THE BELL NEWS
And Ringers' Record:
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 207. [NEW SERIES.]—*VOL. IV.* SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1886. [ONE PENNY.

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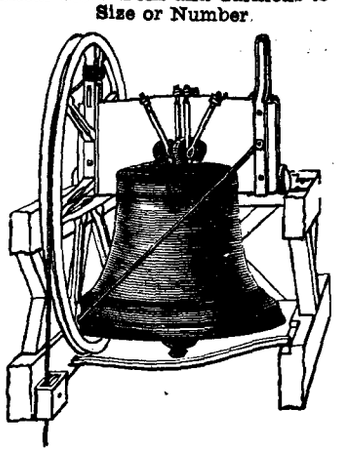
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PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL TO MR. HENRY JOHNSON, AT BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, the 27th ulto., being the eve of the 77th birthday of this distinguished veteran, a number of ringing and other friends assembled at St. Martin's Hotel, to give him a complimentary dinner, and to present to him his portrait, accompanied by a suitable address. A very select and distinguished company met to do honour to the occasion, which included visitors from London, Waltham Abbey, Cheltenham, Leamington, Kidderminster, West Bromwich, Tipton, Burton-on-Trent, Sheffield, etc. During the afternoon various touches at St. John's and St. Martin's were rung, the chief of which was a touch of 926 Stedman Cinques, by C. H. Hattersley (conductor), 1; W. Baron, 2; J. Joynes, 3; H. Bastable, 4; W. Kent, 5; W. Pates, 6; A. Wakley, 7; T. Reynolds, 8; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 9; W. Alps, 10; W. Wakley, 11; H. Johnson, jun., 12.

At half-past six o'clock, between fifty and sixty assembled at dinner under the presidency of the Rev. J. H. Fish, Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent. The cloth being drawn, the proceedings commenced by the toast—"Queen and Country."

Mr. A. G. Thomas (St. Mary's, Battersea) gave the next toast—"Church and State." He called the attention of the company to what was daily occurring in their midst, how some persons were using their influence, not only in trying to incite public opinion against, but also to sever the time-honoured connection of their old Church and State. It was his pleasure and privilege to couple with the toast the name of their chairman, the Rev. James H. Fish.

A course of Grandsire Cinques was rung on handbells by Messrs. J. Buffery, 1-2; J. Carter, 3-4; W. Alps, 5-6; W. Kent, 7-8; B. Witchell, 9-10; T. Russam, 11-12.

In responding to the toast of "The Church," the rev. chairman exhorted his brother-ringers to stand by their Church in these troublous and excited times.

A course of Stedman Caters was next rung on the handbells by Messrs. J. Joynes, 1-2; T. Powell, 3-4; W. Alps, 5-6; H. Bastable, 7-8; —. Hopkins, 9-10.

The Chairman next called upon the secretary to the testimonial fund to give a statement of account.

Mr. Alfred Thomas (Birmingham) said he need hardly remind the company present of the purpose and object for which they had met that evening, because most of them, if not all, must have read the announcement in "The Bell News." He then gave a brief *resumè* of the work which had been going on since that article appeared in which the Editor suggested that a testimonial should be made to their honoured and respected friend, Mr. Henry Johnson. After explaining the fluctuations in the subscription-list, the amounts of which had periodically appeared, and submitting to the meeting a suggestion how the Committee may dispose of the small surplus cash after paying all expenses, he said it gave him great pleasure to call upon his friend Mr. Charles Henry Hattersley to make the presentation.

Mr. Hattersley said—Rev. sir and gentlemen,—It gives me great pleasure to come among my Birmingham friends, and to meet the many gentlemen assembled here, but it is especially so this evening, when I am called upon to perform so pleasing a ceremony to one of my dearest and most esteemed friends. After alluding to the indisputable abilities of many of Birmingham's most prominent ringers in the past, and paying a high compliment to Mr. John Perks (who, as many of our readers are aware, called the long peal of Stedman Caters some years ago at Astor), and who was present on this occasion, Mr. Hattersley turned to the guest of the evening, and addressing him, said—"And now, my dear Mr. Johnson, on behalf of the subscribers, and on behalf of the Committee, and on behalf of the present company, I have to ask you to accept this, your portrait, trusting that you may be long spared to look upon the same as a token of the respect and esteem with which you are at all times held by the ringing community, and when it shall please the hand of a good Providence to take you from among us, we trust that this portrait will be kept by a member of your family with that same feeling of love and admiration which has prompted the many subscribers, and those assembled here, to present you with the same, and may God bless you." The speaker at this point became visibly affected, and stepping forward, gave Mr. Johnson an hearty English grasp of the hand. Mr. Hattersley then removed the cover from the portrait, which elicited loud and continued applause.

The portrait was executed at the studio of Messrs. A. and G. Taylor, of London, and reflects great credit upon the artistic resources of their establishment. It is about three-quarter life-size, and depicts Mr. Johnson standing, with one hand resting on a table, and looking up as if about to answer one of the many questions which are put to him by ringers.

The Chairman next read the address, which was as follows:

"To Mr. Henry Johnson, Sen.

"Dear Sir,—In presenting you with this portrait on behalf of your friends, admirers, and brother-ringers in Birmingham and throughout England, we feel we are making an inadequate acknowledgement of the invaluable time, immense labour, and unwearying devotion of a lifetime which has been given to furthering the noble art and science of change-ringing.

"Your skill as a practical ringer and conductor, accompanied by your earnest desire to cultivate a high standard of excellence and good taste for true and correct ringing has not only been appreciated by your associates, but is acknowledged throughout the Exercise.

"As a composer you have few compeers in the science whether in the past or present, your compositions being marked by an originality and special merit which will commend them to the admiration of posterity, and will secure to your name a lustre as endearing as the art you have so well loved and so immensely benefitted.

"Throughout an illustrious career, extending through more than half a century your urbanity of manner and willingness to render the assistance so frequently asked for has won for you a deep and universal feeling of respect and esteem.

"That your declining years may be blessed with a well-earned repose, and be brightened by a sense of the appreciation which this presentation is intended to convey, is the sincere wish of the many subscribers on whose behalf we have the honour to address you. Signed,

Henry Bastable,
John Buffery,
Job Joynes,
William R. Small,
Alfred Thomas, *Hon. Sec.*
Feb. 28th, 1886. Samuel Reeves, *Hon. Treas.*"

The address was written and illuminated at the chambers of Mr. Newey, Artist, Paradise Street, Birmingham. It is on vellum, and in an English oak frame, the corners recording respectively the four chief performances of Mr. Johnson, viz., a peal each of Stedman Major and Royal, with two of Stedman Cinques. On a ribbon at the sides are the words "Ring out the false, ring in the true."

During the evening, a congratulatory telegram was received from the Macclesfield company, announcing a complimentary peal, also a beautiful silk handkerchief from Mr. Matthews—his well-known ringers' pattern—bestudded with bells and ringing mottoes.

Mr. Johnson, in briefly acknowledging the compliment paid to him, said he wished to thank them, one and all, for the valuable present which, by their united efforts they had been enabled to give him, and more especially did he thank all those gentlemen who had undertaken the responsibility of getting up this Testimonial.

The Chairman next gave the toast of the evening, "The Health of Mr. Johnson," which was received with musical honours, and "three times three." In the course of his remarks, after apologising for the absence of several prominent members of the Exercise, Mr. Fish said that their friend Mr. Johnson was one of the few remaining links between the old and the new state of things. Under the old order, the performances of a bye-gone generation of worthies like Day and Cooper, and Thurstans and Lates, to whose genius and labours not only their own immediate neighbourhood, but also the whole of England was deeply indebted, had to be content with seeking a precarious existence in the pages of some sporting newspaper, were they were hidden away in odd corners; amongst scraps of cockfighting news and similarly edifying matter. Whereas under the new *régime*, the Exercise was able to boast of a well-conducted and orderly journal, whose columns were exclusively devoted to the recognition of ringing interests. In the pages of that day's "Bell News" they would find, set out in the place of honour, in large bold characters, no less than twenty-one peals, which were the result of the previous week's ringing alone. This marvellous growth of interest and intelligence in their art had been no doubt in a great measure fostered by the unremitting labours of the late Mr. Jasper Whitfield Snowdon, whose writings had been so universally read, and whose premature death had been so widely deplored. But if Mr. Snowdon had been there that night, he would have been the first to confess the obligation he was under to the hero of the evening for much of the valuable information he had been instrumental in making public. In conclusion, the chairman hoped these meetings would become an annual institution, as in addition to being opportunities of honouring one whose name name deserved to be held in honour, they were also occasions of gathering together ringers from all parts of the country, and thereby supplying a want which had long been acknowledged. The chairman here had to leave in order to catch an early train.

A course of Grandsire Caters on the handbells was then rung by G. H. Phillott, Esq., 1-2; —. Morris, 3-4; W. Baron, 5-6; W. Pates, 7-8; S. Reeves, 9-10.

Other toasts were suitably honoured, including "The Visitors," which was responded to by G. H. Phillott, Esq. (Cheltenham), the remainder of the evening being enlivened with songs from Messrs. Hattersley, Reeves, Hopkins, H. Thomas, and recitations from Messrs. Ward and A. G. Thomas.

On Sunday, the 28th ult., before morning service, the following rang three courses of Stedman Cinques. —. Hopkins, 1; J. Joynes, 2; T. Powell, 3; H. Johnson, jun., 4; W. R. Small, 5; W. Baron, 6; J. Buffery, 7; W. Kent, 8; W. Wakley, 9; W. Alps, 10; A. Thomas (conductor), 11; T. Reynolds, 12. And before evening service a 660 in the same method. H. Bastable (conductor), 1; —. Hopkins, 2; J. Joynes, 3; —. Haywood, 4; W. Baron, 5; T. Reynolds, 6; A. Thomas, 7; H. Johnson, jun., 8; C. Stanbridge, 9; W. Wakley, 10; J. Buffery, 11; H. Withers, 12.

BRADFORD AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

On Monday evening, March 8th, the members of this Society were entertained at dinner by the president, R. Tuke, Esq., in celebration of his accomplishment of fifty peals as a member of the Yorkshire Association. The dinner was held at the headquarters of the Society, the "Ring of Bells" Inn, and was of a substantial character. After due justice had been done to the many tempting viands placed before them, the tables were cleared. Mr. Tuke occupied the chair, and Mr. Jesse Naylor the vice-chair.

The chairman, after opening the convivial business of the evening, proposed the toast of "Church and State," remarking that it must be pleasing to Englishmen to see our Queen once more sharing in the enjoyments of the people. He was sure they would all be indignant at the conduct of those disloyal men who recently hissed at the name of the Queen. With regard to the Church, he thought that they, through their position, and not less for the treatment which they had now received, had special reasons for drinking that toast heartily. He stated that on Saturday last the Society met at St. John's Church to attempt a peal of Kent Treble Bob, in honour of the stay of the Bishop of Ripon in Bradford; this attempt failed, however, after ringing about two hours and a half, through a mis-call. He wrote to the Bishop, informing him of their intention, and had received the following letter:—

"The Palace, Ripon, March 6th, 1886.

"The Bishop of Ripon desires to thank the President and members of the Bradford Amalgamated Society of Change-Ringers for the compliment they have paid him in ringing a peal on the bells of St. John's Church, in honour of his visit to Bradford. He has been compelled to be absent during part of the afternoon, but has returned to Bradford in time to hear a good portion of the ringing, which he much admires, and for which he desires to express his hearty thanks."

The reading of the letter was greeted with applause, and the toast was honoured in a loyal manner.

A course of Grandsire Royal was then rung on the handbells, after which Mr. Naylor, in a short but felicitous speech, proposed the health of Mr. Tuke, which was drunk very heartily, and Mr. Tuke replied, thanking them for their good wishes, and hoping they might all be spared to have many such pleasant evenings together.

Mr. H. Raistrick then proposed "Success to the Art of Change-ringing," to which Mr. J. H. Hardcastle responded.

After a song by Mr. Fisher, the toast of "The Bradford Amalgamated Society" was given by Mr. J. Angus, and responded to by Mr. Nathan Binns.

The Chairman then proposed the health of the visitors, to which Mr. Copley replied, concluding by asking all present to drink "Success to 'THE BELL NEWS.'" This toast was drunk very heartily, as was also that of "the Host and Hostess," proposed by Mr. A. Moulson, and responded to by the worthy host, Mr. Fowlds. During the evening Mr. Titterington gave a recitation, and courses of Grandsire, Treble Bob, and Plain Bob, were rung on the handbells, and the magistrates having granted an hour's extra license for the occasion, the company separated at twelve o'clock, having spent a most enjoyable evening.

EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday, March 6th, several members of the above Association visited All Saints' Church, Friskney, by the kind invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. H. J. Cheales, who is also President of the Association, in order to celebrate the 33rd birthday of one of its members. At 2 p.m., the company arrived at the Vicarage, and after the health of Mr. Mason, of Boston, had been drunk, the tower was visited, and two 720's of Bob Minor was rung. G. Clark, 1; Rev. H. J. Cheales, 2; W. F. Harwood, 3; J. Mawer, 4; S. G. F. Smith, 5; E. Mason (conductor), 6. A knife-and-fork tea was provided at the Vicarage by the Vicar. At 6 o'clock, the company returned to Boston and proceeded to St. Nicholas, Skirbeck, and rang 1886 changes of Grandsire Doubles, in 1 hr. 7 mins. T. Meads, 1; G. Clark, 2; E. Mason (conductor), 3; T. Routon, 4; W. F. Harwood, 5. After which they adjourned to the rectory, where the Rev. R. E. Roy had promised a supper. After the health of Mr. Mason had been drunk and a few remarks from the rector, the company separated, having spent a very pleasant day.

CHEPSTOW, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

On Monday evening, March 8th, five of the St. Mary's company, Chepstow, paid a friendly visit to Caldicot, Monmouthshire, and rang four six-scores of Bob Doubles, the first ever rang on the back six. J. Morley (conductor), 1; G. Watkins, 2; W. Green, 3; W. Woods, 4; T. Rosser, 5; T. Huntley, 6. Tenor 17 cwt. in D. T. Huntley hails from Mathern, Monmouthshire. There was some good call changes on the eight, joined by the local company. An adjournment was then made to the "Castle Inn," where the remaining part of the evening was spent in the company of their ringing friends, who were sorry to hear the landlord cry "stand." Then a start was made for home on "shanks' pony," where they arrived quite safe at 12.30 a.m., well pleased with their outing.

A CLOCK OF CLOCKS.

An old friend sends us the following curious extract from a newspaper:—

"THE famous clock of Strasburgh is put completely into the shade by 'the great World Clock, or the 10,000-year time-indicator.' 'It was constructed in Germany, during many years' labour, by Mr. Christian Martin, clockmaker.' The clock marks the years and leap-years, and will run for a hundred centuries, when, as the bill frankly admits, its mechanic works will have to be changed. The face of the clock is about 10 ft. square, and a large number of dials and little niches where 122 little figures have their abiding place. These latter, as the ever-ready bill explains, are 'to allegorize human life.' Every minute a sorrowful-looking angel hits a bell with a sledge-hammer. When he has done this fifteen times another angel in a red robe strikes the first quarter. 'The Genius,' dressed in a Louis XIV. costume, turns a dial so that the figure is shown. At the same time the figure of a child appears at a lower door. At the second quarter a youth appears; at the third a middle-aged man with spectacles and a high hat, and at the fourth a decrepit old wreck with a white wig. While all this is going on below, Death, in the shape of a Comanche Indian with wings, has been vainly endeavouring to hammer a bell in an upper niche, but an angel has headed him off in every case, and protected the human family 'by raising the right hand in an allegorical relation,' as per programme, until the fourth quarter. Then Death gets the better of the struggle, strikes the hour, and bundles the old man off into eternity. The twelve apostles are trotted out each hour. Above them is a figure of Christ, 'who blesses with both hands each apostle in passing,' as the bill states, with mathematical exactness. At morning, noon, and night a number of bellringers ring their respective bells with vindictive energy, and an old man drops upon his knees as if someone had kicked his legs out from under him. All these and many other wonders, exposing the family secrets of the Zodiac, the heathen gods, the seasons, the moon, and the globe, all run regularly. The whole structure is surmounted by a cock, which crows at six and twelve o'clock."

PRIZE-RINGING.

A friendly ringing match has taken place between six of the Aylsham, and six of the Marsham and Heveningham ringers. Aylsham, Marsham, and Heveningham being only a short distance apart, the above companies are all as one, and practice together. Mr. W. Crane, of Heveningham proposed that the Marsham and Heveningham Branch should ring a 720 of Bob Minor, against the Aylsham branch, for a dinner, which was accepted, and took place at Marsham, on Shrove Tuesday. Mr. F. Knights, Master of the St. Peter Mancroft Society, was chosen to act as judge. At the appointed time Messrs. Knights, Sadler, and E. Ward, from Norwich, arrived at Marsham, and met the ringers all in readiness. The two companies then entered the tower, and the Aylsham men were the first to ring, and accomplished a 720 in 25 mins., with ten marks against them. William Stackwood, 1; J. M. Roberts, 2; A. J. Neale, 3; Charles Clements, 4; G. Moy, 5; R. Stackwood (conductor), 6. The Marsham and Heveningham company next accomplished a 720 in 29 mins., with four marks against them, and were declared the winners. H. Kidd, 1; J. Matthewson, 2; Thos. Greenwood (conductor), 3; W. Crane, 4; P. Cushing, 5; J. Edridge, 6. Afterwards they adjourned to the meeting house, and brought the handbells into requisition, with a course of Grandsire Cinques. John Edridge, 1-2; Charles Clements, 3-4; Philip Cushing, 5-6; F. Knights (Norwich), 7-8; Thomas Greenwood, 9-10; Robert Stackwood, 11-12. Touches of Treble Bob, songs by Mr. W. Stackwood, etc., and some tune-playing by F. Knights and F. H. Knights, brought a most enjoyable evening to a close.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.

AN exceedingly interesting and amusing evening was spent at the National Schoolroom, on Wednesday evening, March 3rd, with the All Saints' handbell ringers. This is the first entertainment given by this youthful society, but we venture to predict that it will not be the last, but rather that many pleasant hours will yet be spent in listening to their sweet-toned bells. The ringers were Messrs. A. Worner conductor), W. I. Worner, J. B. Passley, W. Lye, and P. Wheeler, and are to be congratulated on the improvement they have made since assisting at a Church of England Temperance Society entertainment a little while ago, and no doubt they will go on improving until a high state of efficiency is attained. Their vocal pieces were also well rendered, especially the "Village Chorister," and "Dame Durden." Mr. C. W. Drew, organist of All Saints' Church, kindly played all the accompaniments except Miss Goodlands. Miss Ware very tastefully played her solos, shewing how familiar she must be with the piano, and was deservedly encored. Miss E. Goodland nicely sang her songs, being rewarded with an encore for her second song. The song "Sally in our Alley," by Mr. J. B. Passley, and "Umbrella Courtship," by Mr. A. Worner, was well received, and had to be repeated.

Correspondence.

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

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

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SIR,—All members of the above Association will learn with regret of the approaching resignation of the Rev. H. A. Cockey, as hon. sec., and as he is about to leave the county, I would suggest that some recognition of his valuable services be made at the annual meeting at Whitsuntide. This would be the most convenient opportunity for such an event, as most members of the Association meet together on that occasion, and it may be some time before we again have the pleasure of meeting the rev. gentleman. I would suggest that a committee be formed to carry out the work, say the committee of the Association, with the assistance of the Rev. T. L. Papillon, Vicar of Writtle, who appears to take a deep interest in the art, as secretary, if this gentleman would kindly undertake the work. No doubt the leader of each company in connection with the Association would collect subscriptions and send them to him as early as possible, and if every member would subscribe about sixpence each, a small but suitable token of the esteem in which he is held, could be presented him. Every member is more or less indebted to the rev. gentleman for the energy and untiring efforts he has made in bringing the Association up to its present high standard, and something should be given him that would not only be pleasing to him, but would be handed down to generations to come, as a reminder of the good work done for the promotion of the art of change-ringing. Every one must rejoice when they look round the county and see the enormous amount of good the Association has done, and this principally due to the enthusiasm of the Rev. H. A. Cockey. A MEMBER.

P.S.—If the work is taken up by any gentlemen, will they kindly let us know through "THE BELL NEWS?"

DOUBTFUL PEAL RINGING.

SIR,—I noticed in your impression of February 13th last, the report of a peal rung at Southport, Lancashire. The peal, Carter's bob-and-single variation, is stated to have been rung in two hrs. and thirty-two mins., weight of tenor 10 cwt., and has the following footnote: "This is the quickest peal by the above company." This seems to me too good to be true, and I should like to ask any of the members who took part in it whether the whole peal was rung or a portion left out; and also whether there were any ringers outside listening and counted the changes per minute, we will say every half hour or so. This peal reminds me of the Treble Bob Major peal at Eccles, a few months previous. There is also another peal in your issue of February 27th, rung at Brockworth, Gloucestershire, on February 16th. This peal consisted of forty-two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. I presume that means that one certain 6-score was rung over and over again for forty-two times. Personally I do not consider this performance a peal on five bells, owing to its being rung in one method only. Only a fortnight ago I heard of a set of round-ringers ringing, a few days previous, rounds and the queen's change for two hours and a half without a rest. I should think that had these ringers gone on for another half-hour or so, they would have as much right to publish their performance as a 5000 of Tombstone Surprise, or some other such fancy name as our Brockworth friends have in publishing their performance. I do not wish any ringer to infer from my remarks that I am against five-bell performances being considered as peals, far from it. I would rather encourage them, where no higher number of bells can be had except by going to some other church a few miles distant; but I would have them done in different methods, and not in one method alone, this being my only objection to them. E. W.

HOLT'S ORIGINAL IN CHESHIRE.

SIR,—In your issue of March 6th, 1886, you record Holt's Original, as rung at Macclesfield, and the sender of the account says it is the first time it has been rung in Cheshire. Had he taken a little trouble to enquire before sending the account, no doubt he would have ascertained if it had been rung before in that county. Holt's Original was rung at Stalybridge on February 8th, 1877, in two hours and forty-nine minutes, so he will see the little error he has fallen into. J. S. T.

THE PROPOSED SNOWDON MEMORIAL.

SIR,—I agree with the writer of the letter which appeared in last week's number of "THE BELL NEWS," that the most suitable tribute of respect to the late Jasper W. Snowdon would be an appropriate stained window to be placed in Ilkley parish church. After your excellent leader on the subject, I fully expected that the following week would have seen the draft of a scheme from some of the leading Yorkshire ringers, and as one anxious to see immediate steps taken in this matter I would urge the importance of striking while the iron is hot. It is a subject upon which I may safely say most ringers feel very warmly, and the debt the ringing world owes Jasper Snowdon is a heavy one. At the present moment I have little doubt but this is fully appreciated by the great bulk of ringers, but if the matter is allowed to remain long in abeyance the general interest in it will naturally wane. Will not Mr. Tuke, or some other prominent ringer, open a subscription list, and suggest a committee to carry out the work? I feel sure that this is all that is needed and that subscriptions would rapidly flow in.

R. S. STORY.

WELLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.—SUPPER TO CHOIRS AND RINGERS.

Touches of Doubles and Triples, interspersed with some well-struck firing on the parish church bells, formed a fitting prelude to the third of these pleasant social gatherings, which took place on Friday evening, March 5th. Enjoyable as they have been in the past, this was certainly a success beyond all others, for the supper was hot and well served, the songs, &c., given by the choirmen were of the right sort and well rendered, whilst the ringers gained hearty applause by their excellent tune-playing, &c., on handbells. The vicar, the Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot, occupied the chair, being supported by W. Davis, Esq., and J. T. Parker, Esq., churchwardens, and several of the sidesmen. The Rev. L. T. Jones and J. D. Best were also present. The usual toasts were warmly and lovally received. The toast of "The Three Choirs" was proposed by Mr. Davis, who said that they owed much to their choirs. As churchwarden, he was well satisfied with the way in which they carried out their duties. Mr. Beeby, who has been connected with the choir for twenty-four years, responded. In giving the toast of "The Ringers," Mr. Jackson stated that their ringing and chiming was a credit to the town and county. Mr. Dennes (belfry sidesman), in replying for the ringers, said they were much gratified by the way in which the parishioners appreciated their services. They were proud of their grand peal of bells. Thanks to the care taken of them by their steeple-keeper, Mr. Turnell, they went easy and well, despite their weight. The attendance of chimers during the past year had been most punctual and regular. They had lately formed a local society. Dr. Clark kindly favoured the company with two comic songs, and Mr. J. T. Smith gave that well-known hunting song, "John Peel." The singing of the National Anthem brought this social gathering to a close shortly after midnight.

TWO DAYS OF KENT TREBLE BOB.

ON Saturday last, March 15th, a party of two left Macclesfield by the 12 o'clock train, and arrived at Glossop, Derbyshire, by 1.35, where they were well received by the obliging ringers that Glossop possesses. During the afternoon a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was successfully brought round, containing 7168 changes. This was their longest length, and was rung at the first attempt. Previous to starting they were made members of the United Counties' Association. On Sunday we rung in two touches of 576 and 704 in the same method for Divine Service. In the afternoon they visited Whitefield church, and there rang their first date touch of Kent, making a total of 10,334 of "sweet Treble Bob." Their short stay now came to an end, and at 7.40 they left their new made friends, and after "changing courses" twice arrived back to the place where they started from the day before. They now take this opportunity of thanking their Glossop friends for their kindness and liberality, hoping to meet them with the same success some future time.

MARTOCK, SOMERSET.—DEATH OF AN ALL SAINTS' RINGER.—We deeply regret having to record the death of Mr. T. W. Podger, which took place at his residence on Sunday, February 28th, after a short illness, at the age of 42 years. The deceased was a saddler, and a most useful townsman, being one of the M Company of Volunteers since its birth, and was recently made sergeant. He has also been for many years connected with the Farmers' and Tradesmen's Club, a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade, a regular Sunday School teacher, and one of the All Saints' ringers. He was laid to rest in the churchyard on Saturday afternoon, March 6th. A great many of the M Company, 2nd V.B.S.L.I., paid the last mark of respect to their departed comrade, Captain Blake and Lieutenant Walter both being present, the members of the Fire Brigade, his own class, and several Sunday School teachers. All the All Saints' ringers were present, and four of their number carried the corpse, the surpliced choir also joined in the procession. The Burial Service was impressively read by the Vicar, the Rev. Prebendary Salmon, assisted by the Rev. C. F. Luckman, the former of whom made feeling reference to the death of Mr. Podger in his sermon on Sunday evening. At the grave, the hymn "O God our help in ages past" was sung by the choir, and at the conclusion of the service, the ringers rang two muffled peals as a token of respect to their late member. The shops of the town were partly closed.

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

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

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

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

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

A. F. HILLIER.—We regret that your communication was by accident overlooked last week.

W. SEVIER.—It is impossible for us to insert reports correctly unless we have them forwarded tous in a clear manner. The report you allude to was a complete mix-up.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 1886.

AT that most interesting reunion of ringers held in Birmingham on the 27th of last month, in honour of Mr. HENRY JOHNSON'S 77th birthday—an account of which appears on another page—a most suitable and practical suggestion fell from the lips of the chairman, the Rev. J. H. FISH, Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton, to wit, that these meetings should be made annual events.

We cordially endorse the Chairman's excellent advice on this subject, as we believe that an annual reunion of this character, held at such an important centre of ringing as Birmingham, would prove both acceptable and attractive to many members of the Exercise.

Perhaps there is no place out of London which is so easy of access by road or by rail, and no place where the ringers make their brethren of the craft, whether strangers or not, more heartily welcome. Certainly there is no man who better deserves to have the annual compliment of a dinner in his honour paid to him than our old friend, Mr. HENRY JOHNSON.

We are disposed to think that in past years the Exercise has been too chary of its honours, and too much in the habit of deferring the acknowledgement of its debts until the intended recipient has been beyond recall. In the face of the great and serious losses sustained by the Exercise of late, we commend this suggestion of an annual complimentary dinner to the support of our Birmingham friends, merely stipulating that in case it be decided upon, their Hon. Secretary will kindly give us timely notice so as to prevent us being occupied with previous engagements when the day arrives.

Now that the project of a National Association has fallen to the ground, the question naturally suggests itself as to whether a local habitation might be found for it elsewhere than in London, and whether the benefits accruing from such an organisation might not be available under another form, and by another name. It seemed to us that the National Association, so often discussed and so often advocated in our columns, fell through, chiefly for lack of one of our older societies coming forward to stand sponsor for it, and to undertake to initiate it. The great London Societies turned the cold shoulder to it, one and all, apparently having enough to do to manage their own concerns. We would commend the consideration of the scheme to the ringers of Birmingham and the neighbouring district, and suggest to them that they have now an excellent opportunity in this annual dinner of collecting together the most notable exponents of the science, and thereby laying the foundation of an annual gathering which would gradually develope into the consummation desired.

"Forward" is the motto on their coat of arms at Birmingham; "Forward" has been their distinguishing characteristic in the past; and we feel sure it will continue to be "Forward" in the future.

THE report of the District Meeting of the Essex Association of change-ringers, which was fully given in our issue of the 7th inst., contained an unaccountable feature. It is one which we have before alluded to in these columns, not only in connection with the above, but also in connection with other Associations. We refer to members allowing their contributions to fall in arrear, or what might probably be termed, to lapse. The report in question distinctly states that among the defaulters are some who have secured the entry of their names in the peal-book, and although it does not directly, yet it indirectly intimates that there are among such—probably roving members of the Exercise—who have only contributed the insignificant sum of one shilling to the funds. If such is the case, it cannot be looked upon other than a mean and unpardonable action; that is, of course, if the annual subscriptions have lapsed without any intention of their forthcoming, unless the opportunity is open to take part in another peal. It is such unwarrantable actions that cause formalities of election in the tower to be open to suspicion. Some of the isolated members, no doubt, have not paid up chiefly through negligence; with the facilities, in the present day, for transmission through the post of small sums, there is, however, no reasonable excuse for any one that has a desire to be a *bona fide* member of any society to neglect to forward at the proper time his contribution.

Judging from the "items from Essex," printed in our last number, ringing matters are looking up, if not throughout the county, in a portion of it. The return of the two trebles to their old quarters in the Chelmsford tower, from which they ought never to have been removed; and the promise of a ring at Brentwood, are items of welcome information. It is to be regretted that the hon. sec. to the Association contemplates leaving the county. The restoration of the two trebles to Chelmsford is due to his tact, and it is to be hoped that the work may be completed before his final resignation takes place.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

This Society's Annual Supper will take place at headquarters, the Green Man, 54, St. Martin's Lane, on Friday, the 26th inst. Members intending to be present will kindly signify their intention to the Secretary, H. Dains, 147, Barnsbury Road, N.

P.S.—Prior to leaving town for Dunster, Somersetshire, the Rev. James Ulten Todd was pleased to present St. Martin's Belfry with a set of twelve new ringing mats, and I am requested by the members, through this medium, to thank the rev. gentleman for his kindness.

The Metropolis.

BETHNAL GREEN.—THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HALEY'S VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

CHARLES BEECH	*Treble*	HARRY J. SHADE	5.
SAMUEL JOYCE	2.	ISAAC G. SHADE	6.
WILLIAM CECIL	3.	ARTHUR HAYWARD	7.
MATTHEW A. WOOD	4.	JOSEPH WEST	*Tenor.*

Conducted by ISAAC G. SHADE.

This excellent peal was rung to celebrate the erection of the chandelier which was presented by a member of the College Youths, and was renovated by Mr. Joseph West, who added some extra lights, which has made a marked improvement in this valuable little tower.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, March 17, 1886, *in Three Hours and Six Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH, BISHOPSGATE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM JONES	*Treble*	MATTHEW A. WOOD	5.
HENRY LANGDON	2.	ARTHUR HAYWARD	6.
SAMUEL E. JOYCE	3.	WILLIAM H. GEORGE	7.
JOSEPH BARRY	4.	*WALTER J. WILLIAMSON	*Tenor.*

Conducted by MATTHEW A. WOOD.

*First peal.

LEWISHAM, KENT.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Tuesday, March 16, 1886, *in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 22¾ cwt. in Eb.

CHARLES E. FREEMAN	*Treble.*	FREDERICK W. THORNTON	5.
WILLIAM PEAD	2.	ABRAHAM G. FREEMAN	6.
THOMAS TAYLOR	3.	WILLIAM H. FREEMAN	7.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE	4.	*JAMES S. EASTGATE	*Tenor.*

Conducted by ABRAHAM GEORGE FREEMAN.

*First peal.

The Provinces.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.—SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 9, 1886, *in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF UNION TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 13¾ cwt.

W. PARSONS	*Treble.*	F. WICKENS	5.
W. COLLISON	2.	A. F. HILLIER	6.
T. SMITH, ESQ.	3.	H. BURSTOW	7.
M. HEFFER*	4.	*J. COLLISON	*Tenor.*

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, and Conducted by H. BURSTOW.

First peal in the method by all the band. *First 5040. First peal rang on the bells.

MANCHESTER.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, March 11, 1886, *in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,*

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt. in Eb.

THOMAS THORP*	*Treble.*	EDWARD CASH	6.
CHARLES CASH	2.	SAMUEL WEST	7.
GEORGE E. TURNER*	3.	*JAMES THORPE	8.
JOHN E. POLLITT†	4.	A. EDWARD WREAKS	9.
JAMES BARRATT	5.	JOHN EACHUS	*Tenor.*

Composed by the late JOSEPH RILEY, of Cheltenham, and Conducted by A. ED. WREAKS.

*First peal in the Treble Bob method. †First peal of Treble Bob Royal. The Brothers Cash and J. Barratt hail from Eccles, the rest are of the Cathedral company. This peal will be found in Snowdon's *Treatise*, part 2, page 105.

MEREWORTH, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 12, 1886, *in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

SEVEN 720's OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt.

F. G. NEWMAN	*Treble*	GEORGE BELL	4.
GEORGE NEWMAN	2.	WILLIAM BELLINGHAM	5.
WILLIAM ELDRIDGE	3.	HARRY PEARCE	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FRED. G. NEWMAN.

EAST PECKHAM, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

SEVEN PEALS OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Each called differently. Tenor 16½ cwt. in F.

WILLIAM BELL	*Treble.*	WILLIAM ELDRIDGE	4.
GEORGE BELL	2.	FRED. G. NEWMAN	5.
WILLIAM BELLINGHAM	3.	HENRY PEARCE	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FRED. G. NEWMAN.

This is the first 5040 on the bells.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.—NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5000 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

C. BEDWELL	*Treble.*	R. WELHAM	5.
W. TYDEMAN	2.	C. MEE	6.
F. MEE	3.	T. STEWARD	7.
C. BUCKLE	4.	H. MILLS	*Tenor.*

Composed by H. HUBBARD, and Conducted by C. MEE.

First peal by all except F. Mee, C. Mee and T. Steward who hail from Ipswich; the rest belong to the local company. The ringers have to thank C. Mee for the great trouble he has taken to get them on, as when he joined the company at Christmas very little change ringing was known at Stowmarket.

LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 16¾ cwt.

JOHN SLATER	*Treble.*	GEORGE HAMMOND	5.
ZACHARIAH SLATER	2.	SAMUEL SLATER	6.
PERCY CHAS. S. SCOTT	3.	JAMES BIRD	7.
CHARLES SILLITOE	4.	HARRY HARPER	*Tenor.*

Composed by J. J. BRIERLEY, and Conducted by PERCY C. S. SCOTT.

The above is a three-part peal and is now rung for the first time, it is also the first in the method by all the band. This is the second peal in the Oxford Variation rang on these bells, the first being a 5120 on September 26th, 1768, the first peal of Treble Bob Major rang in the county of Suffolk.

BIRCHINGTON, KENT.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Muffled Peal.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Three Hours and Three Minutes,*

AT THE WATERLOO TOWER, QUEX PARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES'S 5-PART. Tenor 15½ cwt.

A. POINTER	*Treble.*	T. B. REED	5.
L. WILLSHIRE	2.	P. A. REED	6.
C. WILLSHIRE	3.	G. WILLSHIRE	7.
T. B. REED, JUN.	4.	E. GOLDER	*Tenor*

Conducted by LEON WILLSHIRE.

This peal was originally intended as a birthday-peal for the 27th birthday of Mr. E. Golder, but owing to the death of the eldest daughter of Mr. J. J. Bristow (secretary to the band), the peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a mark of sympathy towards the parents of the deceased. All the above belong to the Quex Park local band.

CROYDON.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 9, 1886, *in Three Hours and Thirty-two Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 32 cwt. in Eb.

HENRY C. HALEY	*Treble.*	ARTHUR B. CARPENTER ..	5.
URBAN HOLMAN	2.	THOMAS VERRALL	6.
HENRY DUDLEY, SEN. ..	3.	ALFRED BRUCE	7.
SAMUEL FISK*	4.	GEORGE ROSIER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HENRY C. HALEY.

*First Peal. Tenor had to be clogged as usual.

HAUGHTON.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANNE,

5040 CHANGES: IN THREE DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being Two 720's of Oxford Treble Bob, Three 720's of Kent Treble Bob, and Two 720's of Plain Bob Minor.

Tenor 15 cwt. in G.

JAMES A. THOMAS	*Treble.*	SAMUEL WOOD	4.
JOHN BARDSLEY*	2.	*WILLIAM WILDE, SEN. ..	5.
JOHN HOWARD*	3.	*PETER SMITH	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

*First peal. This is the first 5040 on the bells. Samuel Wood hails from Ashton-the rest are the local company.

WIMBLEDON, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, March 16, 1886, *in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

5040 CHANGES: IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 *of each of the following:—*

Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Single Bob, Bob Minor, and Grandsire Minor.

GEORGE BYDE	*Treble.*	JAMES COOLEY	4.
ROBERT MOSS	2.	ALBERT JARRATT	5.
CHARLES BYDE	3.	SAMUEL FROST	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL FROST.

This is the first 5040 by the above band, it is the first on the bells, and the first by the Association on six bells.

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.—THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 13, 1886, *in Four Hours and Thirteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 7168 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

SAMUEL HARROP	*Treble.*	SAML. KNOTT, JUN.	5.
JOHN HARROP	2.	*WILLIAM WALMSLEY ..	6.
WILLIAM HARROP	3.	HENRY COOPER	7.
WALTER INGHAM	4.	JOHN PYE, JUN.	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL KNOTT, JUN.

*First peal with a bob bell in this method. This is the longest length by the ringers of the 2nd, 4th, and 6th bells, also the longest length by the above Association. Messrs. Ingham and Walmsley hail from Macclesfield, the rest belong to the local company.

Date Touches.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

WEST BROMWICH.—On Tuesday, March 2nd, the following members of the above Association rang at Christ Church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 5 mins. H. Hipkiss, 1; W. R. Small, 2; T. Horton, 3; J. Hall, 4; R. Hall, 5; S. Reeves (conductor), 6; C. Price, 7; C. Timms, 8. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson. The above was rung to celebrate the Rev. C. H. Jobern's (Vicar) wedding, which took place on that day at St. Paul's Church, Kingston Hill, Surrey.

DARLASTON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, March 14th, at the parish church, for Divine Service in the evening, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 7 mins. Samuel Reeves, 1; Reuben Hall, 2; Thomas Horton, 3; William Rock Small, 4; John Tinsley, 5; Charles Price, 6; William Smith, 7; Thomas Small, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. The above is the musical composition of Mr. Henry Johnson, and conducted by Samuel Reeves. The ringers of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 6th hail from West Bromwich, the rest belong to Darlaston.

EASTERN COUNTIES' GUILD.

LUTTON (Lincolnshire).—On Monday evening, March 8th, at St. Nicholas' Church, a date touch, 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 16 mins., in the following methods: 360 of Hudibras, 800 of Grandsire Doubles, called on the 3rd and 5th alternately five different ways, 720 of Plain Bob Doubles, called on four different bells, and six singles. J. Russell, 1: G. Stennett, 2; W. Cunnington, 3; J. Stennett, 4; J. W. M. Brown, 5. All the above are residents of the village, and this is the first date touch ever rang on the bells by five residents of the village.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BASINGSTOKE (Hants).—On Tuesday, March 9th, at St. Michael's church, by the local band, on the front six, a date touch of Grandsire Doubles, 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 5 mins. T. Higgens, 1; F. Bicknell, 2; W. Tiller, 3; G. Capron, 4; H. White (conductor), 5; T. Wheeler, 6. This is the longest touch by any of the band except the conductor.

BRAMFORD (Suffolk).—On Saturday, March 13th, at the parish church, the local company rang a date touch of 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 10 mins., in the following methods: 686 of Plain Doubles, 600 of Grandsire Doubles, 600 of Old Doubles. Charles Osborne, 1; Walter Brown, 2; Charles R. Smith, 3; William Read, 4; Alfred A. Pryke (conductor), 5; William Garnham, 6. Tenor 16 cwt. in G. C. Smith, A. Pryke, W. Read, and W. Brown belong to the Norwich Diocesan Association.

LOW MOOR (Yorks).—On Sunday, March 7th, at Holy Trinity Church, for Divine Service in the evening, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, 1886 changes. T. Pickard, 1; J. Worsnop, 2; T. Simpson, 3; J. Briggs, 4; W. Tordoff, 5; A. Wilkinson, 6; J. W. Emmett, 7; C. Dracup (conductor), 8. Tenor 15 cwt.

READING (Berks).—On Sunday, March 7th, eight members of the St. Laurence's society rang at St. Laurence's church, for Divine Service in the evening, Mr. J. Carter's date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1886 changes, in 1 hr. 14 mins. A. E. Reeves, 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; R. T. Hibbert, 3; G. Talbot, 4; J. Potter, 5; W. Newell, 6; W. J. Williams (conductor), 7; W. R. Pocock, 8.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—On Tuesday, March 16th, 1886, at St. Saviour's, Southwark, a peal of Stedman Cinques was attempted by this society to commemorate the 24th birthday of Mr. Dawe, but unfortunately it had to be abandoned after ringing exactly 3 hours, through one of the ringers being unwell. J. R. Haworth, 1; W. Cecil, 2; C. F. Winny, 3; E. Horrex, 4; G. Mash, 5; W. Tanner, 6; J. M. Haves, 7; R. French, 8; J. M. Routh, Esq., 9; F. G. Newman, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 12. Tenor 52 cwt. in Bb.

WOOLWICH (Kent).—On Saturday, March 6th, at St. Mary's Church, eight members of the above society attempted the late Mr. J. Cox's 5024 of Kent Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 3200 changes in 1 hr. 54 mins., it came to grief. I. G. Shade, 1; S. Joyce, 3; J. Bonney, 3; E. Wallage, 4; H. Springall, 5; H. J. Shade, 6; York Green, 7; H. Bright (aged 77), 8. It was arranged to attempt the peal again after the season of Lent.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Thursday, February 25th, for practice, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Bob Minor (two bobs and twenty-two singles). W. Hall, 1; M. Warwick, 2; I. Hills, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; S. J. Cullip, 3; T. Foote, 6. And a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; T. Foote, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; W. Hall, 5; I. Hills (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, March 4th, a 720 of Bob Minor. F. Keech, 1; J. N. Frossell, 2; T. Foote, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). F. Keech, 1; J. N. Frossell, 2; T. Foote, 3; W. Hall, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles). J. N. Frossell, 1; M. Warwick, 2; T. Foote, 3; I. Hills, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs). C. W. Clarke (conductor), 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; T. Foote, 3; M. Warwick, 4; J. N. Frossell, 5; I. Hills, 6. *Handbell Ringing.*—On Monday, March 8th, for practice, a course of Double Stedman Slow Course Minor. T. Foote, 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; W. Hall, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; M. Warwick, 5; I. Hills, 6. This is the first course in the method by all.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Monday, March 8th, a peal of Treble Bob Major was attempted at St. John's church, but after ringing 3700 changes, in 2 hrs. 15 mins., the breaking of the 2nd rope brought the attempt to a disastrous termination. H. Fergusson, 1; F. Lees, 2; R. W. Wignell, 3; E. Wallis, 4; C. L. Routledge, 5; T. J. des Forges, 6; W. Story, 7; R. S. Story (conductor), 8. And on the following Monday, the 15th inst., a touch of 1024 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 40 mins. H. Fergusson, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; R. W. Wignell, 3; E. Wallis, 4; R. S. Story, 5; T. J. des Forges, 6; F. Lees, 7; Wm. Story (conductor), 8. Tenor 12½.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

GLEMSFORD (Suffolk).—On Sunday, February 21st, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, with fifteen bobs. S. Slater, 1; F. P. Adams, 2; F. Wells, 3; J. Bird, 4; C. Adams, 5; G. Hammond (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, February 28th, 720 of Single Oxford Bob. S. Slater (conductor), 1; F. P. Adams, 2; W. P. Gridley, 3; O. Garwood, 4; Z. Slater, 5; J. Lee, 6. Also on Thursday, March 11th, 720 of Cambridge Surprise. J. Slater, 1; C. Honeybell, 2; F. Wells, 3; O. Garwood, 4; Z. Slater, 5; S. Slater (conductor), 6.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BARNWOOD, NEAR GLOUCESTER.—On Sunday, March 14th, six members of the above Association rang a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure Minor, in 27 mins. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yeates, 2; W. Sevier, 3; R. A. Barrett (first 720 in the method), 4; H. Mitchell, 5; A. A. Waite (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WALKDEN (Lancashire).—On Monday, March 8th, for practice at the parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor, with thirty-two bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. J. Welsby, 1; J. Worthington, 2; A. Potter, 3; S. Oakes, 4; J. T. Potter, 5; J. Brooks (conductor), 6.

RADCLIFFE (Lancashire).—On Friday evening, March 12th, for practice at the parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor with eight bobs and six singles, in 26 mins. J. Hardman, 1; J. Morris, 2; A. Barrett, 3; J. Hardman, 4; F. Morris (conductor), 5; W. Fielding, 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CUDDINGTON (Bucks).—On Sunday, March 14th, at the church of St. Nicholas, after Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 24 mins. J. Frost, sen., 1; G. Warner (conductor), 2; J. Frost, jun., 3; J. Blake, 4; A. Frost, 5; W. Daniels (Stone), 6.

DORCHESTER (Oxon).—On Tuesday, March 10th, the following mnmbers of the above Association attempted Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples at the parish church, but after ringing 4300 changes in 2 hrs. 45 mins., the 4th rope broke and brought it to grief. J. Pether, 1; E. Napper, 2; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 3; D. Napper, 4; J. Napper, 5; W. Napper, 6; C. W. Allen, 7; E. Pether, 8. This is the first time the Hagbourne men have attempted a peal from home, and the striking reflected the highest credit upon them, and undoubtedly they would have finished the peal if the ropes had been of the same metal as the men.

OXFORD.—On Monday, March 8th, at St. Mary Magdalen, 720 of Double Stedman's Slow Course Minor, in 24 mins. C. Hounslow, 1; F. Castle, 2; J. Howes, 3; H. Castle, 4; S. Hounslow, 5; W. Washbrook, 6. Also a 708 in the following methods on the following methods: Cambridge Surprise, Double Stedman, Oxford Bob, Double Court, College Single, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob, and Grandsire. J. Howes, 1; A. F. M. Custance, Esq., 2; F. Castle, 3; H. Castle, 4; C. Hounslow, 5; W. Washbrook (conductor), 6.

WANTAGE (Berks).—On Saturday evening, March 6th, for practice, 360 Bob Minor. C. Page, 1; H. Smith, 2; J. Gardner, 3; A. Bunce, 4; F. Money, 5; F. May, 6. And on Sunday, March 7th, for Morning Service, 360 Grandsire Minor. G. Gregory, 1; A. Bunce, 2; J. Gardner, 3; A. Gregory, 4; F. Money, 5; F. May, 6. Also for Evening Service, 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. G. Gregory, 1; H. Smith, 2; J. Gardner, 3; A. Gregory, 4; F. Money, 5; F. May (conductor), 6.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

BIDDULPH.—On Friday, March 5th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 27 mins. And on Sunday, March 7th, 720 of Treble Bob in 26 mins. J. Moss, 1; M. Moss, 2; A. Cottrell, 3; S. Mitchell, 4; S. Moore, 5; W. Carter (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method on the bells.

NORTON.—On Monday, March 8th, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor in 27½ mins. W. Baddeley, 1; J. W. Brough, 2; E. Glover, 3; *S. Mitchell, 4; W. Carter, 5; J. Baddeley (conductor), 6. Also 720 of Court Bob in 27 mins. S. Mitchell, 1; W. Carter, 2; W. Baddeley, 3; J. Wood, 4; G. Walker, 5; J. Baddeley (conductor), 6. Messrs. Carter and Mitchell hail from Biddulph. *First 720 with a bob bell.

ARCHDEACONRY OF SALOP ASSOCIATION.

WHITCHURCH (Salop).—On Friday, February 26th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 28 mins. E. Langford. 1: W. Hutchinson, 2; G. Wright, 3; T. Barron, 4; R. Houlding, 5; G. Woodhall (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 of Minor rang by the Association.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

FAREHAM (Hants).—On Thursday, March 4th, at St. Peter's Church, 840 of Grandsire Triples. W. Naylor, 1; J. Staples, 2; G. Grafham, 3; Rev. H. Spyers, 4; C. Privett, 5; F. Hill (conductor), 6; J. W. Whiting, 7; H. Carter. 8. Also a 504 by the same with G. Passingham at the tenor.

WEYBRIDGE (Surrey).—On Tuesday, March 9th, at St. James's Church, 336 of Grandsire Triples. G. Rothwell, 1; C. Mitchell, 2; P. Beale, Esq., 3; G. Slater, 4; Rev. H. A. Spyers (conductor), 5; G. Morgan, 6; C. Keene, 7; W. C. Anstead, 8.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Tuesday, March 9th, the following company started for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 2 hrs. 35 mins., two bells changed course, which brought it to grief. C. Jackson, 1; T. Stockdale, 2; C. Bennett, 3; W. Gill, 4; H. Jenkins, 5; J. W. Stickney (conductor), 6; F. Drabble, 7; R. Haire, 8. Tenor 15 cwt.

BENGEO (Herts).—On Friday, February 5th, for practice at Holy Trinity Church, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. W. Childs, 1; W. Bennett, 2; *J. Staples, 3; H. Baker (conductor), 4; H. Phillips, 5; J. Pomfret, 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. †H. Brown, 1; *W. Childs, 2; J. Staples, 3; J. Channer, 4; W. Odell, 5; H. Baker (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, February 7th, for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. W. Childs, 1; W. Odell, 2; H. Phillips (conductor), 3; J. Pomfret, 4; W. Bennett, 5; J. Channer, 6. This last is the first 720 in the method on the bells, and first in the method by all. *First 720 in the method. †First 720.

BRIERLEY HILL (Staffordshire).—On Tuesday, March 9th, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. H. Lloyd, 1; J. Guest (conductor), 2; A. Whatmore, 3; R. Perkins, 4; A. Beddall, 5; W. Hartshorne, 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. H. Lloyd, 1; R. Perkins, 2; J. Guest (conductor), 3; A. Beddall, 4; J. Allden, 5; A. Whatmore, 6.

CRANLEIGH (Surrey).—On Sunday evening, March 14th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 360 of London New Bob Minor. H. Henson, 1; W. Chaman, 2; W. Streeter, 3; J. Chaman, 4; G. Farnfield, jun., 5; J. Cooper (conductor), 6. Tenor 19 cwt. in F. Also a six-score of Grandsire Doubles. J. Cooper hails from Rudgwick.

DARLEY DALE (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday evening, March 9th, at St. Helen's Church, the local company rang for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 27 mins. S. Groom, 1; J. Derbyshire, 2; W. Taylor, 3; C. Whymark, 4; C. Gwatkin, 5; E. Hallows (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday evening, March 14th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 21 mins., standing as above.

EAST HAGBOURNE (Berks).—On Sunday evening, March 14th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 1008 of Grandsire Triples. E. Pether, 1; E. Napper, 2; F. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; J. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; C. Allen, 7: A. Woodley, 8.

EWHURST (Surrey).—On Monday evening, March 2nd, at the parish church, the local company rang 720 of Warnham Court Bob. W. Haynes, sen., 1; F. Francis, 2; Frank Francis, 3; W. Tidy, 4; A. Baker, 5; W. Haynes, jun., (conductor), 6. Also on Tuesday, March 9th, a 720 of Warnham Court Bob standing as before. And a 720 of London New Bob, and 720 of Plain Bob Minor. W. Haynes, 1; F. Francis, 2; Frank Francis, 3; W. Tidy, 4; A. Baker, 5; W. Haynes, jun. (conductor), 6. A. Baker conducted the London New Bob, and W. Hayes conducted the Plain Bob, which were rung without a stand. Also 720 of College Single, and three 360's in the same method. W. Haynes, sen., 1; F. Francis, 2; F. Francis, 3; A. Baker, 4; W. Haynes, 5; W. Tidy (conductor), 6. And 720 of Oxford Single Bob. W. Haynes sen., 1; F. Francis, 2; W. Tidy, 3; F. Francis, 4; A. Baker, 5; W. Haynes (conductor), 6. Also on Saturday, March 13th, 720 of Oxford Single Bob. W. Haynes, sen., 1; W. Haynes, jun., 2; F. Francis, 3; W. Tidy, 4; F. Francis, 5; A. Baker (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

GREENWICH (Kent).—*Muffled Peal.*—On Monday, March 15th, a deeply muffled peal was rung at St. Alphege church, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. William Burgess, a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and for many years a ringer at this church, whose death took place on March 8th, after a short illness, being the second death within a fortnight which has been occured among Greenwich ringers. William Weatherstone, 1; John J. Lamb, 2; John Foreman, 3; William Davis, jun., 4; Robert Shade, 5; George Thatcher, 6; William G. Davis (conductor), 7; Frederic W. Thornton, 8. Tenor 25¾ cwt.

HAUGHLEY (Suffolk).—On Sunday, March 14th, at the parish church, 120 of Plain Bob Doubles. Walter Brown, 1; Alfred Pryke, 2; Charles Smith, 3; William Tydeman, 4; John Jeffrey, 5. And 120 of Grandsire Doubles. William Jeffrey, 1; Walter Brown, 2; John Jeffrey, 3; C. James, 4; Charles Smith, 5. Tenor 20 cwt.

LEEDS (Yorks).—On Thursday evening, March 4th, at St. Peter's Church, a 720 of Bob Minor in 25 mins. G. Procter, 1; H. Hubbard, 2; J. Lockwood, 3; J. Hutchinson, 4; W. Walker (conductor), 5; R. Binns, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. First 720 in any method by G. Procter.

LINCOLN.—On Thursday evening, March 11th, for practice at the Cathedral, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Triples in 49 mins. W. Stiles, 1; H. Woodthorpe, 2; T. Keyworth, 3: G. Doughty, 4; T. Robinson, 5; J. Vickers (conductor), 6; T. Rose, 7; F. Stewart, 8.

LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday, March 11th, ten members of the Liverpool Youths Society started for a peal of Stedman Caters at St. Peter's pro-Cathedral, but after ringing 4600 changes in 3 hrs. 5 mins., the peal was brought to grief through one of the band missing the sally, and not being able to recover it in time "stand" was called. Rd. Williams, 1; G. Helsby, 2; J. R. Pritchard, 3; C. Williams, 4; T. Hammond, 5; W. Booth, 6; R. Williams (conductor), 7; G. Fisher, 8; W. Davies, 9; W. Brooks, 10. Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

MEREWORTH (Kent).—On Tuesday evening, March 2nd, for practice, six members of the local company rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with eighteen bobs and two singles, in 22 mins. W. Bell, 1; *G. Hook, 2; W. Eldridge, 3; G. Bell, 4; W. Bellingham, 5; †G. Newman (conductor), 6. *First 720 with a bob bell †First 720 as conductor.

NUNEATON (Warwickshire).—On Sunday evening, March 14th, for Divine Service at St. Nicholas' Church, several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. C. Draper, 1; W. Swain, 2; N. Adler, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; A. Pye, 5; T. Chapman, 6.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, March 9th, at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 44 mins. W. J. Taylor, 1; G. Larkey, 2; G. Prescott (conductor), 3; H. Ellis, 4; W. Ellis, 5; James Sholicar (composer), 6; C. Sharples, 7; W. B. Lloyd, 8. Thls is G. Prescott's first attempt at calling a touch.

PULFORD (Cheshire).—On Monday evening, March 15th, six members of the local company rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 27 mins. Joseph Saladine, 1; George Jones, 2; William Morgan, 3; M. Blezard, 4; Walter Thomas, 5; James Morgan (conductor), 6. Tenor 11 cwt. in G. This is the first complete 720 ever rung on these bells by a local company, and it is also the first 720 by any of the company except the ringers of the 5th and 6th. It may also be mentioned that the average age of the ringers is 18½ years.

RAUNDS (Northants).—On Saturday, March 6th, at St. Peter's Church for practice, a 720 of Double Court Bob, eighteen bobs and two singles. H. Stubbs, 1: W. J. Gilbert, 2; *R. Dunkley, 3; F. Gilbert, 4; J. Willmott, 5; W. Hall (conductor), 6. *Handbell Ringing.*—On Monday, March 8th, at the house of Mr. N. Martin, 840 of Bob Triples, in 33 mins. A. Coles, 1; H. Stubbs, 2; R. Pendered, 3; G. Kirk, 4: W. J. Gilbert, 5; J. Willmott, 6; F. Gilbert (conductor), 7-8. And two courses of Bob Minor. W. J. Gilbert, 1-2; F. Gilbert, 3-4; H. Stubbs (conductor), 5-6. *First 720.

ROCHESTER (Kent).—On Sunday, March 14th, at St. Margaret's, for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25 mins. J. Broom, 1; F. J. Ring, 2; G. Chantler, 3; G. Hayes, 4; G. Martin, 5; W. Baker (conductor), 6. Messrs. Broom, Martin, Hayes, and King hail from Swanscombe.

SADDLEWORTH (Yorkshire).—*Muffled Peal.*—On Thursday, March 4th, a deeply muffled peal was rung at Christ Church, Freizland, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Mr. John Wood, one of the local company, whose death occurred on February 28th. James Dicken, 1; Charles Carter, 2; Moses Bradbury, 3; Frederick Dicken, 4; John F. Carter, 5; John T. Dicken, 6. And on Sunday, March 7th, for morning and evening service, with the bells still muffled, morning service: James Dicken, 1; Charles Carter, 2; Moses Bradbury, 3; Samuel Dicken, 4; William Bradbury, 5; J. T. Dicken, 6. Evening Service: J. Dicken, 1; C. Carter, 2; J. L. Buckley, 3; Joe Wood, 4; W. Bradbury, 5; J. T. Dicken, 6. The late John Wood had been a ringer at this church over thirty years.

SALISBURY.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Tuesday, March 2nd, in Devizes Road, 360 of Bob Minor. C. A. Clements, 1-2; W. W. Gifford, 3-4; T. Blackbourn (conductor), 5-6. And on Thursday, March 4th, 360 of Bob Minor by the same except R. T. Tayler, 1-2. Also at St. Martin's Church on the same day, 720 of Bob Minor. J. Judd, 1; R. T. Tayler, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; T. Blackbourn (conductor), 5; W. W. Gifford, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

SITTINGBOURNE (Kent).—On Friday, March 12th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. *P. Boyles, 1; J. M. Cooper, 2; P. Simms, 3; J. G. Elliott, 4; S. Snelling, 5; W. H. Judd (conductor), 6. *First 720.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, March 2nd, for practice at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 52 mins. *B. Ransom, Esq., 1; W. Howell, 2; G. Brown, 3; C. Sillitoe (conductor) 4; W. Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; H. Brackett, 8. Composed by H. J. Shade, of Greenwich. *First quarter-peal. Also on Saturday, March 6th, at St. Gregory's Church, 468 of Stedman Triples. C. Sillitoe (conductor), 1; W. Griggs, 2; J. Campin, 3; W. Howell, 4; W. Bacon, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott, 7; B. Ransom, Esq., 8. This was rung as a birthday touch with Mr. W. Howell, who attained his 40th year on that day. And on handbells, a course of Bob Royal. C. Sillitoe, 1,2,3,4; B. Ransom, Esq., 5-6; W. Howell, 7-8; A. Scott, 9-10.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Thursday, March 11th, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. L. Digweed, 1; A. Cornford (first 720 with a bob bell), 2; F. Hayes, 3; W. Martin, 4; G. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent).—On Sunday evening, March 14th, for Divine Service at St. Peter's Church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with 6-8, behind. J. Muggeridge, 1; H. Barefield (conductor), 2; J. Colthup, 3; R. Sharville, 4; W. Latter, 5; E. Mankelow, 6; G. Kember, 7; A. Ovenden, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qrs.

WORCESTER.—On Thursday, March 11th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 46 mins. W. Jenkins, 1; S. Cotton, 2; W. Powell, 3; F. Owen, 4; W. Page, 5; G. Cleal, 6; *T. Gwyne (conductor), 7; T. Malim, 8. *First time as conductor.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The following is the ringing done by the Steyning branch of the above Association during the last week of January, and the month of February, 1886: January 28th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), G. Breach, 1; G. Smart, 2; H. Burstow (Horsham), 3; T. Searle, 4; C. Tyler, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. On January 31st, a 720 of Oxford Single Bob (with nine bobs and six singles). George Breach, 1; G. Gatland, 2; E. Brackley, 3: G. Smart, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On January 31st, a 720 in the same method (with forty bobs and two singles). G. Breach, 1; G. Smart, 2; E. Brackley, 3; C. Chambers, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On January 31st, a 720 in the same method (twenty-six singles). F. Morris, 1; G. Smart, 2; E. Brackley, 3; C. Chambers, 4; C. Tyler, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. On February 4th, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure (twenty-six singles). F. Morris, 1; T. Searle, 2; J. Woolgar, 3; E. Brackley, 4; G. Smart, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. On February 9th, a 720 in the same method. F. Morris, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Smart, 3; E. Brackley, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On February 14th, a 720 of Oxford Single Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). F. Morris, 1; T. Searle, 2; E. Brackley, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Smart, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. On February 16th, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure (twenty-six singles). G. Breach, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Smart, 3; E. Brackley, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On February 23rd, a 720 of Plain Bob (with eighteen bobs and two singles). G. Breach, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; G. Smart, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On February 23rd, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure (eighteen bobs and two singles). G. Breach, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; E. Brackley, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On February 28th, a 720 in the same method (twenty-six singles). C. Chambers, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; E. Brackley, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On February 28th, a 720 of Plain Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). G. Breach, 1; T. Searle, 2: G. Gatland, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6.

WATERINGBURY, KENT.

ON Sunday morning, February 28th, the church of St. John-the-Baptist, was discovered just before the morning service, to be on fire. The Kent Fire Brigade from Maidstone was quickly on the spot, notwithstanding the unfavourable condition of the roads. It was then found that the steeple was well alight, caused, it is presumed, by overheating the flue of the apparatus for warming the church. Fortunately there was a good supply of water at hand, and all danger was avoided, the fire being confined to the part of the church in which it broke out. The damage done to the steeple was rather serious, and one or two jo the bells (a peal of six, tenor nine cwt.), will have to be recast. A very serious accident happened to Mr. A. H. Woolley, a fireman of the above Brigade, also a member of the All Saints' company, Maidstone. He was standing on a beam in the steeple, endeavouring to remove some of the burning material, when the beam gave way, and he fell a distance of about twenty feet, amongst the bells. We are happy to say the injuries are not so serious as was at first anticipated, and we hope Mr. Woolley will soon be well enough to stand for another peal. **The living is a Vicarage, value £820, with residence, and is now held by the Rev. Spencer W. Phillips, M.A.**

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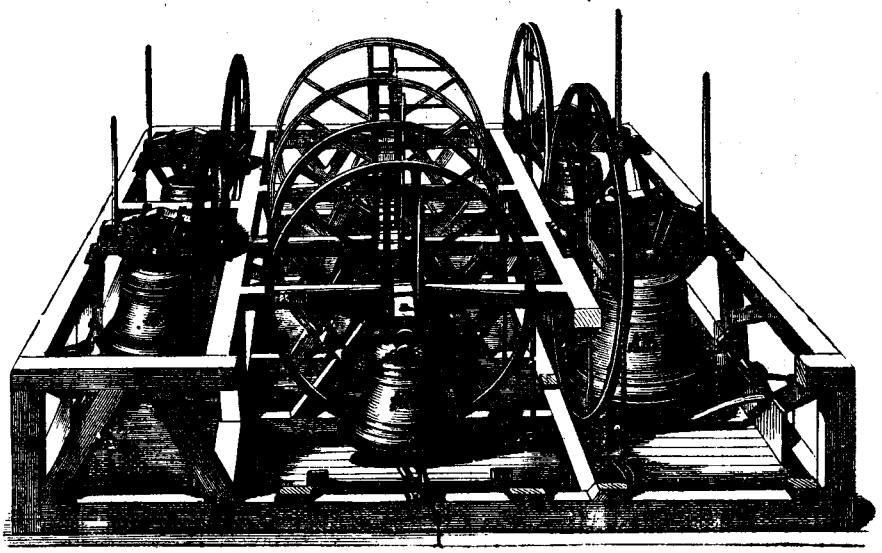
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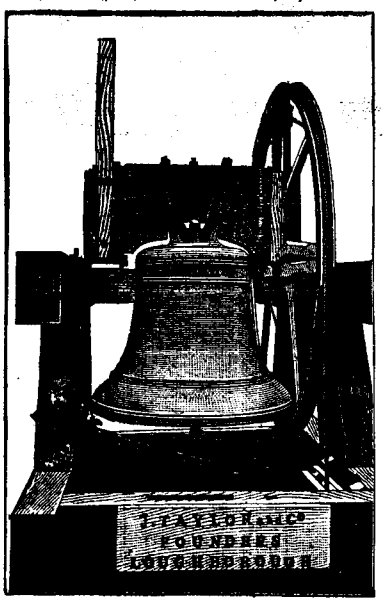
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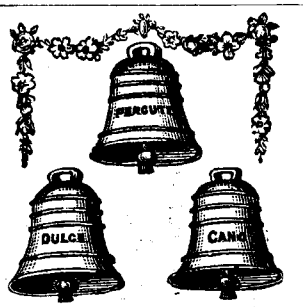
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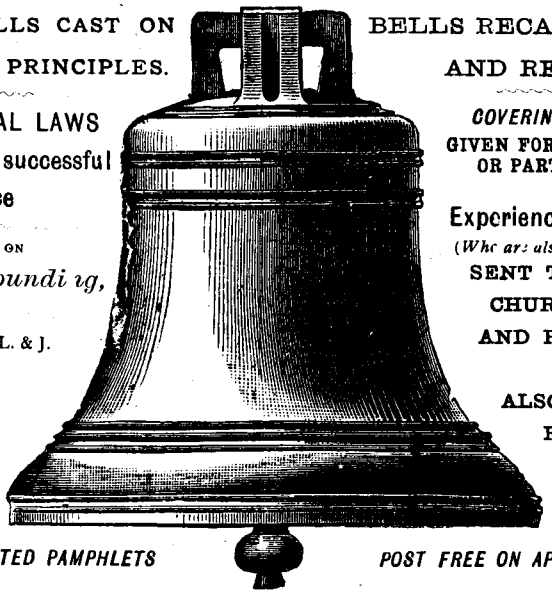
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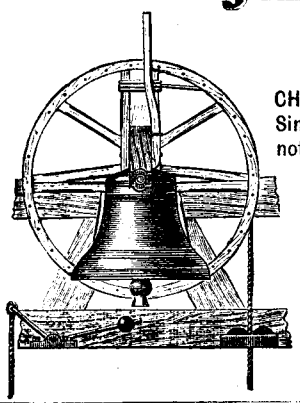
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