months previously;—

Thackrah's *Art of Ringing*.—"Treble bob triples: this peal was composed by the author in the year 1821, and was first rung by him and seven of the St. Peter's company of change-ringers at the parish church, Huddersfield, on the 5th of November the same year. Likewise 5152 changes of Superlative Surprise, at the first attempt, making a total of 10,192 changes in 5 hours and 56 minutes. Ringers: W. Haigh, Treble. 1. J. Womersley, 4. J. Hanson, 6. J. Clay, 2. J. Womersley, 5. B. Thackrah, 7. J. Thorpe, 3. S. Goodier, Tenor.

A peal of 5152 is given in Thackrah's book which is doubtless the peal in question. This peal is in three parts, and is one which shews more plainly than any description can do the "slip-shod" manner in which the book is written. The first part consists of seven courses, and Thackrah states:—"The following is the first part of 5152, which being twice repeated, completes the peal." Now the calling under these conditions will come round at the end of the 21st course, which is two courses short of a peal. When I saw this, I could hardly imagine that Thackrah would have let this escape his notice, and that he should have rung a peal two courses short of the required number. I therefore looked further into the matter, and have no doubt that Thackrah only forgot to say that three bobs at H. had to be called when 5-6 came home at the end of the peal, this, as will be shewn in the collection of peals, will bring the number up to 5152.

* * Several touches, reports, etc., are unavoidably left over till our next issue.

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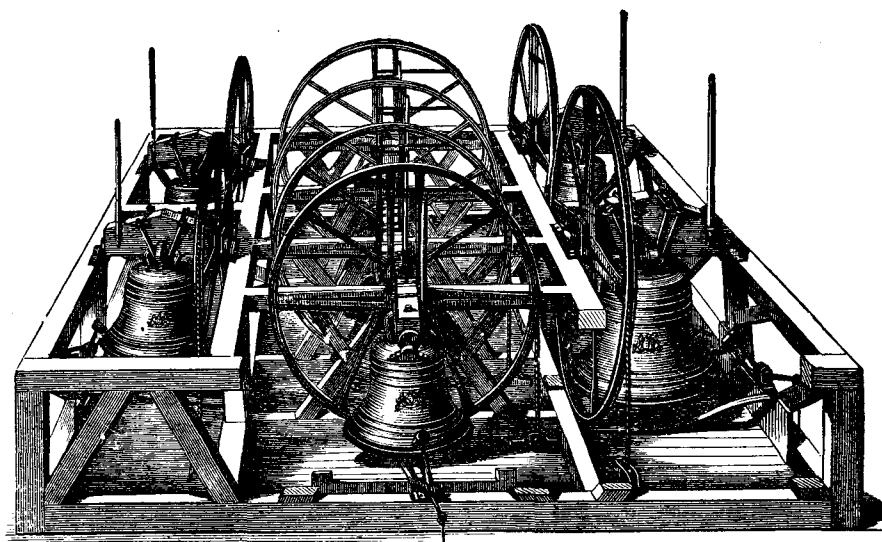
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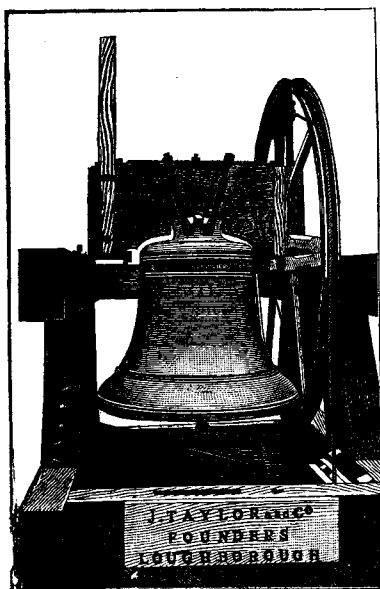
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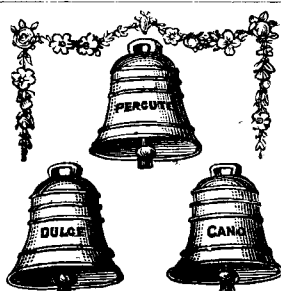
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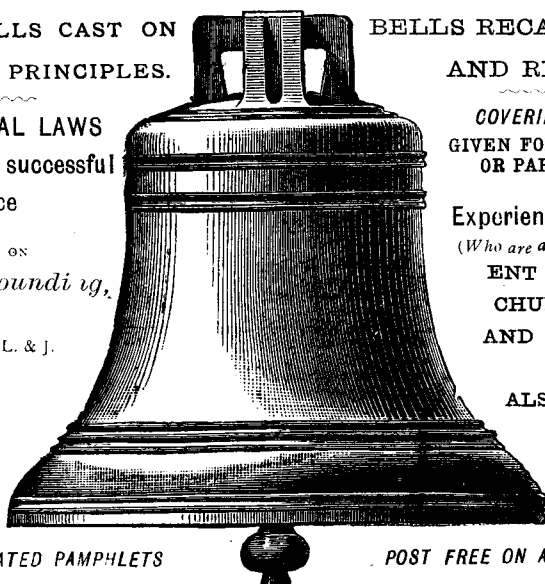
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