

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 285. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. VI.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1887.

[ONE PENNY.]

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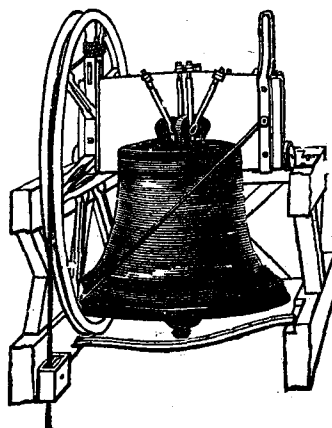
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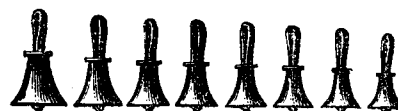
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THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the members of this Association was held in Gloucester, on Tuesday, August 30th. The Association was founded in January, 1878, for the promotion of belfry reform and the cultivation of the art of change-ringing, the Bishop being the president. About sixty members attended morning service in the Cathedral, and there were also present the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, of Magor, Newport, Hon. Sec.; Rev. F. E. Broome Witts, Hon. Treasurer; Rev. Dr. Smithe, Churchdown; and Rev. Mowbray Trotter, rector of St. Mary de Crypt. The Dean and Canon Evans were present, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the Rev. J. P. A. Bowers, Diocesan Missioner, from the text: "There is neither speech nor language, but their voices are heard among them" (Psalm xix., Prayer-book version). The preacher said:—

It is a world of many voices in which God has called upon us to live—some noisy and uncultured; some like the bells, harmonious and pleasant, some like those spoken of in the text, and often the most eloquent, "silent." There is the voice of Nature, so silent yet so eloquent, speaking of God, His power, His work, His design. There is the voice of Revelation—the revelation of a Father, the revelation of Love, telling of the Gospel of the Kingdom. Both these voices are spoken of in this splendid nineteenth Psalm. Then there is the voice of the Church, coming to us with the two great books of Nature and Revelation in her hands, and formulating them for us, by Divine guidance, into a definite Creed. There is the voice of History, telling how other men have struggled and fought, how they succeeded and how they failed. There are also the voices of our own experience and of our own conscience. I take it, then, that whatever else this Festival of our Diocesan change-ringers may be, it is eminently "A Festival of Voices." There is the voice of welcome to the Mother Church of this great diocese. There is not, thank God, a single diocesan Association that is not welcomed right heartily for its festivals within the walls of this great Cathedral. The Dean and Chapter—those who are the trustees under God for this glorious Church and its usefulness in our midst—welcome every one of you here to-day and wish you God speed in your good work for your parishes, your diocese, your Church, and above all for your God. There are, however, other voices—the voices of the bells themselves—no speech, no language strictly so-called, but still how eloquent, how many voices! The voice of joy: when two young hearts set out on life's road together, you, my brethren, are there to cheer them with your merry peal. The voice of sorrow: when our homes are left unto us desolate. The voice of triumph, of jubilee, of passing into the paradise of God, or "The Curfew," "tolling the knell of parting day." All these voices speak to you and me with singular power of the many-sidedness of life. But to you who understand the science of using the bells there are many other lessons. For example: the least mistake of one man in change-ringing will throw all the rest out. Let this teach you your own individual responsibility in the great belfry of life, in the great workshop of the world. I am told that a skilful ringer can ring thirty changes a minute. Let this rapid change remind you of "the change and decay in all around you see," and let your heart go out in earnest prayer,—"O, Thou who changest not, abide with me." There is one other lesson from the bells interesting to the more thoughtful among you. Have you ever thought how the bells help you to value parts of God's Holy Word? For example, think how easy it would have been for Moses to have put the Order of Creation wrong if he had been guessing. There were seven periods of Creation. Those of you who are skilful change-ringers know that by what is called in arithmetic the permutation of numbers seven things can be varied as to order in no less than 5040 ways, seven bells, for instance, combining in 5040 changes. There were, therefore, 5039 chances to one that Moses would put the Order of Creation wrong; but it is, as we know, scientifically accurate. The science of the bells teaches us to value the accuracy of the Word of God. But there is one other voice. I do mention it last because it is least, but because it is greatest; and I want it to hang about your memories. Just now I said that some of the most eloquent voices in the world were silent. So I want to ask you: Is the voice of your life the silent eloquence of holiness? Is there written across it, "I am living by God's grace, to His glory?" Believe me, my brothers, you may be ever so skilful a ringer, able to conduct the most intricate peals, able even to master what I believe is perhaps the most difficult peal ever written, "The Superlative Surprise Major;" but unless your life rings true as well as your bell, all your "Superlative Surprises" are of little worth. Yes, your life must ring "true"—true to thy God, true to thy Church, true to thy country, true to thy better self, true to thy fellow-man. If you ask me why I

emphasise this so much, I answer, "The condition of our age imperatively demands it." What is the ecclesiastical situation? On one side, a vast outside world, untouched by every Christian effort, quietly looking on; not antagonistic—I wish it was! but apathetic, indifferent. On the other side, judging from Mr. Spurgeon's account in *The Sword and Trowel*, and from the report of the Wesleyan Conference held in Manchester a few days ago, some of the larger Nonconformist bodies, to say the least, are inclined to dwindle, and in matters of doctrine are seriously divided. Some would simply rejoice over this last. I confess that to me it seems to have a more serious and solemn meaning. It is certainly a tremendous call to the English church—oh my brothers, such a call to consecration and to work. Every man is needed. It is a call to every worker in our midst, from the Archbishop of Canterbury down to the humblest bell-ringer in some remote village. As you take the bell-rope in your hand, oh! remember that you are not only a worker—that is good, dignified, noble—but that you are a "worker together with God." You are, for him, calling the world, the little world of your village it may be, to the life of worship calling the world to learn what it is of the utmost importance that it should know; calling the world to seek grace—power which she sorely needs, and without which the ideal life is an impossibility. See to it then, my brothers, that you who call others to these great things are using them yourselves—that you are striving to be Christ-like, noble, true, manly—that you know something of the life of worship—something of the life of grace in prayer and sacrament; so that—

"Whene'er the sweet church bell
Peals over hill and dell,"

it may be true of your life, and then it will be true of your ringing—

"That Jesus Christ is praised."

The annual meeting was held in the Chapter House at noon. The Rev. M. TROTTER presided, and said their object was to spend as little time as possible over business matters, as they had other affairs in the town to attend to.

The SECRETARY then read the minutes of a recent committee meeting, and these were confirmed. He also explained the principal matters which were to come before the members, and said that the printed copies of the report had not yet reached him, but they would be handed to the members in the course of the day. The report stated:—

"As our members are aware, it was resolved last year to abolish two out of our four quarterly meetings, in order that the funds might be utilised in employing a change-ringing instructor. Our gathering to-day, therefore, is the second meeting held this year, instead of, as usual, the third. The first was at Stroud on February 7th (the anniversary meeting). At the committee meeting held on the 29th of July it was decided to put our annual meeting as far into August as the rules would allow, in order to steer clear of harvest operations. A vote of condolence with the Master in a recent family bereavement was proposed by the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, and seconded by F. E. Ward, Esq., and it is needless to add was most unanimously passed. Notice was also given by Mr. Ward that he would move at this meeting that Rule IV. should be altered so as to allow of the admission of probationary members. Several of the committee concurred in this, as it seemed hardly just to them that the Association should be paying an instructor to teach men to ring who might perhaps never become members of the Association at all. It should be recorded here that Mr. Sevier, whom we sent to a group of parishes in the Thornbury district for two months in the spring, worked with much energy and success, and the fact that the Thornbury band rang a peal is a practical proof of his good work there. It has been decided in future to publish the accounts of the Association at the commencement of every civil year, which will simplify matters very much. Our accounts, therefore, are now only published to the end of 1886. Members who have not yet paid up for the current year are urgently requested to do so. It has also been proposed in future to issue the list of members, rules, reports, etc., and all information respecting the Association, in pamphlet form; and in that new arrangement we shall hope to have the large double diocese mapped out into its rural deaneries, and the rural deaneries subdivided into their respective parishes, with the names of honorary and performing members under their own parishes. In time we shall hope to obtain the services of a sub-secretary for each deanery, and thus extend a greater interest in the work which it is our aim to accomplish." Details were then given of fifteen peals rung by the members since October, 1886; and the committee add: "The above

added to those already recorded by the Association since its formation, shows a grand total of 37 peals. It will be noticed that a marked increase has taken place in the number of peals rung during the past eighteen months, and this we think will prove to be an indication that the Association has at last taken root in productive ground, to be followed we hope by still further fruits. Whilst congratulating our members upon the success which has until now attended them in their efforts towards carrying out the objects of the Association, we may remind them that there is still a wide field open for the expenditure of their energies. One idea which we would venture to suggest to those who are in a position to carry it out is the rendering of voluntary assistance to those who are on the threshold of change-ringing, as by a 'word in season' to perplexed learners, much good might be done by our own members themselves in extending the knowledge of the art. An increase in the variety of the methods is also advised. We are sorry to have to record the deaths of three of our members, Mr. G. Larnar and Mr. Jos. Barnard, of Northleach, and Mr. J. Gough, of Churcham. Several of our hon. members have dropped out from various causes, but we are glad to have been able to fill up their places with other friends who feel an interest in our work. Our numbers now stand at about eighty hon. members, 186 performing members, and twenty-four life members, a total of 290. We need hardly say how pleased the committee would feel if members of the Association would send them suggestions or communications which would be likely to further the objects of the Society, viz., the promotion of belfry reform, and the cultivation of change-ringing. It would be a great omission on our part if we here forgot to tender our most sincere acknowledgements to the Rev. M. Trotter, rector of St. Mary de Crypt, for always so readily lending us a meeting place for our committees. He has taken a great interest in the Association from its foundation, and again, with his characteristic hospitality, he kindly invites all our members to tea in the Crypt Schoolroom between the hours of 4.30 and six o'clock to-day. We are much indebted to him."

The Rev. Dr. SMITHE proposed a vote of thanks to the officers of the Association, warmly acknowledging their services during the year, and expressing a hope that those services would be continued.

The CHAIRMAN said as a past officer of the Society he knew that the work was no sinecure, and that a great deal had to be done, especially by the worthy Secretary, who kept the Association together, and who, he hoped, would continue his services.

The resolution was carried with applause, and the Secretary returned thanks, and said he had a letter from the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Master of the Association, expressing his regret that he was unable to be present, and hoping the meeting would be successful. Mr. Davies, as they were aware, had lately lost his mother, and they could hardly expect he would attend.

The election of lay vice-presidents was then proceeded with.

The SECRETARY said he thought they might take it for granted that Sir Michael Hicks-Beach would still serve, and he had had a letter from Sir John Dorington stating that he should be much pleased to give them his name as a vice-president if it would be of any use, but that he was afraid he could not ring a bell. The election of Sir M. Hicks-Beach and Sir J. Dorington was unanimously agreed to.

The next appointment was that of Master of the Association, and it was mentioned that the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, who had served two years, wished to be relieved from the office, and that Mr. F. E. Ward should be elected as his successor.

On the motion of Mr. T. Davis, seconded by Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. Ward was unanimously elected Master.

In returning thanks, Mr. Ward said that Mr. Davies had perhaps done more than any man living for bell-ringing, especially in one special branch of the art, and he feared he should not make as efficient a Master as his predecessor, but he promised to do all in his power to promote the success of the Association.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that every member would give the new Master his cordial support, and they desired to give him a hearty welcome that day at the beginning of his work.

The election of the honorary treasurer was the next business.

The Rev. F. E. BROOME WITTS explained that in consequence of his removal from Norton to a distant part of the county he

was unable to attend the meetings of the committee as frequently as he wished, and though he did not ask them to accept his resignation immediately of the office which he had held for five years, he must request them to look out for another treasurer. He should be very glad to hold the office until the end of the financial year, which might make it easier for any one who took his place; but he explained that the duties were very light, and suggested whether some one in Gloucester would not accept the office. The funds were in a satisfactory state, as he had a balance of £40 or £50 in hand.

The CHAIRMAN spoke of the satisfactory way in which Mr. Broome WITTS had carried out the duties, and Mr. WITTS was re-elected, it being understood that at the end of the year he would probably be succeeded by Mr. H. Hatherly, of the National Provincial Bank, Gloucester, and who displayed much interest in ringing at Stonehouse, where he lives.

Mr. WITTS said that though he was about to resign the office held, he should continue to take as much interest in the Association as ever.

Mr. A. COOK proposed and Mr. J. Hughes seconded the re-election of the Rev. Pitt Eykyn as hon. secretary; and the election having been carried with hearty applause,

The SECRETARY said that as he now lived in Monmouthshire he should be much pleased if some one nearer Gloucester would undertake his duties. Still he was willing to continue in office upon the same conditions as before.

The annual dinner was afterwards held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, under the presidency of the Rev. M. Trotter, and about sixty members of the Association attended.

The CHAIRMAN, in appropriate speeches, proposed "The Health of the Queen and the members of the Royal Family," and also "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese." With the latter toast he associated the name of the Rev. J. P. A. Bowers, and warmly thanked him for his admirable sermon that morning. He expressed his regret that the Mayor, who had promised to preside, had been prevented by civic duties from being present, and also acknowledged the courtesy of the Dean and Chapter in arranging the service that morning for them, and allowing them the Chapter House for the annual meeting.

The Rev. J. P. A. BOWERS responded, and said that going about as he did as Diocesan Missioner he saw what a large amount of good work was being done by the clergy in their parish churches, and thank God it was so, by the laity as well as the clergy. He also recognised that the ringers stood shoulder to shoulder with the clergy, and tried to do all the good they could both by example and precept, and it was therefore a real pleasure to him to join them at that table and to have had the privilege of speaking a few words to them in the Cathedral that morning. On the previous day he had driven from the village wherein John Keble used to officiate, and had for his companion one of the ringers of that parish, who was then present, and if he had been able to say a few words to them that day on ringing it was because he had "picked the brains" of his friend as they travelled together, and therefore any credit was due to his friend and not to him (Mr. Bowers).

The CHAIRMAN next proposed "Success to the Association," and spoke of its good fortune in always having had efficient and enthusiastic officers to guide its destinies. He thought there was still plenty of room for belfry reform, which was one of their objects. They often heard, in reference to another matter, of "One man, one vote." He should like to apply that principle to bellringing, and to have throughout our towns and villages "One belfry, one company of ringers." That might not be easy of achievement; and he felt grateful for what they had been able to accomplish through times of difficulty. Still he thought the Association should aim in the future to have a set of ringers for each belfry, as it would solve many of the difficulties connected with belfry reform. He associated with the toast the name of the new Master.

Mr. WARD returned thanks, and referring to the number of peals rung, as mentioned in the report, said the Association had made greater progress during the last eighteen months than in any previous period, and he hoped a still greater work would be accomplished in the next twelve months. He mentioned with regret that no peal had been rung in Gloucester, where there were now two good peals of eight bells in addition to the Cathedral. The blame did not rest with the ringers. He under-

stood there was a feeling among some of the tradesmen against peal ringing, but he hoped that would be overcome. He repeated his desire to do all in his power to promote the success of the Association, and said he relied upon all the members to give him their assistance.

The SECRETARY proposed "The health of the Chairman," and mentioned his many services on behalf of the Association, and his hospitality to the members at their meetings in Gloucester.

The CHAIRMAN suitably responded.

One or two matters that had not been disposed of at the meeting in the Chapter House were next considered. Rule 4 provides that "No one shall be admitted as a performing member until he has satisfied the committee of his capability of taking the treble or tenor of a ring of bells or handbells in 120 changes."

The MASTER proposed an alteration in this rule, and incidental alterations in two or three other rules, the effect of which would be to admit probationary members. He said the late Master, and the Master of another similar Association, were in favour of the change proposed, and argued that it was useless to have a change-ringing instructor if every person must possess the qualification specified before being admitted as a member. He believed that by admitting probationary members there would be a considerable accession to the ranks of the Society.

Mr. JOHNSON HERN (Newnham) opposed the alterations proposed, on the ground that it would increase the expenses of the Association. He also maintained that anyone who aspired to become a member might easily qualify himself as the rules now stood.

The MASTER replied that under the rules as at present they provided an instructor but no pupils. His object was to increase the number of change-ringers.

After further discussion a show of hands was taken, and the proposal of the Master was negatived by 17 to 15.

It was next agreed to increase the number of honorary members on the committee from five to fifteen. Seven or eight new members were elected, including Mr. Henry Law James and Mr. H. Hatherly, and the proceedings terminated.

The following touches were brought round: At the Cathedral, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Wanklin (Gloucester), 1; F. E. Ward (Cheltenham), 2; F. Hart (Gloucester), 3; J. E. Hern (Newnham), 4; B. Etheridge (Gloucester), 5; H. Mitchell (Barnwood), 6; A. Thomas (conductor, Birmingham), 7; G. Miles (Barnwood), 8. At St. Michael's, 504 Grandsire Triples. J. Middlecote (Upton St. Leonards), 1; E. King (Stroud), 2; R. Brunson (Gloucester), 3; J. E. Hern, 4; B. Etheridge, 5; G. Miles (Barnwood), 6; A. A. Waite (Barnwood), 7; T. White (Thornbury), 8. And 364 Grandsire Triples. W. Brown (Quedgley), 1; E. King, 2; R. Brunson, 3; A. A. Waite, 4; T. Belcher (Gloucester), 5; F. E. Ward (conductor), 6; B. Etheridge, 7; G. Miles, 8. At St. Michael's, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Wanklin, 1; J. Thomas (Gloucester), 2; F. Hart, 3; R. Brunson, 4; H. Mitchell (Barnwood), 5; J. Clarke (Gloucester), 6; T. Davis (Prestbury), 7; B. Etheridge, 8. Conducted by G. Wanklin. An excellent tea was provided for the ringers in St. Mary de Crypt Schools by the esteemed Rector, the Rev. M. Trotter, formerly Treasurer of the Association. His generous hospitality was greatly appreciated by the members. During the tea, on handbells a course of Grandsire Triples. H. Gardner (Upton), 1-2; J. Hern, 3-4; T. Brown (Quedgley), 5-6; F. Howell (Thornbury), 7-8. And a course of Grandsire Caters. H. Gardener 1-2; J. Hern, 3-4; T. Brown, 5-6; W. Hinton, 7-8; S. E. Romans (Barnwood), 9-10.

ST. PETER'S, GREAT TOTHAM, ESSEX.

The Coggeshall band of change-ringers visited the above church at the invitation of the Vicar, the Rev. H. Eyre, on Sunday, September 4th, and succeeded in ringing two 720's on the melodious ring of six, tenor 7½ cwt. in B flat. The first was a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Sadler, 1; W. Dyer, 2; J. Aust, 3; J. Nicholls, 4; W. Nicholls, 5. Jas. Sadler, 6. And a 720 of Plain Bob. Rev. H. Eyre, 1; W. Dyer, 2; J. Sadler, 3; D. Elliott, 4; W. Nicholls, 5; Jas. Sadler, 6. At its conclusion the ringers were entertained at the Vicarage, and at dusk returned home to Coggeshall after a pleasant afternoon.

HERE AND THERE.

There was a very strange statement, or allegation, or whatever it may be called, tacked on to the report of the outing of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society, which appeared last week in our paper. What I understood concerning it was that in the absence from the spot of the members of one society, those of another (*friendly* rivals, perhaps) had gained possession, for the purpose of a peal. I have no doubt that like every other, this question has two sides. Let us hope there is some mistake in the allegation. It seems hardly the thing that in such a place as Birmingham there should be more than one company, for the town isn't over-weighted with bell-metal, and these various companies not to be friendly together is to be greatly deplored. To me it seems there is a something lacking in the way of organization among the Birmingham ringers. There is also a kind of half-heartedness displayed in general ringing matters. Very seldom (of late) do we read of the St. Martin's Company achieving anything in the way of peal-ringing, and handbell performances have come to be very wide apart. If they would abolish these petty distinctions of "societies," and become "amalgamated" in reality, I am convinced they could do anything that is possible in the way of ringing, and do it well.

The newspapers publish an account of a suicide enacted in the parish church of Fulham, Middlesex. A man, formerly occupied as organ-blower, has been found hanging from a beam in the organ-loft. No reasons are assigned for the rash act; and the idea that he may have perpetrated it through the loss of office is apt to excite one's risible faculties. I don't recollect reading of a ringer committing suicide because he was expelled the tower, but there have been many tyrannical actions perpetrated by church officials towards ringers of highly nervous temperaments, which might have led to similar tragedies. If the feeling arising from the loss of his office led this poor man to destroy himself, what must be felt by ringers of excitable disposition when the "power of the keys" (of the belfry) is held by some "whipper-snapper" recently promoted to "cocked hat and gold lace," who in as lofty language as his education (or want of it) admits of, informs them that their services are not required; when "he" wants them he'll graciously condescend to let them know, etc., etc.

I thank Mr. Cockey for his graceful hint in the last number. I assure him nothing is further from my purpose than to stir up people to wordy warfare and strife. But if he has read my sayings from the commencement, he will see that I only compile this column "from information received," as the police say. But I'll be on my guard for the future. It must however be said that though Mr. Cockey has had plenty of experience among ringers, he does not quite accurately comprehend the position of affairs which the Chelmsford episode has brought about. But there, I must "draw the line."

I see there has been a peal rung at Painswick. But why choose a Sunday above all other days? Peal-ringing on Sunday don't add to our credit, in fact we have enough to put up with in the way of misrepresentation, without having the additional charge of breaking the Sabbath laid at our doors. This is not the best of beginnings, brethren of Painswick, though I rejoice that the ice is broken. May you go on excelling, and effectually rival the times when "Old Billy" was king among you. Intelligence of this sort from Painswick would be very grateful to the ears of

A NEW MAN.

The Bishop of Brechin (Primus of Scotland), who has for some weeks been seriously ill, is still lying in a precarious condition. The Dean of Brechin (Dundee), has been deputed to attend to any business which can be referred to him.

PAINSWICK, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

ON Monday, August 21st, at the parish church, a 630 of Grandsire Triples. A. Trigg, 1; A. Gwinnett, 2; W. Ryland, 3; W. Hales (conductor), 4; J. Wager, 5; D. Marment, 6; G. Smith, 7; J. Powell, 8. Also two 168's, with T. Ireland, 3, and S. Wright, 4. And on Thursday evening, August 24th, 448 of Grandsire Triples, and 336, and five plain courses, with the bells deeply muffled, as a mark of respect for Mr. Joseph Gough, of Churcham, who was interred on that day, and who was a member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. In this D. Maiment, T. Ireland, and T. Wright, assisted, and as Messrs. Sevier, Romans, and Wilkins, from Gloucester, with G. Daltry, and J. Hinton, from Bristol, wished for a peal to be arranged for Sunday, August 28th, (the one inserted in the peal column of "THE BELL NEWS" of September 3rd), permission was asked of the worthy Vicar, who could not give an answer at once the Sunday school being held very near the tower, but the next evening the welcome message came that they were to attempt the peal, and he wished them all success. A beautiful Sunday morning dawned, and Messrs. Hinton and Daltry were met by Mr. Sevier at Stonehouse station, when they all rode to Painswick, and were met by W. Hale. As soon as Divine Service was over the bells were raised in peal, while Messrs. Hinton and Daltry walked to the Rookery, and partook of some dinner, after which a six-score of Grandsire Doubles were rung on the handbells. G. Daltry, 1-2; J. Hinton, 3-4; W. Hale, 5-6. And 120 of Stedman Doubles. G. Daltry, 1-2; J. Hinton, 3-4-5-6. While walking from the tower and back, some six-scores of Grandsire Doubles was rung by A. Gwinnett and D. Marment, and the visitors, and exactly at 1.58 "go" was called, and the ringing went on very well, when, after two parts was rung, the end of the fifth rope came out, and also the tenor, and they were forced to stand. The ropes being firmly tucked and tied in, "go" was again called at 2.58 exactly, and all ran merrily until the first Holt single came up at 4.36, which run over as smoothly as a plain lead, the striking never seeming to vary in the least, and at 6.8 the welcome second Holt's single, and "that's all," came, and with a few rounds, "stand" was called, and the peal was finished. The local company then came into the belfry, and congratulated the ringers on their success and excellent striking. Mr. David Marment said he wished that it might be mentioned that he had sat in the churchyard and listened to every change, and he considered it one of the best struck peals he ever heard. The local company then finished ringing for Divine Service, and they and the visitors descended into the churchyard which contained a large number of people who had congregated to listen to the peal. The worthy Vicar, the Rev. W. H. Leddon, congratulated them on their successful peal and good ringing, and all the parishioners' only wonder was that it was such a band of youths who rung it, as they did not see who went into the tower. The company then paid a visit to the "New Inn," and had a slight refreshment, and it was with much regret that in a quarter of an hour after the peal was finished that Messrs. Hinton and Daltry were safely landed in a conveyance, and with the ringers' and parishioners' best wishes and many thanks for their kindness, were travelling away to catch the train at Stonehouse for Bristol, to where we trust they had a safe and pleasant journey. The rest of the company adjourned to the coffee tavern and partook of a good tea, and a pleasant chat, after which the local men, with their Gloucester friends, walked over as far as Upton St. Leonards with them, which was half way to their home, where they parted, all having spent one of the most enjoyable days possible. It may be of interest to mention that the last peal before the one recorded in "THE BELL NEWS" of September 3rd, was a peal of Steman Triples by the Painswick Youths, on the 28th of February, 1862. The following were the ringers:—Jeremiah Birt (deceased), 1; F. Musty (rings with the Cheltenham Society), 2; H. Swain (rings in London), 3; Alfred Walkley (deceased), 4; David Beard (his whereabouts not known), 5; Robert Birt (conductor, deceased), 6; David Marment (still rings at Painswick), 7; John Powell (still rings at Painswick), 8. The peal contained 240 bobs and two singles, and the truth of it was attested by the late William Estcourt. Painswick Feast this year is on Sunday, September 25th, which is always regarded as a regular ringers' Sunday. All friends are kindly invited. H.

BELFRY REFORM IN NORTHAMPTON.

In the month of November, 1880, a number of young men met in All Saints' Vestry, under the presidency of the Rev. R. B. Hull, to form themselves into a Society, to perform the duties of ringing and chiming at that church. The Society was formed, rules were drawn up, and officers elected. This step was deemed necessary owing to the deplorable condition of the various belfries in the town. If you went to either of the four towers containing a peal of bells, you would find them a perfect disgrace, both to the church and the ringers using them. In one or two instances they resembled a dirty barn, and dirty sacks, ragged mats, empty bottles, tallow candles, were to be found scattered about in all directions. The ringers too, sad to say, seemed to be entirely ignorant of their positions. They could be seen on ringing days idling about the church in their beautiful aprons and a short clay pipe stuck in their mouths. One cannot but admit that the above meagre description of the state of things then existing required a speedy and effective remedy. This remedy first emanated from the newly-formed voluntary ringers for All Saints' parish. The Society was composed of young men of the parish, who were also regular attendants at the Church services. This great improvement naturally attracted the attention of the other parishes. That of St. Sepulchre's was next to follow in the footsteps of All Saints', and some little time elapsed after which the other two parishes, St. Giles' and St. Peter's, also instituted the same reformation in their respective belfries. Anyone who remembers the condition of the towers before the better state of things prevailed would now be agreeably surprised at the transformation which has been effected. In every tower proper decorum is observed, and prayers are printed for use before commencing to ring or chime. The meetings are usually presided over by the respective clergy, and thus a useful and at the same time a very respectable and thorough church-going set of men are enrolled as part of the body of earnest Church-workers. This is a cause of great thankfulness to our town, and one which, when ringers are harshly spoken of, may have its weight who are to this day entirely unaware of the different state of matters in the church towers of Northampton.—*Local Paper.*

CHRIST CHURCH RINGERS AND CHOIR, EASTBOURNE.

The senior members of the choir and also the ringers at Christ church joined in a holiday trip to Heathfield on Wednesday, August 31st. In point of weather, the day was not the best suited to an outing of this character, but notwithstanding the somewhat boisterous state of the elements, the party managed to spend a very enjoyable day. The Vicar of Christ Church (Rev. R. Allen) was detained in Eastbourne by counter engagements, and the holiday-makers were accompanied by the Rev. O. L. Tudor and the Rev. Irton Smith (two of the curates), who spared no effort to render the occasion a thoroughly enjoyable one to all present. Leaving Eastbourne by the 10.10 a.m. train, the excursionists reached Heathfield at an early hour. A short choral service took place in the parish church, which had been thrown open by the Vicar, the Rev. Mr. Pennethorne, whose wife kindly presided at the organ. The Rev. I. Smith, as Precentor of Christ Church choir, conducted the service and delivered an appropriate address. Subsequently the campanalogical section of the party, under the direction of Mr. T. Smith, captain, gave illustrations of their skill on the church bells, which they manipulated in a highly creditable manner. Dinner and tea were provided at the Star Inn at convenient hours. During the afternoon a match of cricket was engaged in, and later on the "lions of the parish," including the Jack Cade Memorial, were duly inspected. The party returned to Eastbourne by the train arriving there about nine o'clock.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

The Lavenham ringers who were prevented by the Jubilee rejoicings from holding their anniversary on the usual day, propose to hold it on September 29th, on which day it is also intended to hold a Service of Thanksgiving for the Harvest.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5152.

By JAMES S. WILDE, *Hyde, Cheshire.*

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

5th and 6th their extent each way in 5-6.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

6048.

By J. W. WASHBROOK, *Oxford.*

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

First rang at Drayton, Berks, conducted by its author.

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB MAJOR.

5040.

By JOHN HOPWOOD.

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

Twice repeated.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

5184.

By JOHN R. PRITCHARD, *Liverpool.*

2	3	I	4	5	6
3	6	2	I	5	4
5	6	2	4	3	I
5	6	I	2	3	4
5	6	4	I	3	2
3	6	4	2	5	I
3	6	I	4	5	2
I	6	3	2	5	4
5	6	3	4	I	2
5	6	2	3	I	4
5	6	4	2	I	3
I	6	4	3	5	2
I	6	2	4	5	3
2	6	I	3	5	4
5	6	I	4	2	3
5	6	3	I	2	4
5	6	4	3	2	I
2	6	4	I	5	3
4	6	2	3	5	I
5	6	2	I	4	3
5	6	3	2	4	I
5	6	I	3	4	2
*3	I	5	2	4	6
5	2	3	6	4	2
I	3	2	4	5	6

Repeated.

*This course by bobs at 5, 8, 12, 13, 16 18.
This peal contains forty-two 9,7,8's and fifty-two 8,9's.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

5184.

By J. W. WASHBROOK, *Oxford.*

2	3	4	5	6	I	5	6
5	4	3	2	6	-	-	
4	2	3	5	6	-	-	
2	5	3	4	6	-	-	
4	3	5	2	6	-	-	
3	2	5	4	6	-	-	
4	5	2	3	6	-	-	
5	3	2	4	6	-	-	
2	3	6	4	5	-	-	

Five times repeated with s at 1 in the fifth course of 3rd and 6th parts. First rung at Drayton on Whit-Monday, conducted by its composer.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

5056.

By JOHN R. PRITCHARD, *Liverpool.*

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

Three times repeated, single instead of bob at home in last course of 2nd and 4th parts.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

5183.

By ARTHUR KNIGHTS, *Chesterfield.*

2	3	4	5	6
4	2	3	5	6
3	4	2	5	6
2	3	4	5	6
4	3	6	5	2
6	4	3	5	2
3	6	4	5	2
4	6	2	5	3
2	4	6	5	3
3	2	4	5	6
4	2	6	5	3
6	4	2	5	3
2	6	4	5	3
4	6	3	5	2
3	4	6	5	2
6	3	4	5	2
4	3	2	5	6
2	4	3	5	6
6	2	4	5	3

This part twice repeated, calling the first course in the 2nd and 3rd parts, 8th in 2, and the last course in the 3rd part, 9th in with s, and out next lead.

This peal, which is in three equal parts, has the 4th, 5th, and 6th each eighteen times behind the 9th.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

6384.

By EDWARD FRANCIS, *Diss.*

2	3	4	5	6	W	M
4	2	6	3	5	-	-
6	2	5	3	4	-	-
5	2	4	3	6	-	-
4	5	6	2	3	-	-
6	5	3	2	4	-	-
3	5	4	2	6	-	-
4	3	6	5	2	-	-
6	3	2	5	4	-	-
2	6	4	3	5	-	-
4	2	5	6	3	-	-
5	2	3	6	4	-	-
3	2	4	6	5	-	-
4	3	5	2	6	-	-
5	3	6	2	4	-	-
6	3	4	2	5	-	-
4	6	5	3	2	-	-
5	6	2	3	4	-	-
2	5	4	6	3	-	-
4	2	3	5	6	-	-

Twice repeated.

A QUARTER-PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

1260.

By ALFRED SQUIRES, *Hitchin, Herts.*

2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	2	4	5	3
2	5	6	7	3	4
6	3	2	5	4	7
2	4	6	3	7	5
5	3	2	7	4	6
2	4	5	3	6	7

Five times repeated, a single to be substituted for a bob at the end of the 3rd and 6th parts.

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

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

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1887.

THE objections which have recently been taken by one or two correspondents to the election of a member of the Essex Association in the belfry previous to starting for a peal are in our opinion, futile. This we say without the least reference to the case in point, though it may appear that the election of which so much has been made of, need not have taken place so far as the above-named Association was concerned, for there is not the least doubt that had an Association peal, pure and simple, been required, it could have been attained by members of the Association whose election had been ratified at previous meetings, and whose co-operation for the purpose could without trouble have been easily secured. But if what may be considered sharp practice has been resorted to, for a specific object—and let it be understood that we do not allege that it has—it is no reason why the almost universally-recognised practice of election in the tower should be condemned. Those who, smarting under some feeling of disappointment, or indignation, perhaps, at the success of the alleged stratagem, condemn the election as irregular, do so inconsistently, for under what would appear to them happier circumstances, they would in all likelihood take advantage of the same process if by its adoption some after-benefit or advantage presented itself. Nearly one-third of peals rung in London and the suburbs, at any rate by young people, are performed under the actual conditions of society membership which is now so persistently objected to. We do not think the objection is on the whole, sincere. It is made under the unpleasant conditions we have already mentioned, and thus loses all claim to be seriously considered.

But while such a system of election is fully recognised, it would be well that its operations should never be attended with any real or colourable evasion or trespass. The original purpose of the system has no doubt been lost, and tortured into a kind of machinery for serving ambition not always of a worthy nature. If the conditions of this particular election were for the express

purpose of securing a peal to a prominent London company as well as the Essex Association, there need be very little amazement shown, because other metropolitan companies would do the very same under like circumstances. But we contend that in such case a popular mode of election is strained, and made the vehicle of success of a third-class character.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Handbell Peal.

On Wednesday, September 7, in Two Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,
 AT ST. PAUL'S MEETING HOUSE,

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

H. R. NEWTON* 1-2.	C. F. WINNY 5-6.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM .. 3-4.	J. M. HAYES 7-8.

Conducted by W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM.

*First peal on handbells.

The Provinces.

DORCHESTER, OXON.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION GUILD.

On Wednesday, September 7, 1887, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
 AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
 BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.

C. TRINDER Treble.	J. W. WASHBROOK 5.
G. JONES 2.	*H. COBB 6.
F. FIELD 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
REV. F. J. O. HELMORE .. 4.	F. GILES Tenor

Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

*First peal in the method.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE
 ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Jubilee Peal.

On Thursday, September 1, 1887, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,
 5024 CHANGES. Tenor 26 cwt.

JOHN AUSTIN Treble.	HARRY WAKLEY 5.
EDWARD ISAAC STONE .. 2.	JOHN JAGGAR 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed by A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, Esq., and Conducted by
 WILLIAM WAKLEY.

The conductor would be glad to know whether there are records of previous peals in this method other than those at Norwich in 1835, Woolwich in 1849, and Bennington in 1870.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 5th, 1887, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
 AT THE CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY, CASTLE HALL

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;
 IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

SAMUEL WOOD Treble.	JOSEPH MELLOR 5.
JAMES S. WILDE 2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY 6.
JAMES WOOD 3.	THOMAS WILDE 7.
WALTER SLATER 4.	GEORGE LONGDEN Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES S. WILDE.

The above peal, which is now rung for the first time, has the 5th and 6th their extent in 5-6.

SALISBURY.—THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 3, 1887, in Two Hours and Forty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 15 cwt in F.

HENRY D. ADAMS Treble.	JAMES R. JERRAM 5.
REV. F. J. O. HELMORE .. 2.	THOMAS BLACKBOURN .. 6.
WILLIAM E. TYDEMAN .. 3.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. 7.
CHARLES A. CLEMENTS .. 4.	CHARLES GAISFORD Tenor.

Conducted by THOMAS BLACKBOURN.

Rev. F. J. O. Helmore hails from Canterbury. This is the first peal in any method ever rung in Salisbury.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

Muffled Peal.

On Tuesday, September 6th, 1887, in Three Hours and Twenty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5112 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

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

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HAYWARD.

The peal was rung with the bells half-muffled to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of the late Mr. William Duffill, who was treasurer of the above Association from its commencement till his death.

APPLETON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Tuesday, September 6, 1887, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

F. WHITE Treble.	W. BENNETT 6.
E. HOLIFIELD 2.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
REV. F. J. O. HELMORE* .. 3.	J. AVERY 8.
J. W. WASHBROOK 4.	G. HOLIFIELD 9.
B. BARRETT 5.	T. BENNETT Tenor.

Composed by H. JOHNSON, SEN., and Conducted by the
REV. F. E. ROBINSON, Master of the Guild.

*First peal in the method.

Date Touch.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, August 30th, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1887 changes), in 1 hr. 4 mins. G. Prescott, 1; J. Sholicar (conductor), 2; J. Higson, 3; W. B. Lloyd, 4; W. Ellis, 5; W. J. Taylor, 6; J. Aspinwall, 7; P. H. Harvey, 8.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

BARKING (Essex).—On Saturday, September 3rd, at St. Margaret's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). W. Carter, 1; J. Willshire, 2; J. N. Oxborrow, 3; H. R. Newton, 4; T. H. Bell, 5; H. S. Ellis, 6; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 7; W. Cropley, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SHOTLEY BRIDGE.—On Sunday, September 4th, at St. Cuthbert's Church, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor, in 32 mins. J. W. Forster, 1; W. Oliver, 2; T. H. Surtees, 3; T. Bell, 4; F. Barron, 5; J. Spraggon (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled as a last tribute of respect to the late Rev. H. H. Ross-Lewin, Curate of the parish, whose sudden and greatly lamented death occurred in Ireland while on his holidays, on the 24th August. The deceased, who was an honorary member of the above Association, took a great interest in bell-ringing.

EASTERN COUNTIES' GUILD.

SPALDING.—On Tuesday, August 30th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). J. S. Wright, 1; R. Jarvis, 2; *G. Ladd, 3;

C. Neaverson, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman, 6; G. Skeef (conductor), 7; J. W. Jarvis, 8. *First quarter-peal with a bob-bell.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

HARWICH.—On Thursday, September 1st, short touches of Grandsire and Bob Doubles. — Brewster, 1; — Huff, 2; A. Hubbard, 3; — Cramplin, 4; Easter (conductor), 5. And a touch of Bob Minor. — Huff, 1; A. Hubbard, 2; — Brewster, 3; — Cramplin, 4; — Goddard, 5; — Easter (conductor), 6. Also 294 Grandsire Triples. E. Green, 1; A. Hubbard, 2; — Aldis, 3; — Huff, 4; — Brewster, 5; — Cramplin, 6; — Goddard (conductor), 7; — Easter, 8. Mr. A. Hubbard is from Tottenham. Private F. Goddard is now leaving Harwich, and the remaining members will be at all times glad to welcome visitors.

WRITTLE (Essex).—On Wednesday, August 31st, at the parish church, in honour of the marriage of Captain R. H. Paul, R.N., and Miss C. Langworthy, of "The Priory," Writtle, a 504 of Grandsire Triples (from Shipway). A. Edwards, 1; J. Everard, 2; R. Wood, 3; F. Radley, 4; W. J. Piper, 5; H. F. de Lisle, Esq., 6; W. Lincoln (conductor), 7; C. J. Dennison, 8. Also a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. J. Everard, 1; H. F. de Lisle, Esq., 2; A. Edwards, 3; F. Radley, 4; W. J. Piper, 5; Rev. T. L. Papillon, 6; W. Lincoln (conductor), 7; R. Wood, 8. This quarter-peal, composed by H. Reeves, contains Queen's, Tittums, Whittington's, the twelve 4-6's, and twelve 6-7's.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HAUGHTON (Lancashire).—On Wednesday, August 31st, at St. Anne's Church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, and a 720 of Kent Treble Bob in 53 mins. W. Wilde, jun., 1; J. Bardsley, 2; J. Howard, 3; J. A. Thomas, 4; W. Wilde, sen., 5; P. Smith, 6. This was rung with the bells muffled as a last tribute of respect to the memory of Mrs. Walsham How (mother of the Rev. H. Walsham How, Rector of St. Anne's), and wife of the Bishop of Bedford.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

MELBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Saturday, September 3rd, at the parish church, six members of the local company rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor on the back six, in 26 mins. J. Vickers, 1; G. A. Fish, 2; H. Hollingworth, 3; J. Warren, 4; T. Hollingworth, 5; G. C. Tunnicliffe (conductor), 6. First 720 with a bob bell by H. Hollingworth.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

RINGING DONE AT SHIRE OAKS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST:—On Tuesday evening, August 9th, for practice, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. S. Tomlinson, 1; M. Tylden Wright, 2; E. Russon, 3; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 4; R. Knowles, 5; D. Russon, 6. Also a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob, with D. Russon at 5th, and J. Hargreaves on the tenor, the others standing as above. On Sunday, August 14th, for morning service, 720 of Duke of York. S. Tomlinson, 1; S. Harvey, 2; E. Russon, 3; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 4; R. Knowles, 5; D. Russon, 6. Also for evening service, 360 each of New London Pleasure and Kent Treble Bob, standing as before. On Sunday, August 21st, for morning service, 360 of New London Pleasure. S. Tomlinson, 2; S. Harvey, 2; E. Russon, 3; W. Hargreaves, 4; T. Silvester (Anston), 5; D. Russon, 6. Also on Sunday, August 28th, for morning service, 360 of Violet Treble Bob. S. Tomlinson, 1; S. Harvey, 2; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 3; D. Russon, 4; R. Knowles, 5; J. Hargreaves, 6. Also for evening service, 240 each of Violet, Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob standing as above.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

OXFORD.—On Sunday, September 4th, at St. Peter's-in-the-East Church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. West, 1; C. Tolley, 2; W. Washbrook (conductor), 3; H. Castle, 4; W. Jeffery, 5; A. E. Hind, 6.

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

NORTON.—On Saturday, September 3rd, a 720 of Violet Treble Bob, in 75 mins. *W. Twigg (Bucknall), 1; J. Baddeley, 2; J. Wood, 3; J. W. Brough, 4; W. Baddeley, 5; G. Walker (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Tuesday, August 30th, for practice at the parish church, 504 of Stedman Triples. J. Smith, 1; G. Woodiss, 2; H. Parslow, 3; C. Slade, 4; J. Parslow, 5; J. Strutt, 6; J. Wright (conductor), 7; G. Naish, 8.

MITCHAM (Surrey).—On Sunday, September 4th, at Christ Church, a 360 of Grandsire Minor. H. Baker, 1; C. Burtenshaw, 2; W. Gallagher, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; D. Burtenshaw, 4; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6. Also on Tuesday, September 6th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 23½ mins. W. Gallagher, 1; C. Burtenshaw, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; J. Fayers, 4; G. Welling, 5; H. J. Schneider (conductor), 6.

THE ALL HALLOWS SOCIETY, TOTTENHAM.

ON Tuesday, August 9th, for practice at the parish church, 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. A. Hubbard, 1; J. Waghorn, jun., 2; A. Fox, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, August 14th, for Divine Service in the morning, 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. A. Hubbard, 1; H. A. Barnett, 2; J. Waghorn, jun., 3; J. Waghorn, 4; W. Pye-English, 5; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, August 21st, for Divine Service in the morning, 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. T. C. Grove, 1; H. A. Barnett, 2; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 3; J. Waghorn, 4; J. Waghorn, jun., 5; W. Pye-English, 6. And for evening service, 448 of Grandsire Triples. S. G. Bowers, 1; G. B. Lucas, 2; T. C. Grove, 3; R. Bagnall, 4; J. Waghorn, jun., 5; J. Waghorn, 6; H. A. Barnett (conductor), 7; T. Hughes, 8. Also on Tuesday, August 23rd, for practice, 720 of Oxford Bob Minor in 24 mins. T. C. Grove, 1; A. Fox, 2; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 3; J. Waghorn, jun., 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. Pye-English, 6. And on Sunday, August 28th, for Divine Service in the evening, 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. J. Waghorn, 1; A. Fox, 2; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 3; J. Waghorn, sen., 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. Pye-English, 6.

ASHCHURCH (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday evening, July 27th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. D. Done, 1; C. Slatter, 2; W. Wellan, 3; W. Davis, 4; J. Bayliss, 5; E. Wallis (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

BRISTOL.—On Monday, August 29th, at St. John's church, 360 of Grandsire Minor. G. Staddon, 1; H. Tucker, 2; G. H. Price, 3; W. Parsons, 4; E. Beake, 5; G. Daltry (conductor), 6.

BUCKLAND (Surrey).—On Sunday, September 4th, at the parish church, twelve 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, called differently. J. Robinson, 1; Fredk. Sanders, 2; J. Poplett, 3; F. Sanders, 4; W. Sadler (conductor), 5. Tenor 10 cwt.

BALDOCK (Herts).—On Thursday, August 25th, at St. Mary's Church, for practice, 364 of Grandsire Triples. T. Webb (conductor), 1; G. Spicer, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Philips, 4; R. Jackson, 5; A. Squires, 6; R. Jackson, 7; J. Smith, 8. Also 224 in the same method, with one or two ringers changing places. Also on Sunday morning, for Divine service, 448 and 224 of Grandsire Triples. T. Webb (conductor), 1; G. Spicer, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Smith, 4; A. Squires, 5; R. Jackson, 6; J. Roslyn, 7; G. Gentle, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D. A. Squires hails from Hitchin.

BYTHORN (Hunts).—Handbell Ringing.—On Saturday, September 3rd, at the house of Mr. J. Chapman, three courses of Grandsire Triples. F. Smith, 1-2; C. Chapman, 3-4; R. Dunkley, 5-6; W. Richards, 7-8. Also 180 of Bob Minor. C. B. Howell, 1; W. Richards, 2; E. Chapman, 3-4; R. Dunkley (conductor), 5-6. Also 120 of St. Simon's Doubles. E. Chapman, 1-2; R. Dunkley (conductor), 3-4; W. Richards, 5-6. R. Dunkley also tapped on handbells a plain course of each of the following methods:—Grandsire, St. Simon's, Stedman's Slow Course, New Doubles, Canterbury, and Bob Doubles.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS (Lancashire).—On Wednesday evening, August 31st, at the parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-two bobs and twenty-eight singles). J. Spencer, 1; T. Townson, 2; T. Watson, 3; J. Burrows, 4; T. R. Jackson, 5; M. Caddy, 6. Tenor 13½ cwt. This is the first 720 of Grandsire Minor by all the above.

FOXEARH (Essex).—On Sunday afternoon, July 31st, after Divine Service at the parish church, 560 of Bob Major. S. Slater (conductor), 1; J. Lee, 2; O. Garwood, 3; F. Wells, 4; G. Galley (Great Tey), 5; R. Mingay, 6; N. Hawkins, 7; E. Ladham (Great Tey), 8. And on Sunday morning, August 7th, 704 of Kent Treble Bob Major. E. Pemberton, 1; J. Lee, 2; F. Wells, 3; R. Mingay, 4; G. Maxim, 5; A. H. Osborne, 6; S. Slater, 7; G. Hammond (conductor), 8. Messrs Pemberton and Osborne hail from Bury St. Edmunds.

GLEMSFORD (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, August 9th, being the horticultural show in the rectory grounds, kindly lent by the Rev. H. R. Coldham, the following touches were rung: At 6.30 a.m., a 720 of Bob Minor. Joseph Slater, 1; Zach. Slater, 2; Chas. Adams, 3; Chas. Honeybell, 4; E. W. Downs, 5; S. Slater (conductor), 6. Also at 11.30 a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. Joseph Slater, 1; Z. Slater, 2; C. Adams, 3; C. Honeybell, 4; S. Slater, 5; G. Hammond (late of Long Melford but now of Ringmer; conductor), 6. And in the afternoon another 720 of Kent Treble Bob. Z. Slater, 1; C. Honeybell, 2; C. Adams, 3; G. Hammond, 4; S. Slater, 5; Chas. Sillitoe (Sudbury; conductor), 6. And on Monday, August 15th, a 720 of Bob Minor. S. Slater, 1; Z. Slater, 2; C. Honeybell, 3; Isaac G. Shade (Greenwich), 4; E. W. Downs, 5; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury; conductor), 6.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Sunday morning, September 4th, at St. Martin's Church, for Divine Service, a 720 of Oxford

Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs), in 25 mins. A. Tennant, 1; T. Titchener, 2; J. Nixon, 3; J. Leach, 4; A. Pittam, 5; J. Hannington (conductor), 6. And for evening service a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (fifteen bobs) in 24 mins. D. Greggs, 1; J. Hannington (conductor), 2; E. Chapman, 3; T. Gleed, 4; A. Pittam, 5; G. Griffin, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.—On Sunday, September 4th, for morning service, a 504 of Grandsire Caters. G. Naish, 1; C. Slade, 2; H. Parslow, 3; E. F. Cole, 4; A. Challis, 5; J. Wright, 6; W. H. Judd, 7; G. Gray, 8; J. Strutt (conductor), 9; J. Smith, 10. Also a 287 of Grandsire Caters, with J. Stuart, 2; J. Smith, 9; C. Slade, 10, and J. Wright (conductor), the rest standing as before.

LAVENHAM (Suffolk).—On Sunday, August 28th, after the afternoon service at the parish service, 1008 of Bob Major. S. Slater (conductor), 1; R. Mingay, 2; F. Wills, 3; A. Symonds, 4; O. Garwood, 5; J. Lee, 6; G. Maxim, 7; W. Moore, 8. Also a 560 in the same method. S. Slater (conductor), 1; R. Mingay, 2; R. Keeble, 3; A. Keeble, 4; H. Smith, 5; J. Lee, 6; G. Maxim, 7; A. Symonds, 8. Messrs. Slater, Wells, and Garwood; hails from Glemsford; Mingay, and Lee from Foxearth, the Messrs. Keeble from Monks Eleigh; Maxim from Cavendish; Smith, Symonds, and Moore, are local men.

LONDON.—On Sunday, September 4th, at St. John's church, Waterloo road, before evening service, 1260 of Grandsire Triples in 41 mins. W. Baron, jun., 1; S. G. Davies, 2; W. Broadbent, 3; W. Partington (conductor), 4; Rev. A. W. Jephson, 5; H. L. Partington, 6; F. L. Davies, 7; H. Pinnegar, 8. Tenor 20 cwt.

LOUGHTON (Essex).—Handbell Ringing.—On Friday evening, September 2nd, for practice, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. *J. Brown, 1; *G. Carter, 2; F. Freeman, 3-4; E. A. Bacon (first touch as conductor), 5-6; J. Rann, 7-8. *First 504.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On Sunday evening, September 4th, at St. Hilda's church, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins., it being the first 720 in the method rung by a local company. *J. Nicholson, 1; *R. Borrowes, 2; *J. McAdams, 3; *C. Wilkinson, 4; H. McAdam, 5; J. H. Blakiston (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt. *First 720 in the method.

NUTFIELD (Surrey).—On Monday, September 5th, for practice, a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor (thirty-nine bobs and eighteen singles), in 25 mins. C. Tendall, 1; J. Skinner, 2; J. Burkin, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Tidy, 5; W. Hawkins (conductor), 6. And 120 of Stedman Doubles. W. Hawkins, 1; J. Skinner, 2; J. Burkin, 3; T. Boniface, 4; J. Tidy, 5; H. Peters, 6.

PRESTWICH (Lancashire).—On Sunday, August 28th, at the parish church, 720 of Bob Minor in 27 mins. J. Hardman (conductor), 1; J. Gratrix, 2; W. Warburton, 3; J. Brooks, 4; E. Bradshaw, 5; W. Hilton, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

RAUNDS (Northamptonshire).—On Sunday, August 28th, at St. Peter's church, for evening service a 360 of Court Single (nine bobs). W. A. Hall, 1; B. W. Allen, 2; H. W. Stubbs, 3; R. Pendered, 4; G. Kirk, 5; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 6. And on Saturday, September 3rd, for practice, a 720 of Court Single (eighteen bobs and two singles). A. Coles, 1; J. Willmott, 2; H. W. Stubbs, 3; R. Pendered, 4; F. Slade, 5; W. A. Hall (conductor), 6. Handbell Ringing.—On Sunday, September 4th, at the house of Mr. J. Gilbert, a 308 of Bob Triples. F. Gilbert (conductor), 1-2; R. Pendered, 3; W. J. Gilbert, 4; B. W. Allen, 5; W. A. Hall, 6; H. W. Stubbs, 7-8. And 168 of Grandsire Triples. F. Gilbert, 1-2; W. J. Gilbert, 3; R. Pendered, 4; B. W. Allen, 5; W. A. Hall, 6; H. W. Stubbs (conductor), 7-8. And a plain course of Canterbury Triples, by the men standing as before.

SALISBURY.—On Wednesday, August 31st, at St. Martin's church, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Short, 1; A. W. Barkus, 2; W. E. Tydeman, 3; H. D. Adams, 4; J. R. Jerram, 5; C. A. Clements, 6; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 4; W. M. Lush, 8. Also two 6-scores of Stedman Doubles. A. W. Barkus, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 3; J. R. Jerram, 4; H. D. Adams, 5; W. M. Lush, 6. Also on Sunday, September 4th, for Divine Service in the morning, a 700 of Grandsire Triples, in 21 mins. S. Lawrence, 1; A. W. Barkus, 2; W. E. Tydeman, 3; T. Blackburne, 4; H. D. Adams, 5; C. A. Clements (conductor), 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; W. M. Lush, 8. And for Divine Service in the evening, a 350 of Grandsire Triples, in 10 mins., the band standing as before.

TIPTON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, September 4th, for Divine service in the morning, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. B. Starkey, 1; W. Pardoe, 2; H. Hill, 3; E. Goodreds, 4; W. R. Small, 5; S. Jesson (conductor), 6. On Monday evening, September 5th, for practice, 1008 of Grandsire Triples, in 36 mins. J. Hares, 1; G. Hughes (conductor), 2; T. Goodreds, 3; C. Price, 4; C. Timms, 5; A. Hill, 6; S. Jesson, 7; H. Mills, 8. Hayes, Price, and Timms hail from West Bromwich. Tenor 12½ cwt.

SALWARPE (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, August 28th, the Hanbury Company visited the above place and rang several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. A. Buckingham, 1; T. Wyre, 2; F. C. Buckingham, 3; A. Moore, 4; G. Moore, 5; J. Gore (conductor), 6. After which the Rector, the Rev. Canon Douglas, entertained them to a substantial tea. On returning, a halt was made at Dodderhill, where, by the kind permission of the Rev. — Nicholson, several more 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung, standing as before. The above company take this opportunity of thanking the Rectors of both churches for the use of the bells.

TIVERTON (Devon).—On Friday, September 2nd, at the parish church of St. Peter, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 50 mins. L. Mackenzie, Esq., 1; J. Grater, jun., 2; T. Harvey, 3; E. Munday, 4; R. Grater, jun., 5; A. Pye, 6; J. Babbage (conductor), 7; S. Hoare, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Sunday morning, August 28th, for Divine Service, at St. Mary's Parish Church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (3-part, 42 singles), in 27 mins. On Thursday evening, September 1st, 240 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor, 120 of Single Court Bob Minor, and 120 of College Single Minor. On Sunday morning, September 4th, for Divine Service, 144 London Single Bob Minor, and 120 of Grandsire Minor, and for Divine Service in the evening, 240 of Oxford Single Bob Minor, 180 of Plain Bob Minor, and 108 of Grandsire Minor. J. Nightingale, 1; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; C. J. Rodgers, 5; R. Stockley, 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

WIDFORD (Essex).—On Friday evening, August 26th, at the parish church, for practice, a 720 and 360 of Double Court Bob, and 288 of New London Pleasure. E. Dains, 1; J. Dains (conductor), 2; W. J. Piper (conductor), 3; W. Harvey, 4; A. Shuttleworth, 5; A. Turban, 6. And on Sunday, September 4th, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Double Court Bob, the ringers standing as before. Conducted by W. J. Piper.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, September 4th, Mr. J. Hinton (Bristol), — Ward, Esq. (Cheltenham), and Mr. S. Cleal (Tewkesbury), were met by most of the local band at All Saints, and rang a 500 of Grandsire Caters, three courses of Bob Major, and a touch of Stedman Triples. The ringers beside those already mentioned were, G. Cleal, W. Blandford, S. Cotton, W. Powell, W. Jenkins, W. Pudge, J. Hale, and G. Hinton. Also at the house of Mr. G. Hinton, on handbells, a course of Stedman Cinques by S. Cotton, W. Powell, G. Cleal, J. Hinton, S. Cleal and W. Jenkins. A touch of about 700 of Grandsire Caters, conducted by J. Hinton; G. Cleal standing out. And a course of Treble Bob Major, with W. Jenkins and W. Powell standing out. On Monday, September 5th, for practice, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins. N. Wale, 1; W. Jenkins, 2; S. Cotton, 3; H. Phesant, 4; H. Wilks (conductor), 5; J. W. Reynolds, 6; G. Cleall, 7; H. Owen, 8.

THE STORY OF A TOWER.—One of the chief antiquities of Currie is Lennox Tower, on a high bank overhanging the water of Leith, and now called by the rather uncouth name of Lumphoy. It is a massive edifice measuring externally fifty-five feet by thirty-five, with walls about seven feet in thickness. It is entered by an archway on the north, where the gate was secured by an horizontal bar, the socket of which still remains in the wall. It is all built of polished ashlar; the hall windows are arched, with stone seats within them, and the ascent to the upper storeys had been by a narrow circular stair, part of which still remains within the thickness of the wall at the north-east angle, the steps of which are only three feet long. It is said, traditionally, to take its name from the Lennox family, to whom it belonged; and the same vague authority assigns it as a residence to Mary and Darnley, and afterwards to the Regent Morton. It occupies very high ground, commanding a beautiful prospect of the Firth of Forth, and has a subterranean passage to the river, which was closed up about the end of the eighteenth century, as cattle were apt to stray into it. The extent of the outer rampart, which goes round the brow of the hill, is given in the "Old Statistical Account" as measuring "304 paces, or 1212 ft. It was surrounded by a moat, and there can still be traced the remains of a deep ditch. Though small, it was undoubtedly a place of some strength. Amongst the many conjectures of which it has been the subject, one declares it to have been a hunting seat of James VI. and a residence of George Heriot, by whom it was bequeathed to a daughter, "from whom, along with the adjacent land, it was purchased by an ancestor of the present proprietor." It had been alleged that there existed a subterranean communication between it and Colington Tower, the old abode of the Foulis family; and the story is added that a piper once tried to explore it, and that the sound of his pipes were heard as far as Currie bridge, where he perished. But people were still living in 1845 who had explored this passage for a considerable way.—From "Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh" for September.

BRADNINCH, DEVON.—PRESENTATION.

On Friday, August 26th, the Bradninch band of handbell ringers, being also members of the Devonshire Guild, presented Miss Flora Wrighton, of Bowhill House, Bradninch, with a handsome edition of Tennyson, in thirteen volumes, as a mark of their esteem and gratitude to her for having trained them during the past year in music on the handbells. Mr. Jno. Webb, the oldest member of the band, made the presentation, followed by a few words by Mr. Jno. Heal, the representative of the band, who spoke of the kind and genial way in which they were always received at the practices. Miss F. Wrighton, in accepting the present with feelings of emotion, thanked the members, and said it was with feelings of deep regret that she could no longer continue the pleasant practices with them, but hoped they would still continue to make good progress under the tuition of the wife of the Rev. G. D. Melluish, who had consented to act in her stead. The health of Miss Wrighton was then duly honoured, and the company separated. The following are the members of the band: R. Greenslade, Jno. Heal (representative), A. Hellier, R. F. Hurley, Wm. Hawkins, Jno. Haydon, E. Jordan, Jno. Kibby, W. Owen, G. Parsons, Jno. Webb.

KETTERING, NORTHANTS.

THE CHURCH STEEPLE.—The erection of the scaffolding in connection with the work at the steeple was completed on Friday last, and the workmen at once started on the task of taking down the faulty portion of the structure. The weather vane and ball were lowered on Friday afternoon, and some ten feet of the stonework was removed on Saturday, each separate portion being numbered, so that if found to be sound and fit, it may be used again in the rebuilding of the steeple. Thirty-one feet, the length for which the architect recommended the contract to be obtained, was taken down by Tuesday, and on Wednesday, the architect, Mr. Blomfield, of London, went up to personally examine the spire. He found that the stone at the end of the 31 feet was sound, and decided that all below this could stand, with the exception of the highest east and west windows. Some of the stonework around these was a little insecure, and this is to be repaired; and the whole of the steeple re-pointed. Some iron bars in these windows are to be removed. The steeple, we understand, was last repaired in 1735, when iron supports were put in. The iron has corroded: and has really been the cause of the giving way of the stone in the upper portion of the steeple. Some of the old stone which has been taken down will be used again; but a considerable portion of new will be required, and the work has been suspended until the arrival of the new stone. It is a matter for gratification that the lower portion of the steeple is sound, as it was feared at one time that the whole might have to be taken down.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX BELL RINGERS.

The Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held at St. Andrews, Leyland, on Saturday, September 17th. The Bells will be open for ringing from 2 o'clock, business meeting at 5 o'clock in the Schoolroom.

JAMES HIGSON, Sec.
57, Chorley Road, Blackrod.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Walthamstow, on Saturday, October 8th. The towers of St. Mary's (eight bells), and St. Saviour's (eight bells), will be open for ringing during the day. Further notice will be given of the time and place of the tea and business meeting.

T. I. PAPILLON, Hon Sec.

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.

A mixed band from Chelmsford, Galleywood, Widford, and Writtle, have begun to meet for practice on the ten bells, and have accomplished the plain course of Grandsire Caters. It is hoped that they may meet more regularly during the ensuing winter, and relieve Chelmsford from the reproach of having to let all the change-ringing on its ten bells be done by ringers from a distance.

Church News.

The *Manchester Guardian* is informed that the Bishop, acting, upon the advice of his Rural Deans and other official clergy, has appointed the Rev. Robert Catterall, rector of St. Philip's, Bradford-road, Manchester, to the office of Missioner for the diocese.

The *Record* "regrets to learn that the living of Barnborough, near Doncaster, vacant by the death of Canon Ware, has been conferred by the Lord Chancellor upon the Rev. George Edward Cole, rector of Exhall, Alcester. An Evangelical incumbent is accordingly displaced by a High Churchman who signed Dean Church's memorial in favour of the toleration of ritual."

Some of the parishioners of Bishop Cramer Roberts at Blackburn have requested him to administer the Holy Communion after evening service, but the right rev. prelate (who is the assistant of the Bishop of Manchester) has declined to do so, on the ground that evening celebrations are "irregular and an innovation."

The Council of the English Church Union announce that on the 24th ult. the sum of £9639 3s. 4d. had been received in aid of their "Special Defence Fund." The most recent disbursements from the fund are:—£426 paid up to date on account of the Bell-Cox case, and £84 in aid of Mr. R. F. Herring, vicar of St. John Baptist's, Toxteth Park, Liverpool.

On Sunday the Rev. Stewart D. Headlam, to whom a licence to preach in the diocese of London had been refused by the Bishop, officiated at the church of St. Nicholas Cole Abbey, Queen Victoria street, of which the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth is rector. That gentleman is away on his annual holiday, but in a note in the current number of his parish magazine he says he finds it almost impossible to express his sorrow and indignation with which he regards the Bishop's action.

The rector of Bottesford, near Belvoir Castle, Canon Norman, having carefully considered the earnest solicitations of the churchwardens, supported by the unanimous entreaties of his parishioners, has unconditionally withdrawn his resignation of his benefice, which he proposed to leave on account of failing health. The Rev. R. M. Norman, who has been curate of the parish for nearly twelve months, has surrendered his promotion to the rectory, and consented to take the spiritual charge of a much less lucrative benefice in the Vale of Belvoir.

In a pastoral letter to his diocese the Bishop of Lichfield suggests that the Church does not sufficiently regard the contributions of the poor. Almost every parish (says his lordship) would furnish a sufficient staff of trustworthy collectors, to each of whom might be assigned a manageable district where once a week every house might be visited to collect, if it were only one halfpenny. The Church halfpenny, or Church penny, might do great things, and not the least of those would be the definite attachment of the givers to the Church in which they would think that they had a concern. His lordship says that he believes a halfpenny a week contributed by every Church family in England would raise no less than £400,000.

In announcing the decease of the Rev. Henry H. Ross-Lewin, the curate of St. Cuthbert's, Benfieldside, who had been found dead in bed at Kilkee, County Clare, wherein he held some landed property, the *Consett Guardian* says that he was aged about forty-two years, was educated at Lichfield College, and ordained in 1880 by the Bishop of Worcester. He was held in deep respect in the County of Durham, and the parishioners of Benfieldside greatly deplore his decease, which was quite unexpected, for when he left home on a holiday tour he was in the best health and spirits. He became curate of Benfieldside in 1881, having first served at Lighthorne, Warwickshire.

Wednesday being Dean Fremantle's eightieth birthday, the choir of Ripon Cathedral assembled under his window at an early hour and sang his favourite hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," which was followed by the anthem, "The Lord is my shepherd." A touch of 960 changes was also rung on the cathedral bells, the number of changes corresponding with the number of months in the Dean's life. At a later hour presents

began to arrive, one of the most noteworthy being a carved oak casket from the ladies of the Dean's Bible class. This was surmounted by a silver plate, on which was an engraving of Ripon Cathedral, while at the four corners, on silver shields, were the initials and arms of the Dean, and the arms of the cathedral and city of Ripon. Inside was a richly illuminated address from fifty-five ladies. The Bishop also wrote a very kind letter, accompanied by a copy of his Jubilee sermon preached before the House of Commons, whilst Mrs. Carpenter sent a photograph of the Bishop. The Bishop also sent a pair of handsome Swiss vases. Among the family presents were two photographs of Lord Cottesloe, brother of the Dean, who is in his ninetieth year. One group included Lord Cottesloe, his eldest son the Hon. Thomas Fremantle, and the latter's eldest son, Mr. Thomas Fremantle. It may be interesting to note that Admiral Fremantle, who played a conspicuous part in the naval manoeuvres, is a son of Lord Cottesloe, and nephew of the Dean. The Dean, who was in strong and vigorous health, was touched as well as pleased with the unexpected expressions shown towards him.

In consequence of the use of the consecrated chapel by Dissenters at Barnstaple, the Rev. A. W. L. Rivett, vicar of St. Mary Magdalene in that town has applied to Mr. Arthur Burch, one of the secretaries of the Bishop, who has replied as follows:—"By the Act 15 and 16 Vic., c. 85, s. 30, the consecrated chapel is to be for the performance of the Burial Service according to the rites of the Church of England, and it appears to me that the Burial Laws Amendment Act, 1880, does not alter this provision, nor does it give Nonconformists the right to use the consecrated chapel, but only the right to bury in the ground. The burial board ought, I think, to take the necessary steps to prevent this chapel being used for any other than its legitimate purposes, but apparently they sanction its use by Nonconformists. It is not quite easy to say what is the best and proper method of proceeding to prevent the chapel being thus improperly used, but my impression is that you, as one of the incumbents of the parishes, who have rights of interment in the consecrated part of the ground, or you and the other incumbents jointly, should apply to the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice for an injunction to restrain the burial board from permitting the chapel to be used for purposes other than the performance of the Burial Service according to the rites of the Church of England. Proper notice should first be given to the board requiring them to confine the use of the chapel to its legitimate purposes, and that in default of their doing so application will be made for an injunction."

In Memoriam.

On Monday, July 18th, being the first time the ringers met since the lamented death of their conductor, Mr. William Knott of Cowleigh, the bells were muffled, and touches of Grandsire Doubles were rung during the evening. In no tower will Mr. Knott be more missed than in Colwall, no words can express the trouble taken by him in teaching and conducting his men, and it was under his conductorship that they rang a 5040 of Grandsire Doubles a few years back. Although of advanced age, Mr. Knott would walk from Kempsey and other long distances after an hard day's work to ring at Colwall, and at the early ringing at 5 a.m. on Festivals, Mr. Knott was always first, and sometimes caught the Colwall men napping. May he rest in peace, until the Great Treble Man once more calls upon him to arise, and may he then enter into the blissful rounds of everlasting life. From the "*Colwall Parish Magazine*," for August.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Longbridge Deverill, on Thursday, October 6th, when the bells will be at the disposal of members and friends from 4 p.m. Tea will be provided at 6 p.m., members free, others 6d. each. Names of those purposing to attend to be sent to Mr. G. Parham, captain of the Longbridge Deverill company, before September 26th.

J. R. JERRAM, Sec.

THE ST. STEPHEN'S (WESTMINSTER) SOCIETY.

On Saturday, September 3rd, the members of the above society had their first annual outing, the place selected to visit being Barking. Arriving at the tower of St. Margaret's church at four o'clock, they were met by Mr. Sewell and several members of the Barking company. A start was made for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260) changes, which was rung in 47 mins. W. Carter, 1; J. N. Oxborrow, 2; J. Willshire, 3; H. R. Newton, 4; T. R. Bell, 5; H. Ellis, 6; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 7; W. Cropley, 8. After which several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung. The party then adjourned to the "Lion Inn," where an excellent meat tea was provided by host Bosworth, which after doing good justice to, part of the band and friends paid another visit to the tower, whilst the remainder strolled round the town. An adjournment was again made to the "Lion Inn," where a most harmonious evening was spent, and Messrs. Duff, Gohns, Cropley, Carter, Newton, White, Hayes, Davis, etc., rendered some good songs.

Mr. BELL proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Sewell for his kindness in arranging for the use of the tower and the comfort of the inner man, and expressed the pleasure it gave the members at being so kindly received at this their first trip, during which they had all spent a most enjoyable time, and hoped to pay them another visit before long.

Mr. DUFF proposed the toast of "The Barking Company," to which Mr. S. Hayes responded.

Mr. GOHNS proposed the health of the Instructor, Mr. J. M. Hayes.

A touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells. J. N. Oxborrow, 1-2; H. R. Newton, 3-4; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 5-6; T. R. Bell, 7-8. After which "God save the Queen" was sung, and the party broke up with "Auld Lang Syne," making for the station in time to catch the 10.23 train to Fenchurch Street. The ringers wish through the medium of this paper, to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, and Mr. Sewell for making arrangements for the visit.

ANNUAL OUTING OF THE ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY, FULHAM, MIDDLESEX.

This Association held its Annual Outing on Saturday, August 27th, the place selected being Brighton. Owing to the well-known kindness and sociability of Messrs. Attree and Jay, touches were obtainable both at St. Peter's and St. Nicholas. In spite of the gloomy appearance of the weather when leaving Victoria at 8.25 a.m., a lovely day presented itself at Brighton, enabling all to enjoy themselves in many pleasant ways. A start was made for home soon after 7 p.m., when the usual songs, etc. were indulged in on the homeward journey, Fulham being reached soon after 10 p.m.

The members of the above Society take this opportunity of thanking their Vicar, the Rev. F. H. Fisher, M.A. for his usual kindness in connection with the outing.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

NOTICE.—A band of ringers belonging to the above Society, intend starting for a peal of Treble Bob Major at Lavenham, on Saturday, September 10th, at 2.30 p.m. G. C. HAMMOND.
Long Melford.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.

Permission to hold the next District Meeting at Beddington, on Saturday, 17th inst., has been applied for. The meeting will be notified in next week's issue.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

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."

"USING THE PROPERTY OF OTHERS."

SIR.—The peal of Treble Bob Major, 5184, in your issue of August 27th, by Mr. Wilde, is a variation of one published in Sottanstail's work, page 418, and also by Hubbard, page 91, and was composed by

me thirty years since. I am aware this may occur by accident, and trust Mr. Wilde will excuse my pointing out to him that the peal cannot be considered original. I may also remark that the bob before marked in the 4th course, is an error. SAMUEL MARSH.

SIR,—Mr. J. S. Wilde gives a complete answer to my question; of course I don't want his composition, and the other editions he mentions escaped my notice. Mr. J. W. Washbrook's answer, re Drayton peal, in your issue of 20th ult., is most equivocating and evasive. His confession of inability to trace a relation of one peal to the other surprised me, and I think humiliates himself. But, sir, like his Stedman Caters scare, will not hold water. "It is a disgrace," says he, "if the peal is Cox's, it was not rang as I gave it." Query, say I, was it known in those days to possess the coveted quality? Mr. Washbrook, you and I live in enlightened times, and should profit thereby. Now, sir, I have it upon the best possible authority that the peal rung at Drayton and the one published in "THE BELL NEWS" of 30th July last, are identical. I will therefore give my friend a lesson on transposition of calls in this peal, showing how one obtains the others, and I hope it will prove useful. In this instance I will refer your readers to page 50, part 1., Snowden's *Treatise on Treble Bob*. There the original and first variation are side by side; to obtain Mr. Washbrook's, commence at seventh course of Miller's variation.

SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

6048.

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2	4	5	3	6	-	-	-	2	4	5	3	6	-	-	-	2	3	6	4	5	-	-	-
Twice repeated.								Twice repeated.								Twice repeated.							
Original by JOHN COX.								First variation.								Second variation.							
								J. MILLER.								J. W. WASHBROOK.							
																H. DAINS.							

THE SIXTY COURSES OF STEDMAN CATERS.

SIR,—The Rev. H. E. Bulwer has just come to the "point." He states it is possible to obtain sixty courses from rounds to rounds again, without removing the 3rd, 7th, 8th or 9th. May I ask him if he has worked that out? I am afraid not; that gentleman must prove my absurdity before he verifies it, it is one thing to say a thing and quite another and more often an impossible one to do it. If the sixty courses of Stedman Caters are to had, we have no need to wait any longer for the extent with the tenors together of the Burton Variation of Superlative, or the sixty of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, or Albion. But, where are these much coveted peals? the 120 courses of Double Norwich has been composed in several different ways, but never has a peal of that number of courses been composed that will run home half-way. The part-end is made by a single; but without that single you must stop short of sixty courses. Stedman Caters is exactly the same from every point, and the more people argue on it, the more ridiculous the thing looks, and impossibility is an impossibility after all. Sir, when I see the sixty courses of Stedman Caters composed complete, I shall look for the Grandsire Triples by the same author. What I first said stands good till that time, if pedantic or not. J. W. WASHBROOK.

THE PEAL AT CHELMSFORD.

SIR,—As attention has been drawn by my friend Mr. Catchpole to the time occupied in ringing the peal of Treble Ten at Chelmsford and the peal of Treble Eight at Galleywood, I beg to offer a few remarks by way of explanation, as being one of the parties concerned. Speed in ringing very much depends on the "go" of the bells, and the physical capabilities of the band. The peal rung at Galleywood commenced late in the evening, and finished near midnight, and was performed by a band tired after having walked from Ingatesfane station to Galleywood. Some of them had come a long distance and must have been rather "sleepy" before the finish of the peal. The bells are rung on the ground floor, and the distance to the floor above is about 30 feet, between which there is no means of steadying the ropes, and although a light peal, are not fast running bells. On the other hand, the Chelmsford peal was rung early in the morning, and the band well placed, I did not handle the tenor, but my brother who

rang it says it went splendidly, and gives great credit to Mr. Bowell, of Ipswich, for the work done in rehanging the peal. I cannot speak to the time, but am positive that none of the changes were cut out, as I followed the calling throughout, and consider that it was a well-struck peal, and none who took part in it need be ashamed of the performance. The appearance of Mr. Haley's ghost in the churchyard afterwards would not have made me feel uncomfortable as to whether I had rang a peal or not. "Little Bob's" effusion is not worthy of notice, but as "A New Man" stands in another position, I must inform him that I was the individual "who only went down on the Sunday," and was the last of the band to arrive at Chelmsford, and that the "tip" he had as to the election of Mr. Smith is entirely false. One of the objects of our paper should be to promote good feeling between ringers, but if "A New Man" is allowed to indulge in the "twaddle" and silly chit-chat he has treated us with up to the present, this object will be defeated, and the sooner he retires the better.

Saffron Walden.

N. J. PITSTOW.

SIR.—I have no desire to carry on this correspondence, which to me appears to be drifting in the wrong direction. Let the provocation given on Whit-Monday blow over, and deal with the case according to common sense and without any unfriendly feeling. My views are unchanged. I maintain, without the slightest doubt, that if the rules are complied with, it will be for some of the band to show that they were unable to obtain the services of any qualified member of the Association to ring in the peal before they can claim its entry in the peal-book. If this is not done, the fact that Mr. Smith's name will find its way there through the payment of a single shilling will be poor justice to those who assisted in building up the Association from its foundation, but who up to the present have failed to get their names in the peal-book.

THOUGHTFUL.

A REMARKABLE ALLEGATION.

SIR.—According to Mr. Washbrook's reply to Mr. Catchpole in your last issue he evidently leads your readers to believe that he would scorn at the idea of ringing a false peal; but does he remember the second attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples at Ross, in which he was conductor, and which was published in "THE BELL NEWS" as the first peal of the Herefordshire Guild. This attempt, although published as true, was not a true peal, being about 3000 of Holt's Original to begin with, when the bells got misplaced, and after a lot of firing, with repeated entreaties from the conductor to keep on, the bells came out somehow, and he finished up by calling it Penning's one-part. Perhaps he will explain this.

TRUTH.

A CORRECTION.

SIR.—I notice in your last issue that Mr. Jerram, in a very interesting account of a trip to Exeter, says that the peal of eight at Sherborne Abbey, tenor 46 cwt., is the heaviest in England. This however is not so, for the peal of eight at Wells Cathedral (an account of which I sent to "THE BELL NEWS" on June 18th, 1887), has a tenor weighing 57½ cwt., recast with the 7th, by Messrs. Taylor and Sons in 1877. This is, I believe, the heaviest peal in England, the tone is grand, and the bells are all in very fair order, having been rung in 1877. With regard to the chiming at Exeter, I quite agree with Mr. Jerram that the effect is miserable. Surely something can be done to bring out something like the true tone of so grand a peal.

Birmingham, September 3rd.

WILLIAM A. CLARK.

DOUBLE COURT BOB AT HOLY TRINITY, WEST HAM.

SIR.—Just a few more words upon this subject and then I have done. I will admit all what Mr. Keeble says about securing the tower for one Sunday evening, but I strongly deny asking to be furnished with the rule for ringing the method. What do I want to ask him for the rule for, when I have a thorough good book on change-ringing myself. I was very much surprised to receive a letter on July 14th, containing a sheet of foolscap with the rule, three leads of the plain course, the way to make a bob, a single, and the whole of the 720 written out in hand and back-stroke leads. I should think he was sending it to a learner that did not know anything more about ringing beyond Grandsire Doubles. Now as to the second visit, as he calls it, I wish to say that I had nothing to do whatever in arranging this 720, but I knew who the band was. It was arranged to oblige the Rev. A. S. Dowling, who wanted to ring a 720 of Plain Bob, and when we were in the tower, I wanted to ring Plain Bob. But no, they said let us go for Double Court, and the clergyman being told that the treble was a plain hunt thought he could ring it, and believe me Sir, it was a much better 720 than several that I have heard and also that I have rung in the Plain Bob method. Mr. Keeble says that I sail very wide of the mark when I insinuate that there is jealousy on his part. Allow me to tell him that I received information through the post that he was very much upset about it; and not to be surprised if I saw something

n "THE BELL NEWS" about it, not only myself but another of the band received something like the same information. What does he call that but jealousy? With respect to the infallibility he says, that I disputed the accuracy of the Annual Report of the Essex Association. I can't call it to mind just now, but I recollect about the district meeting at West Ham. This, Sir, is an extract from a letter that I received from the Honorary Secretary:—"January 22nd, 1887. I am sorry that an inaccurate report of our meeting appeared in 'THE BELL NEWS,' in future I must do it myself instead of trusting to anyone else present. I consider that the meeting was a successful one although the numbers were small. (signed) T. L. PAPILLON." I can't see that there is anything infallible in that. Mr. Keeble says he gave me a thorough sound drilling in the method. I can tell him this much, that when he has rung as many changes in the Grandsire method as I have in Stedman (which I think is much harder to ring than Double Court) then will be his time to talk about drilling people. Ringers that know can tell what sort of a ringer he is, but I can tell him that he is more good with the pen than he is with the rope. I will now finish with these few words that when he next writes to you, Sir, to keep to the question, and not bring in things that have not any thing to do with the subject.

H. RANDALL.

"THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY."

SIR.—Under the above heading in your last issue, I noticed some remarks alluding to a recently attempted peal at St. Chad's Cathedral in which it is stated that visitors had been ringing at one of the belfries under their jurisdiction, without communicating to them. It also states that the St. Martin's company, taking advantage of the absence of the society at their outing, attempted a peal. I beg to state that in the first place, the Amalgamated Society has got no claim in St. Chad's belfry, and therefore it cannot be under their jurisdiction. Secondly, as regards communicating to them, it amounts to nothing. Thirdly, instead of it being the St. Martin's society which attempted the peal, it was the Holt society, and would have been entered in their book had it been rung. Fourthly, it matters not whether they are absent or present, there is another attempt to be made for the same peal, as the administrator has promised them a new set of ropes to ring it on there. No blame on any company, I invited them with the Rev. Greunyn's permission.

T. MILLER.

SIR.—A peculiarly offensive and untruthful statement appears in your account of the annual outing of the above society. I refer to the four concluding sentences. It would be as well, Mr. Editor, that reports containing *ex parte* statements of this kind should carry the signature of the sender, in order that the ringing fraternity may not attach the same importance and belief to them as to your official utterances. The society who attempted the peal was not the St. Martin's, but the Holt society, of Aston, to which two of the most influential members of the Amalgamated Society belong. The invitation to ring at St. Chad's—the tower in question—was from a fellow-member of the Holt Society, who is also a ringer at St. Chad's, and a hearty welcome and permission to ring was granted by the clergy through the tower-keeper. These are the facts. It certainly did not occur to any member of our society that either of the belfries in this neighbourhood were "under the jurisdiction" of any ringing society. Was it due to such "jurisdiction" that the treble rope broke in the attempt at a peal, and has its unsoundness a counterpart in the Amalgamated Society and the dispositions of some of its members? 'Tis an ill bird that fouls its own nest," and the Amalgamated, in going out of their way to utter the innuendo contained in the last sentence of the report referred to, plainly show that their efforts are rather in this direction of detracting from than elevating the ringing in the neighbourhood. That they desire amalgamation in anything else besides the name of their society, seems very doubtful in the face of such conduct.

W. H. GODDEN,

Secretary Holt Society, Aston-juxta-Birmingham.

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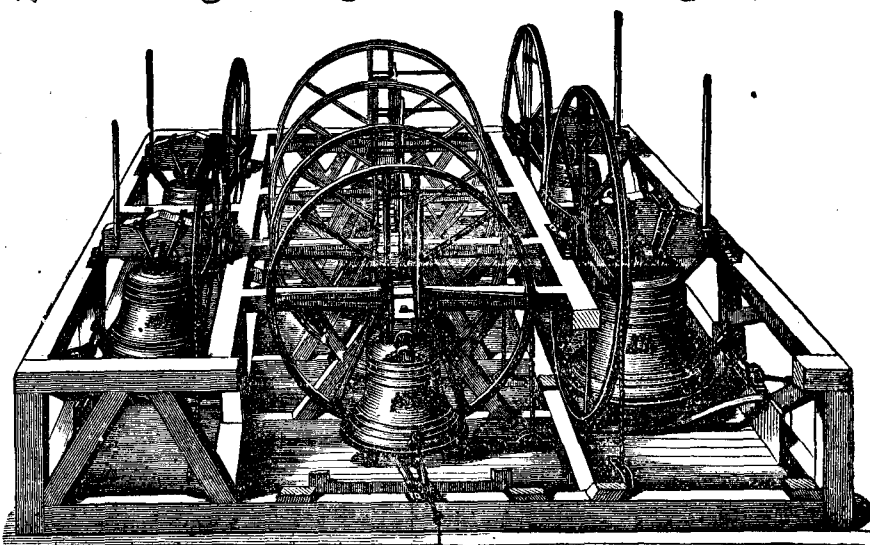
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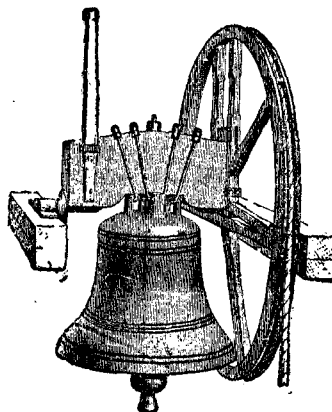
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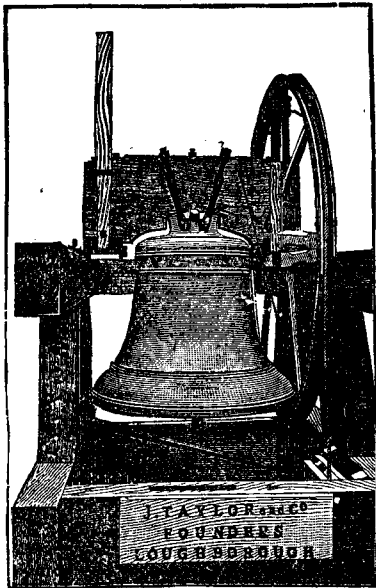
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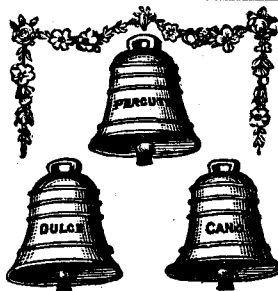
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