

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 211. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. V.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1886.

[ONE PENNY.]

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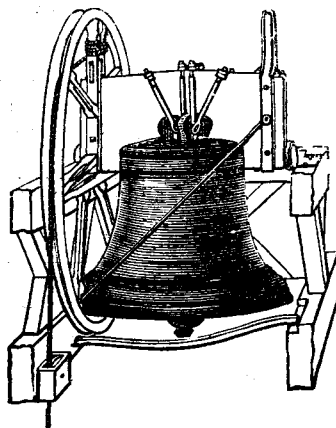
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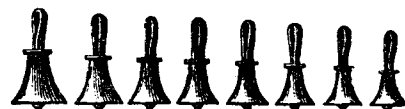
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PRINTING of every description executed at the Office of this Paper. Reports of the various Ringing Associations and Guilds executed in an appropriate style, and at moderate charges.

HITCHIN PARISH CHURCH.

In 1115 the Church of St. Andrew was very much damaged by a hurricane which caused almost the whole of the North Aisle to become a heap of ruins, and totally destroyed many relics of antiquity. Again in 1278, St. Andrew's Church was very much damaged by the shock of an earthquake, the centre of the building gave way, and one side of the church fell in with part of the roof, and it was otherwise damaged. The church was repaired in 1299. In 1304 the greater part of the roof fell and damaged many valuable ornaments of antiquity. In 1305 the present church was built, and is a handsome structure of stone, occupying the site of a more ancient fabric near the middle of the town. It is built in the pointed style, and is dedicated to St. Mary upon the testimony of Cobham and Chauncy. But Mr. Brayley, author of *The Beauties of England and Wales*, doubts this, and alleges it to be dedicated to St. Andrew, and that the modern appellation of "St. Mary" belonged more properly to a guild or fraternity in the church, as appears from the inscription on the monument of Thomas Abbot in the South Chancel.

Chauncy also says:—"This church is situated near the middle of the town. It is a fair building containing in length 153 feet and breadth 67 feet with three fair chancels, and north and south aisles, and a square tower about 21 feet diameter, in which hang a deep ring of six bells, cast in the year 1689, with a short shaft or spire erected upon the tower; which church was anciently dedicated to the honour of St. Andrew's, but as the church of St. Mary the Less in Hertford upon the rebuilding thereof was dedicated to St. John, so this church upon the like occasion was dedicated to the Virgin Mary." From the *Christian's Penny Magazine*, for August 1834:—"The parish church of Hitchin, Hertfordshire, was built in the year 1305. It stands on the site of a former church dedicated to St. Andrew, which sustained great damage by the shock of an earthquake in the year 1298, one side and part of the roof falling in. In the following year it was repaired, but so inefficiently, that in 1304, the roof again fell in, mutilating in its descent many valuable relics of antiquity. The present church is built in the pointed Gothic style, and is a grand and noble edifice. It is 153 feet in length, and 70 feet in breadth, and contains a nave, two side aisles, three chancels, two beautifully carved oak screens, and a great many ancient monuments. The font is a rare piece of antiquity, and has been very elegant. The twelve Apostles are sculptured in niches around it. It formerly stood upon three steps, but about 100 years ago these were removed. This removal has greatly diminished the effects of the whole. The picture by Rubens "The wise men's offerings," and which formerly was the altar piece, is now placed over the north door. The tower is situated at the west end of the church, and contains a fine ring of eight bells. Previous to the year 1762, there were but six, but in that year these were taken down and the present ones hung in their stead. From an antiquarian point of view, the part of the church most admired is the south porch: it is a rare specimen of ancient architecture, and decorated with singular devices, one of these being an attempt to represent the Holy Trinity. This representation exhibits three persons, at the feet of whom, are a man and woman in the attitude of prayer; by their side lies an open book.

Cussons, in his *History of Hertfordshire*, says:—"This church, which was formerly dedicated to St. Andrew, seems to date from the early part of the fifteenth century. It was probably rebuilt at that time by the Merchants of the staple, then resident in Hitchin, as appears by the marks of many of them still remaining. On its rebuilding, the dedication was changed to St. Mary. It consists of a chancel, nave, north and south aisles, tower, and north and south porches. The chancel and nave are of equal size, each being internally 70 feet in length, and separated from the aisles which are continuous from east to west by four arches on each side. The width of the building, including the aisles, is 67 feet 8 inches."

There are eight bells in the tower, and they bear the following inscriptions:—

1st & 2nd—"At proper times my voice I'll raise,
And sound to my subscribers' praise—September 24, 1762."
3rd and 7th—"J. M. Pierson, John Everett, John Collison, churchwardens. Rev. J. P. Morgan, Vicar."

4th—"We the sacred nuptial tie joyous proclaim:
And every sound and every varied peal
Call smiles of transport from the happy pair. A.D., 1762."

5th—"Laudo Deum verum: plebum voco: congreco clerum:
Defunctos ploro: pestum fugo: festo decoro, 1762."

6th—"Joseph Eayre, St. Neots, cast us all eight, A.D., 1762.
†Omni pndant glorum Dei."

8th—"I to the church the living call, And the grave do summon all.
Rev. J. P. Morgan, Vicar. Wm. Chapman, W. Powers,
Thos. Goodman, Churchwardens.
Edward Arnold, St. Neots, fecit, 1784."

"I praise the true God: I summon the common people: I assemble the clergy: I lament the dead: I repel pestilence: I adorn the feasts.
†Let all things be done to the glory of God."

On a tablet that was fixed in the ringers' loft until the late restoration, is the following: "On Wednesday, February 20th, 1782, was rung a complete peal of 5040 Plain Bob Triples, in 3 hours and 28 minutes, by the ringers of this town. John Jeeves, 1; Isaac Spencer, 2; William Eastwick, 3; John Waters, 4; Francis Corrie, 5; Philip Allen, 6; Charles Rumball, 7; Richard Morgan, 8."

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Report for the three weeks ending April 11th:—

By the Billingshurst branch at Billingshurst.—On Sunday, April 11th, for morning service, a 360 of College Single Minor, and a 540 of Oxford Single Bob Minor. Also after service a 720 of Grandsire Minor (the first by all the band). P. Wood, 1; W. Chantler, 2; G. Matthews, 3; W. Chantler, jun., 4; J. Voice, 5; T. Chantler (conductor), 6.

By the Brighton branch.—At St. Nicholas', Brighton, on Tuesday, March 30th, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. Jesse Neves, 1; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 2; J. Searle, 3; C. Tyler, 4; H. Weston, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; G. King, 7; James Neves, 8. And at St. Peter's church, on Sunday, April 4th, for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; J. Jay, 2; J. Searle (conductor), 3; C. E. Golds, 4; G. King, 5; A. Marshall, 6; G. F. Attree, 7; W. Vernon, 8. Also on Monday, April 5th, a 503 in the same method. A. A. Fuller, 1; H. Weston (conductor), 2; J. Searle, 3; J. Gasson (Balcombe), 4; G. King, 5; J. Jay, 6; — Rickman (Lewes), 7; E. C. Attree, 8. Also at St. Nicholas' church, on Tuesday, April 6th, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18½ mins. W. Palmer, 1; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 2; G. F. Attree (conductor), 3; Jesse Neves, 4; H. Boniface, 5; J. Gasson, 6; G. King, 7; A. Butler, 8. And a 504 in the same method. W. Harvey, 1; J. Searle (conductor), 2; E. Fox (first 500), 3; J. Gasson, 4; G. King, 5; W. Palmer, 6; H. Weston, 7; G. F. Attree, 8. Also at St. Peter's church, on Friday, April 9th, a 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. J. Jay, 1; J. Searle, 2; J. Gasson, 3; G. King, 4; H. Weston, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, April 11th, for evening at St. Peter's, eight members of the St. Peter's branch rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; A. Marshall, 2; A. W. L. Parkhouse, 3; H. Weston, 4; J. Jay, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; E. C. Attree, 7; W. Vernon, 8.

By the Steyning branch at Steyning.—On Thursday, April 8th, in 2 hrs. and 58 mins., a peal of 5040 changes on six bells, comprising two 720s each of Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, and Oxford Single Bob, and one 720 of College Single. For names see peal column.

By the Eastbourne Branch at the parish church (St. Mary's).—On Friday, March 26th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. E. Willoughby, 1; W. Siggs, 2; H. P. Bennett (conductor), 3; J. West, 4; L. Huggett, 5; J. Potter, 6; T. Hart, 7; S. Lewes, 8. And a 280 in the same method. E. Willoughby, 1; W. Siggs, 2; J. West, 3; C. Harfey, 4; T. Willoughby, 5; J. Potter, 6; T. Hart (conductor), 7; J. Lewis, 8. And on Friday, April 2nd, a 224 of Grandsire Triples. J. Rollison, 1; W. Siggs, 2; C. Harfey, 3; A. Childs, 4; E. Willoughby, 5; J. Potter, 6; T. Hart (conductor), 7; T. Willoughby, 8. And a 280 in the same method. J. Rollison, 1; W. Siggs, 2; C. Harfey, 3; L. Huggett, 4; J. West, 5; T. Willoughby, 6; T. Hart (conductor), 7; J. Payne, 8. Also on Sunday, April 4th, for service, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. T. Lewis, 1; H. P. Bennett, 2; T. Willoughby, 3; L. Huggett, 4; T. Hart, 5; J. Potter, 6; A. Bennett (Cuckfield; conductor), 7; J. Rollison, 8. And a 560 in the same method by the same band, conducted by L. Huggett. Also by the members of the Christ Church, Eastbourne branch, on Sunday, April 4th, for morning service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor. H. Goddard, 1; F. Harding, 2; H. Colbran, 3; G. Smith, 4; G. Howse, 5; T. Smith (conductor), 6. For afternoon service, a 360 of Plain Bob Minor. H. Knight (first half-peal), 1; H. Colbran, 2; G. Smith, 3; G. Howse, 4; T. Smith, 5; F. Harding (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, April 11th, for afternoon service, a 360 of Oxford Single Bob Minor. H. Goddard, 1; G. Howse, 2; H. Colbran, 3; G. Smith, 4; J. Smith, 5; F. Harding (conductor), 6.

By the Fletching branch at Fletching.—On Saturday, March 20th, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, with the bells muffled as a mark of respect to the late Earl of Chichester. And on Sunday, March 21st, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, for both morning and afternoon services.

By the Battle Branch, at Battle.—On handbells, two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. F. Matthis, 1; F. Harding (conductor), 2; Joshua Matthis, 3; W. Franks, 4; C. Eidridge, 5; — Author, 6. First 6-scores by the band. G. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

NOTICE OF A LONG PEAL.—It is the intention of eight members of the United Counties' Association to attempt (all being well), on Saturday, April 24th, 1886, the long peal of Treble Bob Major, 17760 changes, composed by Mr. W. Sottanstill, of Sowerby, Yorkshire. The attempt to be made at the church of All Saints', Old Glossop, in the County of Derby.

THE PROBATIONER'S COLUMN.

(Continued from page 3.)

We had, in our previous paper, reached that part of the science known as hunting, and gave the observations laid down by Hubbard for its execution. Our experience teaches us to believe that the most difficult part (to a learner) of the operation known as being "in the hunt" is the gradual descent from behind to lead; the ascent from front to back being easier acquired. Therefore our remarks shall bear chiefly upon the former. And here again we would impress most emphatically upon those who wish for advice and counsel upon this elementary but important particular, to spare no pains or time in doing what they are about *scientifically*. It is absolutely necessary that at every blow of his bell, the ringer should see plainly the bell he is striking after. There is a very unscientific guess-work mode practised by some people, who endeavour to gauge the blow of another between their own bell and a third bell, and to the latter they only look, preserving a stolid indifference towards the various bells they have to pass on their way down to lead. Now we will suppose that according to the rule of Hubbard, we have succeeded in getting up behind, and are about to make the first blow there, *i.e.* "the first blow in 5th's." As this blow is being made, notice, and do not fail to recollect the bell after which this first blow in 5th's is struck. This bell is termed "the course-bell." This course-bell is thus turned from behind by the bell which we will suppose is just making her first blow behind, and if the reader will just refer to the plain course he will see how the treble turns the 5th from behind in the manner here spoken of. The 5th bell therefore, in this instance, has become course-bell to the treble, and as they both journey down to lead, it cannot fail to be seen there is but one bell intervening between them all the way. Therefore when the 5th is leading her first blow the treble is in 3rds; when she is leading her second blow the treble goes into 2nds, and then at once takes the 5th off the lead. This description, and what follows, will show the value of *knowing* the course-bell. The same thing will happen each successive lead; on getting behind there will be a bell turned away, which bell becomes a course-bell to the one that turns it away, and which is eventually taken off the lead by it. The knowledge of the course-bell is of use should the practitioner, on going down to lead, fail to remember his position. In many cases when ringing, the performer's memory fails him, and in the midst of some confusion he for the moment forgets whether to go up behind or down to lead. In such cases a knowledge of the course bell is of great service, for if attention is directed to it, the ringer can find the position in which his bell should be. Another benefit of knowing his course-bell is, if the ringer of that bell should wander, the one who is following can, if he is an attentive ringer, put her right, push his course-bell down before him, so to speak.

We have dwelt upon the great necessity there exists for the practitioner always well knowing the bell he is following down to lead. Now it is possible to make improper use of this knowledge. It has previously been stated that at every blow of a bell the ringer should distinctly see the bell (or rope) he is pulling after. Some persons, who have evidently been imperfectly educated in their first steps, manage to hunt up in fair order; when they get behind and having discovered their course-bell they adopt a very unscientific mode of getting back again. They keep their eyes fixed upon the ringer of the course-bell, and pull after him, allowing what they think sufficient space between the movement of the two ropes for the blow of another bell to come between. Such practice as this in our opinion is to be condemned, as producing invariably defective striking.

We presume that what we have written above has enabled the probationer to understand the theory of hunting a bell up and down. To put into practice what we have written requires the faculty of reading the ropes, in other words "rope-sight." The pupil threads his way up behind, apparently with ease, counting each blow as he makes it and arrives behind all right. Then perhaps his difficulties begin. "First blow behind; 5th my course-bell," he mutters to himself, and then tries to go back again. Having struck upon his course-bell, he should know that there are only three others left to look after, he covers (*i.e.*, acts as tenor behind) these, noticing the one he strikes upon; now there are only two left, he covers them in the same manner, still bearing in mind which of them he struck after; there is only one now left, he strikes upon that, and by cutting in at backstroke after his course-bell, finds himself at lead. This is one, and we think a very good mode to practice getting down to lead. In our next paper we will notice what additional help the probationer may summon to his aid in "hunting down."

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG IN THE MONTHS OF JANUARY, FEBRUARY, AND MARCH, 1886.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Total.
Midland Counties' Association ..	6	12	2	20
Yorkshire Association ..	3	8	4	15
Oxford Diocesan Guild ..	5	5	4	14
Ancient Society of College Youths ..	6	3	4	13
St. James' Society, London ..	4	3	5	12
United Counties' Association ..	2	6	3	11
Birmingham and District and Amalgamated Societies ..	3	1	5	9
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths ..	3	2	3	8
Lancashire Association ..	0	2	5	7
Kent Association ..	3	0	3	6
Surrey Association ..	2	1	3	6
Liverpool Youths' Society ..	2	2	1	5
Sussex County Association ..	0	2	2	4
Holt Society ..	2	1	1	4
Winchester Diocesan Guild ..	2	1	1	4
Norwich Diocesan Association ..	2	1	1	4
Rochdale and District Association ..	0	2	1	3
Hertford Association ..	1	1	0	2
Association for Archdeaconry of Stafford ..	2	0	0	2
Durham & Newcastle Diocesan Assocn. ..	1	0	0	1
Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Assocn. ..	0	1	0	1
Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Assocn. ..	0	1	0	1
Worcester and adjoining Districts Assocn. ..	0	0	1	1
Independent Societies ..	6	21	10	37
Less peals entered under two Assocns. ..	3	1	2	6
	55	76	59	190
	3	1	2	6
	52	75	57	184

The above peals were rung in the following methods:—

Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1; Treble Bob Royal, 9; Treble Bob Caters, 1; Treble Bob Major, 42; Stedman Cinques, 2; Stedman Caters, 3; Stedman Triples, 18; Grandsire Royal, 1; Grandsire Caters, 8; Grandsire Major, 7; Grandsire Triples, 64; Grandsire Doubles, 1 (5040); Bob Major, 8; Bob Triples, 3; Bob Minor (seven 720's), 2; Union Triples, 1; in 7 methods on six bells, 12; in 3 minor methods, repeated, on six bells, 1; Total, 184.

Greatest number of changes in one peal, 10,000. Quickest 5040 on church bells, 2 hrs. 32 mins. GEO. F. ATTREE.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, QUORNDON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

We have the pleasure to announce that the two new bells, the magnificent gift of W. E. B. Farnham, Esq., now being added to make a complete peal of eight, will be rung for the first time at a solemn service of dedication, on Easter Tuesday, the 27th April, 1886. The Rev. Thomas Pitts, M.A. (rector of All Saints, Loughborough), will preach on the occasion. The service will commence at 2.30 p.m. Immediately after the service, a sale of plain and useful needlework will be held in the national schoolrooms, where tea can also be procured; tickets 6d. each. The following ladies will assist on the occasion: Mrs. Farnham, Mrs. Hole, Mrs. Paget, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Harris and others. In addition to the generous gift of the two new bells and the very handsome subscriptions promised by the principal residents, and owners of property in the parish, a considerable sum is yet required for the re-hanging or re-casting of the old bells, repairs to the interior of the tower, removal of the clock, &c. The offertory at the service, and the proceeds of the sale of needlework, &c., will be placed to the bell fund. It may also be mentioned that an improvement will be made in the clock, by the addition of a minute-hand to be provided at the expense of Mrs. John Paget.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

The next Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held at Carshalton (by the kind permission of the Rector), on Easter Monday: April 26th. The business meeting will be held in the Schoolroom, at six o'clock, and all ringing members attending at that hour will be allowed 1s. 6d. for expenses. The tower (eight bells) will be open for ringing from 4 to 5 and from 7 to 8 p.m. The peal of ten, at Beddington, will also be open for ringing, by the kind permission of the Rev. Canon Bridges. ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE QUARTERLY DISTRICT MEETING, by the kind invitation of the Vicar and Churchwardens, at All Saints, Newmarket, on Easter Monday, at 12 noon. Dinner and business meeting afterwards. Members intending to be present will oblige by kindly communicating with the Hon. Sec., Cambridge Road, Ely.

NEW CUMBERLAND SURPRISE.

ANALYSIS OF THE PLAIN COURSE.

any one undertaking to explain the working of a bell in a change-ringing method, new to the learner, has to encounter two risks; either the risk of not explaining enough and with insufficient clearness, or the risk of making his explanation too elaborate and minute, and thus confusing the mind of the learner instead of informing it. I will endeavour to avoid both these risks, by first taking a general view of the plain course and describing its principal features; next, by explaining the order in which the different parts of the work follow each other; and lastly, by pointing out the signals or indications which will serve to warn the ringer in various places, of the coming duty of his bell. And since the mode of explanation employed by the late Mr. Snowdon, is no doubt familiar to my readers. I shall follow as closely as I can the lines he has laid down, and use, as far as possible, the terms he used.

Now if we examine the plain course of New Cumberland, and better still, if we line out the path of one bell, say the 2nd, and of the treble, we shall observe that the working of that bell is, for the most part, regular and straightforward throughout. We shall observe also, that the method being a *double* one, precisely the same work is done from behind as is done from the front. The main feature of the method is plainly the work in front and behind. And this is very simple. It is in fact the work of a Treble Bob bell behind at a bob. It consists, that is, of a three pull dodge either before or after the lead, or the blows behind, and a single dodge in the other side. This work occurs eight times altogether in the course, four times in front, four times behind. Of these, two in each position are with the treble, and two in each position without the treble. We will call these respectively, first work, last work, with the treble, in front, or behind, as the case may be; and first work, last work, without the treble in front, or behind. Besides this main work, it will be seen that there are two points, one at the lead, and one behind, where a bell does simple Treble Bob work, i.e., single dodge, whole pull, single dodge. These are the two turning points in the work; and it will be as well to remember them by this name. There are, then, the turning point at the lead, and the turning point from the back, at which the bell does simple Treble Bob work. Having now seen what the work is in 1-2 and 7-8; we will examine the intermediate positions in 3-4 and 5-6. We shall observe at once that the greater part of the work here consists in nothing more elaborate than Kent places in one position and a single dodge in the other. These 'places' are sometimes 'near' places, and sometimes 'far' places, there being two of each kind from either end; and we shall not be long in finding a rule to guide us in choosing the one or the other in ringing. We observe also that twin Oxford places are made on each side of the 'turning points' in the nearest position, preceded and followed by a dodge with the treble in the same position; this dodge following, and leading to the Kent places in the other position. In addition to this main work in 3-4 and 5-6, we shall notice in two leads a very peculiar and unaccustomed piece

of work, which looks as if the bell were playing at hide and seek with the treble. In one of the leads this game takes place 'going up,' and in the other 'coming down.' In each case after being turned from the lead, or from behind, by the treble, the bell is hunted by the treble place for place till it gets to sixths (going up), or thirds (coming down), where it makes that place (hand and back) doubles back, crosses the treble in 4-5, makes thirds, or sixths, doubles back again, and now hunts the treble place for place, till it comes to dodge with it in 7-8, or at the lead. It will be seen that in doing this work, the bell runs three times between thirds and sixths places, and makes both those places. For want of a better name, I will call this work the '4-bell hunt.' The work is simple enough in itself, and might almost be called work with the treble, as there is a dodge with the treble at each end of it. So much for a general view of the plain course. Now let us ascertain the order in which the different features of the work follow each other. Starting from the point where a bell turns the treble from the lead, we shall find it runs thus:—First work with treble in front, 'near' places, 'far' dodge; first work without treble behind; 'near' places, dodge treble 3-4, 'Oxford' places 3-4, turning-point in front, Oxford places 4-3, dodge treble 4-3, 'far' places, last work without treble behind, 'near' dodge, 'far' places, last work with treble in front. Four bell hunt up, first work with treble behind, 'near' places, 'far' dodge. First work without treble in front, 'near' places, dodge treble 6-5, Oxford places 6-5, turning-point 6-5, Oxford places 5-6, dodge treble 5-6, 'far' places, last work without treble in front, 'near' dodge. 'Far' places, last work with treble behind, four bell hunt down. The task of learning this 'duty' will be much simplified by remembering that the dodges with the treble, and the Oxford places in 3-4 and 5-6 immediately precede and follow the turning points, and may be considered as parts of that work. Also that first work in front or behind, is followed by 'near' places; last work (without treble), and turning-point by 'far' places. Last work with treble ushers in the 4-bell hunt. There are other rules and indications which will serve a ringer in practising this method. The treble we have seen is a great signal maker; a dodge with the treble in 3-4 down being the signal for the turning-point in front; in 3-4 up for the turning-point behind. A dodge with the treble at the end of work in front is the signal for the 4-bell hunt up; a dodge with treble at the end of work behind is the signal for 4-bell hunt down. Crossing the treble in any other position except 4-5, is the signal to dodge as soon as possible, then and there in fact. This will often help a ringer to know whether he has to make 'far' or 'near' places. In starting to go up or down, if he does not meet the treble at once, he must make his places; but if he meets the treble immediately, he must dodge and make his places in the next position. Further, it will be seen that first work is followed by first work; last work by last work; the breaks between the pairs being the turning-point and the 4-bell hunt. Again, a ringer may wonder whether he is to begin his work in front or behind with a 3-pull dodge, or a single one. Here is an infallible rule. If you leave with three dodges, begin at the other end with 3: if you leave with a single dodge, begin at the other end with a single dodge. A careful examination of the path of a bell through the plain course, with the aid of these hints and indications will enable any ringer to ring this method without the least difficulty or hesitation.

H. EARLE BULWER.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

6048.

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

2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H
3	5	2	6	4	-	-	-	-
6	3	5	4	2	-	-	2	-
4	6	3	2	5	-	-	2	-
2	4	3	6	5	I	-	2	-
6	5	2	4	3	2	-	I	-
5	3	2	4	6	I	-	2	-
3	4	2	5	6	I	-	-	-

This peal is with the 6th placed twice each way in each part in 5-6.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL.

6240.

By ROBERT WILLIAMS, *Liverpool.*

2	3	4	5	6	M	W	H
5	2	3	6	4	2	2	2
2	5	4	6	3	2	2	2
2	4	6	5	3	I	2	2
5	6	4	2	3	2	2	2
6	3	4	2	5	I	2	2
4	5	2	3	6	I	I	2

Repeated.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5184.

By SAMUEL WOOD, *Ashton-under-Lyne.*

2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H
3	6	4	5	2	2	-	I	2
4	6	5	3	2	-	-	2	I
6	3	4	2	5	2	-	2	-
2	5	3	4	6	2	-	2	-
4	2	5	3	6	I	-	2	-

Twice repeated.

Rung at Mottram on April 7th, 1886. Conducted by its composer.

A PEAL OF ALBION TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5088.

By JOHN J. BRIERLEY, *Saddleworth.*

2	3	4	5	6	W	B	M	H
2	3	5	6	4	-	-	I	-
5	2	4	3	6	I	-	I	-
5	2	3	6	4	-	-	I	-
4	3	5	2	6	I	-	I	-
4	3	2	6	5	-	-	I	-
2	6	4	3	5	I	-	I	-
4	2	3	5	6	-	-	I	-

Twice repeated.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5280.

By JOHN R. PRITCHARD, *Liverpool.*

2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H
3	6	4	5	2	2	-	I	2
5	3	4	6	2	I	-	2	-
3	2	4	6	5	2	-	I	2
6	3	4	2	5	I	-	2	-
2	4	5	3	6	2	-	2	-

Twice repeated.

"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.

G. NEWSON.—We should like to know the cause of the report of the peal being delayed.

F. LINLEY.—Write to Mr. B. Keeble, Waterloo Road, Romford.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 1886.

A NOTICE has appeared in our columns, having for its purport the attempt, on Saturday next, to ring a long peal of Treble Bob Major, which, if successful, will completely put in the shade the feat performed at Mottram, Cheshire, by the men of Ashton-under-Lyne. Whoever among our readers has become acquainted with the paragraph notifying that this attempt will be made, will certainly admire the pluck and intrepidity of the band who will strive to wrest those honours which are inseparably connected with successful attempts at great lengths, from their brethren in a neighbouring town, and will wish them good luck in their undertaking. No small amount of surprise has been created at the number of changes this peal is said to possess, and we may well hope that the "grand old man" of the north—Mr. W. SOTTANSTALL—has, in his last production, given to the Exercise a composition worthy of his ability. Various speculations have been rife already concerning the composition, especially with respect to the probabilities of it containing bobs not of the usual fourth's place character. We are not in a position to say anything about the composition, for we have not been favoured with a view of it; but it may safely be said that if it possesses any other than the usual fourth's place bobs, it will not, despite the number of changes, earn the character and esteem which the compositions of the late THOMAS DAY enjoyed. Of course this will not detract one iota from the performance of the peal, should it be secured; if successful, the feat will be a proof of the endurance and pluck of our countrymen in the north, who will doubtless take care, as far as they are able, that the striking shall not be open to adverse criticism.

There is one feature of this attempt for a long peal to which our attention has been called, and that is the particular season of the Church's year. The Church is now keeping a season, till the end of which many of our readers postpone the ringing of peals, unless under very

peculiar circumstances. And it has been regarded by some of these that in that part of this season which ought to be considered the most sacred and holy—the period when our Lord lay in the tomb—it is a great mistake (we put it mildly) to attempt such, or, in fact, any other performance of the kind. We certainly agree in the main to such an objection. In many places, where the practice of ringing is allowed through Lent, it is altogether ceased during the week preceding Easter Sunday. And it is of no use to shut our eyes to these objections. They will be heard, and if obstinately disregarded in the future, those who ignore them will find themselves not the masters of the situation they imagine themselves to be.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above Association will be held at Bedford, on Easter Monday next.—Particulars of the Hon. Sec., Mr. C. Herbert, Woburn, Beds.

The Metropolis.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, April 3rd, 1886, in Three Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES:

Tenor 31 cwt.

GEORGE NEWSON Treble.	HENRY SWAIN 6.
ARTHUR JACOB 2.	GEORGE HARVEY 7.
THOMAS TITCHENER 3.	HENRY HOPKINS 8.
ACKLAND J. PERKINS* .. 4.	HENRY DAINS 9.
JAMES HANNINGTON 5.	JAMES BARRETT Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal of Royal. This peal has the 5th and 6th three courses each in the tittum position, and the 6th is also there four courses in the home position. It was rung to celebrate the anniversary of 12,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal rung on March 27th, 1784, at the same church, by the same society.

The Provinces.

MOTTRAM, CHESHIRE.

On Wednesday, April 7, 1886, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

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

HARRY HEAP* Treble.	JOHN SIDEBOTTOM 5.
JOHN LEIGH 2.	WILLIAM MIDDLETON .. 6.
ROBERT WRIGHT 3.	GEORGE BRADDOCK 7.
JOHN HARROP 4.	SAMUEL WOOD Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

*First peal of Treble Bob Major. The above peal contains all the 857's and 86's rung on the 29th birthday of the Conductor.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, April 8, 1886, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN 4 DIFFERENT MINOR METHODS;

Being two 720's of Plain Bob; two 720's of Canterbury Pleasure; two 720's of Oxford Single Bob; and one 720 of College Single.

T. SEARLE Treble.	E. BRACKLEY 4.
G. SMART 2.	J. WOOLGAR 5.
G. GATLAND 3.	C. TYLER Tenor.

Conducted by C. TYLER.

First 5040 by all except the Conductor, and first 5000 on six bells by the Sussex County Association.

BISHOPS STORTFORD.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1886, in Four Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 6384 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

THOMAS NEWMAN Treble.	FREDERICK SWORDER .. 5.
ALFRED TUCKER.. .. 2.	STEPHEN KNIGHT .. 6.
MATTHEW ELLSMORE .. 3.	HENRY N. DOUGHTY .. 7.
HERBERT BAKER.. .. 4.	HENRY J. TUCKER .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by HENRY J. TUCKER.

This peal, which is now rung for the first time, has the 5th twelve times wrong and eighteen times right, and the 6th twelve times right and eighteen times wrong. This is the longest peal on the bells; the first peal of Grandsire Major by all the band, and is believed to be the first ever rung in the county of Hertfordshire.

WHITFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1886, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

EDWARD HAIGH Treble.	SAMUEL WILKINSON .. 5.
EDWARD ROSTRON 2.	SAMUEL LEVER.. .. 6.
WILLIAM MARSDEN 3.	JOHN BRADBURY .. 7.
ALFRED RANGELEY* .. 3.	SAMUEL STAFFORD .. Tenor.

Composed by SAMUEL WOOD, of Ashton, and Conducted by EDWARD HAIGH.

*First peal. A. Rangeley hails from Hayfield; the rest belong to the local company.

WAKEFIELD.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 12, 1886, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLLIS'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 32 cwt.

RICHARD WRIGLEY Treble.	JOHN T. HOLLIS 5.
JAMES FIRTH 2.	THOMAS ORMOND 6.
WILLIAM FIRTH 3.	THOMAS MOORHOUSE .. 7.
TOM PRINCE.. .. 4.	JOHN STYLES Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN T. HOLLIS.

This is the first peal of Triples on the bells, and is supposed to be the first in any method on the heavy eight.

THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

On Saturday, April 10, 1886, in Three Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 6000 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

HENRY HEAP Treble.	CHARLES WILLOCKS .. 5.
JOHN LEIGH.. .. 2.	THOMAS MOSS 6.
WILLIAM JAKEMAN .. 3.	GEORGE LONGDEN .. 7.
JOHN HOPWOOD 4.	JOSEPH MELLOR .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEO. LONGDEN.

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 10, 1886, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

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

SAMUEL HARROP Treble.	SAMUEL KNOTT, JUN. .. 5.
DANIEL JAMES 2.	JOSEPH MALONEY .. 6.
WILLIAM HARROP 3.	HARRY COOPER.. .. 7.
CHARLES BROOKE 4.	JOHN PYE, JUN.. .. Tenor.

Composed by DANIEL WOODS, and Conducted by SAMUEL KNOTT, JUN.

This peal contains the 6th its extent wrong and home at six courses each way.

Date Touches.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Sunday, April 11th, for Divine Service at Holy Trinity Church, a date touch of Bob Major (1886 changes), in 1 hr. 8 mins. C. Bennett, 1; W. Southwick, 2; R. Chaffer, 3; H. Jenkins, 4; H. Cutter, 5; J. Dixey, 6; F. Drabble, 7; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 8. The above was rung on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the foundation of Holy Trinity Church, the preacher being the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Sodor and Man. Tenor 25 cwt.

LEEDS (Yorkshire).—Handbell Ringing.—On Thursday evening, March 25th, at Mr. S. Mitchell's, "Nag's Head" inn, a date touch, 1886 changes, of Kent Treble Bob Major, was rung on handbells retained in hand, in 1 hr. 5 mins. T. West, 1-2; T. Lockwood, 3-4; W. Walker, 5-6; J. Hutchinson, 7-8. Composed and conducted by T. Lockwood. Witnesses: Jas. Lockwood, R. Binns, and Mr. Needham (late of Nottingham).

Miscellaneous.

THE HERTFORD SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

HERTFORD (Herts).—On Sunday, April 11th, for morning service, eight members of the above company rang a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. James Jauncey, 1; Matthew Ellsmore, 2; Herbert Baker, 3; William Goodchild, 4; William A. Tyler, 5; Joseph Cull, 6; Jasper G. Crawley, 7; Frederick George, 8. Composed by John Wright, of King's Norton, and conducted by Jasper G. Crawley. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

STAINDROP (Durham).—On Sunday, April 4th, at the parish church, 600 of Grandsire Doubles, 3rd and 5th the observation. W. Maclean, 1; J. W. Shipp, 2; W. E. Johnson, 3; T. Leonard, 4; D. Shipp (conductor), 5; J. Brown, 6. Also on Saturday, April 10th, 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, eighteen bobs and two singles. †W. Maclean, 1; †J. W. Shipp, 2; †W. E. Johnson, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; †D. Shipp, 5; G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 6. And 420 of Bob Minor, nine bobs and two singles. G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 1; R. Moncaster, 2; W. E. Johnson, 3; J. W. Shipp, 4; D. Shipp, 5; J. Brown, 6. Also on Sunday, April 11th, 480 of Bob Minor, six bobs and six singles, and 240 of College Single, standing the same as in Doubles, †First 720 of Oxford. G. J. Clarkson hails from Stockton, and J. Moncaster from Darlington. Tenor 13 cwt.

EASTERN COUNTIES' GUILD.

WALPOLE (Norfolk).—On Sunday evening, March 28th, for practice at St. Peter's church by the voluntary band, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. J. Hendry, 1; R. Grimes (conductor), 2; H. Hill, 3; E. Allen, 4; H. Merrishaw, 5; W. Wright, 6. Also a 360 in the same method, with nine bobs, H. Hill (conductor). And on Sunday, April 11th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 28 mins. *J. Brett, 1; R. Grimes, 2; H. Hill (conductor), 3; H. Merrishaw, 4; H. Allen, 5; W. Wright, 6. Also another 720 in the same method, by the same company, with R. Grimes (conductor). Tenor 14½ cwt. *First 720 in the method.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

RAYLEIGH (Essex).—On Sunday, April 11th, the local branch of the above Association rang for evening service a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. G. Smith, 1; F. Haslam, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. Brewer, 4; H. Deal, 5; Rev. H. A. Cockey (conductor) 6. This is the first 720 by the first and fourth men, and the first in the method by all except the conductor. It is supposed to be the first in this method ever rung at Rayleigh. Tenor 14½ cwt. A 6-score of Grandsire Doubles was afterwards brought home, in which F. Strugnell rang the fourth.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MARKET RASEN.—On Sunday, April 11th, six members of this branch of the above Association, rang for Divine Service in the morning, 720 of Plain Bob Minor. E. Boulton, 1; S. Marshall, 2; H. Gadd, 3; W. Lunn, 4; *J. Hackney, 5; H. Burkitt (conductor), 6. *First 720 with a bob bell.

THE HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

PERRY BARR (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, April 10th, at the church of St. John, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. H. Bastable, 1; C. Stanbridge, 2; B. Wittchell (conductor), 3; T. Reynolds, 4; M. Murphy, 5; J. W. Cartwright, 6. Tenor 13½ cwt. in F.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

DERBY.—On Thursday, April 8th, for practice at St. Andrew's Church, 570 of Bob Major, in 21 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; G. Mottashaw, 2; T. Alton, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; J. W. Thompson, 5; C. Hart, 6; A. E. Thompson, 7; W. H. Found, 8. Also 532 of Bob Triples in 20 mins. G. Mottashaw, 1; T. Alton, 2; J. W. Thompson, 3; W. Midgley, 4; W. H. Found, 5; C. Hart, 6; A. E. Thompson, (conductor), 7; W. Shardlow, 8.

DUFFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, March 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins., with the bells half-muffled, out of respect to Miss May Harvey, youngest daughter of Robert Harvey, Esq., of Derwent House, an hon. member of the company. G. Dawson, 1; E. Moreton, 2; W. Hickling, 3; A. Robinson, 4; R. Johnson, 5; G. Hingley, 6; J. Howe (conductor), 7; J. Johnson, 8.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

HEADINGTON (Oxon).—On Wednesday, April 7th, for practice, several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, by the following: Rev. F. Du Boulay, Messrs. G. Tolley, C. Tolley, J. Powell, C. Dalloway, W. Jacob, C. Halton, of Headington, assisted by Messrs. H. J. Castle, and J. W. Washbrook (conductor), of Oxford. Also some plain courses, and a short touch of Grandsire Minor. J. Powell, 1; G. Tolley, 2; Rev. F. Du Boulay, 3; C. Tolley, 4; J. W. Washbrook, 5; H. J. Castle, 6. And on handbells, a six-score of Stedman Doubles. Rev. F. Du Boulay, 1; J. W. Washbrook, 2-3; C. Tolley, 4; H. J. Castle, 5-6. This tower has lately joined the Guild, and in company with many others in the diocese is greatly indebted to Mr. Washbrook for his unfailing patience and good temper and skill as instructor. Also on Wednesday, April 7th, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 24 mins. G. Tolley, 1; T. Kirby, 2; H. Castle, 3; C. Tolley, 4; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 5; F. Castle, 6.

IFFLEY (Oxon).—On Sunday, April 4th, at the parish church, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. W. Jeffery, 1; T. Kirby, 2; F. Williamson, 3; A. Fox, 4; J. Payne, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. These bells go very bad, and it is with the utmost difficulty the 5th and tenor are rung.

KIDDLINGTON.—On Monday, April 5th, at the parish church, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 28 mins. W. Cox, 1; H. Judge, 2; F. Shirley, 3; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 4; J. Franklin, 5; J. Baker, 6. Tenor 36 cwt.

OXFORD.—On Saturday, April 3rd, at the Cathedral, a half-peal of Stedman Triples, 2520 changes, in 1 hr. 37 mins. F. Payne, 1; F. Castle, 2; C. Hounslow, 3; J. Field, 4; C. W. H. Griffiths, Esq., 5; W. Finch, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; A. Barney, 8. Tenor 42 cwt. And on Sunday, April 4th, at the church of St. Thomas-the-Martyr, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. T. Kirby, 1; T. Payne, 2; F. Castle, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; O. Thomas, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

CROYDON.—On Saturday, April 10th, at the parish church, after the Confirmation Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (Johnson's 6-part), in 54 mins. W. Dudley, 1; G. Russell (conductor), 2; H. C. Haley, 3; U. Holman, 4; A. B. Carpenter, Esq., 5; W. States, 6; T. Verrall, 7; G. Rosier, 8. The tenor clogged, not being ringable.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BRIGHTON.—On Wednesday, March 3rd, at St. Peter's, by four members each of the Eastbourne and Brighton branches, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1886 changes), in 1 hr. and 7 mins. J. Day, 1; J. Searle, 2; H. P. Bennett (conductor), 3; L. Huggett, 4; G. King, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; T. Hart, 7; J. Rollison, 8. Also a 504 in the same method. G. Attree (conductor).

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

KIDDERMINSTER.—On Sunday, April 4th, at the church of St. Mary and All Saints, 1246 of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins. J. Bennett, 1; R. E. Grove, 2; W. Broomfield, 3; J. Crane, 4; H. Broad, 5; H. Williams, 6; R. Broomfield (composer and conductor), 7; T. Walters, 8. Messrs. W. and R. Broomfield hail from Bromsgrove, and H. Broad from Chaddesley Corbett.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION AND THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

BROMSGROVE.—On Monday, April 12th, at the church of St. John-the-Baptist, an attempt was made for a peal of Bob Major, but after ringing about 800, it came to grief owing to the fourth and sixth changing course. W. Broomfield, 1; T. Miller, 2; O. James, 3; T. Allbutt, 4; W. Rea, 5; G. Bourne, 6; G. Hayward (conductor), 7; R. Broomfield, 8. T. Miller hails from Birmingham.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Monday, April 12th, on the occasion of the Confirmation by His Grace the Archbishop of York, 1312 of Kent Treble Bob Major, 504 of Grandsire Triples, and a course of Stedman Triples. C. Bennett, 1; T. Stockdale, 2; W. Southwick, 3; H. Jenkins, 4; H. Cutter, 5; J. Dixey, 6; F. Drabble, 7; C. Jackson (conductor), 8. *Muffled Peal*.—On Tuesday, April 6th, at St. James' church, with the bells muffled, as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. J. Partington, for many years churchwarden and synodman of the above church, who was interred that day, an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 1800 changes, in 1 hr. 15 mins., the bells were brought round by the conductor through the sudden illness of one of the members. G. M. Brownrigg, 1; J. W. Stickney (conductor), 2; F. Drabble, 3; H. Cutter, 4; H. Jenkins, 5; T. Stockdale, 6; R. Chaffer, 7; R. Haire, 8. Tenor 15 cwt.

ANSTON (Yorks).—On Sunday, April 11th, for evening service (which is being held in the schoolroom whilst the church is being restored), the local company rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, with fifteen bobs, in 25 mins., and 120 of Violet. G. Lidster, 1; R. S. Fox, 2; J. Bland, 3; C. F. Fowler, 4; S. Smith, 5; T. Silvester (conductor), 6.

DINTING (Derbyshire).—On Saturday, April 10th, at the church of Holy Trinity, 2160 changes, in three different methods, in 1 hr. 18 mins. J. W. Booth, 1; J. Harrop, 2; S. Knott, sen., (conductor), 3; S. Shaw, 4; C. Jubb, 5; J. Pye, sen., 6. Tenor 12½ cwt. Messrs. Harrop, Knott, and Pye, belong to Glossop, the rest belong to Dinting. Mr. Charles Jubb is late of Cawthorn, Yorkshire.

FARNWORTH, BOLTON, (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, April 6th, the local company rang several 120's of Grandsire Doubles. W. Brundle, (conductor), 1; E. Howard, 2; W. Lever, 3; T. Ratcliffe, 4; W. Pitchforth, 5; J. Lever, 6. First 720 by all the above, who have not been ringing above two months under the tuition of Mr. Edward Cash, of Eccles.

FOXEARH (Essex).—On Monday evening, April 12th, for practice at the parish church, a 720 of Oxford Single Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. W. P. Gridley, 1; C. Lee, 2; J. Lee, 3; G. Maxim, 4; R. Mingay, 5; D. Ward (conductor), 6.

GREAT WALDINGFIELD (Suffolk).—On Sunday, April 11th, after the afternoon service at the parish church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. P. C. S. Scott (conductor), 1; W. Howell, 2; C. Sillitoe, 3; A. Symonds, 4; G. Hammond, 5; J. Bird, 6. Also a 720 of Bob Minor. A. Symonds, 1; H. Bowers, 2; H. Smith, 3; C. Sillitoe, 4; G. Hammond (conductor), 5; H. Diggins, 6. And a 360 of Grandsire Minor. F. Tolliday, 1; J. Campin, 2; G. Brown, 3; M. Silvester, 4; W. Howell, 5; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 6. This is the longest touch in this method on these bells, also the longest by all the above. Tenor 14 cwt. Messrs. Sillitoe, Howell, Brown, Silvester, Campin, and Tolliday, hail from Sudbury; Scott, Bird, and Hammond, from Long Melford; Symonds and Smith, from Lavenham; Bowers and Diggins belong to Waldingfield.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Sunday evening, March 7th, for Divine Service at St. Martin's Church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 24 mins. G. Griffin, 1; T. Gleed, 2; J. Hannington (conductor), 3; J. Leach, 4; J. Nixon, 5; T. Titchener, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

HENDON (Middlesex).—On Sunday evening, April 11th, at St. Mary's Church, before Divine Service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, (fifteen bobs), in 25 mins. J. Hannington (conductor), 1; T. Gleed, 2; J. Nixon, 3; T. Titchener, 4; E. Chapman, 5; G. Griffin, 6. Also 540 of Plain Bob Minor, in 19 mins. G. Griffin, 1; J. Hannington (conductor), 2; T. Titchener, 3; T. Gleed, 4; J. Nixon, 5; E. Chapman, 6. And after Divine Service, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs), in 24 mins. E. Chapman, 1; J. Nixon, 2; T. Titchener, 3; G. Griffin, 4; G. Newson, 5; J. Hannington (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (twenty bobs and ten singles), in 25 mins. *C. Crampton (Hendon), 1; J. Nixon, 2; J. Hannington (conductor), 3; G. Griffin, 4; T. Titchener, 5; G. Newson, 6. And a 360 of Plain Bob Minor. H. Martin (Hendon), 1; T. Titchener, 2; G. Griffin, 3; J. Nixon, 4; J. Hannington (conductor), 5; E. Chapman, 6. Tenor 16½ cwt. *First 720.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM, (Lancashire).—On Thursday, April 1st, a mixed company rung at St. Thomas's Church a 720 of Grandsire Minor, forty bobs and eight singles, in 29 mins. J. Hilton, 1; F. Crosland (conductor), 2; J. Greenwood, 3; *W. Sutcliffe, 4; *J. Street, 5; *T. Barrett, 6. Tenor 18 cwt. *First 720 in the method. Messrs. Hilton, Crosland, and Greenwood hail from Lees.

SOUTH HACKNEY (Middlesex).—On Sunday, April 11th, the Bishop of London held a Confirmation at the church of St. John of Jerusalem, before which the last 700 of Holt's Original was rung. W. D. Smith, 1; W. Greenleaf, 2; A. Cutmore, 3; H. Springhall, 4; R. J. Turner,

5; E. Turner, 6; S. Joyce, 7; J. H. Barrett, 8. And after Service six courses of Stedman Triples, G. Marriott, 5; R. J. Turner, 6; E. Turner, 8, the others as before. Also for Divine Service in the evening, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, (1260 changes), in 47 mins. W. D. Smith (conductor), 1; W. Greenleaf, 2; R. J. Turner, 3; H. Springhall, 4; A. Cutmore, 5; S. Joyce, 6; E. Turner, 7; J. H. Barrett, 8. *First quarter-peal.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Thursday evening, April 8th, for practice, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. G. Martin, 1; F. Ring, 2; F. Hayes, 3; G. Hayes, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. G. Hayes' first peal in the method with a bob bell.

TUE BROOK, NEAR LIVERPOOL.—On Saturday, April 10th, at St John's Church, by the kind permission of the Vicar, an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples in honour of Mr. J. R. Pritchard, who that day completed his 31st year, (and who through illness was unfortunately prevented from attending), but after ringing 1932 changes in 1 hr. 7 mins., it came to grief. R. Diggle, 1; W. Booth, 2; T. Donnelly, 3; W. Bond, 4; J. Donnelly (conductor), 5; J. Aspinwall, 6; I. Clarke, 7; W. Brooks, 8. Composed by J. R. Pritchard. After which 500 of Union Triples by the same band, conducted by J. Aspinwall. And a touch of Grandsire Triples, conducted by William Booth.

WOODFORD (Essex).—Muffled Peal.—On Sunday evening, April 11th, after Divine Service at the parish church, 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins., in memory of Mr. T. Lowe, many years church clerk, and who died on Friday, April 9th, aged 72 years, deeply regretted. H. Nunn, (sen.), 1; H. W. Nunn, 2; J. Nunn, 3; J. Marks, 4; E. Cornell, 5; H. Scarlett (conductor), 6.

WRITTLE (Essex).—On Sunday, April 11th, for Divine Service, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles (each called differently), on the back six. H. Pamplin, 1; J. Everard, 2; F. Radley, 3; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 4; W. Lincoln (conductor), 5; C. J. Dennison, 6. Also two 6-scores called differently. J. Everard, 1; F. Radley, 2; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 3; R. Wood, 4; W. Lincoln (conductor), 5; A. Barrington, 6. The company (who are all new to ringing within the past eighteen months) have begun practising Grandsire Triples, but irregular attendance sadly delays progress. The bells are a fine ring of eight (tenor 18 cwt.), but for many years past there has been no attempt to form a local company of change-ringers, and no interest has been felt in the art in the neighbourhood. To create such an interest, and acquire the necessary skill, will be a work of time; but a fair start has been made.

SALFORD, LANCASHIRE.

On Wednesday, April 7th, 1886, the bells of Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, were re-opened. These bells have for the last few years been in almost an unringable condition, but have now been put into splendid "going" order, with everything new except the bells themselves and the frame; this has been strengthened and is now quite as good as a new one. Four of the bells have been quarter-turned. The Manchester cathedral company of ringers were requested by the rector, the Rev. Francis Gore-Booth, to ring the opening touches. At 6.30 p.m. the ringers met outside the tower, and preceded by the rector, churchwardens and sidesmen, ascended to the belfry. The rector there stated as the bells had been dedicated once to the service of God, he would only say a few prayers suitable for the occasion. These over, the ringers at once "stripped" and proceeded to raise the bells in peal. The bells up, and doublings put in, "go" was given for a 720 of Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, which was accomplished in 25 mins. T. Thorp, 1; T. G. Downs, 2; J. E. Pollitt, 3; S. West, 4; A. E. Wreaks, 5; John Eachus, 6. After the usual evening service, the ringers again ascended the belfry and rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, with twelve bobs, and a 720 of Grandsire Minor, each rung respectively in 24½ mins. and 24 mins. Samuel West, 1; G. E. Turner, 2; J. E. Pollitt, 3; J. Thorp, 4; J. Eachus, 5; A. E. Wreaks, 6. Weight of tenor 11½ cwt. in G. The whole of the ringing was conducted by A. E. Wreaks. The bells were cast in the year 1706, by A. Rudhall, of Gloucester.

We have to record the death of Mr. Richard Shorter, who died on Saturday, April 3rd, and was buried on Sunday, April 11th, aged 71 years. He was an old ringer, who had taken great interest in bell-ringing at Leeds in Kent, for upwards of fifty years, seldom ever missing a practice. A great number of ringers attended the funeral, at 1 o'clock, at Hollingbourne, and in the evening, at Leeds church, with the bells half muffled, as a mark of respect, 1008 of Bob Major were rung in 42 minutes by the following ringers: R. Simmonds, 1; J. Furgusson, 2; A. Knight, 3; F. Hollands, 4; H. Hollands, 5; W. Slowman (conductor), 6; F. Gibbins, 7; H. Pearce, 8; tenor 20 cwt. Messrs. Simmonds, Pearce, Furgusson, hail from Maidstone, the rest belong to the local company.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

The next Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held on Easter Monday, April 26th, in the Chapter House, Worcester Cathedral, at 2 o'clock prompt. The Rev. Canon Melville, D.D., rector of Great Witley, has kindly consented to preside. All members who arrive at Worcester earlier, (and all are specially invited), are requested to meet at St. Helen's church, and to note that all contributions not yet paid are due at this meeting. All towers open for ringing.

Order of business: confirming (or otherwise) minutes of last meeting; to propose new members; to receive contributions; to take into consideration minutes five and seven, of meeting held at Worcester, September 19th, and minute two of meeting held at Bewdley, November 21st, 1885; notice of motion from Dudley that three trustees be appointed; notice of motion from the Rev. W. R. Carr, vicar of St. John's, Worcester, to bring forward a set of belfry rules for adoption by the association; election of president in the place of Lord Alwyne Compton, Bishop of Ely, resigned: election of lay vice-presidents, committee of management, including master, secretaries, and treasurer in the place of the late Mr. W. Duffill; each society in union to present a copy of their own belfry rules, and to take this as a proper notice, should they receive no other.

Netherton, near Dudley.

JNO. SMITH, Hon. Sec.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

At a special committee meeting of this Association, held in St. Peter-at-Gowts schoolroom, at Lincoln, on Saturday last, the Rev. A. G. Musson, presiding, it was resolved that the annual meeting be held at the head quarters (Lincoln), on Saturday, the 1st of May. It was decided to have divine service at 3 o'clock, business meeting at 4 o'clock, and tea (in St. Peter-at-Gowts schoolroom) immediately after; the details of the arrangements were left in the hands of the local reception committee. The retiring president (F. A. Dorrington, Esq.) having signified his inability to act as president again, it was unanimously resolved that the Rev. A. G. Musson be requested to wait upon the Dean of Lincoln with a view to his becoming president of the Association. The Dean has lately manifested great interest in the cathedral ringing, and since the meeting on Saturday, he has consented to become president, and will honour the annual meeting with his presence. It was decided to recommend the annual meeting to reduce the annual subscription to 1s. 6d., efficiencies and probationers to pay the same amount. The committee agreed to invite the presence of members of the South and East Lincolnshire Associations to the annual meeting. The bishop of the diocese (Dr. King) is to be invited to become patron of the North Lincolnshire Association, and it is proposed to have vice-presidents at the various centres of the association, instead of only two, as the rules specify.

W. LUNN, Hon. Sec.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Association will be held on Easter Monday, April 26th, at Blackpool. A train leaves Victoria Station, Manchester (platform No. 6), at 7.10 a.m., reaching Blackpool at 9.10 a.m., and returns from Blackpool at 7.15 p.m. The bells of St. John's church (eight) will be at the disposal of the members. The business meeting will be held at the schoolroom connected with the church at 5.30 p.m. Return fare from Manchester; 2s. 6d.

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

THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE next Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Bourne, on Easter Monday. Dinner will be provided at the "Nag's Head," at 2 o'clock, 2s. each. Members intending to be present must send in their names to the Hon. Sec. on or before Saturday, the 17th inst., or the usual allowance will not be granted them. The annual subscription will be then due, when members are respectfully requested to pay the same.

R. CREASEY, Hon. Sec.

Monks Lane, Spalding.

ST. PETER'S MANCROFT SOCIETY, NORWICH SCHOLARS.

The Annual Dinner will take place on Easter Tuesday, April 27th, when the following churches will be opened for ringing:—St. Peter Mancroft, 12 bells; St. Giles, 8; St. Gregory, 6; St. Lawrence, 6. Dinner at 2 o'clock at the White Hart, near St. Peter's church. Tickets 2s. 6d. each. Any friends wishing to attend the dinner, must send word on or before April 22nd.

Heigham Street, Norwich.

F. KNIGHTS, Master.

Correspondence.

[While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, I 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."

DOUBTFUL PEAL RINGING.

SIR,—In reference to the Southport peal, your correspondent Mr. Fielding seems in doubt as to whether I am a ringer or not. Possibly I have rung peals and called them in more methods than he has rung peals all put together. I also know about peals being rung in less time than the one in question. He admits there were ringers outside who timed the peal, but has forgotten to state what the changes per minute were, when counted. Would he favour me by saying what they were, and then I shall be better satisfied? If I should ever have the opportunity of going to Southport, I shall be glad to take part in a peal there, and would have no objection to calling it. Mr. Varley says "there is no doubt it was a true peal, and the other ringers would agree with him in his statement." There is no doubt they do, or else why have they not contradicted it? It was his first peal, so I will excuse him for what he says in his letter. My remarks on the Brockworth peal has evidently troubled Mr. Pates more than the record did me, and I do not think at all what he imagines I do. "Amateur" has not read my letter over carefully, as he credits me with saying that Grandsire Doubles is a fancy name. I said "Tombstone Surprise." He says the 6-scores were each called differently, so much the better the performance; but the account does not say so; why did it? I should like to ask, with your permission, Mr. Editor, if "Amateur" would publish the calling of the forty-two 6-scores, as personally, I only know of about ten. I would refer "Amateur" to the last portion of my first letter with reference to my opinion of 5000s on five and six bell performances. E. W.

THE PROPOSED LONG PEAL ATTEMPT.

SIR,—Surely there is some mistake about the date of the long peal mentioned on page 10. No true ringer, I am sure, would think of breaking the stillness and silence that pervades the life of the Church during those hours when our Lord lay in the tomb, in such a way. I trust this is an oversight which will speedily be rectified.

C. C. CHILD.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure Mr. Heywood's excellent letter in your last issued, and fully endorse all his remarks. Knowing as I do the simple proof of Superlative, it must have been utter carelessness on my part to have published such a peal, and must ask the pardon of those concerned for so doing, but still it is a mistake not altogether inadvisable, as it tends to make one careful in the future, for it is true the composition column ought to be a reliable source to conductors, which at present it is not, especially from a musical point of view, but still I for one will be more careful in the future, and I hope others will be the same and not send such rubbish as we often see there, which of course are neither musical nor original, and it would be greater credit to any composer to turn his mind on the more intricate methods, which claim so few compositions, for instance, Cambridge Surprise, perhaps one of the oldest of the complex variations, and by far the most perplexing to deal with. We know that musical qualities are simply out of the question in this method because of its small scope, but still I think if we all pull together we may yet produce some compositions worth our while, for in my mind it is the only method really wanting compositions. J. W. WASHBROOK.

NEW CUMBERLAND SURPRISE.

SIR,—It was not until to-day that I had sufficient time to do more than glance at Mr. Bulwer's method "New Cumberland Surprise." The encomium accorded to it by Mr. Heywood must, I think, be allowed by everyone to be thoroughly well deserved. Indeed with the three prominent advantages which it possesses—that it is a Treble Bob method, that it is a Double method, and that it has a "clean proof-scale" with the tenors together—it may well be questioned whether it is surpassed, if it be even equalled, by any method that we at present possess. But it is a great pity that the bobs are made in fourth's place. By this means the back bells are hurried four leads forward in their work. It has always struck me that this is the great drawback to the otherwise perfect method of Grandsire, where a bob hurries on the back bells one lead. This last is bad enough, and practically amounts to a general confusion, which is pardonable only because the bell in the hunt could not be otherwise removed from that position. My theory has always been that it is better never to move more bells at a bob than is absolutely necessary, that is to say, three. Mr. Bulwer notices the fact that a sixth's place bob is practicable in his method, but prefers the one at fourth's place. His preference rests on two grounds. (1) A sixth's place bob does not bring up the accustomed alteration in the coursing order. (2) It does not give such good

results in composition. As to his second reason I must, for the present at least, bow to his judgment, not having made personal trial. With regard to his first reason I am not perfectly sure that I quite grasp his meaning. One thing I can see would be lost by a sixth's place bob, which is that in the bob scale we should lose sight of the bob-leads produced in the bob scale of Plain Bob, and which at present appear in the bob scale of New Cumberland. But surely this is a trifling and fanciful consideration. Mr. Bulwer mentions bobs at 1, 2, 5, 7 as occurring when sixth's place bobs are employed. Taking the bob-lead end as 5738642, I find that to keep the tenors together the bobs would come at 1, 2, 3, 5. Of these the bob at 3 produces a course-end, and shortens the course by four leads, as in the case of a fourth's place bob, and much the same also as in Double Norwich. Would not this arrangement bring up the full H's in as few changes as by means of fourth's-place bobs? Mr. Heywood objects to the fourth's place bob on the ground of the place-making in 5-6. My last letter to your columns a few weeks ago will shew that I do not look on this as so great an objection. But a sixth's-place bob gets rid of it, while maintaining the full dodging in 7-8, which I always contend is a great advantage—at least when the tenors are behind. The only drawback that I can at present see to the sixth's-place bob is that it causes a bell to lie four blows in sixth's place. It is because I think Mr. Bulwer's method such a truly excellent one that I have taken such lengthy exception to what seems to me its sole and only blemish. April 13th, 1886. CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

THE LATE H. W. HALEY.

SIR,—Seeing a paragraph in your last week's impression from Mr. H. C. Haley, about being surprised that a muffled peal was not rung at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, I beg to inform that gentleman that at a meeting of the Society a resolution was passed that a muffled peal should be rung as a mark of respect to his late lamented father. The Society have about ten churches to ring at, Bethnal Green being one of them; the choice fell upon St. Michael's, Cornhill, and a very excellent peal of Stedman Cinques was rung, conducted by Mr. James Pettit. I would counsel Mr. Haley, that if he has any complaint to make, the headquarters of the Society, the "King's Head," Winchester Street, St. Saviour's, Southwark, is the proper place to do so, and not go into print, as that leads to things very disagreeable. I must also inform that gentleman there has not been a great lack of gratitude shown to the departed. ARTHUR HAYWARD.

[Correspondence on this subject must now cease.—ED.]

THE PEAL OF TREBLE BOB AT ECCLES.

SIR,—I see in "THE BELL NEWS" of Saturday last an account of a peal of Treble Bob Major, 6144 changes, in the Kent Variation, being rung at Eccles, in 3 hrs. and 27 mins., conducted by A. Ed. Wreaks. I counted them several times during the peal, but at no time were they going above twenty-nine changes per minute, but oftener at twenty-eight, and as low as twenty-seven per minute, and how they can get 6144 changes in 3 hrs. and 27 minutes, at the above rate of ringing is not very clear to me. Perhaps the conductor or some ringing friend will be able to explain, and oblige J. S.

THE ART AT BICESTER.

SIR,—In your issue of March 6th, I find a letter under the above heading, signed by "A Ringer," commenting on the ringers at Bicester. I beg to inform him that although we do not hold certificates as change-ringers, it is not because we are not competent of doing so, it is merely because we have not taken the trouble to obtain them. If ringer will take the trouble to arrange a visit to Bicester he will find the Guild consists of quite as good ringers as the two gentlemen named in his letter who own certificates, whom I may state are not members of our Guild. I may further state that it is the intention of the Guild to obtain certificates as soon as they can. ONE OF THE BAND.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

The Fourth Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at Derby, on Easter-Monday, April 26th, 1886, and the following towers will be open for ringing from 10 a.m.:—All Saints', ten bells; S. Andrew's, eight bells; S. Luke's, eight bells; S. Werburgh's, eight bells; and S. Alkmund's, eight bells. Visitors, on arrival, are requested to proceed to S. Andrew's School (near Midland Railway Station), where the local Committee will be in attendance to assist in forming bands to proceed to the various towers. Committee meeting in the above school at 3.0 p.m. Service in S. Andrew's Church at 4.0 p.m., during which time all towers will be closed. Tea in the Schoolroom at 5.0 p.m. General meeting and election of officers for the ensuing year at 6.0 p.m. All ringers and friends are earnestly invited to attend.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN,
Hon. Sec.

377, Rosliston Road,
Burton-on-Trent.

WILLIAM LARGE,
Basket Manufacturer,
COLLEGE STREET, WORCESTER.

The "Lady Alwyne" Chair much admired.

MEMORIAL WINDOWS.

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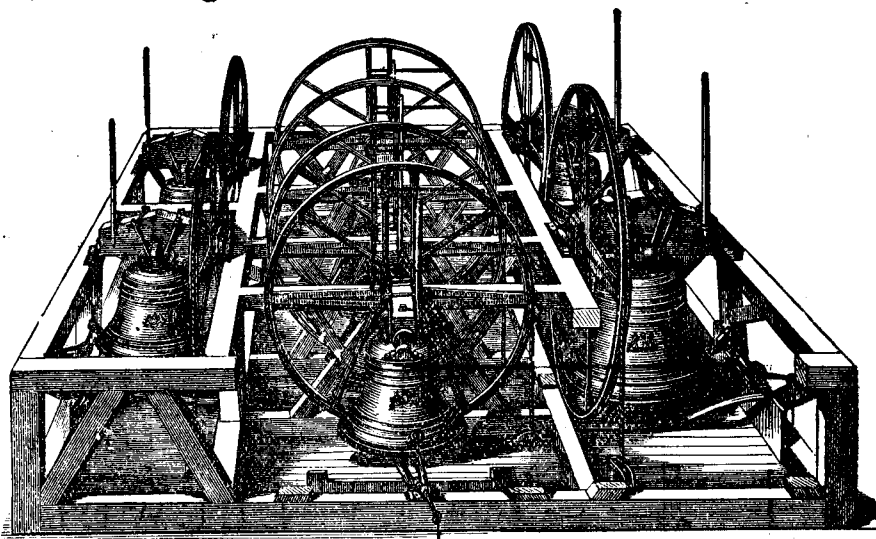
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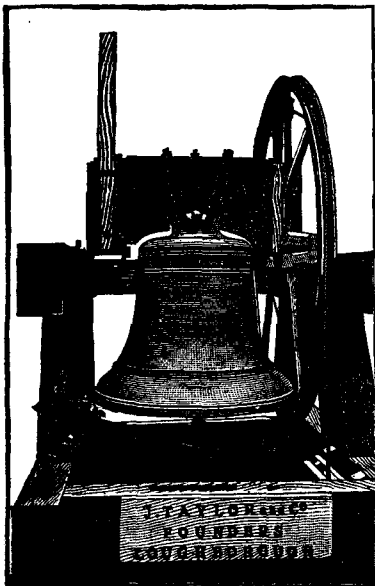
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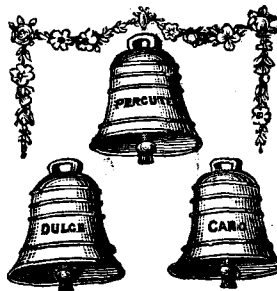
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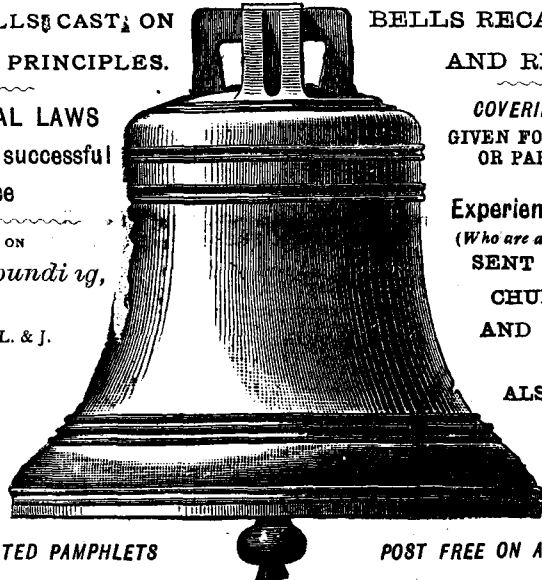
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