

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 181. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. IV. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1885.

[ONE PENNY.]

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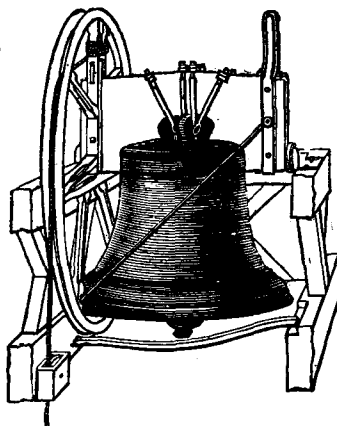
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THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

Sometime ago a peal of Grandsire Caters was rung on the bells of All Saints' church, Derby, the first in the method for a considerable number of years, and but for an accident would have been recorded as the first peal on ten bells by the Association. In order to celebrate the accomplishment of the peal, it was decided to have a supper, and the necessary funds having been generously contributed by two of the band, viz.: Messrs. Heywood and Redgate, about sixteen members of the Derby District, with Mr. John Taylor, jun. (whose contribution of ducks was fully appreciated), met at the "Queen's Hotel," Crompton Street, on Thursday, September 10th, and sat down to an excellent repast.

After everyone had partaken fully of the good things provided, and the cloth had been removed, the Secretary announced that Messrs. Heywood and Redgate had found it impossible to attend, and the sincere regret of those present was expressed at the absence of those gentlemen. The election of Chairman was proceeded with, and Mr. W. D. Smith, of London, was voted to the post.

A vote of thanks to those gentlemen who had borne the expense of the supper, and especially to Mr. A. P. Heywood, for the promise of a peal-board, was then proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, with musical honours. The thanks of the meeting was also accorded to Messrs. Beeson and Howe, for getting the tower open, and the bells in order, and to Mr. H. C. Woodward, for so ably conducting the peal. These resolutions were suitably responded to, and the opinion is expressed that although Leicester ringers snapped the first peal of Caters out of the hands of their Derby *confreeres*, they will have to look sharp if they mean to get the first peal of Treble Bob Royal, or Stedman Caters.

Mr. H. C. Woodward, in a fitting and neat little speech, proposed "Success to 'THE BELL NEWS,'" stating that it was a paper that deserved the full support of the whole ringing community, in itself, or in any venture which it might make in the interests of change-ringing, such as the Shipway reprint, etc. This was very fluently responded to by the worthy chairman.

The remainder of the evening was spent in handbell ringing, interspersed with a vote of thanks to the Host and Hostess, for the excellent manner in which the supper had been placed on the table, and to Mr. W. D. Smith, who as "O.P.Q.," is so very well-known in these parts, for presiding, everyone being agreed that he had carried out the duties which had devolved upon him as "Leader of the Band," both musical and oratorical, in a most efficient manner.

KENN, DEVONSHIRE.

This society (all being members of the Devonshire Guild), had their annual outing on Wednesday, September 9th. A most enjoyable trip to Moreton, Chagford, and Drewsteignton had been arranged. On the previous evening several 6-scores of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles were well struck on the parish bells, and everything being arranged for the morning, 7 a.m. saw the party, including the worthy Rector, the Rev. R. Porter, driving through Lord Haldon's grounds, and lovely Devon lanes to Moreton, which was reached by about 10 a.m., stopping only long enough to ring a few six-scores on the ring of six, tenor about 18 cwt., and not in good order. Chagford was reached at noon; here some very fair six-scores were rung on the back six, tenor about 19 cwt. Although a local bell-hanger resides here, these bells do not go at all well. It is worthy of note that this bell-hanger hangs his bells especially to suit round-ringers, as he says there is more round than half-pull ringing in Devon. No doubt he will be recommended by the county Guild whenever a case of bell hanging comes before them. After ringing, the party sat down to a good dinner, and by the rapid disappearance of sirloin of beef and plum pudding, fresh air and ringing evidently produce keen appetites. Leaving Chagford at 4 p.m., Drewsteignton was reached an hour later. Here is a fine ring of six, tenor 28 cwt., but they want re-hanging, the cage being the only part of the gear that is good; nevertheless, the Kenn ringers, with their usual pluck, arranged to strike some very good 6-scores on them, but at the cost of blistered fingers. Afterwards a well spread tea was done justice to, and then a start was made for home, arriving at 9.30, quite safe, and without any accident. The party besides the rector consisted of A. Truman, W. Thorne, H. Skinner, W. Woolacott, E. Truman, G. Truman, T. Cleal (a young pupil at ringing), a visitor, and F. Shepherd (Exeter), their former instructor. An enjoyable day was spent; thanks to the kindness and liberality of the rector, whose equal in this respect at least is very rarely found.

SUDDEN DEATH OF AN OLD RINGER.—We regret to record the death of Mr. William Young, steeplekeeper, and for many years a member of the St. Thomas's company, Salisbury. On Saturday, September 12th, deceased went up to the belfry to toll the usual five o'clock prayer bell, and on coming down he went home and sat down in a chair, and died. A muffled peal was rung at St. Thomas's, on the day of the funeral (Wednesday). Deceased was 62 years of age.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
DEATH OF THE TREASURER.

It is with sincere regret that we have to record the death of our much respected friend, the late Mr. W. Duffill, who died on Friday, the 4th inst., at St. John's Street, Bromsgrove, from blood poisoning, after an illness of brief duration. Deceased was the oldest ringer in the town, and a member of a celebrated ringing family, which one may see by paying a visit to the tower of the church of St. John the Baptist, as his name and that of his ancestors figure conspicuously in many peals of various methods. He was in himself a tower of strength to the cause of change-ringing, and had handled the ropes from the age of twelve or thirteen, soon becoming proficient in the art and science of change-ringing, of which he had been fond all through his life. It is owing to his instrumentality that the present Bromsgrove band (which is a good one), have so far succeeded in the various methods of which they are master at the present time. It was also through him that the above Association came into existence, and for which he has worked heart and soul since its commencement. His great work was one of untiring zeal for the spread of change-ringing, for he neither spared time nor expense in going to different places, many miles away from home, to instruct those who were ignorant of the art. The local company, of which he was captain, and also the Association of which he was treasurer, have lost a long tried and valuable friend, and one of the best things that can be done, to be a lasting memorial to his memory, both by the company and the Association, is to endeavour to build up, and learn others the art and science which he has handed down to them. The Association not only loses its treasurer, but one who was looked up to as its head, and whose advice was always sought for on matters connected with it. In the latter part of last year, a peal was rang by his brother ringers to commemorate his fiftieth birthday, and a dinner held by them to celebrate the occasion, at which Canon Paget (the then Vicar), presided.

The funeral took place on Tuesday afternoon, and it is estimated that nearly two thousand people assembled in the cemetery belonging to the church, to witness the ceremony. The coffin was borne shoulder high from his residence to the church and grave, and on either side the coffin walked the members of the past fire brigade, over which deceased was for many years captain, and also the present fire brigade in full uniform. Following were the members of the family, his late brother-ringers, and several members of the Association, and also the members of the Loyal British Queen Lodge of Oddfellows, of which he was senior trustee, and many other friends. The Rev. A. Seymour, Vicar, conducted the funeral service at the parish church, which was well attended, and when the procession was leaving the church, Mr. Tirbutt, the organist, played the "Dead March in *Saul*." After the portion of the service at the grave, five of his late brother-ringers rang a course of Caters upon the handbells over the grave. After returning to the house, the ringers adjourned to a room at the "Golden Lion," where the loss of the deceased was spoken of, and a resolution proposed by Mr. S. Spittle (Master), seconded by Mr. G. Hayward, and supported by Messrs. Smith and Owen (secretaries), and several others, that a letter of condolence be forwarded to the widow and family of the deceased, expressing their deep sympathy with them in their irreparable loss they have sustained. The deceased was a very genial man, and one whom any brother-ringer could make himself at home with. His sudden departure from among us should be to us a lesson, and a warning to be prepared to meet him (not as we did in the tower below), but in the tower above, where there will be no change-course, but one true and complete peal.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., the ringers met at the parish church, and rang 1008 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. Crump. On Sunday, two touches of Grandsire Caters, containing 810 and 395 changes respectively, conducted by G. Hayward. On Monday, two 504's of Grandsire Caters, conducted by G. Morris. The above was rung with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. W. Duffill, and on Tuesday the bells were rang at intervals during the day with the bells muffled on both sides. The ringers were Messrs E. Crump, G. Hayward, W. Rea, O. James, G. Brown, G. Morris, J. Parry, W. Broomfield, R. Broomfield, T. Albutt, G. Hughes (Tipton), G. Moore (Hanbury).

And on Sunday morning, September 13th, for divine service, 1116 of Grandsire Caters, also with the bells deeply muffled. O. James, 1; R. Broomfield, 2; T. Albutt, 3; J. Hinton (Worcester), 4; E. Crump, 5; G. Hayward (conductor), 6; W. Rea, 7; G. Bourne, 8; G. Morris, 9; J. Parry, 10. At Worcester, muffled touches were also rung at All Saints', St. Helen's, and St. John's churches.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The next Meeting will be held at Harborne, on Saturday, September 26th. Members to assemble at the parish church at 2.30 p.m. Members of committee are requested to send the names of all who will attend, as soon as possible, to the Rev. J. R. Keble, Perry Barr Vicarage, Birmingham.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL, LANCASHIRE.

ON Saturday afternoon, September 12th, the Walton handbell ringers held their first annual picnic at Eastham, Cheshire. The party proceeded by boat from Liverpool to Rock Ferry, and then walked to Eastham, a distance of about four miles. During the journey the ringers made a stop, and performed on the handbells the following tunes: "Carrie Lee," "Ding Dong," "Belle Mahone's Reply," and "When there's love at Home." On arriving at Eastham, tea was provided close to the ferry, to which ample justice was done. Tea being over, the handbells were again brought into requisition, when a selection of various airs, popular and sacred, were played, and judging from the applause of the visitors that were there, was highly appreciated. The party left Eastham by the 7.30 boat, arriving in Liverpool at 8.15, and catching the 8.20 tram-car, were safely landed at the terminus at 9 o'clock, having spent a most enjoyable day. The members present were: C. E. Wilson (conductor), W. S. Miller, J. Nightingale, W. D. Rodgers, V. O. Barnes, F. Roberts, and G. P. Law. The usual Friday evening rehearsal of September 25th will not take place, owing to an engagement.

A CUMBERLAND'S VISIT TO LONDON.

ON Saturday, August 29th, I paid a visit to my ringing *confreres* in London, by whom I was courteously received, and more especially by Mr. George Newson, the celebrated conductor. A peal of Treble Bob Major was arranged at Christ Church, Southgate, which was unfortunately lost after ringing 2 hrs. and 14 mins., through the third rope missing wheel. An account of this appeared in due course in "BELL NEWS." This peal of bells is pronounced by nearly all ringers as an excellent peal, tenor 24 cwt. On Sunday morning, at Hampstead with the local company, I started for a 503 of Grandsire Caters, but the conductor was forced to call stand when within three leads of the end, as it was time for the service to commence. S. Clarke, 1; G. Hammond, 2; J. Pain, 3; J. Coomb, 4; H. Tyler, 5; C. Deal, 6; W. Prior, 7; N. Alderman, 8; G. Newson (conductor), 9; W. Arscott, 10. Also in the evening, at the same church, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. S. Clarke, 1; J. Coomb, 2; G. Hammond, 3; C. Deal, 4; W. Prior, 5; H. Tyler, 6; G. Newson (conductor), 7; W. Arscott, 8. On Tuesday evening I went again to Hampstead church, and rang a 503 of Grandsire Caters. S. Clarke, 1; G. Hammond, 2; B. Foskett, 3; T. Titchener, 4; D. W. Griggs, 5; C. Deal, 6; E. Chapman, 7; W. Hutt, 8; G. Newson (conductor), 9; W. Arscott, 10. On Friday evening, I visited St. Margaret's, Westminster, and rang the 2nd in a 377 of Grandsire Caters. Saturday evening again found a band of ringers at Southgate to attempt a 5024 of Kent Treble Bob, but which was lost after ringing 2 hrs. 22 mins. E. Chapman, 1; G. Hammond, 2; B. Foskett, 3; A. C. Fussell, 4; W. H. Fussell, 5; A. Jacobs, 6; G. Harvey, 7; G. Newson (conductor), 8. This peal was composed by N. J. Pittow. The Brothers Fussell hail from Slough. This attempt concluded a most interesting and enjoyable ringing tour, and after bidding my brother ringers farewell, I was soon on my homeward journey. I wish to thank through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS," all those ringers who so kindly met me at Southgate, not in any way omitting Mr. Newson, and also the Hampstead and St. Margaret's companies. G. HAMMOND.

Long Melford, Suffolk.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

A COMMITTEE MEETING of the above will be held at All Saints school-room, Worcester, to-day (Saturday), at 4 o'clock, when the delegates of each company in union are earnestly invited to attend, as business of great importance (left from the Annual Meeting) must be transacted, and also a treasurer appointed, *pro tem.*, in the place of the late Mr. W. Duffill.

NEW SONG, "THE LAST FAREWELL."—London: Weekes & Co., 14, Hanover Street, W.—We have received from Messrs. Weekes & Co., a copy of this song for notice, and although we do not as a rule pretend to cater for the musical taste of our readers, we are inclined in this instance to make an exception. Our reason for so doing is that the song in question bears the names of two ringers who are not altogether unknown to the Exercise, the music having been composed by Mr. E. E. Vinen, and the words written by Mr. E. F. Strange. The song, which strikes us as being a very good one, is suitable for any soprano voice of ordinary compass, ranging as it does from D to G; and, while the words are somewhat above the average of the modern ballad, the air is simple and taking, and the accompaniment extremely good. On the whole we can conscientiously recommend it to our subscribers. It can be obtained from any music-seller, or will be sent post free on receipt of Postal Order for 2s. addressed to Mr. E. F. Strange, 34, Park Walk, Fulham Road, S.W.

THE EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION—ALL SAINTS, FRISKNEY.

THE bells of the above church have, through the exertions of the Rev. H. J. Cheales, Vicar of Friskney, and President of the above Association, been augmented to six by the addition of a new treble, supplied by the well-known firm of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, Whitechapel, and given by F. H. Booth, Esq., a relative of the respected vicar, the work of rehanging has been entrusted to Mr. Timothy Rogers, of Boston, who has supplied a new iron frame and fittings, in place of an old oak one. The present five bells were cast by Henry Penn, of Peterboro', in the year 1619, tenor about 14 cwt. On Saturday, September 12th, six members of the above Association paid a visit, and expressed themselves highly satisfied in the way the work has been done, and also with the go of the bells; several touches of Bob Minor were rung, including a 300. T. Rogers, 1; Rev. H. J. Cheales, 2; E. Parker, 3; J. Mawer, 4; G. F. Smith, 5; E. Mason, 6. Also another 360. G. Clarke, 1; J. M. Rylatt, 2; E. Parker, 3; J. Mawer, 4; G. F. Smith, 5; E. Mason (conductor), 6. The ringers sat down to a knife and fork tea provided at "The Anchor" Inn.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the above will take place on Saturday, September 26th, at the Cathedral, Manchester. There will be a service at 3.30 p.m., when the sermon will be preached by the Rev. Chas. Lowe, M.A., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Bolton. Tea will be provided in the schoolroom at five p.m., tickets 1s. each, business meeting at six p.m., when the officers for the ensuing year will be elected. All those who intend to be present at the tea are requested to send in their names to the secretaries, or to Mr. A. E. Wreaks, 11 Dover Street, Higher Crumpsall, Manchester, (from whom tickets can be obtained) not later than September 19th.

The towers of the Cathedral, St. John's, and the Town Hall, will be open for ringing after the meeting.

A. E. HOLME, } Hon. Secs.
J. REDFORD, }

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL GATHERING of the members of this Association will take place at Norwich, on Monday, September 28th. The service will be held at the church of St. Peter Mancroft, at 12.45; preacher, the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, Rector of Stanhoe, Norfolk. Dinner at 1.30 in St. Andrew's Hall; the Mayor of Norwich in the chair. After dinner there will be the usual Business Meeting. The secretary would be glad to receive the names of those intending to be present, and the G.E.R. station from which they start, on or before Tuesday, September 22nd. N. BOLINGBROKE, Hon. Sec.

Bracondale Terrace, Norwich.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday, September 12th, the above Association held its District meeting, at Epsom, by the kind permission of the Vicar. The meeting was well attended, there being ringers present from Ashted, Beddington, Benhilton, Croydon, Leatherhead, Merton, Mitcham and Streatham, as well as the local party. The ringing began about 4.30 and was kept up until 9 o'clock. The following methods were practised:—Treble Bob and Grandsire Major: Stedman, Grandsire, Bob and Union Triples. A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

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A. Jones	2 6	W. H. Godden, St. Martia's,	
		Birmingham	5 0

The committee earnestly request that donations from ringers and friends interested in this "National Testimonial" be forwarded at an early date to one of the undersigned: A. Thomas, Hon. Secretary, 83, Wheeley's Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham; S. Reeves, Hon. Treasurer, 10, Bull Street, West Bromwich.

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING IN LANCASHIRE.

And I have been "where bells have knoll'd to Church."
 Dear bells, how sweet the sound of village bells
 When on the undulating air they swim,
 Now loud as welcomes, faint, now, as farewells,
 And trembling all about the breezy bells,
 As fluttered by the wings of Cherubim.

Ode to Rae Wilson.—Hood.

Dr. Gregory, writing on the sanitary influence of bell-ringing and its melodies, says:—"I doubt if there be any physical exercise equal to bell-ringing for keeping the body in health; if there be, there are certainly not many. The mental effort to ring in order, and the harmony of the bell sounds, produce a beneficial effect both on the mind and body. To those who have an ear for music, the sound of bells has a cheerfully soothing effect, sometimes diverting thoughts from needless cares and anxieties to calm and tender moods and pleasant remembrances." Other eminent medical men in the past have written on this subject, and the general opinion seems to be that the mental and bodily exercise of change-ringing is in the highest degree conducive to cheerfulness, health, and longevity. Numerous instances could be quoted in which noted ringers have lived to a very advanced age, and continued in the enjoyable practice of their art to the last.

In the earlier years of this century (to give one instance), James Ogden, of Ashton-under-Lyne, a name still dear to Lancashire change-ringers, rang at the age of sixty-seven years in a peal of 5000 changes. He rang the tenor bell of 28 cwt., which bell he had rung for more than fifty years. He died at a ripe old age, and was carried to his grave by his fellow-ringers, who afterwards rang in his honour a date touch muffled. A more striking instance, however, of longevity in bell-ringers, is that of the venerable Jonathan Pavier, in whose honour a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was rung at St. Matthew's Bethnal Green, on June 1st, 1878, he having then reached his 100th birthday. More recently there is the case of the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, M.A., the well-known and respected Rector of Clyst St. George, in Devonshire, who has just died at the great age of ninety-five. He was at once the father of the University of Oxford, the best authority on bells, and an ardent bell-ringer almost to the last. In memory of him, many muffled peals have been rung in the west of England and in London, and proposals for a proper recognition of his services have been heard of in the district of which Manchester is the centre.

From an early date in the history of change-ringing, and down to the time when the Rudhalls of Gloucester were sending their rings of six and eight bells all over this part of England, Lancashire appears to have been well in front, and it is notorious that at the present day some of the best ringers of the day are literally to be heard of in the immediate neighbourhood of Manchester. Of the particular uses of church bells in Lancashire, which survive to the present day, may be cited the ringing of what is known as the sermon bell, usually rung at eight or nine o'clock on Sunday morning, in some places at both eight and nine o'clock. This custom obtains all over the country, and is a survival from pre-Reformation times of what was called canonical hours. Then there is the curfew, or last Angelus, which is still rung in many old parish churches in Lancashire at eight o'clock at night in the winter months. The ringing of a bell after Sunday morning service is also still kept up in some places. The custom of tolling for the dead is common to all parts of England, but that of some of the older parishes in this part of the country where there is a ring of bells, is on the occasion of a death to give two or three strokes on each bell in succession, according to the sex of the departed person, thrice repeated, from the treble to the tenor. It is said by North, that the old proverb "nine tailors make a man," arises from the thrice three tolls or "tellers" on the bells marking the death to be that of a man.

The practice of change-ringing for prizes, known formerly as prize-ringing, has probably now died out altogether, as it is everywhere very properly discouraged by both the clergy and churchwardens. Early in this century, however, and down to some thirty or forty years ago, this custom was very common, and many people can still recall the contests which then took place in some of the church towers which contained a ring of eight or even six bells. Foremost amongst these were Ashton, Bolton, Bury, Flixton, Liverpool, Manchester, Oldham, Preston, &c. It is noteworthy that Lancashire, together with some of the adjoining counties, differs from the rest of England in the practice of ringing for divine service on Sundays. In the southern and midland counties the custom of chiming or clapping the bells for service is all but universal. At Flixton, at the present day, the tower being unsafe, the bells cannot be rung; they are therefore chimed by hitching the ropes to the clappers, to the great danger of cracking the bells. This is to be deplored, as Rudhall's eight bells at St. Michael's, Flixton, are amongst the finest in the county.

On the custom of ringing for Divine Service, a Cantab. M.A., writing in the *Ecclesiologist* on "How matters are conducted in the northern counties," says:—"Many, even clergymen, are not aware of the generic distinction between chiming and ringing; but on this distinction turns

the animus of my present caution. The difference may be described by saying that in both chiming and ringing the motion of the bell is oscillatory; but whilst in chiming the arc of oscillation is small, in ringing it is 360 degrees. I, for my part, would quite as soon sanction football or cricket in the churchyard on Sunday, as ringing properly so called. Ringing is an intellectual and scientific enjoyment as much as chess or violin playing, and we know what view we should take of Sunday chess-players or Sunday concerts. Let me then, implore every clergyman to exercise his authority to put an extinguisher on all Sunday ringing." The poor ringers upon whom this writer is severe, though at the same time he is a little afraid of them, are not even to be allowed "intellectual or scientific enjoyment" on the Sunday, but are to be content with chiming for service, and on no account to carry the "arc of oscillation" to anything approaching 360 degrees. However, the Lancashire Association of change-ringers appear to have found out a more excellent way; with them it seems possible, according to their second rule, "to ring on the Lord's day as a special religious act." And certainly it is difficult to understand why it may not be as much so as playing upon the organ or singing in the choir. Right or wrong, the practice of ringing for service is undoubtedly old in the north of England, and that of chiming, tolling, or "knolling" (as in the line of Shakespeare above quoted by Hood) is certainly old in the south and Midlands.

While mentioning Shakspeare and church bells, it may be recorded here that the poets often describe the sound of bells as a "roar." On Henry Oldfield's (a Nottingham founder) tenor bells, the following couplet is often found—

My Roaringe sounde doth warning give
 That men cannot heare always lye.

In Milton's "L'Allegro," speaking of the curfew, which was always rung up, he says—

Heard o'er some wide-watered shore,
 Swinging slow with sullen roar.

And Eliza Cook, speaking of Christmas, says—

He comes with roar of city bells.

Other examples could be given where the older English poets so describe the sound of bells, but the above may suffice.

Of bell rarities, Lancashire, though not nearly so highly favoured as to fine churches or rings of bells as some other counties, has yet a goodly number of old and curious bells. First, there is the oldest known dated bell (1206) at Cloughton, near Lancaster, described in the note-book, vol. iv. There is also a very fine pre-Reformation bell, lying on the floor of the curious old tower of Bradshaw Chapel, near Bolton. It is quite perfect, and should be re-hung; the inscription on this bell, in a kind of Gothic Roman letter, is "Ave Maria Gracia Plena." There is a sort of tradition that this bell came from one of the dismantled Lancashire abbeys. Then there is the handsomely ornamented and fine-toned tenor bell at Ormskirk, which is said to have come from Burscough Priory. The list of interesting single bells in this county cannot be exhausted here, and it must suffice to mention the Sanctus bell of St. Mary's Church, Lancaster, now doing duty at a mill in the town; the bell at Turton Tower (cracked), and the curious old Corn Market bell by Rudhall, still to be seen hanging in the front of the Dog and Partridge, Fennel Street, Manchester. It is dated 1735. Of ringing peals, the county palatine has two rings of twelve bells, one at Liverpool, and the other at Oldham; three at least of ten bells, viz., at Ashton-under-Lyne, Manchester Cathedral, and Manchester Town Hall; and some very fine rings of six and eight bells by Rudhall, Lester and Pack, Mears, &c. In addition to these there is the Town Hall clock bell, weighing 8 tons 2 cwt.; it is by far the best clock bell in England, and the largest if we except Big Ben, which is, however, cracked and imperfect.

We will close this article with a recollection of a sad accident which occurred at St. Nicholas' Church, Liverpool, seventy-five years ago last February. While the ringers were engaged in ringing for morning service, a stone fell upon the fifth bell and stopt it in its course. The men had thus sufficient warning of what was to follow, and the belfry being on the ground floor they easily escaped; but the next moment the whole spire and the greater part of the tower fell with a crash upon the school children who were entering the church, and twenty-three persons were killed outright, sixteen of whom were girls under twelve years of age.—*Manchester Guardian*.

NEW CLOCK AT WINSLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

A very large new Church clock has been erected at Winslow, Buckinghamshire. It chimes the Cambridge quarters, strikes on a 20 cwt. bell, and shews time on three dials, each six feet across. It is also fitted with special machinery for playing a tune every three hours. It has a gravity escapement, and a 2 cwt. pendulum compensated for changes in the temperature. The whole has been carried out by the celebrated firm of John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, who have also just erected a large stable clock at Ormerod House, near Burnley, and one at Messrs. Allsopp and Sons, Burton-on-Trent, which strikes the hours and has two illuminated dials.

"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.

W. HUGHES.—You must send a copy of the record of the performance.

JNO. FELL.—Yes; but you must send particulars.

JOHN McKELL.—The index is not yet published; but will appear in about a fortnight. For economical reasons we are compelled to work with a small staff, and the work of our office, which is not so little as it may seem, comes heavily upon those who are employed therein. Friends who visit us sometimes leave astonished at the quantity of work caused in the production of this paper alone.

S. MARSH.—You can get the numbers by ordering of your local bookseller. There are eleven numbers issued up to the present time.

J. W. R.—There are rules therein for bringing nearly every method round. The rule for the particular method you allude to is very plain and exhaustive. 2. We only want our efforts to be appreciated.

C. W. CLARKE.—At the first opportunity.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1885.

THE correspondence appearing in our pages just now relative to the scheme for the formation of a National Association of Ringers, may, it is to be hoped, lead to the resuscitation of the movement. It is just possible that when the question was previously brought before the various ringing Associations, several of these bodies failed to grasp the meaning and intent of the proposed organisation, and thus the suggestions put before them for entertainment were not accurately understood, the matter being in many cases received in silence, and therefore with ultimate rejection. As the idea of a National Association has, since its first abandonment, been allowed more consideration, it is thought that such a movement would now meet with a greater amount of attention than it did before. Members of ringing Associations have here and there been educated upon the question, and it seems more than probable that such a confederacy of ringers as was attempted some while ago to form, could be established if again brought within the region of practical discussion.

Those who are of the same opinion as ourselves on this subject, will receive the offer made in our last week's number by the Rev. DOLBEN PAUL, with feelings of satisfaction. We hope to hear of something being done at the approaching Portsmouth Congress, at any rate the matter may safely be left in the hands of MR. PAUL, to organise and bring to a successful issue. Should the question again take root, it will be a reflection upon the ringing community if it does not receive that consideration which its importance demands. Association members

to whom the phrase "National Association" is new, should enquire for themselves what is really meant by it, so that they can be prepared, when the question is brought before them, to adjudicate upon it. To remain passive when a subject of such importance is being introduced, and then to hold up hands *pro* or *con* according to the mandate or behest of any one who has more lungs than brains, is a game of follow-my-leader which greatly deteriorates the manhood of those who play at it.

The Provinces.

TIVERTON, DEVON.—THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Wednesday, September 2, 1885, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

JOHN HOSEGOOD Treble.	LEWIS MACKENZIE, ESQ. .. 5.
ERNEST BISHOP 2.	JAMES BABBAGE 6.
JOHN GRATER, JUN. 3.	FRANCIS E. DAWE 7.
EDWIN MUNDAY 4.	TOM & WILLIAM HARVEY Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS EDWARD DAWE.

Great credit is due to those in authority here for the excellent improvements, and state of the belfry in general.

EXETER.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

On Thursday, September 3, 1885, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT ST. SIDWELL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs. in D.

JAMES MOSS Treble.	WILLIAM RICHARDSON .. 5.
FRANCIS R. SHEPHERD .. 2.	ALFRED SHEPHERD 6.
ERNEST BISHOP 3.	FERRIS SHEPHERD 7.
FRANCIS E. DAWE 4.	THOMAS J. LAKE Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS EDWARD DAWE.

GLODWICK, OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY, HYDE.

On Saturday, September 12, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt.

JAMES SHAW Treble.	JOHN A. FILDES 5.
ROBERT WOOLLEY 2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY 6.
THOMAS BRADLEY 3.	JAMES S. WILDE 7.
THOMAS WILDE 4.	SAMUEL BENNETT Tenor.

Composed by the late WILLIAM ROYLE, and Conducted by JAMES S. WILDE.

The above peal contains all the 6 7 8's and all the 8 6's.

HOLBECK, LEEDS.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 14, 1885, in Three Hours,

AT ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES.

Tenor 16 cwt.

THOMAS HARRISON Treble.	FRANCIS WOODHEAD .. 5.
R. S. STORY 2.	JOSHUA WOODHEAD .. 6.
HENRY MOSS 3.	MATTHEW TOMLINSON .. 7.
WILLIAM STORY 4.	DAVID YORK Tenor.

Composed by TOM LOCKWOOD, and Conducted by MATTHEW TOMLINSON.

The composition of this peal will be found in *Rope-Sight*. The Brothers Story hail from Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MAIDSTONE, KENT.

Birthday Peal.

On Monday, September 14, 1885, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes.

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 31 cwt.

DAVID BETTS	Treble.	EDWARD ANDREW	5.
REUBEN SIMMONDS*	2.	*ALCHIN MOORCRAFT	6.
ALFRED H. WOOLLEY	3.	*HARRY PEARCE	7.
GEORGE PAWLEY	4.	GEORGE J. MOORCRAFT	Tenor.
		CHARLES RELF	

Conducted by ALCHIN MOORCRAFT.

This peal was rung to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the birthday of Mr. R. Simmonds, and his brother ringers wish him many happy returns of the day.
† First peal. * College Youths. Mr. Andrew hails from Chatham.

Date Touches.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

TIPTON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, September, 13th, for Divine Service in the evening, at St. Martin's, a date touch of 1885 changes of Grandsire Triples, containing the tittums and 24 6-7's, in 1 hr. 5 mins. J. Goodman, 1; D. Bruce, 2; S. Bunn, 3; G. Hughes, 4; S. Jesson, 5; J. Fullwood (composer and conductor), 6; R. Schofield, 7; W. Mills, 8. Messrs. Goodman, Bruce, Bunn, Schofield, and Mills hail from Sedgely; the rest from Tipton.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

NETHERTON (Worcestershire).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Thursday evening, the 10th inst., five members of the above Association, with the assistance of Mr. W. Micklewright, of Dudley, rang a date touch, 1885 changes, in the following methods, with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. W. Duffill, of Bromsgrove: 720 Kent Treble Bob, 720 Plain Bob, and 445 Grandsire Minor, in 1 hr. 12 mins. R. Round, 1; J. Prestidge, 2; J. Townsend, 3; M. J. Robinson, 4; W. Micklewright (conductor), 5; J. Smith, 6. The above touch was attempted on Sunday, the 6th inst., but after ringing nearly 1300 changes, the rope of the fourth bell caught in the pulley under the wheel and brought the bell to a stand.

SHIPLEY (Yorkshire).—On Thursday evening, September 10th, at St. Paul's church, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major (consisting of 1885 changes). T. Lilley, 1; G. A. O. Nettleton, 2; W. Wilks, jun. 3; R. Tuke, Esq., 4; B. T. Copley, 5; W. Wilks, senr. (conductor), 6; J. Mountain, 7; J. S. Clark, 8. Time 1 hr. 10 mins. Tenor 15 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

WOOLWICH (Kent).—On Sunday, September 13th, after evening service at St. Mary's church, eight members of the above Society, rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 43 mins. W. G. Shade, 1; L. Green, 2; S. Joyce, 3; T. Banister, 4; H. J. Shade, 5; E. E. Richards (conductor), 6; W. Prime, 7; H. Bright, 8. This is a five-part composition by H. J. Shade, of Greenwich.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday, August 18th, at St. Paul's church, for practice, the first part of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. S. J. Cullip, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; M. Warwick, 3; T. Foote, 4; J. Atkins, 5; J. N. Frossell, 6; I. Hills, 7; W. Biggs, 8. Also on Tuesday, August 25th, a touch of 252 of Bob Triples. F. M. Smith, 1; M. Warwick, 2; C. West, 3; T. Foote, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6; I. Hills, 7; W. Hall, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. And on Thursday, August 27th, at St. Mary's church, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles), in 24 mins. C. W. Clarke (conductor), 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; M. Warwick, 3; I. Hills, 4; W. Hall, 5; T. Foote (first 720 in the method), 6. And on Thursday, September 3rd, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). F. Keech, 1; T. Foote (first 720 in the method), 2; I. Hills, 3; M. Warwick (first 720 in the method), 4; W. Hall (first 720 in the method), 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, September 10th, a 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). I. Hills, 1; S. J. Cullip (first 720 in the method), 2; F. M. Smith, 3; M. Warwick (first 720 in the method), 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; W. Hall, 6.

BROMHAM (Beds).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Saturday, September 5th, at St. Owen's church, with the bells deeply muffled, a 720 each of Woodbine and Kent Treble Bob Minor, as a mark of respect to the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, in 58 mins. C. West, 1; T. Foote, 2; F. M. Smith, 3; I. Hills, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; J. N. Frossell, 6. First 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob by T. Foote.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

SELBY OAK (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday, September 8th, six members of the above Association rang at St. Mary's Church, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. G. Hale, 1; E. Bush, 2; H. Smith, 3; E. Boylin, 4; E. Bryant, 5; J. Nix (conductor), 6.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

STAINDROP.—On Saturday evening, September 12th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 29 mins. *J. G. Pratt, 1; J. Cleminson, 2; W. H. Johnson, 3; D. Shipp (conductor), 4; *F. Charlton, 5; J. Brown, 6. Also 300 in the same method. W. Mc Lean, 1; J. Cleminson, 2; A. J. B. Waldron, 3; F. W. Castree, 4; D. Shipp (conductor), 5; J. Brown, 6. Pratt, Cleminson, Charlton, Waldron, and Castree, were visitors from South Church, Bishop Auckland, who, after the ringing, were kindly entertained to supper by the conductor, Mr. D. Shipp. *First 720 in the method.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Saturday evening, at St. Gregory's church, the following members of the above Association rang the first half of Holt's 10-part peal of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 38 mins. *F. Tolladay, 1; C. Sillitoe, 2; *G. S. Browne, 3; *M. Silvester, 4; W. Howell, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; *H. Brackett, 8. *Longest touch in the method. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

THE HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.

HERTFORD.—On Saturday, September 12th, at St. Andrew's church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes) in 45 mins. Henry J. Tucker, 1; William L. Randall, 2; James Staples, 3; Henry Phillips, 4; William A. Alps, 5; Stephen Knight, 6; Herbert Baker (conductor), 7; Frederick George, 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BIRCHINGTON (Kent).—On Saturday, September 12th, eight members of this Association, also members of the Quex Park band, attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples (Taylor's Bob-and-Single variation), at the Waterloo Tower, but after ringing 2700 changes, in 1 hr. 40 mins., the peal came to grief. C. Willshire, 1; L. Willshire, 2; A. Sayer, 3; T. B. Reed, jun., 4; T. B. Reed, 5; P. A. Reed (conductor), 6; G. Willshire, 7; S. Fulcher, 8.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Thursday evening, September 3rd, at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Bob Minor (eight bobs and ten singles), in 27 mins., with the bells half-muffled as a last mark of respect to John Tapley, of Raune, Wisconsin, U.S.A., who died at Folkestone, August 22nd, aged 61 years, and the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, late Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon. Charles Slingsby, 1; Edward Hyder, 2; William Post, jun., 3; Philip Hodgkin, 4; William Hyder (conductor), 5; William Post, sen., 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

LYMINGE (Kent).—On Sunday, September 6th, six members of the Aldington branch visited this place, and rung for Divine Service in the afternoon at SS. Mary and Eadburgh's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, with thirty singles, in 28 mins. P. Hodgkin, 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; F. Wanstall, 3; Thomas Hooker (Hastingleigh), 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. And after service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs), in 29 mins., standing as before. And a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 29 mins. James Prebble (Lyminge), 1; Richard Andrews (Lyminge), 2; Philip Hodgkin (Aldington), 3; Fred Wanstall (Aldington), 4; James Andrews (Lyminge; conductor), 5; Albert Tanton (Lyminge), 6. This is the first 720 the conductor has called. The above was rung to commemorate the 31st birthday of Albert Tanton (sexton) of Lyminge, his brother ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day. Tenor 18½ cwt. in F.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

MELBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Monday, September 14th, the local society rang 1440 changes of Bob Doubles, with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Thos. Horsley, son of Thos. Horsley, Esq., of Kings Newton, near Derby. G. A. Fish, 1; J. Vickers, 2; G. G. Tunnicliffe, 3; F. W. Cook, 4; T. Hollingworth (conductor), 5; T. Clarke, 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ABINGDON (Berks).—On Saturday, September 12th, 1885, at St.

Nicholas' church, the following members of the above Guild rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 25 mins. A. Barratt, 1; T. Short, 2; J. Higg, 3; J. Brown, 4; H. Sheard (conductor), 5; H. Holifield, 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD.—*Handbell Ringing*.—This branch met for their winter handbell practice, on Monday evening, September 14th, and rang two 720s of Bob Minor, viz.: 1st, twenty-five bobs and ten singles; 2nd, twenty bobs and ten singles. J. Keeble, 1; W. Nash, 2; A. J. Perkins, 3-4; B. Keeble, 5-6. Also a course of Oxford Treble Bob.

THE WANSTED AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

LOUGHTON (Essex).—On Thursday, September 10th, at St. John's church, the following members attempted a peal of Grandsire Triples Holt's ten-part, but after ringing six parts, 3000 changes, in 2 hrs. and 3 mins., the bells had to be called round, on account of the 7th and tenor going badly. W. Smith, 1; J. Priest, 2; G. Akers, 3; W. Lebbon, 4; J. Nunn, 5; E. Richards, 6; A. H. Gardom (conductor), 7; W. Truss and J. King, 8. Our correspondent adds: "These bells, I hope, will shortly be in a better condition for ringing peals."

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

NORTON.—On Tuesday, September 8th, 720 of Stedman's Slow Course, in 27½ mins. W. Baddeley, 1; E. Glover, 2; J. Morton, 3; J. Wood, 4; J. W. Brough, 5; G. Walker (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, September 13th, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 27 mins. W. Baddeley, 1; E. Glover, 2; G. Walker, 3; J. Wood, 4; J. Baddeley (conductor), 5; J. W. Brough, 6.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

GARSTON (Lancashire).—On Friday, September 11th, at St. Michael's church, it being Harvest Festival, the local company rang after service a 360 of Grandsire Minor, in 15 mins., with the tenor covering. S. Gough, 1; S. Carter, 2; T. Morris, 3; W. Hughes (conductor), 4; J. Allan, 5; F. Turner, 6; P. Smith, 7. And on Sunday, September 13th, a touch of Grandsire Triples. S. Gough, 1; P. Barton, 2; J. Bacall, 3; J. Alexander, 4; W. Hughes, 5; F. Turner, 6; S. Atken, 7; J. Mills, 8. On Monday, September 13th, after service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26½ mins. S. Gough, 1; S. Carter, 2; W. Turner, 3; W. Hughes, 4; J. Allan, 5; F. Turner (conductor), 6. On Monday, September 14th, a mixed company rang for service, a 360 of Grandsire Minor, in 12 mins. S. Gough, 1; W. Hughes (conductor), 2; J. Allan, 3; J. Alexander, 4; W. Booth (Liverpool), 5; F. Turner, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

TIPTON (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, September 5th, at St. Martin's church, eight members of the above Association attempted a peal of Grandsire Major, 10,368 changes, but after ringing 4300 changes, in 2 hrs. 30 mins., it came to grief, owing to a shift-course. J. Jones, 1; B. Dalton, 2; W. R. Small, 3; W. Pardoe, 4; T. Horton, 5; James Jones, 6; W. Elesmore, 7; J. Fullwood (conductor), 8. The peal is composed by John Carter, of Birmingham, and contains the 120 course-ends, with the tenors together throughout. Another attempt will be made on Saturday, October 3rd, at 2.30 p.m. Messrs. James Jones and Dalton, hail from Tettenhall; Horton, Ellsmore, and Small from West Bromwich; Fullwood, J. Jones and Pardoe from Tipton.

BANGOR (Flintshire, North Wales).—On Friday, September 11th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 24 mins. Alfred Lea, 1; J. Williams, 2; John Ellis, 3; T. Newell, 4; Edw. Reyland, 5; Francis E. Dawe (conductor), 6. Tenor about 9 cwt. This is the first 720 of Treble Bob ever rung on these bells, which were hung about the middle of the last century. F. E. Dawe hails from London, the rest are from Wrexham.

BATLEY CARR (Yorkshire).—On Sunday morning, September 6th, for service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 26 mins. John W. Simon, 1; John Blackburn, 2; Harry Mitchell, 3; Jas. A. Idle, 4; Squire Mitchell (conductor), 5; Geo. H. Simon, 6.

BATH (Somersetshire).—On Sunday, September 6th, at St. Andrew's church, for evening service, 741 Grandsire Triples. G. Kingman (Bath), 1; J. Norton (Bristol), 2; H. Wooton (Twerton), 3; J. Hinton (conductor; Bristol), 4; J. Smith (Twerton), 5; G. Townsend (Bristol), 6; H. Porch (Bristol), 7; H. Wyburn (Bath), 8. Also at St. Mary's, Bathwick, after service, touches of Grandsire Minor and Stedman Doubles, with Messrs Cox and Weeks, of Bath.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Saturday, September 12th, was rung a 720 of Cambridge Surprise. F. Bumpstead, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; S. Hammond, 3; H. E. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; A. Hucksion, 6. This 720 was rung without a bob being called or any sign given at any

lead throughout the peal, and was also rung in honour of Mr. A. Hucksion's 57th birthday. On Monday, September 14th, to oblige Mr. A. A. Pryke, who was on a visit to this town, a 720 of Bob Minor. F. Calthorpe, 1; A. A. Pryke, 2; H. E. Hammond (conductor), 3; F. Bumpstead, 4; S. Hammond, 5; A. Hucksion, 6. Also a 240 of College Exercise. A. A. Pryke, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; the others as before.

BRIGHTON (Sussex).—On Monday, September 14th, at the church of St. Nicholas, the Brighton society rang with H. Weston, of St. Peter's church, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. W. Harvey, 1; H. Boniface, 2; H. Weston, 3; James Neves, 4; C. Tyler, 5; G. King, 6; J. Searle (conductor), 7; W. Palmer, 8. Tenor 19 cwt. in F.

BRISTOL.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Sunday, September 13th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). J. Brain, 1-2; G. Townsend, 3-4; J. Hinton (conductor), 5-6; J. Norton, 7-8.

DARTFORD (Kent).—On Sunday morning, September 13th, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal (1260 changes), in 45 mins. A. Rose, 1; G. May, 2; E. Snowden, 3; J. Harman (Woolwich), 4; J. Blackman, 5; J. Saxby (conductor), 6; C. Everson, 7; H. Rose, 8.

DENFORD (Northamptonshire).—On Saturday, September 6th, at Holy Trinity Church, a 720 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), 720 of Oxford Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). A. Groome, 1; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 2; J. Willmott, 3; E. Mayes, 4; H. Stubbs, 5; T. Roberts, 6. And a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (thirty-eight bobs and two singles). H. Stubbs and A. Groome changing places, the rest as before. And 360 of College Little (nine bobs), conducted by W. J. Gilbert. An attempt was made for a 5040, but after ringing 1 hr. it came to grief. Messrs. Gilbert, Stubbs, and Willmott hail from Raunds; E. Mayes and T. Roberts from Ringstead.

ECLESFIELD (Yorkshire).—On Sunday evening, September 13th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Duke of York, 720 of Violet (twenty-one bobs), and a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 1 hr. 11 mins. Henry Stringer, 1; William Turton, 2; George Shaw (conductor), 3; Fred Turton, 4; Sam Hemingfield, 5; Joseph Sorby, 6. Tenor 18½ cwt.

ELSTREE (Herts).—On Monday, September 14th, six members of the Cumberland Youths, with Mr. Comb, of the St. James's Society, paid a visit to this charming village, and rang upon the bells of the Parish Church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. J. Combe, 1; J. Page, 2; T. Titchener, 3; J. Hannington (conductor), 4; E. Chapman, 5; H. Driver, 6. Also a 700 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 23 mins. J. Page, 1; E. Chapman, 2; J. Hannington (conductor), 3; T. Titchener, 3; N. Alderman, 5; H. Driver, 6. These are the first 720's ever rung upon the bells. Tenor 9 cwt.

ELTHAM (Kent).—*Muffled Peal*.—On Tuesday, September 1st, at the Church of St. John the Baptist, two 720s of Grandsire Minor, with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Rev. A. L. P. Snow, for many years curate in charge of the above church. R. Hitches, 1; J. King, 2; W. Gosling, 3; C. Mussett, 4; G. Sheppard (conductor), 5; F. Fraser, 6. And on Sunday, September 6th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins., standing as before.

FOXEARH (Essex).—On Saturday, September 15th, at SS. Peter and Paul's, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. George Maxim, 1; D. Ward, 2; Walter Gridley, 3; R. Mingay, 4; James Bird, 5; Percy Scott (conductor), 6.

HAMPSTEAD (Middlesex).—On Sunday, September 13th, at St. Stephen's church, for Divine service in the morning, nine of the local company assisted by Mr. J. Combe, rang a 503 of Grandsire Caters. Also for Divine service in the evening, a 575 of Grandsire Caters. S. Clarke, 1; B. Foskett, 2; B. Paine, 3; J. Combe, 4; H. Tyler, 5; E. Chapman, 6; W. Pryor, 7; N. Alderman, 8; G. Newson (conductor), 9; W. Arscott, 10.

HANDSWORTH (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, September 13th, for evening service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. W. Cooper, 1; H. Bastable, 2; T. Reynolds, 3; G. Smith, 4; W. Verry, 5; J. Buffery (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

MEREWORTH (Kent).—On Sunday, September 6th, at St. Lawrence's church, for morning service, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins. C. Bassett, 1; F. G. Newman (conductor), 2; G. Bell, 3; G. Newman, 4; T. Buss, 5; W. Crockford, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt.

PENZANCE (Cornwall).—On Thursday evening, September 10th, at St. Mary's church, four parts of Holt's 10-part peal of Grandsire Triples, which, with the coming round consists of 2080 changes, in 1 hr. 20 mins. M. Hicks, 1; J. Symonds (conductor), 2; J. Boase, 3; J. W. Hichens, 4; J. Hodder, 5; T. Hicks, 6; C. Boase, 7; H. Mitchell, 8. A new stock with gudgeons has been supplied to the seventh bell, also new clapper tops and crown staples to the whole eight by Messrs. Taylor, thus rendering the "go" and striking of the bells all that can be desired.

PERRY BARR (Staffordshire).—On Monday, September 14th, at St. John's church, eight members of the Holt Society of Aston-juxta-Birmingham, rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, 1260 changes, in 44½ mins. H. Bastable, 1; T. Reynolds, 2; J. Carter (conductor), 3; W. Kent, 4; C. Stanbridge, 5; J. W. Cartwright, 6; B. Witchell, 7; J. Quarterman, 8. Tenor 13 cwt.

RAUNDS (Northamptonshire).—On Monday, September 7th, at St. Peter's church, for practice, a 720 of Plain Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). A. Coles, 1; R. Pendered, 2; G. Kirk, 3; B. W. Allen (first 720 in the method), 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; H. Stubbs (conductor), 6. And 120 of Oxford Treble Bob. A. Coles, 1; J. Willmott, 2; R. Pendered, 3; N. Martin (first 720 in the method), 4; W. J. Gilbert 5; H. Stubbs, 6.

READING (Berks).—On Sunday, September 6th, at St. Laurence's church, after evening service, a 800 of Bob Major, in 35 mins. H. M. Bawden, 1; J. Potter, 2; G. Gibbard, 3; W. Johnson, 4; J. E. Willshire, 5; W. Goseltine, 6; W. Newell, 7; W. J. Williams (conductor), 8. This touch was rung to commemorate the 34th anniversary of the captain's (Mr. W. Johnson) birthday. Also on Thursday, September 10th, at St. Giles' a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 30 mins. H. Smart, 8; A. E. Evans, 2; G. Gibbard, 3; A. J. Wright, 4; T. Hibbert, 5; H. Egby (conductor), 6. *First 720.

RINGSTEAD (Northamptonshire).—On Tuesday, September 1st, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). E. Mayes, 1; G. Roberts (first 720 with a bob bell), 2; J. Braybrook, 3; J. Sawford, 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; T. Roberts (conductor), 6. Also 360 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor. W. J. Gilbert, 1; J. Braybrook, 2; R. Shipley, 3; J. Sawford, 4; E. Mayes, 5; T. Roberts (conductor), 6.

ROTHWELL (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, September 12th, at Holy Trinity church, a mixed band rang 1728 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major. J. Haigh, (conductor), 1; W. Haigh, 2; J. Haigh, 3; A. Chapman, 4; J. M. Chadwick, 5; W. Abbshaw, 6; S. Stacey, 7; J. Chapman, 8. The three Haighs hail from Woodlesford, the rest belong to Rothwell.

SAFFRON WALDEN (Essex).—On Saturday evening, September 12th, at St. Mary's church, for practice, the local company rang a quarter-peal of Stedman Triplea, 1260 changes, in 48 mins. J. Freeman, 1; J. F. Penning, 2; E. Pitstow, 3; C. Freeman, 4; G. Martin, 5; N. J. Pitstow, 6; F. Pitstow (conductor), 7; A. G. Coe, 8.

SHIPLEY (Yorkshire).—On Sunday evening, September 13th, for the Harvest Festival service, the local company, with J. Cheethan and J. Wilson, rang a touch of 1376 of Kent Treble Bob Major. T. Lilley, 1; W. Wilks, senr., 2; Job A. Ross, 3; W. Wilks, jun., 4; J. S. Clark, 5; W. E. London, 6; J. Cheetham (conductor), 7; John Wilson, 8.

SALISBURY (Wilts).—On Thursday, September 3rd, a 720 of Bob Minor, eighteen bobs and two singles, in 28 mins. J. Short, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; E. Hull, 4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5; W. W. Gifford, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. Mr. E. Hull hails from Leatherhead, and is a member of the Leatherhead branch of the Winchester Guild. And on Tuesday, September 15th, at St. Edmund's church, a 336 of Grandsire Triples. J. Parsons, 1; E. F. Cole (London), 2; C. A. Clements, 3; E. A. Foster, 4; F. Rigden, 5; J. R. Jerram, 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; J. Hallett and W. Prince, 8. A quarter-peal was attempted, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing for about half-an-hour. Tenor 30 cwt.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Thursday evening, September 10th, at St. Mary's parish church, a 360 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor, a 120 of Oxford Single Bob Minor, and a 120 of Grandsire Minor. And on Sunday morning, September 13th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Oxford Single Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins. J. Hurst, 1; C. J. Rodgers, 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. And for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles; the singles occurring in the 3rd and 6th parts), in 26 mins. Mr. T. Evans of Childwall, rang the 2nd, the rest standing as before. Tenor 9 cwt.

WANSTEAD.—On Sunday, September 6th, for evening service at Christ Church, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. J. King, 1; W. Smith, 2; H. Nunn, sen., 3; J. Priest, 4; J. Marks, 5; G. Akers (conductor), 6. Also after service, a 720 of Treble Bob, in 27 mins. H. Nunn, sen., 1; H. Scarlett (conductor), 2; G. Akers, 3; W. Lebbon, 4; A. H. Gardom, 5; J. Priest, 6.

FOR SALE.—A set of 50 Handbells, four octaves, chromatic, from C to C. In good condition. Apply to F. LEES, 42, Snow Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Correspondence.

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

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

SHALL WE HAVE A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION?

SIR,—After a lapse of two years we now have it recorded that the work of the Reading Conference has fallen through. Why we should have waited so long for something definite from one of the committee, remains to be explained. Now, Sir, with all due respect to the Rev. gentleman who officiated as Secretary, unless he is prepared to dispute the accuracy of your report of the proceedings, I think he will admit that there is some misunderstanding as to what the committee were requested to undertake. I believe the instructions were, 1. To draw up a scheme for the formation of a National Association; 2. To publish the same in the ringing journal; 3. To forward a copy of the same to the Secretaries of the various Associations, and to request an opinion to be returned after the scheme had been submitted to a meeting of the members; 4. To call a meeting in the following year either for approval or disapproval of the scheme. Now, Sir, what could have been the object of the Committee in carrying out the third request before they took action upon the second. Unless they can show some feasible reason for doing so, I can come to no other conclusion but what such was an error, and one which prevented the scheme from obtaining more support. For instance, it was twelve months after the meeting before the scheme saw daylight in your pages, yet sometime previously the matter was brought before Association meetings; at some of these the scheme was read through at the tail-end of the meeting, with the result that most of the members being desirous of breaking up, declined to entertain the matter, and not having had the opportunity of a perusal of the scheme, which they would have done had it been inserted in your pages first. The whole question, so far as they were concerned, was allowed to fall through. With respect to the fourth instruction, I fail to see where the power of the Committee is to judge of the support that the scheme obtained if such should be the death or life of the Association. Where, I ask, would some of our County Associations have been at the present day if the promoters had waited for the pear to become ripe? I could point to those that have started in small numbers, but they have flourished. I remember the formation of one which originated from less than a baker's dozen, but at the end of two years had upon its roll over a baker's gross; but if the promoters had waited for the baker's gross or its present 250 members to have come forward and demanded the existence of an Association, such would never existed. Just the same with a National Association, if established upon a firm basis, even if started in a small way, it will expand itself and its roll rapidly increase. By its annual congress meetings it would demand the attention of the fourth estate of the realm—the daily press—and its promoters would leave for the future ringing generation that which would prove an inestimable benefit. By its moving from county to county, it would watch over our local associations, and by its influence stimulate them into action in carrying out Belfry Reform in their districts, and the day would come when it would be just as rare to find a tower out of order as it is now to find one in order.

NIL DESPERANDUM.

LONDON SOCIETIES.

SIR,—Will you kindly find me a corner to endorse the sentiment of G. Muskett on the above heading. I was afraid Mr. Author was treading on delicate ground, hence the severe rebuke. But now the heavy gun has discharged such a deadly shot, sufficient not only to blow off the thumbnail, but to penetrate the heart and put a fatal stop to such mean and baneful correspondence that has appeared in our journal of late (*vide* Long Melford). I have had some years' experience in ringers, and am aware there always was and always will be petty jealousies creep in like a thief in the night, and needs no assistance from "Thumbnail" author to beget discord and contention, and hope his next sketches will be of a more conciliatory tone, and endeavour to heal the wound rather than make a bigger sore, for I am sure such names as G. M. has mentioned, and many others that I could name who have spent hundreds of hours in trying to promote the art, and it is no mean job having to contend with learners and those who are advanced a little, for in time some of them will begin to portray symptoms such as being whimsical, shifty, shuffling, and numbskulls, and you need have patience of Job to endure it, so, Mr. Editor, no wonder at the "Muskett" being shouldered to lower such ingratitude as the author of "Thumbnail Sketches."

OLD SHEFF.

THE BELLS OF EXETER CATHEDRAL.

SIR,—I read with interest the article on the above subject last week, but should feel obliged if the author or anyone else will kindly point out how there are more than three rings of six to be had on the eleven bells, with the semitone in its usual place (in the middle). We are told there are four. Where are they?

DEVONIAN.

THE ST. PETER'S AMALGAMATED SOCIETY, SHEFFIELD.

ON Saturday, September 5th, the members and friends of the above society met together and spent a very pleasant evening, the occasion being to celebrate the completion of the performance of 100 peals by Mr. Thomas Hattersley, the worthy Treasurer of the society. The meeting took place at the "Brown Bear," where host Whittaker had provided a very substantial supper, to which twenty-six sat down. "Go" being called, an onslaught was made on the good things provided, the course-ends coming up in proper form, and brought round about 7.30. The cloth being removed, Mr. William Booth was voted to the chair, with Mr. Frank Willey as vice-chairman, while Mr. C. H. Hattersley took the prominent position of "sidesman." The first toast of the evening, "The Queen," was drank in an appropriate manner. Mr. W. Booth, in proposing "The Health of Mr. Thomas Hattersley," spoke in very high praise of that gentleman, who is pretty well known among the ringing fraternity as a very free and willing member, always willing to show any young hand, or in fact do anything that will advance the science. The proposition was seconded by Mr. Joseph Mulligan, and drank with musical honours. Mr. Hattersley replied in a suitable manner, saying what he had done for the science in the past, he was willing to do in the future to the utmost of his ability. Mr. F. Willey proposed "Success to THE BELL NEWS" which was well received. The rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, viz.; handbell ringing and songs, which were well rendered, especially those of Mr. C. H. Hattersley, who sang "My Village Home" with much effect, as also did Mr. Hammond in "Ah, never deem," while Mr. C. Steer, in his humorous song "Four and Nine," brought down the house. Messrs. Allen and Atkin of Norton, added some amusement by singing "Dame Durden," and the "Three Jolly Boys," assisted by Joseph Mulligan. Other songs were also sung by Mr. T. Hattersley, F. Willey, and J. Rew, Mr. David Hammond making a very able accompanist. A vote of thanks to the chairman brought a most enjoyable evening to a close. Mr. Thomas Hattersley's 100 peals comprise: one peal of Treble Bob Maximus; three of Stedman Cinques; one of Grandsire Cinques; nine of Treble Bob Royal; five of Stedman Caters; eighteen of Grandsire Caters; two of Bob Royal; one of five methods; eight of Stedman Triples; twenty-eight of Grandsire Triples; and twenty-four of Treble Bob Major.

DEDICATION AND OPENING OF TWO NEW BELLS AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SAWSTON, CAMBRIDGE.

Sawston, a thriving village on the borders of Cambridgeshire, presented quite an animated appearance on Sunday, September 13th, being the dedication and opening of two new trebles (also the Harvest Thanksgiving) lately added by Messrs. Lewis, and Co. of Brixton, London, the gift of a gentleman in the neighbourhood. The service of Dedication was performed by the Bishop of Ely, and the opening of the bells was entrusted to the Saffron Walden Society, also members of the Royal Cumberland Youths. The proceedings commenced by the ringers ringing a touch of Plain Bob on the old six, then the service of Dedication and Thanksgiving. This being concluded, the ropes were handed to the ringers, who rang touches in the following methods: Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, the ringing being kept up until half-past nine. A great many people waited in the vicinity of the church to hear the new bells, the majority of whom went away disappointed. We cannot say either that the ringing was as satisfactory as one would wish, the 2nd and tenor going so bad that it was found impossible to ring them but for short touches only. There was also ringers from Cambridge, Stanstead, and Glensford, all of whom were of the opinion that something more must be done before any good ringing can be done at Sawston. The ringers from Saffron Walden included Messrs. N. J. Pitstow, G. Martin, J. F. Penning, C. Freeman, E. Pitstow, and F. Pitstow; Messrs. S. and J. Slater from Glensford; G. Taylor from Cambridge; H. and W. Prior, and J. Luckey, from Stanstead; the conducting of the ringing being divided between Messrs. N. J. and F. Pitstow. The Saffron Walden ringers wish, through the columns of this paper, to thank the Vicar and churchwardens for their kindness and liberality on this occasion, and to express a hope that before long something will be done to enable ringers to accomplish peals at Sawston worthy of record.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

THE usual Quarterly Meeting was held on Saturday, September 12th, at Eccleston, but owing to the 5th bell being under repair for the occasion, which was a few hours short of being completed, the members had not the opportunity of ringing, but after the business meeting was over, it being well attended, the members departed for home.

ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.

ON Monday, September 7th, the members of this society held their annual outing, Chelmsford being selected for the occasion. Part of visitors arrived on the previous Saturday about 5.30, and being met by some of the local ringers, at once made for the tower of St. Mary's, and rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins. G. Naish, 1; J. Dains (Widford), 2; W. Rowland (Chelmsford), 3; W. Hawkes (Springfield), 4; G. Gray, 5; J. Strutt, 6; J. Wright (conductor), 7; E. Milton, 8. The rest of the evening was spent with the handbells, a course of Grandsire Triples being rung by Messrs. Strutt, Wright, and Gray. On Sunday morning they journeyed to Widford, a very pleasant walk about a mile and a half, the local company starting for a 720 of Cambridge Surprise to oblige Mr. J. Strutt, who is an old Widford ringer, but this was unsuccessful, though some good ringing was accomplished. W. Harvey, 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake (conductor), 5; J. Strutt, 6. After dinner a walk of about a mile and a half took them to Great Baddow, where having obtained permission of the Vicar and churchwardens, rung 1008 and several touches of Grandsire Triples, altogether about 2500 changes. W. Harvey, 1; J. Strutt (conductor), 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; G. Gray, 5; J. Wright, 6; E. Scotcher (Galleywood), E. Milton, 8. On Monday they paid a visit to Writtle, about two miles, where they met the Vicar the Rev. — Papillon, and Mr. J. Field, of Oxford. Permission have already been obtained for a peal of Grandsire Triples, they at once proceeded to the tower where they found everything ready. The Vicar wishing them success, retired, and a start was made, but a mistake occurred in the fourth 500, and the bells were brought round half-way in 1 hr. 30 mins. G. Naish, 1; J. Field, 2; C. Slade, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; G. Gray, 5; J. Strutt (conductor), 6; J. Wright, 7; E. Milton, 8. After, a 1008 was rung with W. Piper at the treble, and three courses with the Vicar at the second. A course of Grandsire Triples on the handbells in the tower brought the ringing to a close. J. Wright, 1-2; J. Strutt, 3-4; J. Field, 5-6; G. Gray, 7-8. After thanking the Vicar for his kindness in allowing the use of the bells, the company wended their way back to Chelmsford, where several friends were waiting to bid them adieu. Starting at eight o'clock they reached Kingston at eleven, highly pleased with their outing, and wish to thank all those friends for their kindness and ready manner in which they met them and helped to make their visit a successful one.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.—THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

THE following is an account of the ringing done by the Braintree branch during the month of August:—

August 2nd, 720 Double Court, 720 Kent Treble Bob, 720 of Cambridge Surprise; August 8th: 720 Kent Treble Bob; August 9th: 720 Cambridge Surprise, 120 Bob Minor, 720 of Bob Minor; August 11th: 720 Cambridge Surprise; August 16th: 720 Kent Treble Bob, 360 Oxford Treble Bob; August 18th: 720 Double Oxford Bob; August 23rd: 360 Double Court, 240 Cambridge Surprise; August 24th: 720 New London Pleasure; August 28th: 720 Double Court; August 29th, 360 Cambridge Surprise.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

As I find the Rev. K. H. Smith, the Hon. Sec. of the Ely Diocesan Association is still unable to send you a report of the district meeting of the above at Sudbury (for which I am very sorry, and hope he will soon recover), and as no one else has written upon the subject, I think it would be as well to inform the members that were not present that it was decided to hold the next meeting at Cambridge on Monday, October 5th, and as the time is drawing near, I would recommend those members who have not already done so to pay their subscriptions and obtain their cards of membership, as it is very necessary they should, if they think of attending the meeting. A. H. OSBORNE.
Bury St. Edmunds.

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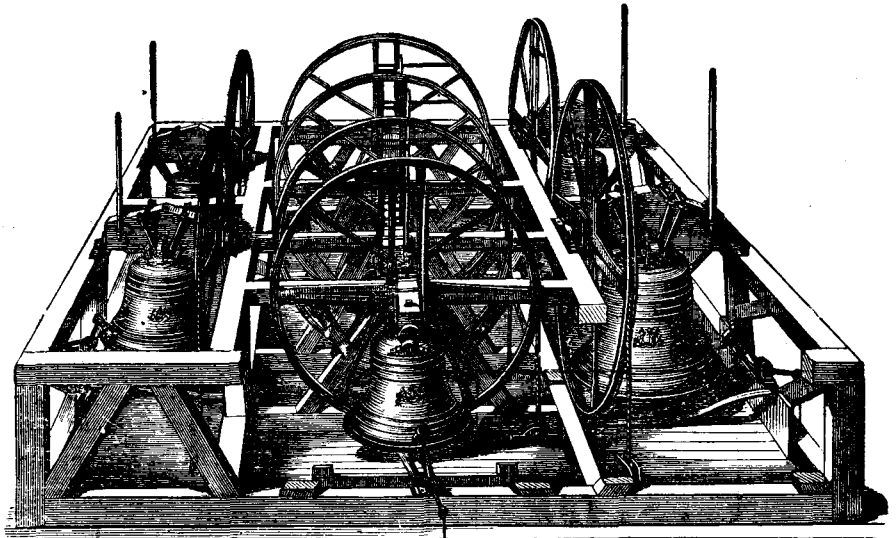
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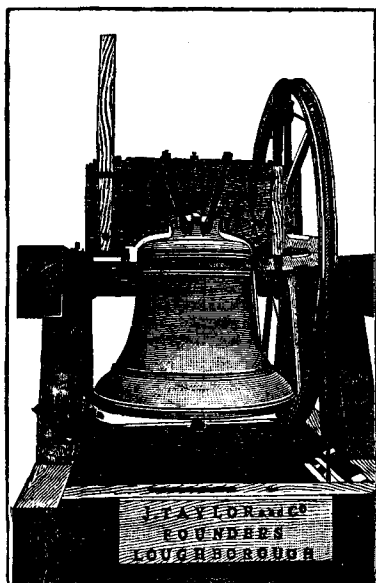
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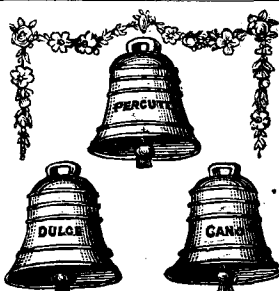
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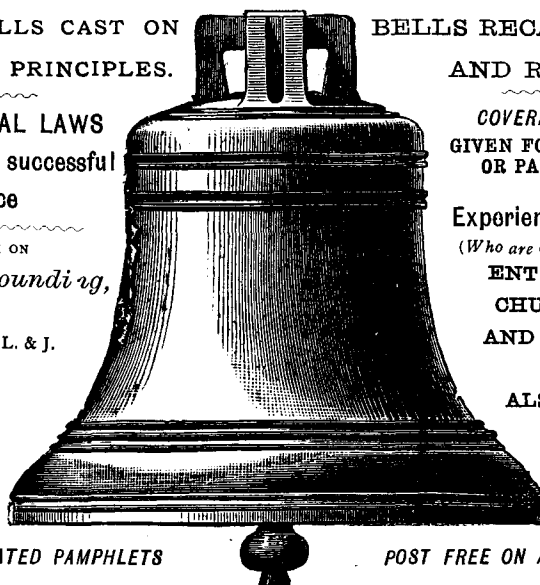
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