

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 311. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. VI.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1888.

ONE PENNY.

CHURCH CLOCKS.

JOHN SMITH & SONS, Midland
Steam Clock Works, Queen Street,
DERBY,

Makers of Clocks or Chimes for the following Parish Churches in various parts of the Country—

Fowey (Cornwall), Clist St. George (Devon), Childe Okeford (Dorset), Ruishon (Somerset), Crudwell (Wilts), Oaksey (Gloucestershire), Condover (Salop), Tittleshall (Norfolk), Kelvedon (Essex), Leafeld (Oxon), Knewl Hill (Berks), Ufton (Warwick), Clent (Worcestershire), Uttoxeter (Stafford), Ashover (Derbyshire), Tickhill (Yorks), Newchurch (Lancashire), Woodford (Cheshire), Thimbleby (Lincolnshire), Syston (Leicester), Gedling (Notts), Dry Drapton (Cambs).

Estimates, with Designs and particulars, free on application.

GEORGE WELCH,

(Successor to George Stockham)

HANDBELL-FOUNDER,

51, Bankside, Southwark, London, S.E.

Musical Hand-Bells to any size or key; Chromatic or Diatonic Scales

Old Bells repaired or ornamented to any size, on the most reasonable terms.

PRICE LIST ON APPLICATION.

SEAGE'S CHURCH BELL DUMB PRACTICE APPARATUS

Can now be obtained at a low cost, together with full instructions made easy for self-fixing.

Seage's Improved Clapper Stays,
5s. per bell in peals.

HANDBELLS re-clappered with Seage's Silent Hinge Clapper.

Prices and Testimonials on application—

E. SEAGE, Engineer,
Codrington Street and Clifton Road,
Exeter.

A TREATISE ON MUSICAL HANDBELL RINGING.

Shewing "How to Read," & "How to Ring."
By WM. GORDON.

Containing Introduction, description of the Handbell, with hints on Table Ringing, on cleaning bells and keeping them in order, on holding or striking Handbells, on making the vibrato or shake; on defects in Handbells and their remedies; on re-pegging and re-tufting Handbells; on commencing to ring from music, with counting and use of the baton in beating time; position of bells in table ringing; with complete catechism of musical notation, including Solos, Duets, Exercises, Scales and Diagrams, price 1s. 6d., post free. Six or more copies 1s. 3d. each.

Wm Gordon, 64, Lower Hillgate, Stockport.

JAMES SHAW, SON, & CO.,
CHURCH AND CARILLON
Bell Founders,

AND
CHURCH BELL HANGERS,
LEEDS ROAD, BRADFORD,
YORKS.,

ESTABLISHED 1848.

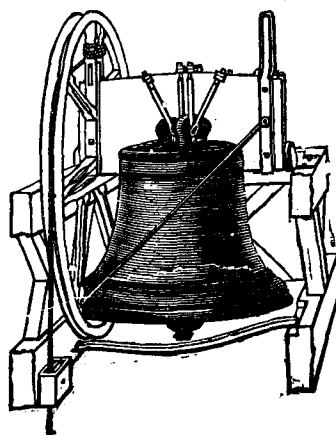
Bells cast singly or in Rings. Church Bells,
School Bells, and Factory Bells.

OLD BELLS RECAST OR REHUNG.

MUSICAL HAND BELLS

In sets, Diatonic or Chromatic Scales.

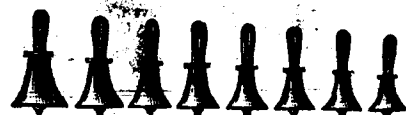
Musical Clock Bells and Carillons to any
Size or Number.



*Manufacturers by Steam Power of every
description of*

Church, Turret, and Public Clocks.

Price Lists and Estimates Free.



J. WARNER & SONS, Bell and Brass
FOUNDERS TO HER MAJESTY,
THE CRESCENT FOUNDRY, CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON E.C.

Musical Bell Founders.
Hand-Bells in Sets, in Diatonic or Chromatic Scales.
Clocks, Bells, and Carillons in any size or number.
Bells of every description and size.

THE ABC OF HAND-BELL RINGING
by S. B. GOSLIN, in which are Tunes suited for chiming
on large bells. Price 1s.
"Just the thing which was wanted for young beginners
We recommend it."—*Church Bells*.
"This little book will be very acceptable."—*Church
Review*.

THE MUSICAL HAND-BELL RINGERS
INSTRUCTOR, Part II., containing the Theory and
Practice of Hand-Bell Music and Tunes for Musical
Hand-Bells, by S. B. GOSLIN. Price 2s.
"We advise all who are desirous of making progress
with Hand-Bells to get it."—*Church Bells*.
"A work of great practical utility."—*City Press*
"We heartily recommend it."—*Church Review*.

THE FIRST STEPS TO BELL-RINGING
UPON CHURCH BELLS. Price 1s. By S. B. GOSLIN.
"We have no hesitation in saying that it is the best
Elementary Introduction to the exercise of Bell-Ringing
in Rounds and Changes we have met with."—*Church
Bells*.
"It is clear and simple in style, and is altogether just
the book to place in the hands of persons desirous of
knowing for themselves something of the Art."—*York
shire Gazette*.

*One Hundred closely-printed pages, supplied only along
with Part II., Post free, 3s. 2d.*

A TREATISE ON TREBLE BOB, PART I.

BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

A History of the Progress in Composing and Ringing
Peals of TREBLE BOB, with an account of the different
long lengths rung on each number of bells;

An Essay on the In and Out-of-Course of the Changes;
The mode of pricking touches and peals; the qualities
and mode of transposing peals; elaborate instructions
on the Proof and Composition of peals; and a chapter
on conducting and calling round.

WM. SNOWDON, Beckett's Bank Chambers, Leeds.

*One Hundred and Thirty-Six closely-printed pages,
Post-free, 2s. 1d. in Halfpenny Stamps.*

A TREATISE ON TREBLE BOB, PART II.

BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

A Collection of Two Thousand peals of TREBLE BOB
MINOR, MAJOR, ROYAL, and MAXIMUS, with the Tenors
together; and a Selection of Musical Compositions with
the Tenors parted. Arranged with their reverse
variations under a simple classification, with remarks
upon the different qualities in each class; with particu-
lars of the time of performance, etc.

The last chapter is devoted to a list of the names of
Composers of the different peals, with various particu-
lars, and in the cases of deceased Composers with the
dates of death, age, etc.

WM. SNOWDON, Beckett's Bank Chambers Leeds.

STANDARD METHODS IN THE ART OF CHANGE-RINGING,

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

FULL explanations and rules for ringing all the best methods, from five to eight bells, with plain course diagrams of each method printed in full, with coloured lines.

Second Thousand now ready, Post-free, 2s. 6d., from Wm. SNOWDON, Beckett's Bank Chambers, Leeds.

ROPE-SIGHT:

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE ART OF CHANGE-RINGING;

BY JASPER W. SNOWDON. THIRD EDITION.

CONTENTS.—On the Management of a Bell; on Ringing Rounds; on Pricking Changes; on Ringing Changes on Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, and Eight Bells; on Pricking Touches and Peals by the lead-ends and course-ends; on Conducting and Calling Round; on Raising and Falling in Peal, Chiming, Covering, etc.

Post-free, 1s. 6d., from Wm. Snowdon, Beckett's Bank Chambers, Leeds.

"PAINLESS AND PERFECT DENTISTRY."

A new Pamphlet, by Dr. GEO. H. JONES, F.R.S.L., F.R.M.S., etc., Surgeon-Dentist, 57, Great Russell Street, facing British Museum entrance, London, containing a List of Diplomas, Gold and Silver Medals, and other Awards, obtained at the great International Exhibitions, forwarded gratis and post free.

Her Majesty's Surgeon-Dentist says:—

MY DEAR DOCTOR,—Allow me to express my thanks for the skill and attention displayed in the construction of my Artificial Teeth, which render my mastication and articulation excellent. I am glad to hear that you have obtained Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent to protect what I consider the perfection of Painless Dentistry. In recognition of your valuable services you are at liberty to use my name.

To Geo. H. JONES, Esq., D.D.S.

S. G. HUTCHINS,

By appointment Surgeon-Dentist to Her Majesty the Queen.

SCIENTIFIC DEPARTMENT.—LABORATORY OF EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE.

This is to certify:—That I have analysed the Prize Medal Teeth submitted to me, and find them to be composed only of minerals of extreme purity. I have also examined and tested your patented painless system of adjustment, it is quite perfect, and is the most successful application of scientific laws for securing actual wear and comfort yet introduced. Both physically and anatomically, they are a beautiful resemblance to the natural teeth.

(Signed) EDW. V. GARDNER, F.H.S., M.S.A.,
Professor of Chemistry, and of Berners College, W.

To Geo. H. JONES, Esq., Surgeon-Dentist,
57, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury Square, London.

HANDBELL MUSIC.

JUST PUBLISHED.

No. 209.—2nd selection of Secular Tunes, arranged for four ringers with eight bells in any key, and containing introduction, "Life let us cherish," &c., &c. Price 1/6.

No. 210.—Highland Schottische ("Madge Wildfire") (arranged as per list No. 13). Price 1/6.

No. 211.—Selection of Airs from "Maritana" (arranged as per list 5). Price 3/0.

No. 212.—Same as No. 211 (arranged as per list 6). Price 3/0.

No. 213.—Same as No. 211 (arranged as per list 7). Price 3/0.

No. 214.—Pastoral Gavotte (an easy piece), by J. Horspool (by permission of Messrs. Orsborn and Tuckwood, London), (arranged as per list 4). Price 1/6.

Pictorial Hand-bills, Window-bills and Posters supplied for Concerts, &c., shewing company of ringers, table, bells, &c., send stamps for specimens and prices.

William Gordon, 64, Lower Hillgate, Stockport.

Post Free, One Shilling.

Double Norwich Court Bob.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

Rules and instructions for pricking and ringing the method, with lineal diagram of the plain course.

A collection of compositions and instructions for proving the same.

A history of all peals known to have been rung in the method, with full particulars of the same.

Wm. SNOWDON, Beckett's Bank Chambers, Leeds.

THE LOVERS' TOKEN.

SILK HANDKERCHIEF,

(PRIZE MEDAL DESIGN).

A chaste present for either Lady or Gentleman.

Warranted the same size and quality as "The Ringers' Badge." Post Free, 3s. 9d.

ED. MATTHEWS, 110, Bond Street,
MACCLESFIELD.

ESTATE SALES.—The best medium for Advertising Sales of Estates is

THE WORCESTER HERALD, the largest and leading county paper. Extensive circulation among the upper and middle classes in Worcestershire and adjoining counties. Advertisers would do well to forward for reference and distribution, plans and particulars of Estates, catalogues of Machinery, Furniture, Books, and other property advertised in the columns of the Worcester Herald. Specimen copies sent free. Published Friday for Saturday, price 2d. Offices—72, High Street, Worcester.

SALES OF STOCK and AGRICULTURAL EFFECTS.—THE WORCESTER HERALD is the most effective organ for giving publicity to announcements of this class. It is the largest and leading Agricultural paper in the county, and circulates most extensively among Agriculturists in and around Worcestershire. Specimen copies free. Published Friday for Saturday, price 2d. Offices—72, High Street, Worcester.

FARMS TO LET.—Land Agents, Estate Managers and all having Farms to Let would do well to advertise in THE WORCESTER HERALD, the largest and leading county paper. Specially adapted for bringing such notices before Tenant-farmers. Large circulation; moderate charge. Specimen free. Price 2d. Published Friday for Saturday. Offices—72, High Street Worcester.

THE ANNIVERSARY AT APPLETON, BERKS.—EXTRA-ORDINARY LONG PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

THE 70th anniversary of the opening of the above bells was celebrated on Monday, March the 5th. On Sunday, being the "real" anniversary, touches of Stedman Caters were rang for service in the afternoon, it being also the usual ringing Sunday, viz.: the first in the month. It being proposed to attempt a long peal of Stedman Caters early in the morning, most of the long peal men were present at the Sunday ringing. After evening service some touches were rung by way of practice. The next morning, at a little past 7 o'clock, the call-bell was to be heard, the worthy steeple-keeper being at his post first. Very soon afterwards all the men were stationed at their respective ropes, and at 7.45 the conductor called "go," the beat of the bells seemed to be got the moment changes began, going at twenty-seven to the minute, which continued from beginning to end, nothing of any consequence happening during the whole of the peal.

About two o'clock the best of the ringing was heard, the 6th coming into position behind the 9th at that time, the bells doing justice to their founders, "Mears and Stainbank," and the course-ends rolling up like clockwork. Course after course went by in the same manner, and when the conductor cried the welcome words "that's all," was ended one of the finest struck peals anyone ever had a wish to hear. When the ringers came outside, they were heartily congratulated by Mr. A. Thomas, of Birmingham, Mr. W. Cooter, of London, Mr. C. Hounslow, of Oxford, Mr. Musty, of Cheltenham, Mr. W. Newell, of Reading, etc.

At four o'clock the inner man was replenished, after which came the usual social evening, the Rev. F. E. Robinson in the chair. In addition to the usual toasts had on these occasions, some capital songs were sung by Messrs. Newell, Hallett, Bennett, and other friends, and courses of Caters were rung by Messrs. Hounslow, Phillott, Baker, White, Musty and Washbrook. The next morning finished up the festival with a peal of Surprise Major, and every one seemed to think that the Appleton people did justice to their anniversary.

BIRCHINGTON, KENT.

On Monday evening, February 20th, Mr. Samuel Fulcher, a member of the Quex Park and Royal Cumberland Societies, died somewhat suddenly of heart disease at his residence, Westgate-on-Sea. The funeral took place on Saturday, February 25th, at the Margate Cemetery, and in accordance with the wish of deceased, the coffin, covered with wreaths of flowers, was borne to the grave by G. Willshire, A. Sayer, E. Golder, T. B. Reed, jun., L. Willshire, and J. J. Bristow. The service was very impressively read by Mr. Blandford (congregational) who added a short address, stating that deceased had been a ringer and that if he had rung with a right motive he would be enabled to take part in the glorious hymn of "Ring the bells in Heaven." L. Willshire, E. Tibble, S. Jarman, and G. Willshire then rang a good course of Grandsire Triples, and after expressing their deep sympathy for the bereaved widow, bid farewell to the remains of their late brother-ringer. On Friday, March 2nd, by permission of H. H. Powell Cotton, two touches of 500 each Grandsire Triples, were rung with the bells half-muffled, conducted by Leon Willshire.

THE WEIGHT OF TENORS.

As an example of the curious way in which the weight of an average tenor varies, the case of that at Twickenham parish church is worth quoting. The weight of this bell has been at at one time or another variously reported at from 19 cwt. to 22 cwt., but on being recently taken down preparatory to recasting, it was found to only scale something under 17 cwt. A characteristic of these traditions is that they rarely err on the small side.

ALDBOURNE, WILTS.

Visiting this village recently (says a correspondent of a local paper) I was gratified to find that the tone of the splendid old tenor bell was fully brought out by the new hour hammer of the "Jubilee Clock," instead of the mournful "thud" as of old. This bell, which is four feet and one inch in diameter, was cast in 1516, and is encircled by an important inscription in Old English black letter, and is here given in full with the translation: "Intonat e celis vox campance Michaelis, Deus propicius esto aiabus Ricardi Goddard: quondam de Upham, Elizabeth et Elizabeth uxorum ejus ac diabus oim liberorum et parentum suorum qui hanc camparian fieri fecerunt anno dui MCCCC. XVI." "There sounds forth from heaven the voice of the bell of Michael. O God be propitious to the souls of Richard Goddard, late of Upham; Elizabeth and Elizabeth his wives and upon the souls of their children and parents, who have caused this bell to be made in the year of our Lord 1516." The eighth bell in the peal of ten at Christchurch College, Oxford, contains exactly the same curious inscription (given some time since in this paper) as the sixth in the Aldbourne peal, the tenor of the College bells being about forty hundred-weight. Below is given an account of the four "Grandsire" peals ever known to have been rung at Aldbourne, the ringers of the treble, second, third, sixth and seventh, on March 20th and 27th, 1837, are still residents of this village, and no doubt can tell many an interesting belfry tale of the "good old times." No time seems to have been recorded for these peals (as is now usual), but it is quite probable that just over three hours would be the extent, as in 5001 "Caters" the time rarely exceeds three and a quarter hours. "May 3. 1791, was rung 5040 Grandsire Triples, by John North, tripple; Wm. Gwym, 2; Edne. Witts, 3; Levi Pizzie, 4; Wm. Lawrence, 5; (called ye Bobbs)—Broome Witts, 6; Jas. Wells, 7; Jos. Orchard, tenor. January 21, 1806, was rung the peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, by John North, tripple; Levi Pizzie, 2; Stephen Wentworth, 3; Thomas Shepherd, 4; (called the Bobbs)—Mark Brown, 5; James Bridgeman, 6; William Flower, 7; Joseph Dennis, tenor. The peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung March 20, and again March 27th, 1837, by James Barrett, tripple; James Palmer, 2; Wm. Taylor, 3; (called the Bobbs)—John Baxter, 4; Wm. Andrews, 5; Joseph Palmer, 6; James Smith, 7. March 20, George Barrett; March 27, John Beesley, tenor.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

A Committee Meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday last, March 3rd, in the King Street Schoolroom, Dudley, which was well represented by members from Bromsgrove, Brierley Hill, Coseley, Chaddesley, Cradley Clent, Dudley, Netherton, Stourbridge, Tipton, Worcester, etc. The Rev. Dr. Cosens, Vicar of Dudley and Rural Dean, occupied the chair, and was supported by the Rev. S. J. Marriott, Vicar of Netherton. Letters of apology were read from the President, the Rev. Dr. Gott, Dean of Worcester, the Rev. W. R. Carr (Worcester), and E. J. Hall (Bromsgrove).

The usual business being transacted, a draft report was read for the past year, and adopted, a very good suggestion from the rev. chairman being added thereto. The auditors' report was received, which showed that the Association financially was not quite so good as last year. It was then unanimously resolved that the annual meeting be held at Worcester on Easter Monday. During the afternoon the following rang (on St. Thomas's bells) 1061 changes of Grandsire Caters. J. Perrins, 1; W. Pardoe, 2; J. Fellows, sen., 3; A. Beddall, 4; W. R. Small, 5; W. Micklewright, 6; S. Spittle (conductor), 7; J. Broad, 8; J. Smith, 9; E. Gilbert, 10. Messrs. Perrins, Broad, and Gilbert hail from Chaddesley; Pardoe and Small from Tipton; Beddall from Brierley Hill; Smith from Netherton; Fellows, Micklewright and Spittle from Dudley. Several other touches of Grandsire Triples and Major and Bob Triples were rung during the afternoon. The rest of the evening was pleasantly spent at the house of Mr. E. Fellows, "Bee Hive" Inn, with the handbells.

WANTED.—A pair of small bells, for striking quarters in a turret clock; should weigh together about 2 cwt.—Address, stating size, note and price, E.D.M., Lambrook, Bracknell.

THE ODDITIES OF PARISH CLERKS.

[The following interesting paper, the composition of the Rev. W. S. MacKean, curate of St. Mark's Easton, was read by that gentleman at the weekly meeting of the St. Mark's Men's Church Society, recently.]

BEFORE we discuss the oddities of the parish clerk it may be desirable to look into the meaning of the word "clerk," and then to take a glance at the parish clerk's origin, and to see what his office and duties were.

It seems that in olden days there were several clergymen attached to all our larger and more important churches, and these clergy were under the inspection and care of the rector or his representative, who for this reason was styled a prelate—that means a man preferred, or placed over others. The term now-a-days is only applied to bishops. Well, these assistant clergy were called chaplains, parish vicars, or parish priests. In the present day they are called curates—that means men who have the cure or care of souls. In olden times, as in many of our modern English churches, there was generally more than one altar or holy table, and the duty of the clergy was to celebrate very frequently the Holy Communion—the solemn memorial before God and man of our Lord's death—and to assist the rector in saying or singing the services in church. But besides the three principal orders of clergy—bishops, priests, and deacons—there were others in lower or inferior orders. For instance, there were sub-deacons, readers, singers, exorcists, and ostiaries. All these different grades of church workers had their several duties to perform in the church, and, whether ordained or unordained, were all included in the term "clerks" or "clergy," a word which comes from the Greek word *cleros*, a lot or portion: they being regarded as of all others the Lord's lot or portion. All through the early and mediæval times this word "clerk" may be traced, and at last, before the Reformation became of very wide application indeed, even the bishop's menial servants being considered as belonging to this class—many of whom were really in minor orders. In modern times the word "clerk" in its ecclesiastical sense is confined to those actually in Holy Orders, with the one familiar exception of the parish clerk, and an occasional use of the word in Cathedral choirs. The equally familiar business use of the word clerk comes down from the time when most of the learning of the world was confined to the clergy. Hence the word clerk in a business point of view means a "scholar" or "writer." Shakspere, *e.g.*, uses the word clerks in this sense in his *Henry VIII.*, ii., 2—

All the clerks,
I mean, the learned ones, in Christian kingdoms,
Have their free voices.

In primitive and mediæval times, as we have seen, all who had any special office to perform in the House of God were termed clerks or clergy, and they were recognised by the Church as workers, and they had the Church's mission in doing their work, no matter how humble and trivial that work might seem. For instance, to take the lowest of the inferior orders—the ostiaries—their duty was to attend to the doors of the church, to ring the bells, etc., duties now generally performed by the modern sexton. Then another order or rank of church workers was the singers—called lay clerks or choirmen in later times, and corresponding to the order of Levites in the Old Testament times (2 Chronicles, v. 12). There would be several of these singers in every large parish, and it is very probable that there was one of the singers or choirmen whose duty it was to be constantly present at every service which was celebrated by the parish clergy, to say or sing the responses, or the leader or representative. This individual, who often did duty for the absentee singers, lay clerks, or choirmen, came to be called in course of time the parish clerk. So that you see the gentleman whose oddities we will talk about presently is really the representative man of the older order of lay clerks or singers, or choirmen, of the parish, and is therefore a very ancient officer of the church. This is confirmed by the rubrics of the Prayer-book, which several times mention the "minister and clerks," or "the priest and clerks," and which once, in the marriage service, besides speaking of them in the plural, as engaged in the saying or singing of the Psalms, also directs that the bridegroom shall lay on the book "the accustomed duty to the priest and clerk," using the word in the singular number. The duties of the clerk are to assist the clergy in saying and singing Divine Service (either as one of a choir or by himself, or as a leader of the congregation) by singing or saying the responses. He ought, properly also to take the leading place in singing the Psalms, anthem, and hymns, but is rarely qualified for such a duty. In all the minor offices of the church not usually celebrated with a congregation, it is also his duty to perform the same part, as at marriages and burials. The clerk often takes the place of the sexton in duties connected with the vesting of the clergy, the preparation of the altar for Holy Communion, etc., and in small churches the two offices are frequently held by one and the same person. The word sexton, I may remark in passing, is a corruption of *sa-cristan*, an official who has charge of the *sacra* or things attached to a specific church, such as vestments, cushions, books, boxes, tools, vessels, and so on.

"So far so good," as the little boy said when he had finished the first pot of his mother's jam.

We now arrive at another point—"the oddities of the parish clerk." An old clergyman, who had in his day a great deal to do with this functionary, writes:—

"The first parish clerk with whom I ever came in contact was a character which has now disappeared, and which, when I look back, seems as if it never could have existed. I was ordained—oh! how many, many years ago it was—to a seaside curacy. There were two churches, about a mile apart, and I had to walk along the cliffs to get from one village to the other. In the winter it was often quite dark when the afternoon service was over, and I set out on my return home. The path by the cliffs was narrow and dangerous by daylight; in the dark, it was impassable without a light. I used, therefore, to take with me a lantern, which I gave into the clerk's keeping when I went into church. Now this said clerk was a gaunt, grey old man, who had lived all his life amongst seafaring people, though without having been himself at sea, by force of example had become as one of them. Before I had been in my curacy long, I found that most of the men were smugglers, and the clerk the prime mover on shore of the whole gang; and the way I found it out was this. Several times I had noticed [that as I was in the middle of my sermon the church door would open, and a strange face would peep in; then in a minute one of the congregation would steal silently out, then another, and another, till, of the usual small assembly, the clerk and one or two more would be the only ones left. I could not help observing that on these occasions the clerk could scarcely keep himself in his seat, and that his hands nervously handled the lantern, which for convenience he had concealed under his desk. In a few Sundays, however, the end came. I suppose, as I was a new comer, he was afraid at first to do what he did at last. One Sunday afternoon, just as I had got well into my discourse—sermons in those days lasted five and forty minutes, and were not much appreciated unless they contained plenty of first-lies, second-lies, third-lies, etc.—a head popped in at the door; and whether there was a richer cargo to run than usual, I know not, but with the appearance of the head, a finger beckoned. One by one the congregation got up and went. By custom grown more bold, I suppose, they went with more noise than usual. Still my sermon went on, the clerk got more and more fidgety, till at last, standing up, and holding up the lantern to me in the pulpit, he whispered in his softest voice, 'Will this be 'nuff, maester, to light 'ee home?' It is needless to say that I brought my sermon to an abrupt conclusion, and that for the future, when I saw a face look in at the door, and the congregation begin to go, I cut my discourse short, and dismissed those who remained with my blessing. When the old clerk got to know me better, he told me all the mysteries of his craft; how a cargo was run,—in what way the ship was signalled, and how the Excise of the period were done; but I could never persuade him that his office of church clerk and defrauding his Majesty's Customs were not quite consistent. Poor old clerk, his smuggling days are over long ago; but if he did nothing worse, as the offence was in those days esteemed, than run a few kegs of brandy, we may fairly say he rests in peace."

The churchwarden of a country parish writes that "it was disgraceful the way things used to be neglected in churches. He was at Tetherby church one Sunday afternoon, and when it was time to sing 'My soul doth magnify the Lord,' there was no sign or sound from the organ. Tetherby is a large church, and the clergyman being a good way off, and rather blind, could not see the state of affairs up in the organ gallery, so he called out in a loud whisper to the parish clerk, 'Mr. Turgoose! Mr. Turgoose! Why does not the organ begin?' And then old Turgoose roared out so that everyone could hear him, 'It weean't goo, sir, the paipes is cleaned boanged oop wi' mook.' What do you think of that for a parish clerk?"

Some of the anecdotes of the old-fashioned parish clerk are witty, but sometimes they have just a flavour of profanity. "You should come to our church, man," said a parish clerk of a proselytising turn, "when me and the parson does the cursing of a Hash Wednesday, Lor, 'ow we does give it to em."

A strange clergyman doing duty for an absent friend inquired of the parish church in the vestry how (in some small particulars), the service was conducted. The information was given, and the clerk concluded by observing, "And you, sir, must please to say the 'Glories be's,' and I will say the 'Asetwasses.'" Such was the description of the Gloria common to parish clerks.

Some of the anecdotes, again, have a vein of surliness, if not of shrewdness. In a remote village of the county of Gloucester, notice had been given of a wedding, and the lady and her friends duly arrived, but the bridegroom did not put in an appearance. After waiting until the clock struck twelve, the bride left the church, when the clerk, a cross-grained old bachelor, remarked, "There be always three people ready for a wedding—the parson, the clerk, and the 'ooman.'"

He is not always a sound Scripturist. A parish clerk who was showing a visitor over a church, directed his attention to a two-light

stained glass window that had recently been placed there in memory of a deceased couple. The figures were those of Moses and Aaron. "There they be, sir, but they don't much 'fature' the old couple," said the clerk, who regarded the figures as likenesses of the deceased lady and gentleman.

But the old gentleman always had a sense of the democratic necessities of public worship. The officious wife of a rector thus addressed a clerk of the old style: "I wish, Mr. Jones, you would not shout the responses, and that you would read your verses of the Psalms a little more quietly, like the rector does. And oh, please in the Litany do not say 'Spear us, good Lord,' it does make the people laugh. 'Never you trouble yourself about the Litany, ma'am,' replied Jones. 'If I reads like the rector, every soul in the church would be asleep long afore we gets there.'"

Some years ago at a village church in Wilts, the barrel organ which led the choir on Sundays, made some fearful and ghastly sounds during morning service, by reason of the damp having affected some of its interior economy. The squire sent for the organist (who was also the village carpenter), and expressed his fear that the afternoon service must be got through without the aid of the organ. "No, squire, don't be afeared; there's them three big girls, Keziah Hawkins, Julia Lumage, and Agatha Coles, they'll follow the organ, go where a wull."

Of mere mistakes there is, of course, a plentiful crop, and very ludicrous too they often were. In the evening Psalms for the last day in the month these words occur; "Beasts and all cattle, worms and feathered fowls." One old fellow would always read them in this way; 'Basteses and all cattul, worms and veathered vovls.' The same old fellow instead of saying 'Stand in awe, and sin not,' would repeat 'Stand in a we, and sin not,' and nothing would persuade him what the three letters a-w-e really spelt. Then again one verse used to bring tears into some sensitive people's eyes every time that it recurred; and its repetition never took away the ridiculous sound of the old fellow's interpretation. The words of the Psalm are: 'There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan whom thou hast made to take his pastime therein.' The clerk, at the top of a by no means soft or pleasant voice, said, 'Thur go the ships, and thur's that lively thing, whom thou's made take hee's bastime thurin.'" The poor man's education had not cost much.

The parish clerk of a village in the south of England was in great request as an umpire at cricket matches. One hot Sunday he fell asleep at the commencement of a long prayer. He woke up at the conclusion, and instead of saying Amen, shouted at the top of his voice "Over!"

A parish clerk had to give out the following notice, "A man has gone to sea, his wife therefore asks the prayers of the congregation." He left out the comma, and read "A man has gone to see his wife, therefore asks the prayers of the congregation."

Being present at a country village in Somerset, where the clerk was elderly, and the church somewhat dark, during the psalms he, after commencing a verse and reading it half through twice, eventually gave it up as a bad job, and, turning to the congregation, in broad Somersetshire dialect said, "Goo on, goo on, I can't zee; doan't 'ee wait for I."

And of mere eccentricities—not always amiable—the number is not fewer; the following dialogue explains itself:—

Rector: "I didn't see you in church this afternoon, Jasper."

Clerk: "Why, bless you, sir, I was there, sure enough."

Rector: "No, you were not. I looked all around the church for you, and when I came out I saw you leaving 'The Brown Cow.'"

Clerk: "Well, sir, if I was'n't there myself, my religious principles was there."

An old clerk had lately been a porter at an important junction station, and was well known to many travellers by the stentorian tones in which he announced that all were to change carriages. Happening to fall asleep in church, his neighbour roused him just as the benediction was pronounced, of course at the end of the service. He awoke with a start, and to the consternation of the congregation, shouted, "All change here."

A parish clerk was assisting a clergyman to robe before the service commenced, and said to him, "Please sir, I am deaf. 'Indeed my good man,' says the curate; 'then how do you manage to follow me during the service?'"

"Why, sir," says the clerk, "I look up, and when you shuts your mouth, I opens mine."

If one had to search for clerks of the most advanced type, I suppose the place to go would be to some far western neighbourhood. Devon and Cornwall have always been noted for these fussy and uneducated personages; and there, perhaps, they have still a lingering existence. In the more populous parts of England they have been pushed aside by advancing manners and tastes. There are not many clerks to be destroyed now. Common sense has generally done away with the duet between the parson and that functionary, and if there is not a decent choir, at all events the congregation now make the responses.

Still here and there the old stamp of clerk remains. I will give you two decided specimens who were living only a very few years ago. One of these was at an important parish church in the suburbs of London. A clergyman tells us:—"The curate was harassed and overworked, and one Sunday he asked me to say afternoon prayer and take some baptisms for him. I consented willingly, and that afternoon went through one of the most trying scenes that it has ever been my lot to undergo since I have been ordained. I had only been in the church once before, at a confirmation, and the cold oppressiveness of that service and ceremony prepared me in some way for what I should experience. What happened, however, exceeded all my apprehensions. When I went into the vestry, a fussy stout man, something between an idle cobbler and a station-master at a very small station, presented himself. 'Most time to go in—here's the surplice.' I put the surplice on. It was large enough for three clergymen, and I had much difficulty in finding my hands, and when I walked it was at the imminent risk of tripping up and falling flat on my face. However, I managed to put on a hood, and then the fussy man produced what he called a scarf—a long broad silk band. Not liking its appearance, and being already overburdened with clerical garments, I meekly said (for I was much afraid of the fussy functionary), 'I don't wear that sort of thing.' 'But everyone doos.' 'I don't, I said, still meek.' 'But you must.' 'I don't,' this time a little more positively. 'But you must; everyone as comes here doos.' Now, I don't like to be bullied. Naturally, of a meek temperament, if bullied, I was determined, so I said firmly 'I shall not,' and turned away. That point settled, his clerkship observed, 'Time to go in. I goes first; you give out the hymns. Four baptisms after second lesson. Now then!' Off he trudged, and I followed. Having been duly ushered into a box, and the door shut and fastened, having duly said my prayer, I began the service. The congregation consisted of some school children, here and there a servant in the high box pews, and in the gallery two or three singers, who sang the canticles in a gentle kind of way, as if they had had too much dinner, to a very loud and spasmodic organ accompaniment, as of an organ that had been beered, instead of oiled, about the pedals. Things progressed very fairly, till after the collect for the day. True, the clerk had all the responses to himself, and sometimes he forgot them. He was out of sight, down below somewhere, so that I could not see what position or state he was in. After the collect for the day, however, came a loud, and as if a waking-up, Amen; and just as I proceeded to begin the second collect, a hand unseen, from the side somewhere, pulled my surplice, and a sleepy voice half whispered 'You be get too far,' and then, as I took no notice, but went on, the same voice, in a more wakeful tone, added, 'No, you bean't, though; go on; and the voice and hand retreated somewhere down below, where I suppose it had been before. Then came the baptisms, in which, what with the old fellow's homeliness of manners and the squalling of the babies, there was a most unpleasant want of reverence. When one of the sponsors was going off before the service was over, the clerk indecorously called to her all down the church, 'Here, you be to come back.' Well, I never saw that old clerk again, nor do I wish to do so; but I know that in the vestry after the service was over, he charged two shillings for each baptism, and explained his conduct in church by saying he thought I had got beyond the third collect and forgotten the hymn."

The second specimen was clerk of the church of which I myself was for some years vicar. When I entered on the living, I would willingly have got rid of the man if I could; for besides being of not the best of characters, he was very deaf, and continually saying "Amen" at the wrong times and wrong places. However, I could not get rid of him myself, and the Bishop refused to interfere; although I reported his clerkship for turning up one Ash Wednesday with a black eye. However, I shelved the old fellow by putting him in the choir, where, after vainly trying to say "Amen" when the choir sang it, his voice was drowned, and at last he subsided into silence. There he is now, and will, I suppose, remain, a clerk in name, but not in sound, until his life's end.

And now I come to my last clerk. I only came into possession of him a few weeks ago. He is seventy years old. What he has been in years past, I know not; but of this I am quite sure, that he never has, and never will, make any blunders in the responses, for the first thing he said to me on my arrival in the parish was, "Doanee tak no notus o' mee. I'm a poore ign'rant ould fella. I can't zay it ater'ee, for I was na'er larned to read."

Even so far back as 300 years ago there seems to have been a troublesome parish clerk in the north of England. Upon an old scrap of paper in one of the consistorial records of the Episcopal Court of Durham, is the following complaint from the minister at Tweedmouth respecting a parish clerk at Berwick. There is no date to the information, but evidence exists to show that it must have been written between 1591 and 1594. The complaint runs thus:—"The information against Stephen Hudspeth, your humble servant Patrick Smith, minister at Tweedmouth. Firstly, he is nominated only by a part of the parish, and sundry of those are

fanatics, keepers of conventicles, and will neither hear the word, nor receive the sacrament according to the Church of England, but frequent factious meetings. Secondly, he, the said Stephen, to my knowledge has not communicated these twelve years bygone. Thirdly, he did not communicate at Easter last, when he saw others receive it. Fourthly, he can neither read distinctly, neither can he sing any at all, but renders the worship ridiculous, and makes covenant against the Church of England for permitting such men to have office in the church. Fifthly, he sometimes stops in the middle of a verse when he cannot read the word, as all the parish can testify. Sixthly, he affirmed before all the parish that he was more qualified to be clerk than I was to be minister; and he, upon the 27th April last, made a great disturbance in the church before all the people convened at that time, by pulling the surplice almost out of my hand, and said that no person should get liberty to put it over my head but himself. Lastly at Easter, he stopt in the middle of a verse, and would not sing. All these I article against him, and all these I testify to be true." Beneath the above the worthy minister of Tweedmouth adds:—"After the inhibition was published, yet he continued in acting as clerk, and will not be discharged, but contemns the authority of the court, and intends to continue so."

In the next case a dean is more the oddity than the parish clerk. It is said that Dean Swift was once at church when nobody was present but himself and the clerk, and he began the service by saying, "Dearly beloved Roger, the Scripture moveth you and me in sundry places," etc.

The parish clerk's attempt at teaching were not always brilliant. Lord Wriothlesley Russell once told the present vicar of St. Nicholas, Durham, that when he first went to live at one of his estates in the country, he went out one afternoon to see what kind of teaching was given to the children. It was in the very early days of Sunday schools. He found the little ones assembled in the church porch listening to the parish clerk, who appeared to be diligently engaged in teaching them spelling. After "school" was over he took the man aside and asked him, "Can you not do something more for the children than this on Sunday? Surely spelling is taught in the day school?" "But, my lord," replied the clerk, "they be all Bible words I was teachin' of 'em." "Why, I heard you ask them to spell 'magazine,' surely that isn't a Bible word?" "Isn't it, my lord? Well, if m-a-g-i-c-i-a-n don't spell 'magazine,' what do it spell?"

My object in this lecture has not been to hold up anyone to ridicule, but to throw a little light upon days gone by. It is interesting to know something of the habits and customs of our forefathers. It is well to know something of the wonderful past, and how men lived and acted in a less refined, less civilised, and less educated age than our own. The oddities of the parish clerk may raise a smile in the present day, but there is no doubt many of them acted up to the light and information they possessed—quietly and faithfully performing their duties to the best of their ability.

You all know the beautiful missionary hymn, which we have heard almost from our very earliest infancy—

From Greenland's icy mountains.

Well, do you know, a quiet, simple, plodding old parish clerk is in a way connected with the composition of this hymn. When I hear that missionary hymn sung at a missionary service or meeting, one cannot help thinking of its composer, the sainted Reginald Heber. He was son-in-law to a clergyman in Wales, the vicar of Wrexham, and it happened one day that the old clerk came into the rectory, and said to the clergyman, "If you please, sir, next Sunday is missionary Sunday; I have come for the missionary hymns." They had had the missionary hymns so often in their somewhat small collection, for Churchmen did not rejoice in such hymn-books in those days as we have now, that they were tired of them, and the clergyman turned round to his son-in-law, Reginald, and said, "You are a bit of a poet. Suppose you write us a hymn," and then and there he wrote that hymn, "From Greenland's icy mountains," etc., and it was used on the following Sunday, to the great delight of the parish clerk and congregation.

Formerly the parish clerk was the only one in many a village, or at any rate one of very few indeed who could read or write at all, and many of them, as we have seen from the specimens given this evening, were very poor scholars. Now, however, education is so widely diffused, that it is no longer the monopoly of the few; the rising generation are receiving a good sound elementary education, and the crowds of choristers who fill the stalls of our churches represent a large proportion of our educated youth trained to praise Almighty God. And we must all feel that it is much more seemly to see a choir decently robed in the conduct of Divine Service, than attired in their ordinary dress, and that both men and boys are much more likely to perform their duties with becoming reverence when clad in a surplice—in a robe, that is, calculated to remind them that they are assisting in the worship of God—that they are leading the congregation in their devotions to the Throne of Grace,

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."

DOUBTFUL AUTHORSHIP.

SIR,—In your issue of last week appears the calling of a peal of Stedman Triples subscribed: "conducted by its composer." If I point out that this composition is bob for bob Thurstans' original peal, the author of the transposition will I hope withdraw his claim thereto, a claim which I trust may be but the result of a misprint. By starting to call at the second six of the third course of the fourth part in the first half of the original, the transposition will be obtained; the sole difference consisting in the position of the two singles. The result is simply to transpose the work of the 6th and 7th, and to divide the whole into courses of unequal length. I presume it is understood by modern composers that, in any 5040 of Triples, the calling may be commenced at any place, and called continuously either forwards or backwards, for the relative distance of the bobs or singles will not be altered, and therefore such inversion or reverse, as the case may be, will be equally as true as the original. A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

Duffield Bank, near Derby, March 3rd, 1888.

[There is no misprint in the direction suggested. We have a duplicate copy of the same production from Mr. Washbrook.—Ed.]

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—The peal of Grandsire Triples rung at St. Chad's (R.C.) cathedral, Birmingham, and published in your last week's issue, should read 2 hrs. 47 mins., and not 3 hrs. 47 mins. And also it should read the conductor's first time of calling Holt's Original, not first peal as conductor; and for Henry Chapman, read Harry Chapman.

C. W. CLARKE.

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR,—Seeing in your issue of Saturday, February 16th, a report of forty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles having been rung at Cranham, Gloucestershire, each called differently, conducted by W. Gregory, I should be obliged if he would kindly inform me how to do it. 13 Red Lion Street, Spalding.

GEORGE SKEEF.

OUR COMPOSITION PAGE.

SIR,—I quite agree with the remarks made by "Free Lance," that a small charge should be made for the insertion of compositions, but I don't see that it would be a guarantee for a better class of things in that part of the science. The quality of peals depends on the mental capacity of the composer, not altogether on the depth of his pocket. Occasionally we have some very fair peals to look at in "THE BELL NEWS," but at other times it is something awful. I would fall in with any movement that would tend to the general elevation of the composition page, but we must bear in mind that we have some good men, who as you put it in your article, have to exercise care to make both ends meet. There is a great deal to be said on the subject, but I should like the opinion of others, and in my mind I don't see but a satisfactory scheme should be arrived at. CHARLES H. HATTERSLEY.

Snider Works, Sheffield.

MR. MACKMAN'S HALF-PEAL.

SIR,—I would not have troubled you on this subject again but for the thought that many ringers would like to know how this half-peal was really rang. From information I have received from Mr. Mackman, it appears that all went well until the eighteenth lead in the third part, when the second and fifth changed course while dodging out behind. This would have brought the half-peal end to 534267, but the conductor calling an extra bob at the half-peal end, brought 235467, therefore it never was called into rounds by ordinary bobs or singles, and ought not have been published as called round at 2520 changes. Mr. Mackman says in his letter to me that he did not publish it as a 2520 of Court Bob Triples with the intention of impressing on the readers of "THE BELL NEWS" that it was meant for a true half-peal, as he simply meant to give the readers an idea that they had made a good attempt for a peal, and that by adding "a change-course had occurred," any ringer would know that it was not meant for a true half-peal. After this I wonder at Mr. Mackman making such empty excuses for not answering my first letter; I should have thought that he would have known better than publish an attempt for a peal as a half-peal, when it would not have come round if he had not called out "that's all." This, I suppose is an invention of his for making false attempts at peals into half-peals, and then he leaves the Exercise to guess whether it is meant to be true or false. W. B.

HOW TO LEARN CHANGE-RINGING WITHOUT AN INSTRUCTOR.—By Charles Pearson, M.A. Price Threepence, by post Fourpence.—WILLIAM POLLARD AND Co., Printers, Exeter.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS.

5000.

By CHARLES HENRY HATTERSLEY, *Sheffield.*

1 2 3 4 5 6

4 1 6 3 5 2 3, 4, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18.
 3 6 5 4 2 1 4, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14.
 6 3 1 2 4 5 5, 6.

4 5 6 7 9 10 11 12

3 1 4 2 6 5 - - - - -
 4 1 2 3 6 5 - - - - -
 4 1 3 5 6 2 - - - - -
 3 1 5 4 6 2 - - - - -
 5 1 4 3 6 2 - - - - -
 5 1 3 2 6 4 - - - - -
 3 1 2 5 6 4 - - - - -
 2 1 5 3 6 4 - - - - -
 2 1 3 4 6 5 - - - - -
 2 1 4 5 6 3 - - - - -
 4 1 5 2 6 3 - - - - -
 5 1 2 4 6 3 - - - - -

5 1 4 2 6 3 s - - - - -
 4 1 2 5 6 3 - - - - -
 4 1 5 3 6 2 - - - - -
 5 1 3 4 6 2 - - - - -
 3 1 4 5 6 2 - - - - -
 3 1 5 2 6 4 - - - - -
 5 1 2 3 6 4 - - - - -
 2 1 3 5 6 4 - - - - -
 2 1 5 4 6 3 - - - - -
 2 1 4 3 6 5 - - - - -
 4 1 3 2 6 5 - - - - -
 3 1 2 4 6 5 - - - - -

2 1 4 5 3 6 - - - - -
 4 1 5 2 3 6 - - - - -
 5 1 2 4 3 6 - - - - -
 3 1 4 2 5 6 - - - - -
 4 1 2 3 5 6 - - - - -
 5 1 3 2 4 6 - - - - -
 3 1 2 5 4 6 - - - - -
 2 1 5 3 4 6 - - - - -
 4 1 3 5 2 6 - - - - -
 3 1 5 4 2 6 - - - - -
 5 1 4 3 2 6 - - - - -
 2 1 3 4 5 6 - - - - -

3 1 4 5 2 6 s - - - - -
 4 1 5 3 2 6 - - - - -
 5 1 3 4 2 6 - - - - -
 2 1 4 3 5 6 - - - - -
 4 1 3 2 5 6 - - - - -
 5 1 2 3 4 6 - - - - -
 2 1 3 5 4 6 - - - - -
 3 1 5 2 4 6 - - - - -
 4 1 2 5 3 6 - - - - -
 2 1 5 4 3 6 - - - - -
 5 1 4 2 3 6 - - - - -
 3 1 2 4 5 6 - - - - -

Brought round with calls at 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14.

This peal has the 6th its extent in 5-6, and is the first produced on this plan.

Rung at Rotherham, February 14th, 1888; conducted by its composer.

A DATE TOUCH OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1888.

By A. E. DURRANT, *Ipswich.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

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

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

5056.

By CHARLES HENRY HATTERSLEY, *Sheffield.*

2 3 4 5 6 B M W H

4 2 3 5 6 - - - -

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

6 2 4 5 3 - - - -

3 5 4 2 6 - - - -

4 5 6 2 3 - - - -

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

This peal has the 4th and 6th their extent in 6th's place, with the 6th twelve times in that position, and the 2nd never being there. It is the first peal published with these particulars.

A PEAL OF DUFFIELD MAJOR.

5472.

By JOHN CARTER, *Birmingham.*

1 2 3 4 5 I O

5 3 4 1 2 - -
 2 4 1 5 3 - -
 3 1 5 2 4 - -
 4 3 5 2 1 - -
 1 5 2 4 3 - -

3 2 4 1 5 - -
 5 4 1 3 2 - -
 1 4 3 5 2 - -

2 3 5 1 4 - -
 4 5 1 2 3 - -
 3 1 2 4 5 - -
 5 2 4 3 1 - -
 4 2 3 5 1 - -

1 3 5 4 2 - -
 2 5 4 1 3 - -
 3 4 1 2 5 - -
 5 1 2 3 4 - -
 4 5 2 3 1 - -
 1 4 2 3 5 - -

Five times repeated.

Single first call of the third and sixth parts. This peal is the longest composed up to date in six equal parts, with only two singles and the 6th undisturbed.

5376. By omitting the last 3 bobs in any 1 part.
 5280. " " " " " " " " 2 parts.
 5184. " " " " " " " " 3 "
 5088. " " " " " " " " 4 "
 5000. By omitting the last three bobs of the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th parts, and the last two bobs of the 6th part, and adding a bob at home.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

5024.

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

2 3 4 5 6 I 4 5 6

2 6 4 3 5 - -
 4 5 2 6 3 s -
 5 3 2 6 4 - -
 3 4 2 6 5 - -
 5 4 3 6 2 - -
 2 4 5 6 3 - -
 4 3 5 6 2 - -
 3 2 5 6 4 - -
 4 3 2 6 5 - -
 5 2 4 6 3 - -
 2 3 4 6 5 - -
 3 5 4 6 2 - -
 2 5 3 6 4 - -

2 4 3 5 6 [- -
 5 3 4 2 6 - -
 3 2 4 5 6 - -
 5 4 2 3 6 - -
 4 2 5 3 6 - -
 2 5 4 3 6 - -
 3 4 5 2 6 - -
 4 5 3 2 6 - -
 2 3 5 4 6 - -
 3 5 2 4 6 - -
 5 2 3 4 6 - -
 4 3 2 5 6 - -

Repeated.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5152.

By JOHN SIDEBOTHAM, *Mottram-in-Longdendale.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

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

This peal has the 5th and 6th their extent wrong and right.

A DATE TOUCH OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

1888.

By JOHN SIDEBOTHAM, *Mottram-in-Longdendale.*

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H

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

ANSWER TO WORD PUZZLE.

Answer to word puzzle in last week's "BELL News": Top square, 48; bottom square, 112.
 WILLIAM AVANN.

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

One copy, 12 months 6s. 6d.

" 6 " 3s. 3d.

" 3 " 1s. 8d.

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

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication 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.

J. ROLLISON.—Apply to the Publisher.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1888.

ANOTHER lengthy performance has apparently with some credit been scored by a band of provincial members of the Exercise. At the little town of Appleton in Berkshire on Monday last, a peal of Stedman Caters, comprising 12,041 changes, was successfully accomplished, thus superseding the peal of 11,111 rang at All Saints, Fulham, a year or two ago. The metropolitan members of the Ancient Society of College Youths have hardly been allowed to enjoy the fruits of their victory, so soon, comparatively, has it been put into the shade. The previous "long length" of Stedman Caters was rung at Birmingham, and kept at the head of performances of this description for many years, till the Fulham achievement eclipsed it, and the latter has now to remain in second's place till the peal rung this week has been overcome.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild now claims the palm for Stedman Caters. The length of the peal, having nearly 1000 more changes than the Fulham peal, may be regarded as a full equivalent for the difference in weight of metal; and every one who hears of this very successful performance must be anxious to congratulate the Appleton band upon their success. The figures of the peal have been forwarded for publication, and they will be published next week, but we fervently hope that nothing will be found amiss with the composition, because it must be confessed that the talented conductor has been somewhat remiss in the structure of some of those compositions he has lately sent for publication. The one in question is, however, upon no intricate plan.

The College Youths properly came to the determination to send a representative to Appleton on this occasion; and in the selection of that representative they acted wisely. No one amid their ranks possessed greater ability for the task of accurately watching a peal in its progress than MR. WILLIAM COOTER, no ringer is there existing

perhaps who would have performed the duties assigned to him with more tact and suavity. Appleton is, we believe, denied those necessary adjuncts to civilisation—a railway station and a telegraph office—but MR. COOTER, with his usual foresight and courtesy, took care to apprise us as well as the means at his disposal allowed him, how the peal was progressing. Now we know the actual result, and we in our turn congratulate the Guild upon the performance in the same hearty manner that we shall congratulate ten London members of the College Youths, or in fact any other company, when they succeed in pulling off a 13,000 in the same method.

The Metropolis.

SOUTHGATE, MIDDLESEX.—THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

On Thursday, March 1, 1888, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

JOSEPH DAVIDSON Treble.	HUGH T. SCARLETT.. .. 5.
HENRY A. BARNETT 2.	*JAMES CULLEN 6.
JOHN NUNN 3.	WILLIAM H. FREEMAN .. 7.
GEORGE B. LUCAS 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER of Birmingham, and Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

*First peal of Major.

TWICKENHAM.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' FIVE-PART. Tenor 19 iwt. 3qrs. 24lbs.

CHARLES SLADE Treble.	JAMES HARRIS 5.
EDWARD F. STRANGE 2.	JOHN WRIGHT 6.
CHARLES E. MALIM 3.	GEORGE GRAY 7.
JAMES STRUTT 4.	JOHN SMITH Tenor.

Conducted by EDWARD F. STRANGE.

This is the first peal on the bells since the tenor was recast, and that with the seventh re-hung by Messrs J. Taylor and Co., Loughborough.

The Provinces.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(WARNHAM BRANCH).

Birthday Peal.

On Thursday, March 1, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SHIPWAY'S SIX-PART. Tenor — cwt.

GEORGE WOODMAN Treble.	WILLIAM SHORT 5.
WALTER CHARMAN 2.	FELIX KNIGHT 6.
THOMAS ANDREWS 3.	HENRY BURSTOW 7.
HARRY COOK 4.	THOMAS HOGSFLESH .. Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY BURSTOW.

This peal was rung to commemorate the birthday of Mr. Henry Chandler, secretary of the Warnham Branch. It was intended to have started for a peal of Treble Bob Major, but owing to the illness of Mr. Chandler, the above peal was rung instead.

NOTICE.—On Easter Monday a long peal of Grandsire Caters will be attempted at Appleton, Berks, to eclipse the longest peal yet rung in that method.

RADCLIFFE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, March 2, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 12½ cwt in F#.

JOSEPH TURNER	Treble.	GEORGE E. TURNER	5.
ARTHUR BARRETT	2.	JAMES SCHOLEY	6.
JAMES GRATRIX	3.	JOHN HARRISON	7.
JOHN MILLETT	4.	ERNEST BISHOP	Tenor.

Composed by JOHN THORP, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and Conducted by ERNEST BISHOP.

The brothers Turner, and Gratrix belong to the Manchester Cathedral Society, Messrs Willett, Scholey, and Harrison from Heywood.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE STEYNING BRANCH).

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT MINOR METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 of each of the following:—

COLLEGE EXERCISE, NEW LONDON PLEASURE, DUKE OF YORK, WOODBINE, OXFORD TREBLE BOB, KENT TREBLE BOB, AND DOUBLE OXFORD.

Tenor 12 cwt.

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

Conducted by CHARLES TYLER.

TROWBRIDGE, WILTS.—THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 23 cwt in Eb.

HENRY D. ADAMS	Treble.	WILLIAM McCAFFREY	5.
ALFRED P. GODDARD	2.	THOMAS BLACKBOURN	6.
JOHN HAYWARD	3.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD	7.
ARTHUR ANDERSON	4.	CHARLES A. CLEMENTS	Tenor.

Conducted by THOMAS BLACKBOURN.

Mr. Anderson hails from Bristol, and this is his first peal with a bob-bell. This is the first time Holt's 10-part has been rung in this tower since 1826.

HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 23½ cwt.

THOMAS SHORT	Treble.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON	5.
FREDERICK FIELD	2.	HERBERT BAKER	6.
H. D. BETTERIDGE	3.	ALFRED THOMAS	7.
CHARLES HOUNSLOW	4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

This is the first peal in the method on the bells. Although the men on the 7th and tenor were almost done up owing to the heavy go of the bells, the peal was exceedingly well struck.

OLDBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

T. DAY'S SIX-PART. Tenor 10½ cwt.

W. H. GODDEN*	Treble.	*SAM ATKINS	5.
EDGAR PEMBERTON*	2.	SAMUEL REEVES	6.
JOSEPH TIMMS	3.	CHARLES PRICE	7.
HENRY SLANEY	4.	WILLIAM SMITH	Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

*First peal in this Society. Mr. Pemberton, who was elected a member in the tower, hails from Bury St. Edmunds; Timms and Slaney from Tamworth; Smith from Darlaston; Atkins from Willenhall; Godden from Handsworth, and the rest from West Bromwich.

SHARNBROOK, BEDFORDSHIRE.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 each of the following:—

Yorkshire Court, Canterbury Pleasure, College Single, London Single, Oxford Bob, College Little, Plain Bob.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FREDERICK CLAYTON*	Treble.	*ALFRED H. MARTIN	4.
ALFRED E. CHAPMAN	2.	WILLIAM J. GILBERT	5.
CHARLES WEST	3.	WILLIAM A. HALL	Tenor.

Conducted by W. A. HALL.

*First 5040 upon six bells. Messrs. W. J. Gilbert and W. Hall hail from Raunds; F. Clayton and A. Chapman from Rushden; A. Martin from Higham Ferrers; and C. West from Biddenham, Beds. The company wish to thank the Rev. —. Wilkinson for so kindly placing the bells at their disposal, and also to the ringers for getting everything in readiness.

WHITFIELD, GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.—THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

Birthday Peal.

On Thursday, March 1, 1888, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JAMES S. WILDE	Treble.	JOSEPH MALONEY	5.
JOHN HARROP	2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY	6.
THOMAS BRADLEY	3.	THOMAS WILDE	7.
HENRY COOPER	4.	JOHN PYE, SEN.	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES S. WILDE.

This peal, which is in three equal parts, has the sixth its extent home, and was rung in honour of Mr. John Pye, sen., 63rd birthday, his brother ringers wishing him many happy returns. The brothers Bradley and Wilde hail from Hyde, the rest from Glossop.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.—CROYDON, SURREY.

On Monday, March 5, 1888, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 32 cwt in Eb.

HENRY C. HALEY	Treble.	WILLIAM STATES	5.
HENRY DUDLEY	2.	ALFRED BRUCE	6.
WILLIAM J. CHAMBERS	3.	THOMAS VERRALL	7.
ARTHUR B. CARPENTER	4.	WILLIAM HILL	Tenor.
		SAMUEL MAYHEW	

Conducted by H. C. HALEY.

APPLETON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, March 5, 1888, in Seven Hours and Twenty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 12,041 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

FREDERICK WHITE	Treble.	GEORGE HOLIFIELD	6.
GEORGE H. PHILLOTT	2.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON	7.
EDMUND HOLIFIELD	3.	JESSE AVERY	8.
WILLIAM BENNETT	4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK	9.
HERBERT BAKER	5.	STEDMAN WHITE	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

The above is the longest peal yet rang in the method, and was rung at the first attempt.

APPLETON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, March 6, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES. Tenor 14½ cwt.

FREDERICK WHITE	Treble.	CHARLES HOUNSLOW	5.
EDMUND HOLIFIELD	2.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK	6.
HERBERT BAKER	3.	GEORGE HOLIFIELD	7.
WILLIAM BENNETT	4.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON	Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

On Saturday, February 25, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 15½ cwt.

ROBERT HART* Treble.	*PETER NUTTALL 5.
JAMES HIGSON 2.	JAMES MAY 6.
JOSEPH PRESCOTT 3.	JOHN WHITEHEAD 7.
WILLIAM GORTON* 4.	JAMES THORP Tenor.

Conducted by JOSEPH PRESCOTT.

* First peal.

GREAT MARLOW, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

Handbell Ringing.

On Thursday, March 1, 1888, in Two Hours and Thirty-six Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. C. TRUSS, ST. PETER'S STREET,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

H. BUCKINGHAM* 1-2.	*J. C. TRUSS, JUN... .. 5-6.
J. W. WASHBROOK... .. 3-4.	J. C. TRUSS, SEN... .. 7-8.

Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK.

*First peal. Referee, W. Truss, who marked off the bob leads as they came up J. C. Truss, jun., is within one month of 14 years of age.

UPTON ST. LEONARDS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and a ½ Minute.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 17½ cwt. in F.

HENRY G. GARDENER .. Treble.	DANIEL JOHN ASTON .. 5.
WILLIAM JAMES SEVIER .. 2.	SYDNEY EDWARD ROMANS .. 6.
HENRY MITCHELL 3.	ALFRED ARTHUR WAITE.. 7.
RAYMOND JOHN WILKINS.. 4.	THOMAS WHITE Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY GEORGE GARDENER.

The above are all members of the local band.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

On Saturday, March 3, 1888, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 24 cwt.

ARTHUR SYMONDS* .. Treble.	WALTER GRIGGS 5.
CHARLES SILLITOE 2.	WILLIAM HOWELL 6.
JAMES CAMPIN† 3.	HARRY HARPER... .. 7.
ARTHUR SCOTT 4.	*WILLIAM MOORE Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES SILLITOE.

This is the first peal in this method on these noted bells and was rung at the first attempt. The band was complimented by the inhabitants on the excellent striking which was maintained throughout the peal. They also beg to thank the Rev. Croker, through the medium of this paper, for his kind permission to ring. *First peal. †First peal in the method. Messrs Symonds and Moore are of the Lavenham company, the rest belong to Sudbury, Suffolk. The above was rung to celebrate the 42nd birthday of W. Howell.

Date Touches.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DARLINGTON.—On Tuesday, evening, March 6th, at St. John's church, six members of the local company, rang a date touch (1888 changes), in the following methods, 448 Oxford Bob, 720 Grandsire Minor and 720 Bob Minor, in 1 hr. 8 mins. J. Bolton, 1; J. Little, 2; W. Patton, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; H. S. Taylor, 5; J. H. Whitfield (conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt. This is the first date touch ever rung in Darlington, and the first on record this year by the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

BEDDINGTON.—On Saturday, March 3rd, at St. Mary's church, eight members of the above Association rang a date touch of Stedman Triples, 1888 changes, in 1 hr. 10 mins. Edgar Bennett, 1; John Plowman, 2; A. B. Carpenter (composer and conductor), 3; Joseph Fayers, 4; J. W. Trappitt, 5; Chas. Bance, 6; Chas. Gordon, 7; Wm. Burkin, 8. The calling of this touch was given in "THE BELL NEWS" of February 18th.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CAPEL (Surrey).—On Friday evening, March 2nd, at the church of St. John-the-Baptist, a date touch (1888 changes), in eight different methods, being 208 Oxford Treble Bob, and 240 each of the following methods: London Surprise, Superlative Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, College Exercise, College Pleasure, Violet and Kent, in 57 mins. J. Akehurst, 1; R. Jordan, 2; T. Stedman, 3; M. Jenkins, 4; E. Jordan (composer and conductor), 5; D. Jordan, 6.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

YORK.—On Sunday morning, March 4th, being the Assize Sunday, for Divine service, at York Minster, the date of the year, 1888 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 1 hr. 16 mins. J. W. Cundall, 1; R. Long, 2; G. Worth, 3; E. Dawson, 4; A. E. Fearnley, 5; G. Breed, 6; T. Haigh, 7; T. Hodgson, 8; J. Thompson, 9; W. H. Howard (composer and conductor), assisted by E. Morrod, 10. Tenor 54 cwt.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, February 19th, for morning service, at St. Stephen's church, a date touch of 1888 Grandsire Triples. C. Burden, 1; J. Hinton, 2; S. Phillips, 3; C. Trevett, 4; E. Beake, 5; W. Emery, 6; G. Daltry (conductor), 7; W. Colston, 8. Composed by John Carter, of Birmingham.

LIVERSEDGE (Yorks).—On Thursday, March 1st, 1888, at the parish church, by the local society, a date touch, 1888 changes of Cumberland Exercise Major, in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. W. Lang, 1; J. Knott, 2; A. Briggs, 3; S. Goodall, 4; H. Brook, 5; M. Ramsden, 6; L. Illingworth (conductor), 7. W. Collins, 8. Tenor 15 cwt. Composed by W. Goodall of Liversedge.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Monday evening, March 5th, at St. Mary's parish church, a date touch (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 11½ mins., in the following methods, viz., 448 Plain Bob (composed by C. E. Wilson), 360 Woodbine, 240 College Single, 360 of Kent Treble Bob, 120 Grandsire and 360 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. E. Yates, 1; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 2; W. J. Short, 3; W. Rushton, 4; R. H. Barton, 5; J. Bradshaw, 6. Tenor the observation throughout. All the above with the exception of C. E. Wilson hail from Bootle. Tenor 9 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BAGSHOT (Surrey).—On Thursday evening, February 9th, at St. Anne's church, 120 Grandsire Doubles. A. Harding, 1; E. Lee, 2; F. Francis (conductor), 3; H. Stapleton, 4; T. Gould, 5; R. Weeks, 6. Also 720 Bob Minor (forty-two singles), in 27 mins. H. Stapleton, 1; H. Houlton, 2; F. Francis, 3; T. Gould, 4; E. Lee, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. This 720 was taken from Snowdon's *Rope-Sight*. On Thursday evening, February 23rd, 360 Bob Minor (nine bobs). A. Harding (first 360), 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; H. Stapleton (first 360 with a bob bell), 4; E. Lee, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. On Thursday, March 1st, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles (each called differently). A. Harding, 1; E. Lee, 2; F. Francis (conductor), 3; H. Stapleton, 4; T. Gould, 5; W. Vandell, 6.

THE ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIETY, BRISTOL.

On Monday, February 6th, at St. Nicholas' church, three courses of Grandsire Major. C. Trevett, 1; G. Staddon, 2; A. Anderson, 3; F. Perrin, 4; E. Beake, 5; W. Parsons, 6; F. Price, 7; G. Daltry, 8. Tenor 36 cwt. in C. On Saturday, February 18th, the members met at St. Peter's church to pay respect to the memory of Mr. W. Huish, on the 1st anniversary of his death. Mr. Huish was steeple-keeper at this church for over fifty years. With the bells half-muffled, 504 Grandsire Triples was rung. F. Price, 1; A. Anderson, 2; J. Bawn, 3; H. Bawn, 4; E. Duckham, 5; M. Sheppard, 6; G. Daltry (conductor), 7; D. Palser, 8. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Major was attempted, but came to grief when 512 changes had been rung. A. Guy, 1; A. Anderson, 2; J. Bawn, 3; H. Bawn, 4; E. Duckham, 5; W. Parsons, 6; F. Price, 7; G. Daltry (conductor), 8. And 168 Grandsire Triples, with A. Guy, 3; E. Guy, 8. Conducted by F. Price.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LYMINSTER (Sussex).—On Monday, March 5th, for practice, the Lyminster branch, with two from Arundel, rang three 6-scores of Bob Doubles. The following are the ringers: W. Matthews, J. Penn, E. Penn, W. Hammond, W. Mills, C. Fuller, W. L. Chamberlain, and G. Baker (conductor). Messrs. W. L. Chamberlain and G. Baker hail from Arundel; the rest belongs to Lyminster. This is the first change-ringing worth recording by any local band at Lyminster.

WARNHAM (Sussex).—On Saturday, February 25th, 1888, at the parish church, a 576 of Oxford Treble Bob Major. G. Charman, 1; W. Charman, 2; T. Andrews, 3; W. Short, 4; H. Cook, 5; F. Knight, 6; H. Burstow, 7; H. Chandler (conductor), 8. Also on Tuesday, February 28th, 576 of Oxford Treble Bob Major. W. Charman, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Wadey, 3; T. Andrews, 4; H. Cook, 5; F. Knight, 6; H. Burstow, 7; H. Chandler (conductor), 8. And on Sunday, March 4th, a 960 of Kent Treble Bob Major. G. Charman, 1; W. Charman, 2; T. Andrews, 3; W. Short, 4; A. Mills, 5; H. Cook, 6; D. Jordan, 7; H. Chandler (conductor), 8. Also a 576 in the same method. G. Charman, 1; W. Short, 2; T. Andrews, 3; E. Jordan, 4; A. Mills, 5; H. Cook, 6; D. Jordan, 7; H. Chandler (conductor), 8. Also a 720 of Oxford Single Bob. J. Garman, 1; W. Short, 2; T. Andrews, 3; G. Rapley, 4; G. Chandler, 5; H. Chandler (conductor), 7; T. Hogsflesh and E. Cook covering with 6, 8. The brothers Jordan and Mills hail from Capel. The rest are the local band.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, March 4th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Double Court Bob and 144 of Kent Treble Bob, in 30 mins. H. E. Hammond, 1; F. L. Bumstead, 2; S. Hammond (conductor), 3; F. Rudkin, 4; H. Howell, 5; A. Huckson, 6. Also a 360 of New London Pleasure, with T. Watson, 1; the rest as before. At the residence of Mr. S. Hammond, on handbells retained in hand, a course of Grandsire Caters. H. E. Hammond, 1-2; S. Hammond, 3-4; H. Howell, 5-6; F. Rudkin, 7-8; A. Huckson, 9-10. Also touches of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples. H. Howell, who is at present engaged in ringing a fine old maiden peal of five by Miles Gray at Great Leighs, hails from Ipswich.

RAYLEIGH (Essex).—On Sunday, February 5th, for afternoon service, at the parish church, a 720 of Yorkshire Court, in 26 mins. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. W. Haslam, 4; H. Deal (conductor), 5; F. Strugnell, 6. Also for evening service, a 720 of Double Court, in 26 mins. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 3; J. Johnson, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; F. W. Haslam, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, February 12th, a 720 of College Single. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 2; F. W. Haslam, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; H. Brewer, 5; H. Deal (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, February 26th, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 26 mins. H. Smith, 1; G. Smith, 2; F. W. Haslam, 3; H. Deal (conductor), 4; F. H. Brewer, 5; F. Strugnell, 6. Also on Monday, February 27th, a 240 of Double Oxford, 240 of Plain Bob Minor and 240 of College Single, in 27 mins. G. Smith, 1; F. W. Haslam, 2; J. Johnson, 3; F. Strugnell, 4; H. Deal (conductor), 5; F. H. Brewer, 6.

STISTED (Essex).—On Sunday, March 4th, for Divine Service in the afternoon, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob (fifteen bobs), in 24 mins. *E. Radley, 1; C. H. Howard, 2; F. L. Bumstead, 3; S. Hammond (conductor and composer), 4; F. Rudkin, 5; H. Howell, 6. Also 144 Oxford Treble Bob. T. Watson, 1; H. E. Hammond, 2; *E. Radley, 3; S. Hammond (conductor), 4; H. Howell, 5; W. Radley, 6. *First 720 in the method, also first touch of Treble Bob with a bob bell. Messrs. Howard, Hammond, Bumstead, Rudkin and Watson hail from Braintree; Howell from Ipswich; Messrs. Radley are local men.

WIDFORD (Essex).—On Friday, March 2nd, for practice, 720 College Exercise. A. Tarbun, 1; J. Dains (conductor), 2; A. Shuttleworth, 3; A. Edwards, 4; W. Lincoln, 5; W. J. Piper, 6. And to give E. Hawkes of Galleywood a pull, three different six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. J. Dains, 1; A. Tarbun, 2; A. Shuttleworth, 3; W. Lincoln (conductor), 4; A. Edwards, 5; C. Hawkes, 6. And three 6-scores of Bob Doubles. A. Tarbun, 1; W. Lincoln (conductor), 2; J. Dains, 3; W. J. Piper, 4; A. Edwards, 5; C. Hawkes, 6. The above is the first 720 in the method by all except the conductor, and the first time that method was practised by the above band.

WRITTLE.—On Sunday, March 4th, for morning Service, 720 Plain Bob, with tenor covering. *W. Emery, 1; J. Everard, 2; F. Radley, 3; A. Edwards, 4; R. Wood, 5; W. Lincoln (conductor), 6. *First 720. And for evening service, the first part of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. W. Brazier, 1; A. Tarbun, 2; R. Wood, 3; W. Harvey, 4; H. F. de Lisle, Esq., 5; W. Lincoln (conductor), 6; W. J. Piper, 7; C. Hawkes, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Sunday, March 4th, for Divine Service at the parish church in the evening, 720 Bob Minor. W. Jackson, 1; A. Cornford, 2; F. Hayes (conductor), 3; W. Harper, 4; G. Martin, 5; G. Hayes, 6.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PAINSWICK (Gloucestershire).—On Saturday, March 3rd, seven members of the above society, assisted by Charles King of Stroud, attempted Mr. John Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 2 hrs. 5 mins. When the 4th call in the 7th part was reached, the 5th man set his bell, complaining of being unwell, much to the surprise of the ringers, as the ringing was progressing beautifully. A. Trigg, 1; A. J. Gwinnett, 2; W. Ryland, 3; W. Hale (conductor), 4; C. King, 5; J. Everatt, 6; G. Smith, 7; T. Wright, 8. Longest length for Ryland, Everatt, Smith and Wright. And on Monday evening, March 5th, a quarter-peal in the same method (1260 changes), in 51 mins., taken from Shipway's reprint. A. Trigg, 1; A. J. Gwinnett, 2; W. Ryland, 3; D. Marment, 4; W. Hale (conductor), 5; J. Everatt, 6; G. Smith, 7; T. Wright, 8. Also a 350 with T. Ireland at the 3rd and Gwinnett at 5th, the rest as before.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday, March 3rd, 1888, at St. John's church, Deritend, an attempt was made for a farewell peal of Bob Major for Mr. J. Wright, honorary secretary of the above, who is leaving this country for America, but after ringing about 2,500 changes, in 1 hr. 30 mins., it suddenly came to grief. G. Hitchman, 1; J. Wright, 2; C. Barnacle, 3; J. Jones, 4; J. Carter (conductor), 5; C. Carmell, 6; A. Hackley, 7; F. H. James, 8. Afterwards an adjournment was made to the Church tavern, when Mr. J. Wright was presented with a handsome present by the members, for the excellent service he has rendered the association from the commencement (1882). Mr. J. Wright thanked the members for their great kindness, and wishing the distance was not so far, and that he might still be with them, as he did not intend resigning, but only wished he could do something more for the association.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Tuesday, February 28th, at St. James church, a touch of Grandsire Minor, and a 720 of Bob Minor, to celebrate the marriage of Mr. F. Sharpe, a member of the St. James's society, with Miss J. M. Wood. G. T. Miller, 1; F. Morrison, 2; W. Southwick, 3; T. Stockdale, 4; R. Chaffer, 5; J. W. Stickney (conductor), 6. Time 27 mins. Tenor 15 cwt.

BUCKLAND (Surrey).—On Sunday, March 4th, at the parish church, 600 Grandsire Doubles. J. Robinson, 1; Fred Sanders, 2; J. Poplett, 3; F. Sanders, 4; W. Sadler (conductor), 5. Also 1260 Grandsire Doubles, in 37 mins. J. Robinson, 1; R. Arnold, 2; F. Arnold, 3; F. Sanders, 4; W. Sadler (conductor), 5. And 360 Grandsire Doubles. W. Bowyer, 1; Fred Sanders, 2; J. Poplett, 3; F. Sanders, 4; W. Sadler (conductor), 5. Tenor 10 cwt.

GLOUCESTER.—On Tuesday evening, February 28th, at St. Mary-le-Crypt, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 6 mins. G. Brunsdon, 1; F. Hart, 2; S. Romans, 3; R. Brunsdon, 4; G. Wanklyn, 5; J. Clark, 6; B. Etheredge (conductor), 7; H. Eakets, 8. Composed by J. Carter. Tenor 14 cwt.

LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday, March 1st, at St. Peter's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters. Richard Williams, 1; R. Hill, 2; W. Woodhead, 3; C. Williams, 4; H. Coley, 5; J. R. Pritchard (conductor), 6; Thos. Byron, 7; W. Davies, 8; Robert Williams (composer), 9; W. Brooks, 10. Also two courses of Kent Treble Bob, and three courses of Plain Bob. R. Hill hails from Southport; T. Byron from Southport.

LONG MELFORD (Suffolk).—On Saturday, February 25th, at Holy Trinity church, an attempt was made to ring a peal of Bob Major, but after ringing 2 hrs., the fifth rope broke. P. C. S. Scott, 1; A. Ambrose, 2; O. Garwood, 3; S. Slater, 4; H. Smith, 5; A. Symonds, 6; J. Bird, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. Tenor 16 cwt. Messrs. Symonds and Smith hail from Lavenham, Slater and Garwood from Glemsford, and C. Sillitoe from Sudbury; the rest belong to Melford.

LEYTONSTONE (Essex).—On Sunday, February 19th, after evening service, at St. John the Baptist church, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure. T. Wood, 1; W. Manning, 2; J. Priest, 3; E. Barnett (conductor), 4; G. Cornell, 5; H. Scarlett, 6.

PULFORD (Cheshire).—On Sunday, February 26th, for Divine Service in the evening, the local company rung 720 Bob Minor. S. Jones (one hand), 1; D. West, 2; G. Jones, 3; A. Matthews, 4; W. Thomas, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. On Monday evening, February 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Matthews (first 720 in the method),

1; G. Jones, 2; D. West (first 720 in the method), 3; J. Mercer, 4; W. Morgan, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. On Saturday, March 3rd, 720 in the same method. A. Matthews, 1; J. Mercer, 2; W. Morgan, 3; G. Jones, 4; J. Morgan, 5; C. Price (conductor), 6. And 720 of Oxford. G. Jones, 1; C. Price, 2; J. Mercer, 3; J. Morgan (conductor), 4; W. Morgan, 5; W. Thomas, 6. On Sunday evening, March 4th, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor. S. Jones, 1; D. West, 2; G. Jones, 3; A. Matthews, 4; G. Jones, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. *Handbell Ringing*.—On Wednesday, February 29th, 720 Bob Minor. S. Williams, 1; G. W. Davies (first 720), 2; D. West, 3; A. Matthews, 4; J. Morgan (conductor), 5-6. C. Price hails from Eccleston.

ROWLEY REGIS (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, March 3rd, at St. Giles's church, the All Saints' society of Sedgely, with the assistance of John Goodman of Dudley, late of Sedgely, and Mr. W. Johnson, of St. Giles's, Willenhall, late of Darlaston, arranged for a peal of Grandsire Major, owing to one short a start was made for a 5040 of Grandsire Triples. After ringing 3060 changes, owing to a mishap, unfortunately came to grief, after ringing 1 hr. 58 mins. W. Johnson, 1; W. Mills, 2; D. Bruce, 3; S. Bunn, 4; J. Goodman, 5; R. Schofield (conductor), 6; J. Devenport, 7; James Flavell, 8. We kindly ask through "THE BELL NEWS" to thank the vicar for the use of the bells; also the Rowley ringers in the way they received us. Any of our brother ringers will find it a treat to have a pull, the bells are in a first-class condition, and it gives great credit to Mr. Barwell of Birmingham, under whose direction the workmanship was carried out in such a grand style.

SHARNBROOK (Beds).—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Saturday, March 3rd, at the house of Mr. J. Dickens, on his new set of handbells, a plain course of Grandsire Triples. C. K. Howard, 1-2; W. G. Biggs, 3-4; C. W. Clarke, 5-6; I. Hills, 7-8. Also 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). W. G. Biggs, 1; C. R. Howard, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; I. Hills, 4; W. Pain (first 720 and first attempt), 5; A. J. Barcock (first 720 in the method on a bob bell), 6. Also 360 Bob Minor (nine bobs). W. Pain, 1; W. G. Biggs, 2-3; C. W. Clarke, 4-5; A. J. Barcock (first 720 as conductor), 6. Messrs. Biggs, Clarke, and Hills hail from Bedford; Howard from Biddenham; the remainder belong to the local company, who are making rapid strides in the art.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, February 28th, at St. Peter's church, with the bells deeply muffled, on the occasion of the funeral of Alderman T. Smith, J.P., touches of Bob Major were rung before and after the funeral; and in the evening with the bells half-muffled, 1392 Bob Major, in 1 hr. F. Tolliday, 1; M. Silvester, 2; W. Griggs, 3; W. Cross, 4; W. Howell, 5; A. Scott, 6; H. Harper, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. Tenor 23 cwt. in Eb.

TROWBRIDGE (Wilts).—On Saturday, February 25th, at the parish church, 1050 Grandsire Triples. J. Hayward, 1; E. A. Foster (Corsham), 2; A. Prescott, 3; A. Anderson, 4; W. McCaffrey, 5; T. Blackburn (conductor), 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; G. Houlton, 8.

WORCESTER.—On Monday, March 5th, for practice at All Saints' church, 828 Grandsire Caters. W. Pudge, 1; N. Wale, 2; W. Powell, 3; H. Phesant, 4; F. Owen, 5; W. Blandford, 6; H. Wilkes (conductor), 7; S. Cleal, 8; S. Cotton, 9; T. Malin, 10. S. Cleal hails from Tewkesbury.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE.

In the Upper House of Convocation, Canterbury Province, what we may reasonably call a debate, has occurred upon this question, and some very remarkable allegations have been let loose regarding the doings of many of the higher classes upon that day, which we have been taught from our youth to "remember" to keep holy. There have been several hints of late in the daily papers upon such allegations—how that distinguished personages gave their countenance to acts in absolute contravention of the fourth commandment, which the Bishops have in a practical manner brought into daylight. The Bishop of Exeter without fear brought before the notice of his right reverend brethren an extract from a newspaper which we hope has ceased to exist, because it evidently exults in that desecration of the Sabbath which it boldly asserts is so current. Clubs for Sunday drives to what are regarded as fashionable places, river parties, evening theatricals, comic song tournaments where one may hear the pick of music-hall talent; boxing displays; and dancing bouts on Sunday, are, we believe, abhorrent to the great mass of Englishmen, and our readers will, we are sure, echo such belief. Putting on one side the religious aspect of the matter, though that is the most important one, it appears to us that this ultra desecration of the Sabbath, if not stayed, must prove to be the thin edge of the wedge, unconsciously perhaps, towards abolishing the day of rest altogether. This is a question which concerns working classes much more than is apparent.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

REPORT OF RINGING FOR THE PERIOD ENDING MARCH 5TH, 1888.

By the Balcombe Branch at Balcombe.—On Thursday, February 16th, a 720 of Violet Treble Bob. R. Bourn, 1; A. Stoner, 2; E. Streeter, sen., 3; J. Gasson, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, February 23rd, a 720 of Double Oxford Bob. R. Streeter, 1; A. Stoner, 2; E. Streeter sen., 3; T. Streeter, 4; J. Gasson, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, March 1st a 720 of Double Court Bob. R. Streeter, 1; A. Stoner, 2; E. Streeter sen., 3; J. Gasson, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Double Oxford Bob. B. Streeter, 1; A. Stoner, 2; E. Streeter sen., 3; J. Gasson, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. And a 360 of Yorkshire Court. E. Streeter sen., 1; R. Streeter, 2; H. Meads, 3; A. Stoner, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6.

By the Brighton Branch at Brighton.—On Sunday morning, February 19th, at St. Peter's church, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. D. Ross, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; J. E. Worsell, 3; J. Jay, 4; W. E. Marshall, 5; G. Thwaites (conductor), 6; A. A. Fuller, 7; J. Mockett, 8. Also for afternoon service, a 518 of Grandsire Triples (non-conducted), in 18 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; J. Reilly, 3; G. A. Thwaites, 4; W. Allfrey, 5; H. Weston, 6; J. Jay, 7; E. Butler, 8. Also on Tuesday, February 21st, at St. Nicholas' church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 29 mins. J. Neves, 1; W. Palmer, 2; G. A. King, 3; Heneage Cornwall, 4; H. Weston, 5; J. Searle (conductor), 6; E. Butler and Horace Cornwall 7 and 8 covers. Also at St. Peter's church, on Sunday afternoon, March 4th, a 504 of Stedman Triples, in 18 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; G. Thwaites, 2; J. Jay, 3; J. Searle, 4; G. A. King, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; H. Weston (conductor), 7; H. Cornwall, 8. And for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins. J. Jay, 1; A. A. Fuller, 2; J. E. Worsell, 3; G. Thwaites, 4; H. Weston, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6; *H. Cornwall, 7; J. Mockett, 8. *First quarter-peal.

By the Hurst and Balcombe Branches at Hurst.—On Monday, February 27th, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 29 mins. A. Pierce, 1; T. Mansbridge, 2; H. Meads, 3; J. Cheeseman, 4; W. Lander (conductor), 5; H. Sayers, 6; A. Davey and D. Davey, 7 and 8 covers. Also another six 6-score of Grandsire Doubles, in 30 mins. A. Pierce, 1; A. Stoner, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; H. Meads, 4; W. Lander (conductor), 5; T. Mansbridge, 6; W. B. Davey and D. Davey, 7 and 8 covers. Messrs. Stoner, Meads and Cheeseman hail from Balcombe.

By the Steyning branch at Steyning.—On Tuesday, February 28th, a 720 of Duke of York. J. Smart, 1; C. Chambers, 2; G. Smart, 3; E. Brackley, 4; G. Gatland, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, March 4th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Matthews, 1; T. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; C. Chambers, 4; F. Morris, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; J. Woolgar, 2; C. Chambers, 3; T. Searle, 4; G. Gatland, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. And a 720 of College Exercise. J. Matthews, 1; G. Gatland, 2; C. Chambers, 3; E. Brackley, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, March 3rd, a 5040 in seven different Minor methods, in 3 hrs. and 5 mins. (for particular see peal column).

By the Worth branch, at Worth.—On Wednesday, February 8th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob, in 23 mins. J. Tullett, 1; E. Streeter, 2; F. Streeter, 3; G. Illman, 4; H. Meads, 5; F. Rice (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. E. Streeter, 1; B. Payne, 2; W. Denman, 3; H. Meads, 4; G. Illman, 5; F. Rice (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Double Court Bob, in 23 mins. J. Tullett, 1; W. Denman, 2; F. Streeter, 3; F. Rice, 4; G. Illman, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. Also on Wednesday, February 15th, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 23 mins. E. Streeter, 1; B. Payne, 2; F. Streeter, 3; H. Meads, 4; G. Illman, 5; F. Rice (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Tullett, 1; F. Rice, 2; F. Streeter, 3; G. Illman, 4; H. Meads, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6.

By the Warnham Branch at Warnham.—On Thursday, March 1st, a 5040 of Oxford Bob Triples, in 2 hrs. 56 mins. For particulars see peal column. G. F. ATTREE.

CLERICAL ADDRESS TO MR. GLADSTONE IN FAVOUR OF HOME RULE.—A letter has been sent to Mr. Gladstone from 283 clergymen of the Church of England respecting Home Rule. They express a deep conviction that Home Rule is the only Irish policy before the country consistent with the principles of equal justice and charity. At some length they protest earnestly against the alternative policy of coercion; and they assure Mr. Gladstone of their confident belief that the restoration of an Irish Parliament and an Irish Ministry to the Irish people is not only not a policy of separation, but is the best security for real union. Among the signatories to this memorial are: G. W. Kitchin, Dean of Winchester; John Oakley, Dean of Manchester; John R. Magrath, Provost of Queen's College, Oxford; S. J. Phear, Master of Emmanuel College, Cambridge; C. J. Abraham (Bishop), Canon of Lichfield; C. H. Bromby (Bishop); E. H. Bradby, Canon of St. Albans; G. Butler, Canon of Winchester, &c. &c.

Church News.

The Bishop of Truro, who is suffering from overwork, has been ordered abroad for at least a month's rest.

The preacher at the 1.15 p.m. service at St. Paul's this week is Dean Hole, and next week will be Canon Body.

The Bishop of Liverpool has announced his intention of contributing £1,000 to the proposed cathedral fund.

The Bishop of Bedford, Bishop-designate of Wakefield, was the preacher of the Lent lecture at St. Alphage, London-wall, on Friday evening, and selected for his text, St. Matt. viii. 34.

The Earl of Lonsdale has placed in the gift of five Commissioners the incumbency of Ravestonedale, Westmoreland. The living is vacant owing to the retirement of the Rev. George Atkinson, who has reached the age of ninety-two years.

The Bishop-designate of Wakefield has appointed the following examining chaplains for his future diocese:—Canon Ingram Brooke, rector of Thornhill, Dewsbury; Canon Whitaker, Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge; the Rev. Wilfrid O. Burrows, student of Christ College, Oxford; and the Rev. W. Foxley Norris, jun., vicar of Shirburn, Tetsworth.

The Rev. G. R. Gleig, who has reached his ninety-second year, is reported to be seriously ill. He began life as an officer in the army, but was ordained in 1819. He was perpetual curate of Ash-next-Sandwich 1821-34, rector of Ivychurch 1822-79, Chaplain-General 1844-75, and Inspector of Military Schools, 1846-51. He is the author of a long list of military, theological, and other works.

The council of the English Church Union report that up to the 24th ult. they had received £10,254 18s. 6d. in aid of their Special Defence Fund, and £4483 9s. 10d. in aid of the Deprived Clergy and Sustentation Fund. From the first named amount the sum of £993 has been paid up to date for the proceedings in the Queen's Bench in the Bell-Cox case, and £84 in aid of the Rev. R. F. Herring, vicar of St. John Baptist's, Toxteth-park, Liverpool.

Mr. John Walter Lea, of Plaistow, Kent, died suddenly on Wednesday, February 29th, at the age of sixty. Mr. Lea was kneeling in his place, at St. Mary's, Plaistow, just before the commencement of the Litany, when he suddenly fell down and expired, through failure of action of the heart. Mr. Lea was an M.A. of Oxford, a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, and of other learned bodies. He was well known as the ablest and best read canonist of the day, and was a man of true saintly life.

On Friday, March 2nd, the Rev. Bartholomew Edwards, rector of Ashill, Norfolk, entered upon his hundredth year. It is probable that he is the oldest living graduate of the University of Cambridge, where he took his B.A. as far back as 1811, the year before Archdeacon Philpott, and four years before Lord Eversley. Mr. Edwards does not appear to have held any other preferment than his rectory, to which he presented himself in 1813, the year he was ordained priest by Bishop Bathurst of Norwich, seventy-five years ago. His health is still good, and he has conducted Divine Service in his parish church more than once this year.

Sinister rumours are abroad as to secession from the Church Missionary Society. It is said that efforts are being made to start a rival Society more distinctly Protestant in its tone than the Church Missionary Society is alleged to have shown itself during recent years. A young peer, whose name has already been prominent in this context; a venerable and wealthy layman, who has for the last half-century been a bounteous giver to all sorts of good works; and a clergyman, already the secretary of an agency formed by secession from one of the great Evangelical societies, are freely spoken of in connection with the new organization. We refrain from mentioning names because we cannot believe that any of these gentlemen would consent to be connected with a secret movement of this kind against the Church Missionary Society.—*Guardian*.

At a luncheon held at the Hydropathic Establishment at Blackpool, on Monday week, the Bishop of Manchester, who had just consecrated a portion of the cemetery, said he supposed all were agreed that they should treat the relics of the dead with reverence and affection, and that when they had once been deposited in the earth, they should not be disturbed or any profanation allowed to come near them. In the present day, however, there seemed to be a considerable difference of opinion as to the best manner of facilitating the transformation of what was organic matter into inorganic matter. We had no business to injure the living in our reverence for the dead, and he did not see that there was any need that we should. If we avoided its most obvious faults, he could not help thinking that interment on the whole was the most natural way of disposing of the remains of the dead.

UNIQUE SURPRISE METHODS.

On the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, of last year, a 5040 of Minor in seven Surprise methods was rung at Stockton-on-Tees by the Stockton branch of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association, and was duly recorded in "THE BELL NEWS," with a footnote added, calling attention to a similar 5040 rung at Bingley, in Yorkshire, in 1793, and asking when and where a similar 5040 had been rung. As this enquiry elicited no response, the Stockton 5040 may be claimed as the first peal of the kind this century. This Society has been successful in being able to repeat the performance in these high-class methods as a Jubilee peal. The fact that such peals are so seldom rung is probably owing to the fact that only two or three of these methods are published in modern works on ringing. In the *Clavis* [and the old works a large number of such methods will be found, but many of them are not worth consideration, owing to the 5th and tenor coming up wrong behind, a defect which no properly trained ear can tolerate upon any number of bells. The seven methods of which the Stockton 5040 is composed, are Cambridge, London, Wells, York, Durham, Worcester, Chichester, all of which are perfectly grammatical in their order of changes, interesting as well as intricate in their composition, and exceedingly musical, especially the four last named, York Surprise being perhaps the premier method in all respects on six bells. A lead of each method is given below with the scale of leads, the calling being on the tenor or 5th, the same as ordinary Treble Bob Methods.

Cambridge.	London.	Wells.	York.	Durham.	Worcester.	Chichester.
123456	123456	123456	123456	123456	123456	123456
214365	213546	213546	214365	214365	214365	214365
124635	125364	125364	124635	124635	124356	124356
216453	215634	215634	216453	216453	213465	213465
261435	251643	251643	261435	261435	231645	231645
624153	526134	526134	624153	624153	326154	326154
621435	521643	521643	621435	621435	321645	321645
264153	256134	256134	264153	264153	236154	236154
624513	526314	526314	624513	624513	326514	326514
265431	562341	562341	642531	642531	362541	362541
256413	653214	653214	465213	465213	635214	635214
524631	635241	563241	456231	645231	653241	365241
256431	365421	536421	546321	654321	563421	356421
524613	356412	356412	564312	564312	536412	536412
542631	534621	534621	653421	653421	354621	354621
456213	543612	543612	635412	635412	345612	345612
546123	453162	453162	365142	365142	435162	435162
451632	541326	541326	631524	631524	341526	341526
456123	543162	543162	635142	635142	345162	345162
541632	451326	451326	361524	361524	431526	431526
514623	415362	415362	316542	316542	413256	413256
156432	145632	145632	135624	135624	142365	142365
516342	416523	416523	315264	315264	412356	412356
153624	146253	146253	132546	132546	143265	143265
156342	142635	142635	135264	135264	134625	134625
&c.						
720.	720.	720.	720.	720.	720.	720.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56342	42635	—	23564	—	34625	—
42635	64523	—	36245	—	46325	—
—23564	56342	—	64352	—	63425	—
64352	—23564	—	45623	—	34562	—
—45236	—45236	—	—45236	—	45236	—
36524	24653	—	—45362	—	52643	—
24653	62345	—	56423	—	—26543	—
—45362	36524	—	62534	—	65324	—
62534	—45362	—	23645	—	53462	—
34256	34256	—	34256	—	34256	—

Each twice repeated.

SALISBURY.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Monday, February 27th, 720 Bob Minor (forty-two singles). W. Wise, 1-2; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 3-4; A. W. Barkus, 5-6. And another 720 in the same method (twenty-six singles), conducted by A. Barkus. Also on Wednesday, February 29th, 1078 Grandsire Triples. A. W. Barkus, 1-2; W. E. Tydeman, 3-4; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 5-6; W. Wise, 7-8. And 720 Bob Minor. A. W. Barkus, 1-2; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 3-4; W. Wise, 5-6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"Better late than never."

Our Romford friends are evidently by this time convinced of the truth of the old maxim quoted above. And with good reason. Thanks to their good vicar, Canon Hitchcock, their patience and perseverance has been rewarded by the possession of a ring, musical in tone and perfect in its "fittings." The Essex Association, likewise, is to be congratulated on this event. The fact that they have brought their influence to bear in a manner which has resulted in this restoration at Romford is very creditable to them, and shews what may be done by our County Associations if they will but set themselves to work.

Another event of a similar character is also reported from the ancient city of Norwich. It would be difficult to imagine that in this historic centre of change-ringing, any difficulty should be experienced in having everything connected with the art in first-rate order. Nevertheless, it is satisfactory to know that the Exercise is not only living and thriving, but also making progress in this noted city of change-ringers.

I notice with pleasure the reports of two presentations made—one to an energetic instructor, and the other to a faithful steeple-keeper. No one but those who have occupied such positions, can know the amount of work which they entail, and particularly in the case of instructors—the many hours of hard work both in the belfry and at home, the many anxieties, disappointments, and other features of a similar nature which those gentlemen who fill these important offices experience. It is therefore very pleasing to see now and then such hearty, unselfish, and energetic labours rewarded by those who have benefitted thereby. And moreover, these presentations will be of good service in another way, by an incentive to others engaged in the same work, to proceed more heartily, knowing that they will have their reward at least in the good wishes of those to whom they do this service.

I say, Mr. "Thick-headed Stoney Ringer," just draw it mild a bit, or you will be liable to bother folk with your hieroglyphics. We had enough with the Fifteen Puzzle, and numberless other productions of that ilk to serve a generation, without you giving us the nightmare, and causing our repose to be disturbed with the imagination that the whole firmament is covered with capital letters evolving themselves in all directions into the name of this valuable paper. If the Editor decided to put a charge of sixpence upon original compositions, he ought in common fairness to mulct you to the tune of as many pounds as a penalty for the disturbed state of mind you are likely to create among those of our friends who are curious enough to attempt a solution of your "puzzle."

Mr. Marsden enquires if any one knows the method "Cheapside Bob," in which they rung a 720 at Eckington, on February 15th. Grandsire I know, Stedman I know, Treble Bob I know, Duffield I know, but this Cheapside Bob, who is he? At the same time through the fact that a 720 of it has actually been rung, we may fairly consider it a ringable method, that there is nothing watery in its construction—nothing "reservoir"-ish in fact.

But, joking apart, this subject brings up another point. No one can dispute the fact that there has been a very much increased activity among our six-bell ringers of late years; neither can it be doubted that with this improved state of

things many fresh Minor methods have been introduced and rung, which have probably never appeared in print. There can be no question, also, that methods are rung in different places under various names. All this shews the need of a properly revised collection of Minor methods, arranged in their various classes, and placed before the Exercise either by instalments in "THE BELL NEWS" or in some form which will be within the reach of all, however limited their means might be.

In order to effect this desirable object, I venture to propose that if all our brethren having six-bell methods in their possession which they have reason to believe are original, or at any rate not generally known, will send to the Editor, marked for me, with the bob and single making, and the calling of a 720s I will undertake to collate and revise them. Then when I have got the list something like complete, I will forward the name, for insertion in these pages, so that our friends will have the opportunity of examining and correcting the same, furnishing omissions, et cetera. That having been done, I would then devise what seemed to me the best mode of placing the collection before the Exercise.

This collection of Minor methods would, I feel sure, be of benefit, not only to those whose ring is confined to six, but to others, and also in many ways; the advantages of it, indeed, appear to me so palpable that I do not think it necessary to recapitulate them. I therefore leave the matter to our friends to take up if they think fit, simply promising that, if proceeded with, no effort shall be wanting on my part to make the project beneficial as possible.

I would also add here one remark of a personal character. My object in writing these notes is not merely to "pick holes" and find fault. As I observed in a previous number, a "carping critic" is an abomination, and I trust the readers of "THE BELL NEWS" will never have cause to regard me as such a disreputable character. Whether I pen words of criticism or praise, believe me that in both cases my object is the same,—that I have no personal feelings in the matter; my whole and sole aim being the good and welfare of the Exercise. I would likewise remark *en passant* that should any of our friends desire to communicate with me at any time, if they will send their communications to the Editor under cover, I have no doubt that he will kindly forward them to me.

Before appending my signature this week, I pause to insert a word of congratulation to the three "young ones" of Woodford, who rung their first date touch last Monday week. There are not many of us older ones who can boast of having taken part in a date touch when but 15 years old. Well done, lads! But don't stop here; nor let it be long before we see your names again, and never in after years forget those who first taught you to ring.

FREE LANCE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

THE SECOND HANDBELL COMPETITION will take place at the Annual Meeting of the Association on Easter Monday, April 2nd. The names of all the members of a band, together with the necessary entrance fees, must be forwarded to me not later than Monday, March 19th, mentioning at the same time the prizes for which it is desired to compete. Local Honorary Secretaries will please bear in mind that "no member whose subscription to the Association is in arrear will be allowed to compete."

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, Hon. Sec.
5 St. Paul's Street East Burton-on-Trent.

PEAL TABLETS.

Black with gold letters, 30 ins. by 21 ins. £ s. d.
 Ditto with white or yellow letters 2 0 0
 Small tablets, 14 ins. by 11 ins. 0 5 6
 ESTIMATES FOR ANY OTHER SIZE OR DESIGN.

ADDRESS—

J. R. JERRAM,
 ST. ANNE'S, SALISBURY.

Established 1851.

BIRKBECK BANK.—Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane.

THREE per CENT. INTEREST allowed on DEPOSITS, repayable on demand.

TWO per CENT. INTEREST on CURRENT ACCOUNTS calculated on the minimum monthly balances when not drawn below £100.

The Bank undertakes for its Customers, free of charge, the custody of Deeds, Writings, and other Securities and Valuables; the collection of Bills of Exchange, Dividends, and Coupons; and the purchase and sale of Stocks, Shares, and Annuities. Letters of Credit and Circular Notes issued.

THE BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with full particulars, post free, on application.

FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager.

31st March, 1880.

The Birkbeck Building Society's Annual Receipts exceed Five Millions.

HOW TO PURCHASE A HOUSE, FOR TWO GUINEAS PER MONTH, with immediate possession, and no rent to pay. Apply at the office of the **BIRKBECK BUILDING SOCIETY**, 29, Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane.

HOW TO PURCHASE A PLOT OF LAND FOR FIVE SHILLINGS PER MONTH, with immediate possession, either for Building or Gardening purposes. Apply at the office of the **BIRKBECK FREEHOLD LAND SOCIETY**, as above.

THE BIRKBECK ALMANACK, with full particulars, on application. **FRANCIS RAVENSCROFT, Manager**

WILLIAM PAWSON,

Ganndbell Founder,

PLAID ROW, SHANNON STREET, Leeds, Yorkshire.

Old Peals augmented or repaired on the most reasonable terms.

Price Lists forwarded Post-free on application.

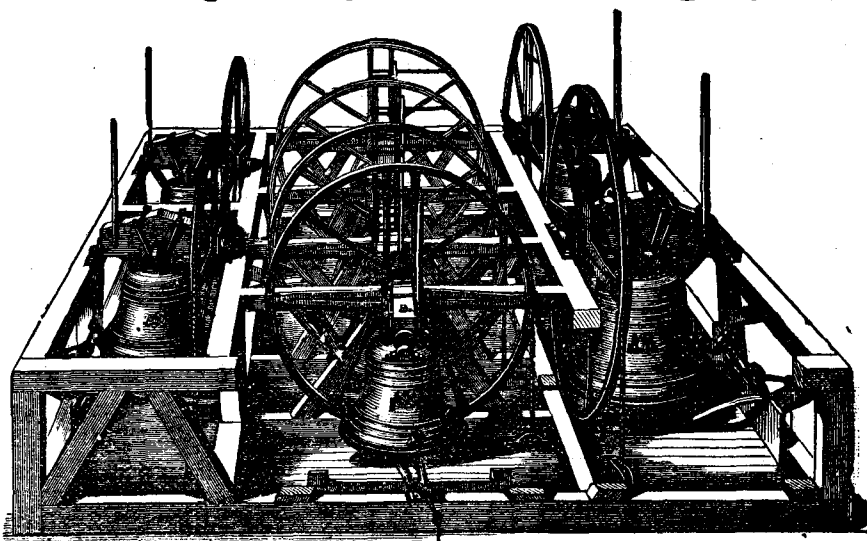


J. SHAW, SON & Co.,
BELL FOUNDERS, BRADFORD.

The Clergy, Churchwardens, Ringers, Architects, and all others interested in Church and Musical Bells, are requested to note the above, our registered Trade Mark

Our new Illustrated Catalogue will be sent post free on application.

JOHN WARNER AND SONS,
Bell and Brass Founders to Her Majesty,



THE CRESCENT FOUNDRY, CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON, E.C.

Prize Medals awarded in London, 1851, 1862, 1884, Vienna, 1873, &c., for Bells, Chiming Machinery, Metal Work, &c.

Highest Award to John Warner and Sons at the Inventions and Musical Exhibition, 1883, for Church Bells, with Goslin's Patent System of Hanging large bells.

Bells Cast Singly or in Rings. Church Bells, School Bells, Chapel Bells. Old Bells Re-cast or Re-hung. Hand Bells in sets in Diatonic and Chromatic Scales. Clock Bells and Carillons in any size or number.

Bells of every Description and Size.

References to Cathedrals and Churches in every part of the world, is desired.

J. W. & SONS are prepared to send an experienced Bell-hanger to report or advise upon repairs, Alterations or New Rings of Bells.

Manufacturers of Goslin's Patent Hangings for very large Bells, by which large Bells may be rung at all seasons with the least possible pulling. Illustrated Catalogues can be obtained upon application, post free, giving a large amount of information.

Publishers of the "A B C OF MUSICAL HAND BELL RINGING," by S. B. GOSLIN.

Second Edition, enlarged and revised, price 1s.; and

"THE FIRST STEPS TO BELL-RINGING UPON CHURCH BELLS," by S. B. GOSLIN, price 7s.

"THE MUSICAL HAND-BELL RINGERS' INSTRUCTOR," Part II., by S. B. GOSLIN, containing Musical Theory and Tunes for Hand Bells. Price 2s.

AWARDED CERTIFICATE AT

YORK FINE ART & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, 1879
FOR BELL EXHIBITS AND MOUNTINGS.

ESTIMATES GIVEN

FOR

NEW BELLS,

ALSO FOR

RE-CASTING

OR

RE-HANGING.

SCHOOL

AND

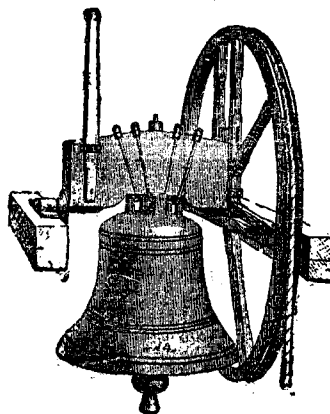
TURRET BELLS

SUPPLIED & HUNG.

NEW FITTING

&c.,

SUPPLIED



T. MALLABY & SONS,
CHURCH BELL HANGERS,
MASHAM, YORKSHIRE.

CHIMING APPARATUS FIXED TO RINGS OF BELLS.

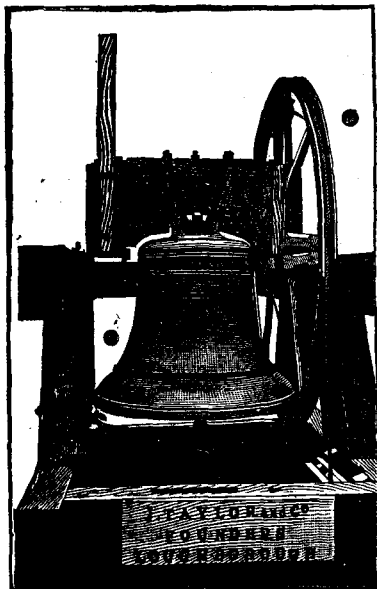
T. M. & Sons will also, upon application, personally examine Rings out of order, report on Repairs, Alterations, or New Rings of Bells.

**Church Bell Ropes,
CLOCK AND CHIME ROPES,
Specially Manufactured by
JOHN ASTLEY,
BROAD GATE, COVENTRY**

*Makes for many years past of the Ropes for St. Michael's,
Coventry, one of the best Rings of Ten extant.*

**John Taylor and Co.,
Bell Founders,
LOUGHBOROUGH.**

Founders of the New Ring of Bells for ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, the HEAVIEST Peal of 12 ringing BELLS in the COUNTRY.
"This is unquestionably the grandest ringing peal in England, and therefore in the world."—SIR EDMUND BECKETT, Bart., Q.C., Times, Nov. 20th, 1876.



Also Founders of the Ring of Sixteen Bells the heaviest, 4 tons 10 cwt., for Worcester Cathedral.
And the Bells for the Carillons at Manchester Town Hall; Bradford Town Hall, Yorks, and Rochdale Town Hall.
The Ring of Ten, Tenor 4½ cwt., for St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

**HARRY STOKES,
CHURCH+BELL+HANGER, &c.**

WOODBURY, EXETER.

*Bells Re-hung with New Fittings, Wheels, &c.
The Ellacombe Chiming Hammers fixed complete for £1
per bell and travelling expenses.*

**JOHN NICOLL,
Rope, Line, Twine, and
CHURCH
BELL ROPE MANUFACTURER,
155 KEETON'S ROAD,
BERMONDSEY,
LONDON.**

ESTABLISHED 1760

*Makes to St. Paul's, Canterbury, Edinburgh, and
St. Albans Cathedrals.
Send for Price List.*



**MEARS & STAINBANK,
BELL FOUNDERS,**

267, Whitechapel Road, London.

ESTABLISHED 1788.

CHURCH BELLS,

WITH FITTINGS AND FRAMES;

**BELLS ADDED TO EXISTING PEALS. CLOCK AND
CHIME BELLS; SCHOOL BELLS, &c.**

*Old Bells Recast, Rehung, or Turned with Reversed Staples. Bell-frames and fittings
restored. Detailed Estimates and Plans on application.*

Musical Handbells in sets of any number, Diatonic or Chromatic Scales.

CHURCH CLOCKS.

**E. DENT & CO.,
61, STRAND, & 4, ROYAL EXCHANGE,
LONDON.**

(FACTORY—4, HANWAY PLACE, W.)

**Clockmakers to Her Majesty the Queen and H.R.H.
the Prince of Wales,**

MAKERS OF

**The Great Westminster Clock,
The Clock of the Royal Exchange,
&c., &c.,**

Will be happy to furnish estimates for Church or Turret clocks
of every description on receipt of the following Particulars:—

Number and diameter of Dials.

Weight of Hour Bell, or its diameter measured across the
mouth.

If to chime the Quarters state on how many Bells.

Also to advise generally on the installation of Public Clocks.

E. DENT & Co.'s Catalogue of High Class Watches at reduced
prices post free on application.



**JAMES BARWELL,
Bell Founder,**

40, GREAT HAMPTON ST., BIRMINGHAM.

CHURCH BELLS, with all requisite Fittings and Framework,
Singly or in Peals. **CLOCK and CHIME BELLS** to any size and
note.

SCHOOL BELLS with ringing arrangements suitable for any
position.

Existing Peals economically and efficiently restored.

CRACKED BELLS RECAST, and **ANCIENT INSCRIPTIONS** re-
produced in fac-simile when required.

Men who are ringers sent to inspect Towers and report upon
the tune and condition of Bells and Fittings.

MUSICAL HANDBELLS tuned in Diatonic and Chromatic
Scales, in sets of any numbers.

