

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 264. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. VI.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1887.

[ONE PENNY.]

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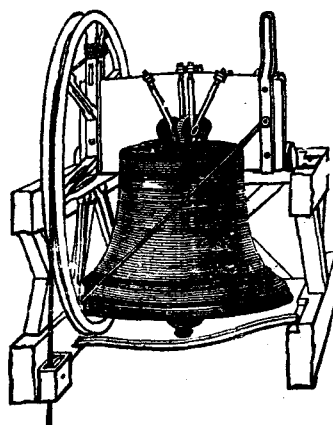
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A MUSICAL METHOD FOR EIGHT, TEN, AND TWELVE BELLS.

BY A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

II.—CONSTRUCTION.

In the last paper it was pointed out that before any very general progress in ten and twelve-bell ringing could be expected, some more musical and convenient method than those at present existing must be found. The possibility of obtaining such a method will now be considered, but, before doing so, it will be well to state the necessary conditions upon which to go to work.

The required method must be:—

I.—Capable of being practised on eight bells, and of extension to ten and twelve without material alteration in the work.

II.—Regular in its work, keeping the heavy bells well together, more especially when they come behind.

III.—Not too lengthy in the courses, thus admitting of handy touches.

IV.—Arranged to have as much double-dodging as possible, for the sake of the music.

With regard to this last condition, it is generally admitted that double dodging is the finest movement in change-ringing. It brings out the full force of a musical position but yet stops short of monotony, and occurs continually in every one of the more harmonious systems on seven and eight bells. For this reason no ten or twelve-bell method could, without it, be considered as entitled to a first rank.

The conditions thus settled, it is next necessary to decide on which of the known principles of method-building it will be advisable to proceed. They are three in number, namely—the Treble Bob hunt, the Plain hunt, and Stedman's Principle. Now, any method founded on either of the two first of these can scarcely, when extended to twelve bells, comply with condition III., as the courses would consist of 528 and 264 changes respectively. Neither could IV. be observed, because careful study shews that, unless all the bells *approximately* move in the same manner, no method can be extended from eight bells without radical alterations in the work, and so contravening I. For instance, in Treble Bob the general work is a single dodge at every step, and in Plain Bob a straight hunt. Thus within the leads the bells, treble included, preserve a regular coursing order, and here is the explanation of why these methods will run equally well on all even numbers. To enter further into this would be foreign to the present subject, but it will be found to be the case that the moment a varying general movement of the inside bells relatively to the treble is introduced, a method becomes incapable of complying with I. If then the bells must move in either a single dodging hunt or a plain hunt, it is clear there can be but little double dodging, and IV. would not be carried out. The Treble Bob hunt and plain hunt principles must therefore be abandoned as unsuitable. There has been a principle brought out, it may be remarked, in which the treble has a double-dodging hunt, and which might for this reason appear promising; but the enormous length of the courses, to say nothing of the overwhelming liability of falseness condemn it at once. Stedman's principle remains yet to be considered, and here let me distinguish most carefully between the method itself and the principle on which it is founded. The principle, the only point now under examination, depends on the alternating quick and slow work to produce within the course the effect in other methods achieved by a regular hunting treble, namely an alteration in the coursing order of the bells. Shipway's system, noticed in the first of these articles, is on this plan. This principle unfortunately is still less adapted to even bell ringing than the previous ones, for whereas in these the hunt of the treble leaves the relative coursing order of the other bells untouched, its own alone being changed; in the present one the varying work in front moves every bell from its proper order, which is not regained until close upon the end of the course. The result, when applied to even-bell methods, is to make every alternate journey behind of the heavy bells a complete muddle, the regularity of their working as defined by II. being entirely upset. Saving this fatal objection, however, it will be noticed how otherwise eminently adapted this principle is to end in view, for it amply satisfies each of the re-

maining conditions. The question at once suggests itself: Can not this confusion caused by the alternating quick and slow work be got rid of? The answer is: Only by each bell on coming to the front doing similar work. This introduces a totally new principle, or rather no principle at all, because on such a plan all the bells would course in exactly the same order from beginning to end of the course; a result which all the above principles have been specially designed to avoid, as it not only causes the courses to be exceptionally short, but also introduces a multiplied liability to falseness. Since, however, no other way seems to offer a solution of the problem under consideration, it will be well carefully to examine this plan; "principle" it can scarcely be called, as I have defined the latter to mean the arrangement by which the coursing-order of the bells is altered within a plain course, whereas any such alteration is now to be discarded.

It is at once evident that if it be possible to construct a method on these lines, such method will, from the very nature of the plan, comply with conditions II. and III. To carry out IV., double dodging must be made the foundation on which to work. I. will be best settled by the obvious arrangement of continuous double dodging in all the places above 6ths, and thus the extension from eight bells to ten and twelve will, as in Stedman, entail only extra dodging places. It is indisputable that the music behind would in this way be absolutely perfect. Let it be agreed, then, that the method shall contain double dodging in 7-8 and all places above. It only remains to formulate the work on eight, and the same will be equally applicable to the higher numbers of bells. Four-bell work in 1-2-3-4 with double dodging in 5-6 as well as 7-8 is the first palpable idea. Now it is of course clear that continuous double dodging will cause the method to run in sixes like Stedman, therefore after leaving 1-2-3-4 each bell will dodge four sixes before returning there again, namely 5-6 up, 7-8 up, 7-8 down, 5-6 down. Consequently, as the bells are to course one another regularly, each must be four sixes also in 1-2-3-4, that is, in the four-bell work; one of the four going out at each six end, and a fresh bell entering from 5-6, all, of course, working in identically the same way. Several arrangements of four bell work are possible which will effect this, and give a neat method. But to avoid false rows, 7, 8, the only fixed bells, must never fall into the same position a second time within the course unless the two rows which contains the similar positions are the one in and the other out of course. When, however, 7, 8 are together in 7-8, they strike 7 8 three times, two of which will be of a like nature, and entail a false row. The same will occur when 7 is in 5-6 up, and 8 in 7-8 up; also when 7 is in 7-8 down, and 8 in 5-6 down; a further false position will be found when 7, 8 are in the four-bell work, making altogether four false rows each with a different false course-end. Evidently then this method is hopelessly false. A fresh departure must be attempted, and six-bell work in front presents itself as worth a trial, for it would still leave untouched the double-dodging in 7-8. But into this it is needless to enter, for although methods might thus be obtained, the desired regularity of work would be impaired. One resource, and one only, remains; namely, to place the four bell work in 3-4-5-6, and the double-dodging, previously in 5-6, in 1-2. There is now the chance of avoiding the false rows that previously occurred with one of the tenors in 5-6, and the other in 7-8, also the further beauty of continuous double-dodging on the lead. With a simple form of four-bell work, it will be found that this plan gives the very remarkable result, due to its being a perfect double method, of a course of forty-eight changes, with one false course-end covering the whole. On pricking and proving such a course, the (Major) method will be found to possess the following extraordinary list of qualities:—

1.—One false course-end only, against the whole plain course so long as 7, 8 are kept together, and none as long as 6, 7, 8 are together, even if singles be used.

2.—Perfect in construction, quadruple and triple changes alternating with one another, thus causing all the places and whole pulls, of which there are the minimum number, to come at hand and back in the proper manner, none of these being made adjoining, except at a single, and all the dodging being double.

3.—The tenors well together, except in the four-bell work, where the brief parting brings up the identical music for which Superlative is renowned, the Queen's change coming in the

plain course. No splitting up of the heavy bells by the treble when they are behind.

4.—Capable of producing an endless variety of peals, in which, if desired, the 6th may be kept at home throughout, and of which the calling is simple, averaging three calls in two courses.

5.—Very convenient for short touches, also for date touches, as the bells may be brought round in various ways, and bobs may be called at six out of the eight sixes of which the course is composed without parting the tenors, thus giving a scale of course-ends unapproached by most other Major methods.

6.—Avoiding any difficulty as to who shall ring the treble in a peal, all the bells working alike.

7.—Easily learnt by a good band after a few minutes examination of the plain course, and capable of extension to ten and twelve bells by simply double-dodging in the extra places, as in Stedman, thus making the ringing of Royal and Maximus a mere question of opportunity.

8.—Producing quickly recurring course-ends with the 7th and all bells above it double-dodging in the home position, viz.:—on eight bells every 48, on ten every 60, and on twelve every 72 changes.

It is needless to describe further the capabilities and attractions of this method; those composers and ringers who have already studied it will bear me out in saying that the deeper it is followed, the more is its wonderful adaptability apparent, and that in practical ringing, although regular and easy, no little attention is necessary. A complete description will appear in the next paper.

I have explained thus fully, every step of a line of study which has occupied a large share of my leisure time during the past year, because I was anxious to make perfectly clear the definite objects I had in view, the whole bearings of which I could not otherwise expect to see grasped. It is too much to suppose that all readers of these columns will have followed my train of reasoning; I will merely say that from those who have done so I invite, and from those who have not I deprecate criticism of what is set forth.

I have no wish to lay claim to any particular credit in the matter, but I desire to guard against misinterpretation. New methods may be had by the dozen by any person conversant with method-building, but my advice to such has always been to be sure, before they publish any new system, either that it is better than what already exists, or meets a definite want, or contains some distinct novelty. In the present instance I have followed a strictly consecutive line of argument, and have shewn how that which was sought was obtained, namely, a more convenient and musical method than Treble Bob, applicable to all even numbers of bells from eight upwards; a result which I trust may have in time the effect of stirring up progress in ten and twelve-bell ringing, for with this new method, whether as Major, Royal, or Maximus, in simplicity, adaptability, and musical properties, I unhesitatingly challenge comparison.

In laying these and the following papers before the Exercise, I confidently ask from that portion of it which is able to judge of such matters, a careful and impartial attention, not for the sake of any personal credit, a conceit I do not aspire to, but for the sake of an art, which, far though it has already progressed, possesses many secrets yet unfathomed, and possibilities still unattained, and in the advance of which the hearty support of its many admirers should be willingly forthcoming.

RINGERS' OUTING.—HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Easter Monday, the members of the St. Thomas's Society paid a visit to the above place, by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. W. C. Gibbs. Several 720's and touches of Bob Minor (amounting to 2520 changes) were rung by Messrs. W. Lawrence, J. Guest, G. H. Paget, H. Harris, C. Barrett, T. Lees and J. Crump, and conducted by Messrs. Guest, Paget, Harris and Lees. Also 120 of Grandsire Doubles. C. Barrett, 1; T. Lees, 2; H. Harris, 3; J. Guest, 4; W. Bradley, 5; G. H. Paget, 6. The "go" of the bells was all that could be desired, and the striking was very good, one and all thoroughly enjoying themselves. The members of the above society wish, through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS," to thank the Rector for the use of the bells, and hope it will not be the last time they will have the pleasure of visiting the pretty little church, which is situated in Hagley Park.

RINGERS' OUTING.

ON Easter Monday, the Bradford Parish Church company, twelve in number paid a visit to Derby. Leaving Bradford at 5.30 a.m., they were joined at Leeds by Mr. Tom Lockwood, and after a very pleasant journey, they arrived at Duffield at 9.5., where they alighted. After partaking of breakfast, they assembled in the tower, and rang a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, during the ringing of which the Manchester Cathedral company arrived. This touch completed, the visitors betook themselves to the grounds of A. Percival Heywood, Esq., at Duffield Bank, where they had an opportunity of inspecting Mr. Heywood's railway, of course, came in for a principal share of attention, after which the workshops were visited. The view from Duffield Bank was the theme of universal admiration, and while gazing on it, the sound of Duffield bells, manipulated so well by the Manchester men in the intricacies of Kent Treble Bob, lent additional pleasure. Ten minutes past the hour of noon saw the visitors on the Duffield railway platform, and soon afterwards they were on their way to Derby, which was reached by 12.30. St. Andrew's tower was the first place visited, where a touch of Grandsire Triples and another of Kent Treble Bob was rung, after which an adjournment was made to All Saints', where they indulged in a touch of Treble Ten. This having been accomplished, a move was made to St. Andrew's school-room, where they partook of tea with their brethren of the Midland Counties' Association, attended the meeting, and then listened to the handbell contest which followed. Another touch of Kent Treble Bob was rung at St. Andrew's, at the conclusion of which good-bye was said, and the Bradfordians repaired to the station, where, having got comfortably seated, a start was made, and after repeated dodgings on the part of the driver, the ringers were brought round to Bradford about 2 a.m., having spent a very pleasant day. The members take this opportunity of expressing their thanks to Mr. Heywood for his kind permission for them to view his grounds, possessing as they do so many interesting features.

AN INTERESTING GATHERING.

ON Wednesday evening, April 6th, by invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stead, of Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield, a select party of friends, ringers, ringers' wives, assembled at the above gentleman's residence to a good substantial supper, to which full justice was done, after which the evening was spent in a very convivial manner with ringing the handbells, etc. The gathering was in commemoration firstly of Mrs. Stead's birthday, and it not being good manners to ask any lady her age, we will conclude she is the three F's, she having the good wishes of all present for a long and prosperous life. Secondly, to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the ringing on April 6th, 1867, at Batley parish church, in 2 hrs. 58 mins., of the following peal, being a 720 each of the following:

- A 720 of Violet, with the 2nd bell the observation.
- A 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, 2nd bell the observation.
- A 720 of New London, 4th bell the observation.
- A 720 of Duke of York, 5th bell the observation.
- A 720 of London Scholars, 6th bell the observation.
- A 720 of City Delight, 2nd bell the observation.
- A 720 of Arnold's Victory, 3rd bell the observation.

The above was rung without the bobs being called, or a signal of any description being given, and each 720 having a different bell for the observation as will be seen above, and was witnessed by Mr. Jesse Holt, of Mirfield, and Mr. John Farrar, of Batley, who sat in the tower during the whole of the performance as witnesses that it was a *bona fide* performance. The following was the company who rang the peal. John Stead (Huddersfield), 1; George Clay (Huddersfield), 2; Hy. Robinson (Mirfield), 3; Thomas Stead (Huddersfield), 4; John Collins (Huddersfield), 5; Tom Haigh (Huddersfield), 6. Tenor 11 cwt. This extraordinary feat in the art of change-ringing, was never performed by any party of ringers on six bells, and from the style in which it was rung and brought round to a successful termination, will always be considered as one of the greatest achievements in the art of ringing on that number of bells. All the ringers in the above peal were present at supper, also Mr. Jesse Holt, of Mirfield, one of the witnesses, who is in his 82nd year, Mr. John Farrar being dead.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WOKINGHAM.—On Easter Monday, April 11th, at St. Paul's Church, the St. Peter's Society, Caversham, after failing in a peal of Grandsire Triples, rang at the above church a Jubilee touch in the same method, containing fifty leads. H. Simmonds, 1; J. Hands, 2; E. Menday, 3; W. Houlton, 4; G. Essex, 5; T. Newman, 6; Rev. G. F. Coleridge (conductor), 7; H. Smith, 8. Tenor 18 cwt. This very musical touch, which begins and ends with the Queens, and contains all the 2, 4, 6's, was composed by Miss E. Cruwys Sharland, of Tiverton, Devon.

AT ST. STEPHEN'S.

THURSDAY.—One of the most important questions asked to-day was that with reference to Somerset House clerks, put by Mr. Conybeare. The hon. gentleman asked if the Board of Inland Revenue had submitted to the Treasury a scheme for the revision of the Legacy Duty Office at Somerset House, which would involve the compulsory retirement of a number of clerks who were in the prime of life, and whether in that case the Chancellor of the Exchequer would undertake to postpone the consideration of any scheme which would further burden the Pension List, and whether in the case of offices where work had fallen off, or where, on other grounds it might be necessary to reduce numbers, he would consider the advisability of doing this by transferring the supernumerary clerks to other departments, rather than by adding to the Pension List. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reply, said that by a reprehensible act of disloyalty, such as had rarely occurred in the extremely well-managed department of the Inland Revenue, the existence of a plan for the re-organisation of the Legacy Duty Office had been revealed to the hon. member. The plan was still in an inchoate state, and had not been decided upon. He was, however, unable to state whether any of the clerks to be compulsorily retired were in the prime of life or not, but with scarcely an exception, they had seen over thirty years' service. He could not undertake to deter any reform such as this, and he should always consider whether it would not be better to transfer officers who had still good work in them, than to place them on the Pension List. Mr. Childers asked if any steps would be taken to ascertain how the secret was divulged. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said he would consider whether any steps could be taken in this direction; but he would also say that it would be more satisfactory if hon. members to whom such revelations were made would themselves point out the injury they inflicted on the public service, and the likelihood thereby of defeating the necessary reforms. Mr. Conybeare wished to assure the right hon. gentleman that he had no idea this was an official secret divulged to him, or he would not have put the question. Other questions having been asked and answered, among them being one relating to income tax, one on the discharge of dockyard workmen, and another on the Irish Land Bill, Mr. W. H. Smith said he had received a communication from the other side of the House to the effect that it would be agreeable to hon. members that he should move the adjournment of the House until Tuesday in Easter week. If that was the desire of hon. gentlemen, he would conclude with a motion to that effect. After some remarks from both sides of the House, Mr. Smith's motion for adjournment was agreed to, and we all set off to spend the Easter holiday as we thought best.

TUESDAY.—Well, my brother strins, I am here again, in the House, after a very brief holiday, to watch over the affairs of the country, as well as the business of the House, from my seat as member for—. But I must not divulge, or I shall be getting into trouble. However, I am sure all will join with me in congratulating the Speaker on his reappearance in the chair, and take part in the cheers we gave him when he expressed his acknowledgments to the House for the indulgence shown him during the period of his indisposition, as well as thanking the Chairman of Ways and Means for occupying his chair during his absence. After some questions had been put relating to the North Sea fisheries, Mr. Conybeare to the front again, and alluded to the incident of Monday week, and complained that the report of his speech, wherein he was said to have made remarks reflecting on the Speaker, was neither full nor accurate. He was sure he made a remark which was omitted in the report he complained of, and which remark was to the effect that he hoped no word would escape him which could be considered as unworthily reflecting on the Speaker. The debate on Sir B. Samuelson's amendment to the second reading of the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was then resumed by the Attorney-General for Ireland, who stigmatised the hon. members on the other side of the House with not having read, much less carefully considered, the measure now before the House. Some sharp passages of arms, or rather words, were made between the speakers on both sides of the House, the Home Secretary being interrupted many times during his speech. The right hon. gentleman was, however, proof against all attacks, and after showing how much or how little the criticisms on the measure bore on the question, he said the Government appealed, not to Hyde Park demonstrations, but to the judgment of the House of Commons, which was the proper tribunal to deal with cases of this kind, and asked them to support them in upholding in Ireland the authority of the Queen and of the law. Mr. Stansfield passed some strictures on the Bill, and on the motion of Lord H. Bruce the debate was adjourned.

WEDNESDAY.—The business to-day was principally confined to a discussion on the Irish Crimes Bill. Two maiden speeches were delivered; one by the noble lord who resumed the debate, Lord Bruce; and the other by Mr. Theobald. Both hon. gentlemen supported the measure, Mr. Theobald causing much laughter by the witty manner in which he replied to the criticisms against the bill, and the

epithets he applied to the National League. Sir W. Foster asked the House to pause before they passed the measure, because, if it became law it would be a shame and a dishonour to this country. Sir H. Holland said the case put forward by the Government had been greatly strengthened by the facts and figures which had been placed before the House and the country during the discussion of the measure. After a speech of some duration the hon. member concluded by saying that by this bill the Government stood or fell, and he believed the country would be with them; but if it was against them, they would cheerfully retire. Mr. Gully believed the bill was impolitic, ill-timed, and unnecessary; and Mr. W. H. James remarked that the Government had entered upon a most perilous path, and one that would lead to the most serious danger. The Solicitor-General for Scotland denied that the bill infringed the liberties of the Irish people. Concluding, he said that probably the constituencies were thinking that the House of Commons were standing chopping logic too long over this bill. Sir U. Kay-Shuttleworth said the proposed change of venue he regarded as most insulting to Ireland. The adjournment of the debate was then agreed to, on the motion of Mr. Baggaley, and the House itself adjourned at ten minutes to six. THE RINGER IN PARLIAMENT.

ESSEX ITEMS.

"Better late than never." Probably such may be the opinion of some of the members of the Essex Association upon their becoming acquainted with the fact that during the past week the two new trebles at Chelmsford have at last found their way back into their original quarters. To ordinary intelligent observers, their journey to a hamlet church is a mystery—one which there is no need for us to attempt to unravel; the circumstances which had led to their return may be briefly summed up. When the Essex Association was formed in 1879, there was a general outcry as to the neglected condition of St. Mary's, and to the absence of these two particular bells. During the restoration of the Rettendon ring, the late Hon. Sec. of the Association finding that there was a suitable bell, hit upon the happy idea of a treaty between Rettendon and Moulsham, which tower was under restoration, and further between Moulsham and Chelmsford, the result of which was the return to the latter tower of the particular bells under question. By the reports of the meetings of the Association, it will have been seen that there has been delay in the rehanging not brought about by any particular stumbling block, and apparently the difficulty was little more if any than imagination. However, by certain members continually pegging away at the question, all difficulties have vanished, and the Association is to be congratulated not only upon the improved condition of the tower of St. Mary's (which probably may become the cathedral of a county diocese), but upon the completion of that which it has endeavoured to accomplish. The success will strengthen the Association in bringing its influence to bear upon authorities where apathy is the order of the day.

Another feature which comes this week from Essex, is the unique chiming record at Romford. Opinions we know vary as to these performances, some scorn them, contending they are but child's play, and yet these very individuals if you ask them to join in a touch double-handed, even only upon the handbells, would shake their heads. Others contend that such feats are an impossibility, while others admit "it wants doing." This latter of course is perfectly true, and those who rank in the second class can satisfy their unbelief any Sunday by a visit to Romford. There is however an ugly rumour respecting the restoration of what we consider we once justly termed a "slaughter house." It will be remembered that the church improvement fund there included new choir vestry, organ improvement, and rehanging of the bells, each to follow according to the order given. A general fund was opened, and resulted in the collection of about £40 of the estimated cost of the two first objects. The whole of £40 was spent upon the second scheme, and a suggestion has been made to close the fund, leaving the bells in their present condition. Such a proposal is beyond toleration, and if permitted will be a standing disgrace to the town. Probably the Association may sift the matter, making use of its influence in the right direction, it is to be hoped may finally be as successful at Romford as it has been at Chelmsford. B.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at Southport, on Saturday, April 23rd. The bells of Christ Church will be at the disposal of the members. Meeting in the Schools at 6 p.m. Ringers from the adjoining districts will be welcomed.

Also a meeting of the Rossendale Branch of the above Association will be held at St. Paul's Church, Ramsbottom, on the above date.

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

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."

REPLY TO MR. POLLITT.

SIR,—The B's in the peals of Treble Bob Royal recently published in your columns, denote what I thought everyone acquainted with Treble Bob knew, viz., "befores." The one in the first course to put the bells in the tittum position, and the two in the last course to bring them home again. Of course the same course-ends are produced if no "befores" are used, but the number of changes are not the same.

Liverpool, April 9th, 1887.

JOHN R. PRITCHARD.

PRESTBURY SURPRISE MAJOR.—A NEW METHOD.

SIR,—In answer to Mr. W. T. Pates, allow me to say that on calling upon Mr. Johnson, sen., he informed me that he composed the above mentioned method in the year 1852, a copy of which he produced for my inspection, and gave to it the name of Birmingham Bob Major, but says that to his knowledge it has never been rung; he also adds that it runs equally simple on six, ten, and twelve bells.

Lozells, Birmingham.

HENRY BASTABLE.

GOOD FRIDAY RINGING.

SIR,—In looking through the letters in answer to "Enquirer," as to ringing on Good Friday, I think Mr. Jerram's plan far better than the Rev. G. F. Coleridge's; and I think it is a plan generally adopted (at least as far as my experience goes); but there is one question I should like to ask Mr. Coleridge—that is, why it is a thing to be desired that people should partake of the Lord's Supper early in the morning instead of at the hour it was instituted—in the evening?

K. C. A. C. R.

THE RINGERS OF ENGLAND.

SIR,—The statement contained in last week's issue, under the above heading, is incorrect as far as the Sussex County Association is concerned. The true figures are 52 bands, 510 ringing members, and 121 honorary members: Total, 631. Perhaps I may be allowed to suggest that, if it is thought desirable to have a complete list, for the sake of comparison, the Hon. Sec. of each Diocesan and County Association should send on a post card, addressed to the Editor of "BELL NEWS," such particulars as the number of ringing and honorary members, number of bands in union, number of peals of 6, 8, 10, and 12 bells in the diocese or county, and date of formation of association. I notice under the heading of County Associations, the names of Goscombe, Higham Ferrers, Framland. I presume that these are District rather than County Associations.

GEO. F. ATTREE,

Hon. Sec. Sussex County Association.

SUNDAY PEAL RINGING.

SIR,—Will you please insert a few lines in "BELL NEWS" to show that though no one has had the courage to write against ringing peals on Sunday, there are many who would wish to return their hearty thanks to the member of the K. C. A. C. R. for boldly coming forward and standing up for the right. I have looked week after week for some reply to the suggestions made some time ago by a Mr. Custance, of the Oxford University Society, with regard to this matter, and I rejoice that one has come forward to condemn it.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE K. C. A. C. R.

SIR,—With all due respect to our worthy friend who flatters himself of being the mouthpiece of his company, I think that, instead of throwing cold water on what few peals are rung, he would try and ring a few more peals, it might then be a credit to the Association, which musters 400 ringing members, and according to the number, ring the least peals of any Association in existence.

Maidstone.

R. SIMMONDS.

OXFORD SURPRISE.

SIR,—I am glad that my remark has drawn from Mr. Washbrook a statement of the grounds on which he described his new method as a "perfect" one, and "the only perfect Treble Bob method yet invented." This description was based, it seems, on certain structural features, which, however, desirable and symmetrical in themselves, do not, by themselves, constitute that absolute perfection which Mr. Washbrook seemed at first to claim, and the assertion of which, I confess, somewhat startled me when I read it. After an examination of the method, I felt that the assertion was one that ought not to be allowed to pass without protest. Nine persons out of ten, on reading it, would come to the conclusion that not only was the method structurally "perfect," but also scientifically accurate; i.e. not treacherous in composition in the sense of being liable to run false within the

leads. As regards the attainment of a "perfect" Treble Bob method in this double sense, the outlook, I am afraid, is not particularly hopeful. The Treble Bob system is in itself scientifically unsound, and no method whatever that could ever be produced on this system could, from the nature of the case, be absolutely perfect. When I say that the system is scientifically unsound, I mean that it would be impossible on this system to obtain the full extent of the permutations without a host of repetitions interpolated. Short of this within certain limits and conditions, the system is sound enough for all practical purposes. The limit usually adopted is that defined by the expression "Tenors together." But this is, comparatively, a narrow limit; and the system is quite capable of "true" extension far beyond this limit with the Tenors "parted." Now Mr. Washbrook admits that his method is unsound considerably within even this narrow limit; for he says that "the extent with the tenors together is 6720;" that is, half way only to the boundary line of the real limit of "tenors together." He also admits that the second's place bob introduces a blemish, so that the existence of this flaw disposes at once of the claim that the method is even structurally perfect. The statement that "perfection" is to be gauged by the presence, or absence, of certain structural features and arrangements of changes, without regard to the errors and inaccuracies which they may entail, seems to me a very arbitrary one. I have always understood that "the proof of a pudding is in the eating;" and I can quite imagine that many a pudding with a fair and attractive exterior might disagree with you horribly when it got into your stomach. So in a change-ringing method. It may appear ever so correct on the surface; but if it shows unsoundness in working, it is not entitled to an unqualified description as a "perfect method." It is easy to say "my dog is perfect, and everybody else's is a mongrel;" but this is hardly the language of courtesy, and a little beside the mark also, if your neighbour's dog happens to hunt better than your own. Mr. Washbrook thinks the Exercise should be informed that in Treble Bob a perfect method cannot be had without false changes. This sounds to me like a contradiction in terms. If a method develops false changes within the narrow limit of "tenors together," it is unsound; and if it is unsound, it can hardly be called "perfect." But I give all credit to Mr. Washbrook for his painstaking researches into the Treble Bob system, and I entertain no doubt that the conclusion at which he has arrived is perfectly accurate, viz., that on the particular lines which he advocates as "perfect," Oxford Surprise is the only method to be had worth placing before the Exercise. But, Sir, unfortunately (and this is my point) the vessel built upon these lines turns out to be a bad sailer, and has been already beaten over the course by several other vessels built on other lines. What is the inference? That the lines in question are really perfect, as asserted? Let your readers judge for themselves. He who would construct a Treble Bob method finds himself face to face with two alternatives: either he must sacrifice certain alleged structural perfections, and musical arrangements of changes to scientific accuracy and soundness in working, or he must sacrifice soundness and accuracy to the structural features. Personally, I incline to the former alternative. The ideally perfect Treble Bob method, which will avoid this sacrifice on the one hand and on the other, has not come yet; and I much doubt if it ever will.

H. EARLE BULWER.

AN ENQUIRY.

Could any of the ringing community kindly inform me if a 720 of Stedman's Slow Course Minor, or Double Stedman's Slow Course Minor, has ever been rung? If so, when and where; and whether there is any Stedman's Slow Course Major? Also, if the Victoria or Albert Surprise Major is not written on a similar principle?

J. C. P.

DOUBTFUL AUTHORSHIP.

SIR,—Will you kindly put a notice at the bottom of your composition page next week, that the 5040 of Treble Bob Royal by J. R. Pritchard, is Reeves' old peal, and the 12320 Albion is Shipway's 6160 Bob Major, and the 10240 Albion, which is 5120 Bob Major, will be found in "THE BELL NEWS" for April 3rd, 1883, reduced to 5008, the only difference being the 2nd and 4th bobs at home are called a course sooner.

K.

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the above Association will be held at Harborne, on Saturday, April 23rd, when members and friends alike will receive a hearty welcome. Through the kindness of the Vicar, the Rev. E. Roberts, the tower will be open during the afternoon. The business meeting of the Association which will be conducted in the infants school connected with the parish church, will take place at 6 p.m., the Vicar attending the same. The Secretary will be obliged to the local secretaries, who will receive all monies due, and pay them over to him on or before the above date. JOHN WRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

Crumph's Cottage, Silver Street, King's Heath.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

The Fifth Annual Meeting of this Association was held at Derby, on Easter Monday, and witnessed a larger assemblage of ringers than at any previous gathering. Friends were present in force from Bradford, Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield, and Birmingham, besides a large contingent of members from the various towns within the district. The sudden death, however, within the week, of the Rev. James Fish, the vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, cast a gloom over the proceedings, for it was felt that in him the Association had lost one whose constant aim was to raise the standard of excellence in everything connected with ringing. The day began with a 504 of Stedman Triples, rung at St. Andrew's church, with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to his memory; after which, the muffles having been removed, various touches followed. Two touches of Stedman Caters were rung on the ten at All Saints, St. Werburgh's tower also being freely patronised.

At the tea, which was set out in St. Andrew's School-room, some 130 sat down, after which the President (A. P. Heywood, Esq.) addressed the meeting. In the course of his remarks, the President drew the attention of those present to the fact that fifty-five peals had been rung by the Association in the year, in no less than eleven different methods, viz.: Cambridge Surprise Major, Superlative Surprise Major. Ditto, in the Burtoa Variations, New Cumberland Surprise Major, Double Norwich Court Bob Major, Double Oxford Bob Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Triples, Bob Triples, and further directed particular notice to the Silent Peal of Stedman Triples lately accomplished at Burton, and to that of Stedman Caters, by the Leicester Company, the latter, the first performance of the kind by the Association. He also commented on the grievous loss sustained by the death of the late President, and suggested that a resolution expressive of sympathy should be forwarded to Mrs. Fish, in accordance with which a motion to that effect was unanimously agreed to. The President desired the members to notice that they should bestir themselves in the matter of peals, as the Association was being rapidly distanced since the commencement of the year by the performances of other societies, and concluded by congratulating the meeting upon the large assemblage not only of their own members, but of friends from all parts.

After the usual business a vote of thanks was passed to the Vicars of the various churches for the use of the bells. A handbell contest then took place, at which bands from Derby, Leicester, and Nottingham, and Burton were all successful in carrying off prizes; the first-mentioned especially distinguishing themselves in a well-struck 336 of Grandsire Triples. The success of this, the first competition of the kind in the district, leads to the hope that on the next occasion a still more interesting contest may be the result. The judges were Messrs. Charles Hattersley and John Carter, who most ably carried out the duties of their office, to the satisfaction of all concerned. The thanks of the Association are especially due to these gentlemen, who came at considerable expense to undertake this somewhat onerous task; as also to Messrs. Taylor for providing an excellent set of handbells for the performance.

The vicar of St. Andrew's, the Rev. Robert Hey, to whom thanks are also due for the use of the schools, then addressed a few well-chosen words to the assembled company, pointing out the beneficial effect of change-ringing both on mind and body, and offering to the Association at all future times a hearty welcome.

A few touches in the tower, notably a well-struck one of Treble Bob by the Bradford Company, brought to a close a day with the result of which universal satisfaction was expressed; the success of the proceedings being mainly due to the exertions of the indefatigable Hon. Sec., Mr. Joseph Griffin, who was everything to everybody; and to the excellent arrangements made by the local Hon. Sec., Mr. H. C. Woodward, and the steeple-keeper of St. Andrew's, Mr. W. Shardlow.

VISIT OF DEWSBURY RINGERS TO GRIMSBY.

On Monday last, April 11th, the above Company of Ringers visited the above place for a day's outing. A start was made from Dewsbury at about 6.30 a.m., arriving at Grimsby at 10.15. Mr. D. Seamer and several friends met them at the station, and escorted them to the church tower, where they were met by the vicar, the Rev. J. P. Young, who cordially welcomed them. Considerable amusement was caused by the peculiar way up to the ringing chamber, the passage and steps to which being very narrow, and several of the ringers, being worthy rivals of the late Daniel Lambert, had considerable difficulty in getting up. The bells were raised in peal, and a short touch was rung. They are hung in a very good circle, but they are very noisy, being only in the next chamber. This will no doubt be altered in course of time, as it is a pity for so splendid a peal of bells to be spoiled. Their "go" is very good indeed. After the bells had been brought round the Company adjourned to the White Hart, where, at the invitation of the Grimsby ringers, they sat down to a substantial dinner, to which ample

justice was done. They then re-ascended the tower and rang a half-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, comprising 2,528 changes, in 1 hr. 35 mins. The band were stationed as follows:—J. Garforth, 1; G. Taylor, 2; I. Idle, 3; H. Robinson, 4; N. Hepworth, 5; G. H. Hardy (composer and conductor), 6; J. Buckley, 7; J. H. Dixon, 8. An adjournment then took place to the "Greyhound," on the invitation of Mr. North, the worthy host, where the remainder part of the day was spent in handbell ringing and conversation on ringing matters in general. The party left Grimsby station about 6.40, having spent one of the most enjoyable days possible. Many thanks are due to Mr. Seamer and friends for their kindness and hospitality, and also to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday the meeting of the above Association was held at Kingsley and Cheadle. It being a splendid day, there was a large attendance (including the Rev. W. W. Bolton, Hon. Sec.), ringers being present from Norton, Leek, Horton, Golden Hill, Uttoxeter, Stoke, Wolstanton, and Cheddleton. The bells having been raised, "go" was called for a 720 of Plain Bob—18 Bobs and 2 Singles, which was brought round in 27 mins. E. Glover, 1; W. H. Armitt, 2; D. Bradbury, 3; J. W. Brough, 4; J. Wood, 5; J. Baddeley (conductor), 6. An adjournment was then made to the Church Room, where a substantial dinner—to which about thirty sat down—had been provided by the Rev. E. D. Pollock, to whom the best thanks of the meeting are due. After dinner another visit was made to the belfry, but owing to being a funeral, another peal could not be attempted. A move was then made to Cheadle. Having arrived at the church, a band was formed for another 720 of Plain Bob, which was accomplished in 27½ mins. Rev. A. H. Hitchcock, 1; E. Glover, 2; W. H. Armitt, 3; J. W. Brough, 4; D. Bradbury, 5; H. Booth (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt. A 720 of Kent Treble Bob was then started for, but a "change course" occurring, it was called round when 660 had been rung in 24 mins. E. Glover, 1; J. W. Brough, 2; J. Baddeley, 3; J. Wood, 4; H. Kamster, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. A short touch of Plain Bob was then rung. H. Kamster, 1; J. Burton, 2; S. Burton, 3; J. Shenton, 4; Rev. A. H. Hitchcock, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. This bringing a most enjoyable meeting to a close.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

The beautiful new church in this village, which is five miles from Chester, on the highway to Wrexham (six miles distant), was erected by His Grace the Duke of Westminster at a cost of about £11,000, and presented to the parish in 1884. The edifice is the third on the same site (which adjoins the ducal mansion of Eaton Hall) within fifty years, the original building dating from the 12th century. The old tower contained only two bells, but the present one contains a nice ring of six from the foundry of Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, tenor 10 cwt. in Ab.

The local society of ringers, who are all very young, started together as novices in the art of change-ringing, but with the kindly assistance and direction of Mr. C. Price (College Youth) of Eccleston, the youthful aspirants were duly initiated into the mysteries of the art. They accomplished their first true and complete 720 changes in Plain Bob Minor just a year ago, since which time they have rung peals in the following nine methods:—March 15th, 1886, Plain Bob Minor; July 3rd, Kent Treble Bob; July 23rd, Oxford Treble Bob; November 1st, Grandsire; December 6th, Superlative Surprise (first in the county); December 20th, College Single; December 28th, Oxford Bob; February 21st, 1887, Woodbine; March 7th, Westminster. Practice on Mondays, ringers are welcomed.

THE REIGATE SOCIETY.

REIGATE (Surrey).—On Easter Sunday, April 10th, for Holy Communion at 8 a.m., 630 of Grandsire Triples. W. Bone, 1; F. Hoad (conductor), 2; G. Croucher, 3; F. Linter, 4; W. Argent, 5; E. Moses, 6; E. Kenward, 7; H. Gooch, 8. And a 252 of Grandsire Triples. G. Croucher, 1; F. Hoad (conductor), 2; F. Linter, 3; W. Bone, 4; E. Moses, 5; E. Kenward, 6; W. Argent, 7; H. Gooch, 8. And for 11 o'clock service, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 46½ mins. J. Howard, 1; F. Hoad (conductor), 2; W. Bone, 3; T. Fuller, 4; W. Argent, 5; E. Moses, 6; E. Kenward, 7; H. Gooch, 8. And for evening service, 448 of Grandsire Triples. J. Howard, 1; F. Hoad (conductor), 2; W. Bone, 3; T. Fuller, 4; E. Moses, 5; E. Kenward, 6; W. Argent, 7; H. Gooch, 8. And 224 of the same method, the band standing as before. And after evening service, 168 of Grandsire Triples. H. Gooch, 1; G. Croucher, 2; W. Bone, 3; T. Fuller, 4; W. Argent (conductor), 5; E. Moses, 6; E. Kenward, 7; J. Howard, 8. Also a 630 of Grandsire Triples. J. Howard, 1; G. Croucher, 2; W. Bone, 3; T. Fuller, 4; E. Moses, 5; E. Kenward (conductor), 6; W. Argent, 7; H. Gooch, 8.

REPRINT OF ANOTHER WORK ON CHANGE-RINGING.

The publisher of "THE BELL NEWS" has the pleasure to announce the issue, in penny weekly numbers, of a rare old work upon ringing, entitled "Campanalogia Improved; or the Art of Ringing made easy," &c. This work is printed uniform with "Shipway" and the "Clavis," which have been so eagerly taken up.

The Publisher believes that the re-issues of these various old ringing works, which at the present day are from their scarcity, so difficult of perusal, will be approved of by ringers. Their publication enables all who have an inclination for the useful, as well as the curious, to possess in time a valuable and complete ringing library. The copy, which has been kindly lent to the editor of this journal by Mr. S. B. Goslin, of the Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate, belongs to a fifth edition, "Corrected by J. Monk." For the purposes of easy publication it is called after his name, and those intending to take in the penny weekly numbers, should ask for "Monk on Ringing."

All who are desirous of securing copies should do so without delay, as a second reprint is out of the question.

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

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" 6 "	3s. 3d.
" 3 "	1s. 8d.

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The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, APRIL, 16 1887.

In our editorial comment of last week a reference was made to the pulpit utterances of many of the clergy who from that spot have edified and instructed their brethren of the Exercise. Little did we think, while such remarks were being penned, that one of the most distinguished of those clerical ringers, one whose homilies always proved most profitable to his hearers, had that morning succumbed to the king of terrors, to the infinite grief and consternation, not only of his immediate relatives, but of those who it may be said dwelt together with him in unity. Owing to "THE BELL NEWS" being issued a day earlier last week than usual, in consequence of Good Friday occurring, the announcement of the death of the Rev. JAMES H. FISH could not be made, but this week it is our melancholy duty to publish the painful intelligence to be found in another column.

The interest which the deceased gentleman took in the art of ringing was unique. This opinion may be gathered by what is written concerning him in the place just referred to. Perhaps not even the most ardent of the beneficed priests who are now ringers adhered with such tenacity to the interior concerns of their own ringing company as he did. We recall with some degree of pleasure his frequent correspondence with ourselves, as it was his wont until recently to forward all the reports of performances achieved by the Burton company for publication, correspondence frequently accompanied by

observations of his own, couched in urbane and affable language. He was ever to be found rendering assistance to any movement with which ringers sympathised, and when it was held that his presence, as a vicar of an important parish, as president of that Association with which his name is identified, or as a change-ringer merely, was desirable, he was always found ready and willing to work with those who desired his co-operation.

Mr. FISH was a man whom at this particular juncture the Exercise can ill afford to lose. The growth of new ideas in connection with it, the cultivation and opening up of new fields of thought and inquiry which find their way into print week after week, naturally demand able and trained exponents in a study which the bare principles of composition do not touch. We have in such men as Mr. HEYWOOD, and the Revs. EARLE BULWER and C. D. P. DAVIES, those well qualified to enter upon new and abstruse speculations; but such men as Mr. FISH could well gauge the value of these new ideas, and their influence assists in making them popular. His, loss, however, must be borne, but the burden will be most heavily felt by those with whom he was in daily contact, whose names, through his energies, will be immortalized in the annals of ringing. What memorial may be raised to our departed friend of course we cannot tell. But let us be allowed the privilege of saying that a careful collection of his public utterances in connection with ringing—of inestimable value indeed to all ringers—should be undertaken. By such means he would for ever live in the hearts of succeeding generations.

The Metropolis.

FULHAM, MIDDLESEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 22 cwt.

EZRA CARTER	Treble.	GEO. T. McLAUGHLIN	5.
ROBERT E. GIBBS.	2.	JAMES W. DRIVER	6.
CHAS. F. WINNY	3.	ARTHUR ALDHAM	7.
HENRY LANGDON	4.	SAMUEL HOW	Tenor.

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNY.

R. E. Gibbs hails from Eye, Suffolk, and this is his first peal in the method.

The Provinces.

HULL.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Muffled Peal.

On Good Friday, April 8, 1887, in Three Hours and Twenty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt.

CHAS. BENNETT	Treble.	ROBERT CHAFFER	5.
JOHN POLLARD	2.	JOHN WM. STICKNEY	6.
TOM STOCKDALE	3.	FRANK DRABBLE	7.
HENRY JENKINS	4.	CHARLES JACKSON	Tenor.

Composed by S. MARSH, of West Bromwich, and
Conducted by CHARLES JACKSON.

This peal was rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Algernon Taylor, member of the above Association.
N.B.—This peal was corrected by the conductor previous to starting.

WHITFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 9, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN HOLDEN, ESQ.Treble.	JAMES SELLARS5.
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE2.	THOMAS WILDE6.
HUGH SHAW3.	GEORGE LONGDEN7.
JAMES S. WILDE4.	JOHN PYE, SEN.Tenor.

Composed by W. HARRISON, of Mottram, and Conducted by
JAMES S. WILDE.

The above peal was rung to celebrate the birthday of Messrs. Pye and Shaw their brother ringers wishing them many happy returns. Messrs. Holden and Radcliffe hail from Saddleworth; Shaw from Staleybridge; J. S. and T. Wilde from Hyde; Sellars and Pye from Glossop; and Longden from Ashton.

SHEFFIELD.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Muffled Peal.

On Saturday, April 9, 1887, in Three Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES.
Tenor 41 cwt.

WILLIAM MIDGLEYTreble.	CHARLES H. HATTERSLEY6.
WILLIAM BURGAR2.	WILLIAM SMITHSON7.
FRANK WILLEY3.	GEORGE HOLMES8.
CHARLES BOWER4.	THOMAS HATTERSLEY9.
JAMES DIXON5.	JOHN LLOYDTenor.

Composed by the late WILLIAM HUDSON, of Sheffield, and
Conducted by THOMAS HATTERSLEY.

The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled as a mark of respect to the late Rev. James H. Fish. And it is the first deeply-muffled peal in Sheffield.

GLODWINCK, OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

On Sunday, April 10, 1887, in Two Hours and Forty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 8½ cwt.

RICHARD GUESTTreble.	JOHN GREENWOOD5.
CLEMENT DRONSFIELD2.	SAMUEL STOTT6.
GEORGE H. BEEVER3.	ALBERT CLEGG7.
JAMES RILEY4.	WILLIAM RHODESTenor.

Composed by H. JOHNSON, of Birmingham, and conducted by
GEORGE H. BEEVER.

First peal by all, and first ever rung in Oldham. This peal contains the least possible calls.

HERTFORD.

On Monday, April 11, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

WILLIAM BENNETT†Treble.	MATTHEW ELLSMORE5.
GEORGE B. LUCAS2.	*JOSEPH POMFRET6.
HARRY HOLIFIELD3.	*HENRY A. BARNETT7.
REV. CANON WIGRAM*4.	HERBERT BAKERTenor.

Conducted by HERBERT BAKER.

†First peal. *First peal of Bob Major.

This peal appeared in "BELL NEWS," March 26th, (page 3) and is composed by John Thorpe of Ashton-under-Lyne.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.—THE CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HUBBARD'S TEN-PART. Tenor 30 cwt. in Eb.

TOM GRANTTreble.	WALTER BATTLE5.
ALFRED BARNES*2.	GEORGE W. CARTMEL6.
JOHN C. MITCHELL3.	NEWMAN N. HILLS7.
WALTER H. L. BUCKINGHAM4.	HENRY L. WADDINGTONTenor.

Conducted by NEWMAN NORWOOD HILLS.

*First peal. First peal of Bob Triples by all the band, who are also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and the Herts and Essex Associations. First peal of Bob Triples by the Herts Association.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' COMPOSITION. Tenor 13½ cwt.

J. W. WASHBROOKTreble.	H. ROBERTS5.
W. T. PATES2.	THOMAS REYNOLDS6.
H. KARN3.	JOHN BUFFERY7.
F. E. WARD, ESQ.4.	G. H. PHILLOTT, ESQ.Tenor.

Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

Messrs. Reynolds and Buffery hail from Birmingham, and together with the conductor, were nominated for membership prior to starting for the peal.

BINGLEY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SOULS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 17½ cwt.

W. WILKSTreble.	S. H. LONDON5.
W. GILL2.	J. SCOTT6.
T. LAWSON3.	W. E. LONDON7.
M. MOOR4.	F. LONDONTenor.

Composed by JOSEPH FLEMING of Halifax, and Conducted by
F. LONDON.

Messrs. Gill, Moor, and Scott, hail from Keighley; Mr. T. Lawson is of Bingley and the rest hail from Shipley.

SADDLEWORTH, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE AND UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATIONS.

On Monday, April 11, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12 cwt.

JAMES WRIGLEYTreble.	JOSEPH L. BUCKLEY5.
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE2.	EDGAR BUCKLEY6.
JOSEPH WOOD3.	JOHN HOLDEN7.
FRANK BRIERLEY4.	EDWARD WOODTenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP and Conducted by FRANK BRIERLEY.

CARDINGTON, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt. 0 qrs. 12 lbs. in E.

FREDERICK KEECHTreble.	FRED GILBERT5.
WILLIAM G. BIGGS*2.	HARRY CHAPMAN6.
CHARLES WM. CLARKE3.	RICHARD DUNKLEY7.
MAURICE WARWICK4.	WILLIAM ALLANTenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM G. BIGGS.

*First peal as conductor.

Also the first peal in this method on the bells, and by all except the ringers of the 3rd and 4th. The ringers wish to tender their best thanks to the Rev. E. J. Hillier for placing the bells at their disposal on this occasion.

LONGNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Monday, April 11, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REEVES' VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART.

CHARLES AWFORDTreble.	*LIONEL LONGNEY5.
JOHN WATHEN2.	THOMAS DEVEREUX6.
FRANCIS J. MOORE3.	JOSIAH WATHEN7.
JOHN HALE4.	WILLIAM HAMPTONTenor.

No Conductor mentioned.

*First peal.

All belong to the Tewkesbury Abbey Society except Mr. L. Longney. The ringers wish to tender their best thanks to the Rev. E. R. Nussey for his kindness to them, and for allowing them the use of the bells; also to Mr. A. Longney, and Mr. W. Ellis, whose kindness will long be remembered by them.

WREXHAM, DENBIGHSHIRE, NORTH WALES.

Birthday Peal.

On Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

CHARLES PRICE* Treble.	ALFRED CROSS 6.
JAMES MOULTON* 2.	† JOSIAH ROGERS 7.
JOHN ELLIS* 3.	* THOMAS NEWELL 8.
JOSEPH WILLIAMS* 4.	* EDWARD EVANS 9.
EDWARD ROWLAND* 5.	* JAMES KENDRICK Tenor.

Composed by the late JOHN COX, and Conducted by JAMES MOULTON.

*College Youths. †Cumberland.

Messrs. Moulton and Cross hail from Chester; Mr. Price from Eccleston; Mr. Rogers from Manchester; the rest are local members.
The above peal was rung on the 24th birthday of Mr. John Ellis, the ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 17 cwt. in F.

CHARLES CASH Treble.	JAMES BARRATT 5.
GEORGE E. TURNER 2.	EDWARD CASH 6.
JOHN E. POLLITT 3.	A. EDWARD WREAKS 7.
THOMAS G. DOWNS 4.	JOHN EACHUS Tenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and Conducted by A. EDWARD WREAKS.

This peal has the 5th and 6th their extent each way in 5-6; see Snowdon's *Treatise*, part 2, page 47. The Brothers Cash and J. Barratt belong to Eccles, the rest are from Manchester.

WEST TARRING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(STEYNING BRANCH).

On Easter Monday, April 11th, 1887, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

A PEAL OF 5040 CHANGES ON SIX BELLS, IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS;

Being 720 each of the following:—

Kent Treble Bob Minor, Oxford Treble Bob, Yorkshire Court, Single Court, Oxford Single Bob, and Canterbury Pleasure.

Tenor 9 cwt.

FREDERICK MORRIS* .. Treble.	GEORGE GATLAND 4.
THOMAS SEARLE 2.	JAMES WOOLGAR 5.
JAMES SEARLE† 3.	CHARLES TYLER Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES TYLER.

First 5000 rung on the bells. *First 5040. †First 5040 on six bells.

WORCESTER.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. JOHN'S SOCIETY, BROMSGROVE.

On Easter Monday, April 11, 1887, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5112 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

ALBERT HOBDAV .. Treble.	OLIVER JAMES 6.
GEORGE BOURNE 2.	GEORGE MORRIS 7.
WILLIAM JAMES 3.	GEORGE HAYWARD 8.
GEORGE HUGHES 4.	WALTER REA 9.
THOMAS ALLBUTT 5.	JAMES PARRY Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HAYWARD.

G. Hughes hails from Tipton; the rest from Bromsgrove. This is the second peal of Caters by G. Hughes, who has only one arm. The peal was rung in honour of the fifth Annual Meeting of the above Association.

This peal has the 6th eighteen courses behind the 9th and 5th twenty-four courses behind the 9th.

PLUMMERS PLAIN, LOWER BEEDING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(BRIGHTON BRANCH).

On Easter Monday, April 11th, 1887, (in the morning), in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 10 cwt. 14 lbs.

ARTHUR A. FULLER .. Treble.	JOHN REILLY 5.
GEORGE F. ATTREE 2.	GEORGE A. KING 6.
HARRY WESTON 3.	JOHN JAY 7.
WILLIAM PALMER 4.	WALTER F. VERNON .. Tenor.

Conducted by GEO. F. ATTREE.

First peal on the bells.

BOLNEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(BRIGHTON BRANCH).

On Easter Monday, April 11th, 1887, (in the evening), in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS'S FIVE-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

ARTHUR A. FULLER .. Treble.	GEORGE F. ATTREE 5.
HARRY WESTON 2.	JOHN REILLY 6.
GEORGE A. KING 3.	JOHN JAY 7.
WILLIAM PALMER 4.	* HORACE CORNWELL .. Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY WESTON.

This and the proceeding peal at Lower Beeding were rung on the same day, by the same band with the exception of the tenor man. *First peal.

BRADFORD.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Shuffled Peal.

On Easter Tuesday, April 12, 1887, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 27 cwt.

A. MOULSON Treble.	J. ANGUS 6.
J. H. FISHER 2.	J. H. HARDCASTLE 7.
H. RAISTRICK 3.	J. SCOTT 8.
R. TUKE, Esq. 4.	W. GILL 9.
J. BROADLEY 5.	W. DARBET Tenor.

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY, and Conducted by J. H. HARDCASTLE.

This peal, which is rung for the first time, has the 2nd nine courses at home, and was rung as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Rev. J. H. Fish. J. Scott hails from Keighley; W. Gill from Hull; the rest are members of the local company.

Date Touches.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

BROMSGROVE (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, April 3rd, for evening service, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Caters (1887 changes), in 1 hr. 12 mins. Albert Hobday, 1; George Hayward (composer), 2; William James, 3; George Bourne, 4; Thomas Alburt, 5; Oliver James, 6; George Morris, 7; Alfred Moore, 8; Walter Rea (conductor), 9; James Parry, 10. Tenor 20 cwt. This is the longest touch of Caters by Alfred Moore, who hails from Hanbury.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SHIPLEY (Yorks).—On Sunday, April 10th, for evening service at St. Paul's Church, a date touch of Oxford Treble Bob Major (1887 changes), in 1 hr. 6 mins. G. A. O. Nettleton (Shipley), 1; B. T. Copley (Bolton), 2; S. H. London (Shipley), 3; S. Langstaff (Pudsey), 4; M. Moor (Keighley), 5; W. Wilks (Shipley), 6; W. E. London (Shipley), 7; F. London (Shipley, composer and conductor), 8. Tenor 15 cwt.

CHESTERFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Sunday evening, April 10th, for Divine Service, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Caters (1887 changes), in 1 hr. 8 mins. H. Rippon, 1; D. Farthing, 2; J. Goodwin, 3; I. Goodwin, 4; G. Topliss (conductor), 5; J. Harris (Staveley), 6; J. Ellis, 7; H. Nuttall, jun., 8; A. Knights (composer), 9; J. Hunt, 10. Tenor 24½ cwt.

ALVESTON (Gloucestershire).—On Saturday, April 2nd, six members of the Thornbury company paid a visit to the above place, and rang a date touch (1887 changes), in the Grandsire method. W. Davis, 1; Wm. Sevier (conductor), 2; G. Iles, 3; T. Allsop, 4; F. Howell, 5; J. Philipot, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

MACCLESFIELD (Cheshire).—On Sunday last, April 11th, for Divine Service in the evening, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1887 changes), in 1 hr. and 12 mins. J. Burgess, 1; J. Holt, 2; C. Bamford, 3; W. Kenny, 4; W. Walmsley (conductor), 5; J. M. Davenport, 6; W. Ingham, 7; J. Morledge, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. Composed by Henry Johnson, sen.

WOODFORD (Northamptonshire).—On Tuesday March 29th, at St. Mary's Church, a date touch (1887 changes), in 1 hr. and 13 mins. in the following methods:—Eight 6-scores of Canterbury Doubles, four 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, three 6-scores of St. Simon's Doubles, and 87 of Bob Doubles. J. Bunning, 1; G. Bunning, 2; E. Finey, 3; T. Wilson, 4; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 5. This is the longest length by all except the conductor, as neither of them knew anything of change-ringing, nor had even handled a bell rope eleven months back. W. J. Gilbert hails from Raunds, the rest belong to the local company.

Miscellaneous.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Sunday, April 10th, at St. Mary's Church, for early service, a 720 Kent Treble Bob (nine bobs). M. Warwick (conductor), 1; I. Hills, 2; R. Dunkley, 3; F. Gilbert, 4; C. W. Clarke, 5; H. Chapman, 6. Also for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles). J. Spencer, 1; M. Warwick, 2; R. Dunkley (first 720 in the method) 3; H. Chapman, 4; F. Gilbert, 5; I. Hills (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob (nine bobs). C. W. Clarke (conductor), 1; M. Warwick, 2; F. Gilbert, 3; R. Dunkley, 4; S. Cullip, 5; H. Chapman, 6. Also at the St. Paul's Church, for Divine Service in the evening, a 1036 of Grandsire Triples, containing the twenty-four 4-6's the right way throughout, in 41 mins. F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; W. Allan, 3; C. W. Clarke (composer and conductor) 4; *R. Dunkley, 5; *F. Gilbert, 6; I. Hills, 7; H. Chapman, 8. *Longest touch in the method. Also a 336 of Bob Major. F. Keech, 1; M. Warwick, 2; W. Allan, 3; F. Gilbert, 4; R. Dunkley, 5; I. Hills, 6; H. Chapman, 7; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. Handbell Ringing.—Also at the house of Mr. A. Wheatley, a 720 Plain Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). *M. Warwick, 1-2; C. W. Clarke, 3-4; *F. Gilbert, 5-6. *First 720 double-handed. Also 168 Grandsire Triples. H. Chapman, 1; F. Keech, 2; R. Dunkley, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; F. Gilbert, 5; M. Warwick (conductor), 6; I. Hills, 7-8. Also a plain course of Grandsire Caters. F. Keech, 1; R. Dunkley, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3-4; H. Chapman, 5; F. Gilbert, 6; W. Biggs, 7-8; M. Warwick, 9-10. Also a course of Bob Major. M. Warwick, 1-2; W. Biggs, 3-4; C. W. Clarke, 5-6; F. Gilbert, 7-8. Also a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. M. Warwick (conductor), 1; H. Chapman, 2; W. Biggs, 3; F. Gilbert, 4-5; A. Wheatley (non-member, but elected as an honorary member on Easter Monday, first 6-score), 6.

BROMHAM (Beds).—On Sunday, April 10th, for Divine Service, a 720 Plain Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). W. West, 1; T. Tipoe, 2; C. West, 3; H. King, 4; W. King, 5; W. Biggs (conductor), 6.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

ENVILLE.—On Saturday, April 2nd, the members of St. Benedict's Society visited the above place and rang at the parish church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with 6, 8 behind (eighteen bobs and two singles). G. Deans, 1; W. Devey, 2; J. Sackfield, 3; J. E. Claridge, 4; R. Cartwright (conductor), 5; H. Deans, 6; A. Little, 7; G. Little, 8. Also touches of College Single and a 504 of Grandsire Triples. G. Deans, 1; R. Cartwright (conductor), 2; J. Sackfield, 3; H. Deans, 4; A. Little, 5; W. Devey, 6; J. E. Claridge, 7; G. Little, 8. Tenor 17½ cwt.

WOMBOURN.—On Saturday, April 9th, as a last token of respect to the Rev. James H. Fish, late vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, a 600 of Double Oxford Bob Minor, with the bells half-muffled. G. Little, 1; H. Deans, 2; A. Little, 3; W. Devey, 4; J. E. Claridge, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. The ringing was short on account of choir practice.

EASTERN COUNTIES' GUILD.

SPALDING.—On Good Friday, April 8th, for morning service, a 518 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by G. Skeef. For afternoon service a 336 in the same method. Also for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). James R. Mackman (aged 11; his first quarter-peal), 1; G. Skeef, 2; R. Jarvis, 3; J. W. Jarvis, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; J. S. Wright, 7; C. Neaverson, 8. The bells were half muffled throughout the day. On Easter Sunday,

April 10th, at 7 a.m., for early service, a 714 of Grandsire Triples. J. R. Mackman, 1; J. W. Jarvis, 2; R. Jarvis, 3; C. Neaverson, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; J. S. Wright, 7; G. Skeef, 8. At 10 a.m., a 518 in the same method. Also at 6 p.m., a 672 in the same method. And after service, a 840 in the same method. J. Brown, 1; R. Skeef, 2; R. Jarvis, 3; C. Neaverson, 4; S. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; J. S. Wright, 7; S. Skeef, 8.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

LEIGH (Essex).—On Easter Monday, April 11th, six members of the Rayleigh company paid a visit to the parish church, and rang some capital touches of Plain Bob Minor and College Single, and succeeded in ringing a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (twenty-two singles), in 23½ mins. G. Smith, 1; H. Deal, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; F. H. Brewer, 5; W. H. Judd (conductor), 6. The above company also wish, through the medium of this paper, to thank the Rector for his kindness in allowing them the use of the belfry.

RAYLEIGH (Essex).—On Sunday, March 27th, 720 changes in 26 mins., being 240 changes of each of the three following methods:—Grandsire Minor, Bob Minor, and College Single. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. H. Brewer, 4; F. Strugnell, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. On Sunday, April 3rd, for morning service, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 2; J. Johnson, 3; W. Dowsett, 4; F. Strugnell, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method with a bob bell by G. Smith. And for evening service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. G. Smith, 1; W. Dowsett, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; F. H. Brewer, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by W. Dowsett. On Sunday, April 10th, a 720 of Bob Minor (thirty bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. G. Smith, 1; F. Strugnell, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; F. H. Brewer, 5; W. H. Judd (conductor), 6.

ROMFORD.—Handbell Ringing.—On Sunday, April 3rd, a 120 of Grandsire Doubles. J. Keeble, 1-2; B. Keeble, 3-4; W. Keeble, 5-6. This 120 was rung as a birthday touch for two brothers (not twins) Chiming.—On Easter Sunday morning, at St. Edward's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins. B. Keeble, 1-2; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 3-4-5-6; W. Nash, 7-8. This quarter-peal is the one composed by the Editor of this journal, containing the twenty-four 6-7's, and is the first quarter-peal upon record ever chimed. And for evening service 224 of Bob Major, 96 of Kent Treble Bob Major, and two courses of Stedman Triples. Also for afternoon service, 144 of Double Court, and 180 of Double Oxford Bob Minor.

WRITTLE.—On Easter Day, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Bob Minor, with 6-8 covering. A. Edwards, 1; J. Everard, 2; R. Wood, 3; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 4; F. Radley, 5; C. Dennison, 6; W. Lincoln (conductor), 7; A. Bonnington, 8. And for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins. A. Edwards, 1; J. Everard, 2; A. Shuttleworth (Widford), 3; F. Radley, 4; C. Waskett (Galleywood), 5; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 6; W. Lincoln (conductor), 7; W. Piper (Widford), 8. This quarter-peal, composed by Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham (see "THE BELL NEWS," October 2nd, 1886, page 211) contains twenty-four 6-7's.

WIDFORD.—On Friday, March 25th, 720 Double Court Bob Minor, in 25 mins, also two courses of Cambridge Surprise. W. Harvey, 1; J. Dains, 2; *A. Shuttleworth, 3; W. Lincoln, 4; *A. Tarbun, 5; *W. Piper (conductor) 6. *First 720 in the method. On Easter Day, for Divine Service in the morning, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, and 240 of Kent. E. Dains, 1; J. Dains, 2; A. Shuttleworth, 3; W. Harvey, 4; A. Tarbun, 5; W. Piper (conductor), 6.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TONBRIDGE (Kent).—On Tuesday evening, April 5th, for practice at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, several 120's of Grandsire Doubles. J. Chivers, J. Cavalier, C. Mitchell, H. Barefield, A. Dunk, F. W. Buckingham, G. Rabbit, C. E. Warner (conductor), H. C. Corke, and T. Wells. The former, with the exception of H. Barefield, who is instructing the society, are members of the new local society lately formed at Tonbridge. The above are the first rang by the new society.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Easter Sunday evening, April 10th, after the conclusion of Divine Service at the parish church, eight members of the above society rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins., with the bells half-muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of S. J. Claye, Esq., churchwarden, who departed this life on Sunday evening, April 3rd, and his loss will be severely felt by a large circle of friends. G. Kilbourne, 1; A. Widdowson, 2; G. Bradley, 3; S. Clarke, 4; J. Ward, 5; J. C. Dicken, 6; J. Barrow (conductor), 7; T. Cope, 8. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BAGSHOT.—On Monday, April 4th, two 120's of Grandsire Doubles. F. Francis, 1; R. Houlton, 2; T. Gould, 3; E. Lee, 4; W. Houlton (conductor), 5; E. Spooner, 6. Also 300 Plain Bob Minor. R. Houlton, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; W. Houlton, 4; E. Lee, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, April 8th, 720 Plain Bob Minor in 28 mins. (sixteen bobs and two singles). H. Stapleton, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; W. Houlton, 4; E. Lee, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. W. Houlton hails from Wokingham. This is the first 720 of Bob Minor, by all except Francis, and is the first 720 of Minor on the Bells, which have not been rung for three years. Great credit is due to Mr. Spooner for ringing the tenor, as she goes so so heavily at times and the belfry is only ten feet square, some of the ropes hanging only about six inches from the walls. And on Sunday evening, April 10th, for service, four 120's Grandsire Doubles. H. Stapleton, 1; H. Houlton, 2; T. Gould, 3; E. Spooner, 4; E. Lee (conductor), 5; R. Weeks, 6. Tenor 21 cwt. The bells are by Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, and were given by Mrs. M. Waterer in memory of her husband, whom she only survived about twelve months.

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY MONMOUTH.

On Saturday, April 9th, being the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the new Town Hall by J. A. Rolls Esq., attended by the Mayor and Corporation, (of which body the manager of the society is a member), the local members rang some touches of Minor on the back seven. T. Jones, 1; W. Preece, 2; J. Ward, 3; J. Brown, 4; T. Preece, 5; T. H. Jones, 6; H. Brown, 7. Also several touches of Grandsire Triples, taken from the *Shipway Reprint*. W. Jones, 1; W. Preece, 2; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 3; J. Ward, 4; J. Brown, 5; T. Preece, 6; T. H. Jones (conductor), 7; H. Brown, 8. The new Hall is being built as a Jubilee Memorial, at a cost of from £4,000 to £5,000, the whole of which is being defrayed by John Allen Rolls, Esq., of the Hendre, near Monmouth.

BENGELO (Hertford).—On Easter Monday, April 11th, at Holy Trinity Church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. W. Bennett, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; J. Channer, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; W. Odell, 5; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Bob Minor. H. Brown, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; G. B. Lucas, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 6. Messrs. Lucas and Barnett hail from Tottenham; Messrs. Buckingham, Mitchell, and Cartmel from St. Albans; the others belonging to the local company at Bengeo.

COLCHESTER.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Tuesday, April 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor (twenty-six singles), in 20 mins. D. W. Scott, 1; *J. Ascott, 2; †J. Kettle, 3-4; G. Dent, 5-6. *First 720. †Totally blind.

DORKING (Surrey).—On Monday, April 11th, at St. Martin's Church, a mixed band rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 56 mins. E. Dodd, 1; F. J. Hoad (conductor), 2; C. Boxall, 3; W. Argent, 4; H. Boxall, 5; E. Kenward, 6; H. Boxall, 7; J. Howard, 8. Also a quarter-peal of Union Triples in 56 mins. J. Howard, 1; F. J. Hoad, 2; W. Argent, 3; E. Kenward, 4; H. Boxall, 5; C. Boxall (conductor), 6; H. Boxall, 7; C. Dudley, 8. Composed by W. Boxall. F. J. Hoad, W. Argent, E. Kenward, and J. Howard, hail from Reigate, the rest are local ringers.

EAST HAGBOURNE (Berks).—On Tuesday, April 5th, at the parish church, 336 of Grandsire Triples. E. Pether, 1; *J. Pether, 2; E. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; J. F. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; C. W. Allen, 7; F. Slade, 8. *First touch with a bob bell. Also 120 of Stedman Doubles, being the first in the method by Hagbourne men. C. W. Allen, 1; J. F. Napper, 2; E. E. Napper, 3; D. Napper, 4; W. Napper (conductor), 5; E. Pether, 6.

HAGBOURNE (Berks).—On Sunday evening, April 10th, for Divine Service at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. E. Pether, 1; D. Napper, 2; F. Napper, 3; C. W. Allen, 4; E. E. Napper, 5; W. Napper (conductor), 6; T. Hibbert, 7; A. Woodley, 8.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Sunday, March 6th, at St. Martin's Church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. J. Barrett (conductor), 1; J. Hannington, 2; J. Leach, 3; — Tennant, 4; — Pittam, 5; J. Nixon, 6. On Sunday, April 3rd, for evening service, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob (fifteen bobs), in 25 mins. J. Hannington (conductor), 1; J. Nixon, 2; — Tennant, 3; J. Leach, 4; — Pittam, 5; G. Griffin, 6. And after evening service, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs), in 24½ mins. E. Chapman, 1; J. Hannington (conductor), 2; G. Harvey, 3; — Tennant, 4; Pittam, 5; G. Griffin, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

OLD HILL (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, April 9th, at Holy Trinity Church, 1260 of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins. H. Mason, 1; A. H. Bassano (conductor), 2; *W. Bird, 3; *A. E. Parsons, 4; *W. Foxall, 5; *R. Bird, 6; *H. Cartwright, 7; W. Green, 8. *First quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. Also on Easter Sunday, April 10th, for Divine Service, 1344 of Bob Major, in 52½ mins. W. Foxall, 1; A. E. Parsons, 2; W. Bird, 3; R. Bird, 4; W. Green, 5; H. Mason, 6; H. Cartwright, 7; A. H. Bassano (conductor), 8. First quarter-peal of Bob Major by all. For Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25½ mins. W. Foxall, 1; A. E. Parsons, 2; H. Cartwright, 3; W. Green, 4; H. Mason, 5; A. H. Bassano (conductor), 6. And on Easter Monday, April 11th, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 28 mins. J. Brooks, 1; *F. Davis, 2; A. E. Parsons, 3; W. Green, 4; H. Cartwright, 5; H. Mason (conductor, first time), 6. *First 720 in the method. Also 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 27 mins. *F. Davis, 1; *A. E. Parsons, 2; *J. Brooks, 3; *H. Cartwright, 4; *H. Mason, 5; A. H. Bassano (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Oxford. F. Davis and J. Brooks' first 720 of Treble Bob. Also 720 of Place Minor, in 2; mins. F. Davis, 1; *J. Brooks, 2; H. Cartwright, 3; H. Mason, 4; *W. Green, 5; A. H. Bassano (conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method. F. Davis and J. Brooks are members of the Lye Society.

SOUTHWOLD (Suffolk).—On Easter Sunday, April 10th, the following members of the local company rang before the early celebration, a 720 of Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles), in 28 mins. H. Hurr, 1; T. Haken, 2; H. Thompson, 3; C. Goddard, 4; F. Lambert, 5; Rev. W. Pearson (conductor), 6. And before the 10.30 service, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. T. King, 1; F. Haken, 2; H. Thompson, 3; C. Goddard, 4; E. Upcraft, 5; Rev. W. Pearson (conductor), 6. Another 720 was attempted before evensong, but failed. On Easter Monday, April 11th, the Halesworth company were invited over to Southwold for some ringing, but four of those who accepted having failed, for some unexplained reason, to fulfil their engagement, nothing could be attempted beyond Bob Minor, with the help of the young local company. The following rang a 720 (six bobs and 30 singles), in 28 mins. F. Lambert, 1; F. Haken, 2; J. Howard, 3; C. Goddard, 4; C. Kerrison, 5; Rev. W. Pearson (conductor), 6. The 1st, 3rd, and 5th ringers belong to Halesworth; the others are members of the local company.

ST. ALBANS (Herts).—*Handbell ringing.*—On Thursday, April 7th, a 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham (conductor), 5-6. And on Easter Sunday, for Divine Service at 6 a.m., 504 of Bob Triples. T. Kent, 1; A. Barnes, 2; W. H. Buckingham, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; W. Battle, 5; G. W. Cartmel, 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; H. L. Waddington, 8. And for Divine Service at 10 a.m., 504 of Stedman Triples. A. Barnett, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; W. H. Buckingham, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; W. Battle, 5; G. W. Cartmel, 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; H. L. Waddington, 8. Also some Grandsire Triples and Bob Major for other services.

STOURBRIDGE (Worcestershire).—On Monday, March 28th, at St. Thomas's Church, the local company rang for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), with 6-8 behind, in 30 mins. W. A. Pugh, 1; T. Lees, 2; H. Harris, 3; J. Guest, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; C. Barrett, 6; *G. H. Paget (conductor), 7; J. Crump, 8. On Sunday, April 3rd, for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), with 6-8 behind. W. A. Pugh, 1; J. Guest, 2; *T. Lees (conductor), 3; G. H. Paget, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; C. Barrett, 6; H. Harris, 7; J. Crump, 8. And a 168 of Bob Triples. C. Barrett, 1; J. Guest, 2; W. A. Pugh, 3; T. Lees, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; H. Harris, 6; G. H. Paget (conductor), 7; J. Crump, 8. And for service, a 252 of Bob Triples, standing as above. And after service in the evening, a 720 of Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), with 6-8 behind. C. Barrett, 1; J. Guest, 2; H. Harris (conductor), 3; T. Lees, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; J. Bird, 6; G. H. Paget, 7; J. Crump, 8. *First peal as conductor. Tenor about 19 cwt.

STANSTED (Essex).—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Saturday, April 9th, at the King's Arms inn, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, on handbells retained in hand, in 24 mins. W. F. Prior, 1; H. Prior, 2; W. Prior, 3; G. Prior, 4; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 5-6. And a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 24 mins. W. Prior, 1; W. Watts, 2; H. Prior, 3; G. Prior, 4; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 5-6. And 120 of Grandsire Doubles. W. T. Prior, 1; G. Prior, 2; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 3-4; H. Prior, 5-6. And 120 of Grandsire Doubles. W. Prior, 1-2; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 3-4; H. Prior, 5-6. And some lapping on handbells. A plain course of Stedman Cinques, and three leads of Treble Bob Maxing. W. Prior, 1-2; H. Prior, 3-4; H. J. Tucker, 5-6; W. Watts, 7-8; G. Prior, 9-10; W. Luckey, 11-12. And on Sunday morning, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, at 6 a.m., a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (with twenty-six singles and sixteen singles), in 25 mins. G. Prior, 1; W. Prior, 2; G. Gray, 3; H. Prior, 4; J. Luckey, 5; C.

Prior (conductor), 6. Composed by J. F. Penning, of Saffron Walden. And a 720 of Gollege Single, in 25 mins. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Prior, 3; J. Luckey, 4; H. Prior, 5; C. Prior (conductor), 6. And for morning service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (with thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles), in 24 mins. T. Newman, 1; W. Prior, 2; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 3; G. Prior, 4; Isaac Cavill, 5; H. Prior, 6. This is the first 720 in this method on these bells. Messrs. Tucker and Newman hail from Bishops Stortford. Tenor 13 cwt.

YORK.—On Monday, April 4th, a touch of Grandsire Cinques, on the bells of York Minster, to celebrate the golden wedding of the Hon. and Rev. Canon Baille, at present canon in residence, he having married the late Canon Hawkins' daughter, in the year 1837, on the above date. M. West, 1; G. Breed, 2; J. W. Cundall, 3; J. Underwood, 4; G. Worth, 5; R. Thompson, 6; A. C. Fearnley, 7; J. Thompson, 8; T. Haigh, 9; T. Hodgson, 10; W. H. Howard, 11; H. Brown and E. Morrod, 12. *Muffled Peal*.—And on Monday, April 11th, the following rang at the Minster eight courses, or forty-one leads of Grandsire Caters, to the memory of the Rev. J. H. Fish, Vicar of Burton-on-Trent, being the number of years he had lived, and to show their respect, as also several of the clergy, and the Dean of York, who readily gave permission. J. W. Cundall, 1; J. Thompson, 2; E. Dawson, 3; R. Thompson, 4; A. C. Fearnley, 5; J. Underwood, 6; T. Haigh, 7; T. Hodgson, 8; W. H. Howard (conductor), 9; H. Brown and E. Morrod, 10.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

Ringings done during the month of March at Christ Church, Mitcham.—On Saturday, March 5th, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob (nine bobs), in 23 mins. C. Burtenshaw, 1; G. Petrie, 2; John Trendell, 3; James Trendell, 4; A. Garrott, 5; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Kent Treble Bob (nine bobs), in 24 mins. James Trendell, 1; R. Moss, 2; G. Welling (conductor), 3; John Trendell, 4; G. Petrie, 5; J. Fayers, 6. On Sunday, March 6th, a 360 of Grandsire Minor. S. Greenwood (conductor), 1; C. Burtenshaw, 2; J. Fayers, 3; G. Welling, 4; A. Brockwell, 5; G. Pell, 6. On Sunday, March 13th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), in 24 mins. W. J. Hird, 1; W. Gallagher, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; A. Brockwell, 5; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6. On Sunday, March 20th, for morning service, a 360 of Grandsire Minor. W. Gallagher, 1; H. J. Schneider, 2; S. Greenwood (conductor), 3; D. Springall, 4; A. Brockwell, 5; G. Pell, 6. And a 240 of Bob Minor. D. Burtenshaw, 1; H. J. Schneider, 2; S. Greenwood, 3; G. Pell, 4; D. Springall (conductor), 5; C. Burtenshaw, 6. On Sunday, March 20th, for Divine Service in the evening, a 360 of Bob Minor. W. J. Hird, 1; W. Gallagher, 2; C. Burtenshaw, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; D. Burtenshaw, 5; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6. On Tuesday, March 22nd, a 360 of Bob Minor. H. Baker, 1; W. Gallagher, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; J. Fayers, 4; G. Welling, 5; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6. And a 360 of Kent Treble Bob. W. Gallagher, 1; E. Burtenshaw, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; G. Welling, 4; J. Fayers (conductor), 5; H. J. Schneider, 6. On Tuesday, March 29th, a 360 of Grandsire Minor. H. Baker, 1; J. Kohler, 2; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 3; W. Gallagher, 4; E. Burtenshaw, 5; D. Burtenshaw, 6. Also several 120's of Bob and Grandsire Doubles.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

A Quarterly Meeting was held at S. Peter's, South Croydon, on Easter Monday, April 11th, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. White. The ringing began at about half-past 3 o'clock, when touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Treble Bob Major were rung. At 6 o'clock some forty members sat down to tea in the Church-room, and after tea was despatched the usual business was transacted, under the presidency of the vicar. After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and passed, the hon. secretary informed the meeting that he had received on their behalf the current reports of the United Counties' Association, the Yorkshire Association, the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Midland Counties' Association, and the Stoke-on-Trent Archidiaconal Association. A rule was passed enabling honorary members residing out of Surrey, to become life members by a donation of not less than two guineas. Ten new members were elected, including the Rev. J. White. Finally it was decided to hold the next District Meeting at Reigate, on Whit Monday, and the Annual Meeting at Kingston, in about three months' time. Subsequently more ringing was done both at S. Peter's and at the parish church, until about 9 p.m. This meeting was attended by ringers from Beddington, Benhilton, Bletchingley, Croydon, Dorking, Leatherhead, Mitcham, Reigate, Streatham, and Wimbledon.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

REPORT FOR THE WEEK ENDING APRIL 11TH, 1887.—

By the Brighton branch, at St. Peter's, Brighton.—On Easter Sunday, April 10th, for Morning Service, a quarter-peal (1:60 changes), in 4 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; S. Davies (London), 2; A. Thwaites, 3; F. L. Davies (London), 4; G. F. Attree, 5; H. L. Parkinson (London), 6; H. Weston (conductor), 7; W. F. Vernon, 8. Also for afternoon service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins. C. E. Golds, 1; H. Weston, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; J. Reilly, 4; G. A. King, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; C. E. Tyler, 7; E. H. Wilson (London), 8. And on Easter Monday, April 11th, at Lower Beeching and Bolney, two peals (5040 changes), of Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 52 mins., and 3 hrs. respectively. For particulars see peal column.

By the Crawley branch, at Crawley.—On Tuesday, March 22nd, a 700 of Grandsire Triples in 25 mins. J. Collison, 1; T. Smith, 2; W. Parsons, 3; J. Newnham (conductor), 4; F. Rice, 5; W. Collison, 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; E. Pierce, 8. Also on Tuesday, March 29th, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 22 mins. G. Wickens, 1; Rev. J. B. Lennard, 2; W. Parsons, 3; F. Rice, 4; M. Heffer, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; E. Pierce, 8.

By the Crawley branch, at Charlwood.—On Sunday, April 3rd, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (twenty-six singles), in 28 mins. S. Jordan, 1; G. Wickens, 2; A. Ellis, 3; B. King, 4; A. F. Hillier, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. And another 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. S. Jordan, 1; G. Wickens, 2; B. King, 3; W. Parsons, 4; A. F. Hillier, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method.

By the Steyning Branch, at Steyning.—On Tuesday, April 5th, a 360 of Yorkshire Court. J. Smart, 1; T. Searle, 2; C. Chambers, 3; G. Smart, 4; G. Gatland, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On Thursday, April 7th, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure. J. Matthews, 1; G. Gatland, 2; J. Searle, 3; C. Chambers, 4; F. Morris, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. On Sunday, April 10th, a 720 of College Single. J. Matthews, 1; G. Gatland, 2; E. Brackley, 3; F. Morris, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Plain Bob. J. Smart, 1; G. Smart, 2; C. Chambers, 3; T. Searle, 4; F. Morris, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. And a 360 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Searle, 1; T. Searle, 2; E. Brackley, 3; C. Chambers, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. And a 360 of Canterbury Pleasure. J. Smart, 1; C. Chambers, 2; F. Morris, 3; T. Searle, 4; J. Searle, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. And on Easter Monday, April 11th, at West Tarring, a 5040 in seven different Minor methods, in 2 hrs. 53 mins. (For particulars see peal column). And a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. F. Morris, 1; T. Searle, 2; J. Searle, 3; G. Gatland, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. Also at Goring, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. F. Morris, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; C. Tyler, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; J. Searle (conductor), 6. Also 720 of College Single. C. Tyler, 1; F. Morris, 2; J. Searle, 3; T. Searle, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure Minor. G. Gatland, 1; J. Woolgar, 2; T. Searle, 3; F. Morris, 4; J. Searle, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. The above are the first 720's ever rung on the Goring bells.

By the Warnham Branch, at Warnham.—On Sunday, April 10th, the first-half of Shipway's ten-part peal of Court Bob Triples (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 35 mins. G. Charman, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Wadey, 3; T. Andrews, 4; F. Knight, 5; H. Wood, 6; H. Burstow (conductor), 7; J. Wood, 8. Also the last half of the same peal on the same day, in 1 hr. 34 mins., standing as before.

By the Worth Branch, at Worth.—On Sunday, April 3rd, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, in 24½ mins. W. Odwen, 1; W. Denman, 2; E. Streeter, 3; F. Streeter, 4; G. Illman, 5; F. Rice (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 24 mins. B. Payne, 1; W. Denman, 2; F. Streeter, 3; F. Rice, 4; G. Illman, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6.

GEO. F. ATTREE, *Hon. Sec.*

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH BELLS, LOUGHBOROUGH.—It having been decided to accept Messrs. Taylor and Co.'s munificent offer to add two new bells to the peal of eight at All Saints' Church, on condition that the parishioners undertake the work of re-hanging the peal, the work is being rapidly pushed forward with a view of having the new peal in position by the date of the Queen's Jubilee. In addition to the present of two new bells, Messrs. Taylor and Co. have also very generously undertaken to improve some of the larger bells of the existing peal, in order to make the new peal one in every respect worthy of the fine old church in which it is to be placed, and also a credit to the town which, through the enterprise of Messrs. Taylor and Co., has obtained world-wide reputation in connection with the manufacture of bells. The sixth, seventh, and eighth bells (the latter being the large tenor bell) are to be replaced by new ones of superior tone and greater weight, an alteration which will effect much improvement in the musical excellence of the peal. The work of casting the three large bells was successfully carried out on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a number of spectators.



In Memoriam.

THE REV. JAMES H. FISH.

In the prime of life, in the midst of active and vigorous work, the Vicar of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, has been suddenly called away from the post he so ably filled.

Mr. Fish retired to rest on Tuesday evening, April 5th, apparently in his usual health, when shortly before midnight he was seized with an attack of the heart to which he succumbed before medical aid could be summoned. At the age of 41, the same at which his close friend Mr. Snowdon died, the ringing world has lost another valuable supporter.

In his earlier years, while at college, Mr. Fish distinguished himself as a member of the Oxford crew in the inter-University boat race, and this capacity for excelling he carried into later life, adding thereto an uncommon power of organization, and a remarkable directness and cogency of address.

On his appointment, exactly 13 years ago, to the vicarage of St. Paul's—a church then just completed at the expense of the late Mr. Bass—amongst other objects to which Mr. Fish turned his energies was that of forming a band of ringers to do justice to the peal of eight bells with which the tower was provided. How he worked and how he succeeded is best understood by the position which the company he created now occupies. He was once heard to remark that he did not believe there was a likely man in Burton that he had not taught to handle a rope; and his grief on the occasion of the secession of one of his band was expressed in the words: "It will take me ten years to make another like him."

Although it was more as an organizer than as a practical ringer that Mr. Fish's influence made itself felt, he yet was no mean exponent of the art, having taken part in several notable performances, foremost among which may be mentioned the 6720 of Superlative Surprise rung at Burton on January 24th, 1885.

The Midland Counties' Association, at present the foremost method ringing society in the country, owes its prominence almost entirely to his wise and energetic direction. Founded originally as a local Society under the title of the "Derby and District Association," Mr. Fish and his talented company joined, and entered heartily into its objects. Widening in reach, the name was altered to "The Midland Counties' Association" so as to embrace the four important towns of Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, and Burton. Aided by the sage counsels of Mr. Snowdon, Mr. Fish, as president, gave heart and soul to the work; a work which culminated last year in his being able to address the Association from the pulpit, on the occasion of the Annual Meeting, in these memorable words: "I am going to address myself to you as being to-day the premier Association of Change-ringers in the Kingdom. Whether you will continue to be so for long in the future will of course depend upon Providence and yourselves, but I say that to day, unquestionably and without exception, you are a long way ahead of all similar Associations in the country."

The cares and increasing work of a large parish obliged him at this meeting to resign his position of President, and the opportunity was taken to present a testimonial of the regard in which he was held. Since this time Mr. Fish had retired from any active connection with ringing, but he was none the less always ready with his advice and support, having acted as one of the referees of the silent peal of Stedman Triples rung at Burton on November 20th, 1886, and so late as the day of his death having arranged with the hon. sec. of the Association to assist him in his duties on the occasion of the Easter Annual Meeting.

Mr. Fish was a thorough disciplinarian, sound in his knowledge and appreciation of the best methods and the best peals, and, an admirable striker himself, unsparing in his criticism of slovenly ringing. "It is not sufficient to record a peal," he once said, "the compass and beat must be regular or I would not own the performance."

By his death the Exercise has lost an ardent supporter; the Midland Counties' Association their best friend; and the St. Paul's Society one who was to each member of it nothing less than an affectionate brother.

The funeral took place at Eccleshall, near Sheffield, on Saturday last. Before leaving Burton-on-Trent, a choral service took place at St. Paul's Church, and from the church to the station the body was followed by a very large number of people. The body arrived in Sheffield at 11.45, and hearse and mourning coaches being in readiness, the funeral procession proceeded at once to Eccleshall. In the first carriage were the Rev. G. Fish, the Rev. H. H. Moore, Mr. Edward Moore, and Mr. Hudson; in the second, Mr. Churchill (architect), Mr. C. A. Winder, and Mr. Henry Winder; in the third, Lord Burton, the Rev. H. O. Hall, and the Rev. Jas. Addenbrooke (curates of St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent), and Mr. Ellis (vicar's warden); in the fourth, Mr. A. Plant, Mus. Bac. (organist at St. Paul's), Mr. G. A. Barnes (assistant organist), Mr. Churchill and Mr. Addenbrooke; and in the fifth, Captain Nicholls, Councillor Stirk, Mr. Addenbrooke, and Mr. W. Ryley. At the churchyard were Mr. William Boden, Mr. J. Holleyhead, Mr. Boome, Mr. Neale, Mr. Squire, Mr. Daniels, and other friends of the deceased from Burton-on-Trent, in addition to numerous friends of the deceased resident in Sheffield. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Sandford, assisted by the Rev. F. G. Sandford, (who represented the ringing community, being himself a ringing member of the Yorkshire Association), the Rev. V. Odom, and the Rev. C. F. Knight, the latter representing the Archdeacon of Sheffield. A large number of wreaths, composed of exquisite flowers, were placed on the coffin, among them being one formed of arum lilies, the tribute of the Rev. H. H. Moore. After the funeral rites had been performed, ten members of the Sheffield Amalgamated Society of Change-ringers, who are also members of the Yorkshire Association, of which the late rev. gentleman was a member, met at the Sheffield parish church, where formerly Mr. Fish was curate. A peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled, particulars of which appear in our peal column.

ALGERNON TAYLOR.

We regret to record the death of Algernon (Alfred) Taylor, of Hull, which took place on Saturday, the 2nd inst., in his 28th year. The deceased commenced his ringing career at St. James's, Hull, in 1874, and had endeared himself to all by his amiable and unassuming disposition. He afterwards joined the Holy Trinity Society, to which he belonged for nine years. He had been in failing health for the past two years. He was a member of the Yorkshire Association and the Ancient Society of College Youths, and rang twenty-two peals, consisting of twelve of Grandsire Triples, two of Grandsire Major, six of Bob Major, one of Kent Treble Bob Major, and one of Yorkshire Court Major, this last being rung on 31st July, 1885. The funeral took place at the general cemetery on the 5th inst, and he was borne to his last resting place by his brother-ringers and fellow-workmen, and a course of Grandsire Triples was rung over his grave upon handbells by the following:—T. Stockdale, 1-2; W. Southwick, 3-4; C. Jackson, 5-6; R. Chaffer, 7-8. The coffin was a very handsome one of polished pitch pine with brass mountings, and was made by Mr. J. W. Stickney, the conductor of the St. James's Society, Hull. After the funeral a start was made for a muffled peal at St. James's Church, but owing to the indisposition of one of the company, "stand" was called when 1120 changes had been rung. A peal was rung to his memory at Holy Trinity Church, with the bells muffled, on Good Friday, an account of which appears in another column.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

A Handbell Prize Ringing Contest will take place at the house of Joseph Walton, Esq., the "Royal Hotel," Hayfield, Derbysire, when £6 will be given in prizes for the best course of Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Major, and Grandsire Caters..

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

This Society will hold its Spring Quarterly Meeting, at Penbridge, on Saturday, April 23rd. Members to assemble at the church at 2.30 p.m. Captains of various bands should send the number intending to be present, without delay to S. REEVES, Hon. Sec. 10, Bull-street, West Bromwich.

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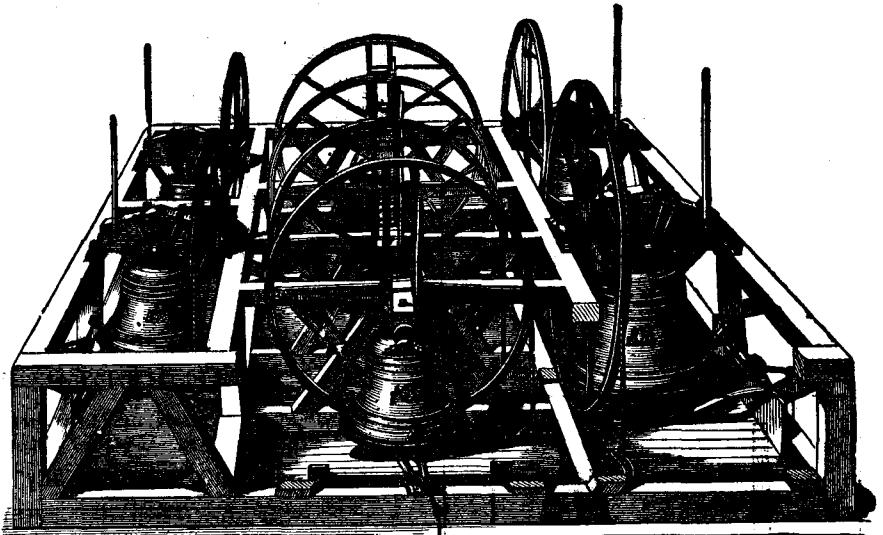


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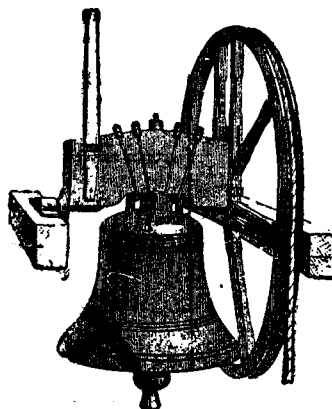
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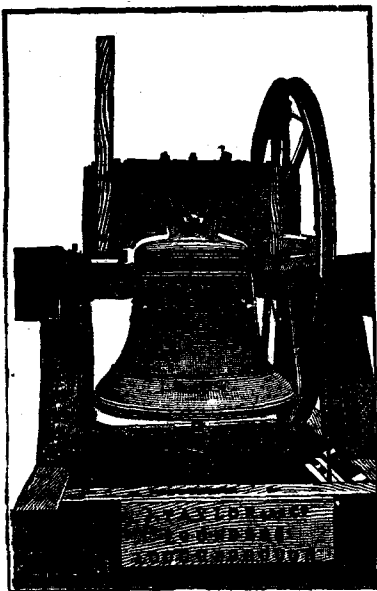
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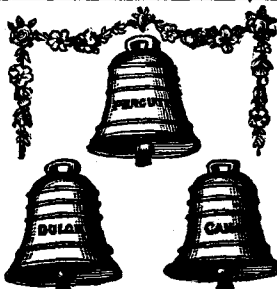
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