

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 318.—VOL. VII.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1888.

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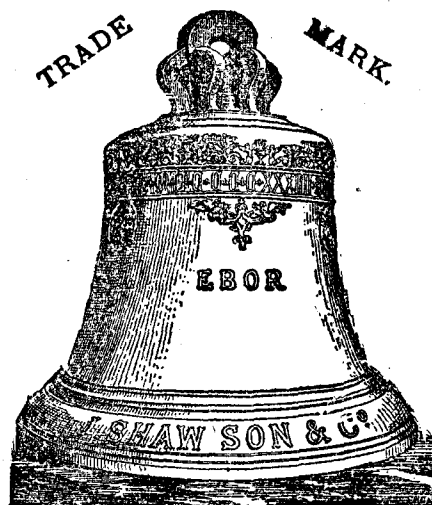
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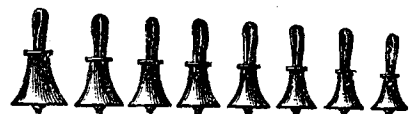
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The Society Edmund C. Mars warden, H. We Meadow

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THE ST. EDMUND'S SOCIETY, EXETER.

The First Annual Meeting of the members of the above Society was held on Thursday evening, April 19th, in the St. Edmund's Schoolroom, Exeter, under the presidency of Mr. W. C. Marsh. There were also present Messrs. E. Short (churchwarden), Sydney Herbert, H. Swift, W. G. Goss, Tidball, W. H. Webber, W. Richardson, T. Townsend, H. Roberts, S. Meadows, E. Pitt, Coombes, A. Searle, and F. Twiggs.

The Assistant Secretary, Mr. HERBERT, read the annual report, from which it appeared that the number of members had reached the total of thirty-five, which it was hoped to still further increase. The work done since the Society's existence had been of a very satisfactory character, and far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the officers. The Society was only formed about nine months since, and since then up to the present time numerous touches of over 1000 changes had been rung, including three quarter-peals of Grandsire Triples. Two of the latter were composed and conducted by Mr. E. Pitt, while the other was composed by Mr. Gardiner, of Gloucester, and conducted by Mr. Marsh. The members also rang the first date touch of 1888 changes in the city, which was the composition of the conductor, Mr. E. Pitt. To crown the whole work the Society, after having only been formed about seven months was able to record the first peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples ever rung on the bells, the time occupied being two hours fifty-four minutes. The members who rang the peal were complimented by several outsiders on their capital performance, and tribute was paid by brother campanologists in the north of England, who happened to be on a visit to the ever faithful City, to the excellent and skilful manner in which the bells were rung. The peal was conducted by Mr. E. Pitt. The Assistant Secretary went on to state that he was happy to be able to report that the Society was making steady progress with the more noble and beautiful method of Stedman Triples, having already been able to master the plain course. Reference was also made to the several places visited by the Society for ringing purposes, and the report concluded by stating that two entertainments had been given by the Orpheus Minstrels, to whom the Society's warmest thanks were due for their kind and gratuitous services. The two entertainments were of a successful character, and, with the exception of a few shillings, the requisite money was raised wherewith to provide the Society with a new peal of handbells. The report was unanimously adopted.

Mr. H. SWIFT read the Treasurer's statement, showing that after meeting all expenses there was a balance left in hand of £1 3s. 4d. The report was considered highly satisfactory, and adopted.

Mr. W. C. Marsh, Mr. Herbert, and Mr. Swift were elected as Hon. Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Hon. Treasurer respectively, and were awarded a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks for their services in the past. Mr. E. Pitt, the conductor, was also heartily thanked for his services, and tribute was paid to the ability, tact, and care which he ever displayed in the belfry. According to the rules the amount of subscription is 5s. per annum per member.

The CHAIRMAN said that it had been found that the expenses of the Society could be defrayed if a much smaller subscription than had hitherto been paid, namely, 2s. 6d. per member (the 5s. having previously been reduced to that amount) was contributed.

After some discussion it was unanimously resolved to reduce the amount of yearly subscription to 1s. per member. It was also resolved to purchase a peal of fourteen handbells, the few shillings required over and above the £5 derived from the proceeds of the two entertainments to be taken from the balance in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer. Attention having been called to two or three matters connected with the belfry,

Mr. E. SHORT, churchwarden, said that he should be most happy to see that anything required was provided, and that necessary repairs should be executed. He also stated that it was intended to place a set of chimes in the tower shortly. A hearty vote of thanks having been awarded to the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

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

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The Quarterly Meeting in connection with the above society was held on Saturday, April 14th, at Bloxwich, when the following places were represented: West Bromwich, Wednesbury, Walsall, Willenhall, Wolverhampton, Darlaston, Wombourn, Perry Barr, Lichfield, and Tipton. Ringing commenced shortly after three o'clock, with a touch of Grandsire Triples, and was kept up during the afternoon and evening with touches in the Grandsire, Stedman, and Treble Bob methods. At five o'clock a short service was held in the parish church, conducted by the vicar, the Rev. J. Barrow, who in some well-chosen remarks very kindly welcomed the society to Bloxwich, and gave the members some good instruction with regard to their duties to the Church as bellringers, after which a Coms mittee Meeting was held in the vestry, when eight new members were elected, and it was also arranged to hold the Annual Meeting at Lichfield on Saturday, June 30th. At six o'clock the ringers adjourned to the schoolroom, where they found an excellent tea in readiness, to which upwards of thirty members and friends sat down, when ample justice was done to the good things provided.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar was proposed, seconded, and carried unanimously, for his address in the afternoon, who in responding, said that although he could not at present boast of having a scientific change-ringing band, he had no doubt before long he should have a band both fit and willing to become members of the society. A vote of thanks to the ladies for their kindness in presiding at the tables brought the meeting to a close.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.—RINGERS' SUPPER.

ON Saturday, April 14th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor in 26 mins. F. Wright, 1; T. Barber, 2; T. Lees, 3; W. Short, 4; J. Barber, 5; H. Martin (conductor), 6. The ringing being over, an adjournment was made to the "Bird in Hand" Inn, where a capital supper was in readiness, and after justice had been done to the good things provided, and the cloth drawn, Mr. H. Martin was called to the chair, and Mr. T. Barber to the vice-chair, they being the two oldest ringers present.

The CHAIRMAN said that they all knew that the supper that evening was to commemorate their first 720 by some of their own band, and he hoped that now they had accomplished their first 720 of Minor, they would not be long before they succeeded in a peal of Triples, as he knew of others who would render them all the assistance they could in the noble art. They had a beautiful peal of bells, and in good going order, and he was sure their rector was fond of ringing, and would like them to make good ringers.

Singing then commenced, which was accompanied by a violin. Votes of thanks were past to the Host and Hostess for the excellent way in which the supper was got up, also to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, which brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

OTLEY PARISH CHURCH BELLS.

After having been rung for over 108 years, this fine peal of eight bells came to grief while ringing for service on Sunday, April 15th, on account of the sixth bell cracking right up to the waist. Upon examination it was found that the clapper had almost worn a hole through the bell. The remainder of the bells were then looked over, and found to be much worn, so the churchwardens decided to have the cracked bell recast, and the whole of the peal quarter-turned and rehung, with all new fittings, and Messrs. Shaw, Son, and Co., bell founders, Bradford, have now the work in hand. The new bell will weigh about 12 cwt.

NEWBURN-ON-TYNE.

The opening of this new peal of six, tenor 16 cwt., by Messrs. Taylor, has been postponed. As soon as the date is fixed, probably the second week in May, notice will be sent to those societies of ringers within distance.

G. J. CLARKSON,

Stockton-on-Tees.

INTERESTING ASSEMBLY AT SOWERBY, YORKS. JUBILEE OF THE PARISH CLERK, WILLIAM SOTTANSTALL.

Recently, through the generosity of the Vicar of St. Peter's, Sowerby, the Rev. A. L. W. Bean, and the two churchwardens, Mr. John Rawson, of Brockwell, and Mr. W. A. Nicholl, tea was served at the "King's Head" inn, Sowerby, to about thirty-three guests, in honour of Mr. William Sottanstill, the veteran clerk of Sowerby church, who has just served in that office for half a century. After tea the Rev. A. L. W. Bean took the chair. There were also present the Rev. A. H. S. Bean, Vicar of Maltby; the Rev. J. Eales, the recently appointed curate of Sowerby; Mr. W. A. Nicholl, Mr. Booth Sharp, A.C.O., and the ringers of Liversedge Parish church, as well as those of Sowerby, with Mr. William Sottanstill. The proceedings, after tea, were commenced by the Liversedge ringers giving a selection of music on the handbells, which proved a capital change-ringing performance.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of an interesting address, said the year 1887 was the year of Jubilee of our beloved Queen, but they had met that day to do honour to their esteemed friend, Mr. W. Sottanstill, clerk to St. Peter's church, Sowerby, whose jubilee they wished to celebrate. Mr. Sottanstill had been connected with St. Peter's for thirty years before he received the appointment of parish clerk, so that he was an authority on matters connected with the history of the Church for a long period. As scholar, teacher, singer, ringer, and parish clerk his connection with the church extended over eighty years; in fact, the interests of his long life were bound up with the church which he loved. The chairman also referred to the fact that Mr. Sottanstill received the appointment as parish clerk from the Rev. W. H. Bull, a former incumbent at Sowerby, who was still living. Though 91 years of age, Mr. Bull told him that he was able to take a walk of three miles every day, and to spend some time in digging his garden. He hoped their old friend would be spared to them for some time yet, and that when he had finished his course here, he might attain to a better life hereafter. He had great pleasure in being deputed to give a copy of "The Elements of Campanologia," a work on bell-ringing composed by their old friend Mr. Sottanstill many years ago, to each of the Sowerby ringers. The work would be found of great use to them, and he might tell them that it had cost the author the leisure hours of forty years, and he had thus set them all an example of industry and patience. He hoped the work would be preserved, not only as an authority on bell-ringing, but as a memento of their old friend, Mr. Sottanstill.

The Rev. A. H. S. BEAN also spoke of the pleasure it gave him in being deputed by their old friend to present the original manuscript of "The Elements of Campanologia" to Mr. John Rawson, of Brockwell, who he was sorry was unable to be present. The work was a marvel of industry and patience.

Mr. JAMES SMITH, on behalf of the Sowerby church ringers, of whom he was leader, presented to the Rev. A. H. S. Bean, on the occasion of his leaving Sowerby, a photographic picture, having the Sowerby handbells shown in the centre, near the base, above which was a portrait of Mr. Sottanstill, the other members of the society of ringers, with their tutor, Mr. James Smith, being placed in suitable positions, the whole being enclosed in a gilt frame, which had the following inscription:—"Presented to the Rev. A. H. S. Bean, M.A., by the St. Peter's Society of Change-Ringers, Sowerby." The portraits had been taken by Mr. Heap, of Sowerby. In making the presentation, Mr. Smith alluded to the kindnesses they had received at the hands of Mr. Bean, the interest he had manifested in their work especially in regard to handbell ringing. They all wished him success in his new sphere.

The Rev. A. H. S. BEAN, in the course of his reply, said the picture would remind him of the sweet Sowerby bells, and, with another picture he had previously received, would tell him of the kind hearts he had left at Sowerby.

Mr. J. NAYLOR said he rose to propose the health of the hero of the evening, of a man who had attained four score and seven years, whose eye was still undimmed, and his natural force unabated. Mr. Sottanstill was 27 years of age at the death of George III; he lived through all the events of the reigns of George IV. and William IV. and has been spared even to celebrate the jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He was five

years old when the battle of Trafalgar was fought and won by Nelson, and he appeared to have taken Nelson's famous motto for his guide through life: "England expects every man to do his duty." At the battle of Waterloo he was 15 years of age, and he could well remember the defeat of Napoleon on that famous battle-field. He could remember Sowerby when it was without both canals and railways, when pack-horses came up the valley, and the time when a man's wife rode on the pillion behind him when they visited their friends at a distance. Their old friend had now been clerk for fifty years, and they were met to celebrate his jubilee. Of most of them he could say he had been present at their christening, and if they had not all got wives, it was not his fault, for he had been ready to take his part. He had been connected with the church and schools for the past eighty years as scholar, teacher, singer, ringer, and parish clerk. Mr. Sottanstill remembered when the Wesleyans established the first Sunday school in 1805, and the formation—one or two years afterwards—of another Sunday school by the vicar of Sowerby, the Rev. J. Ogden, the scholars of which were taught in the pews of the church till the erection of a school in Back-lane in 1817, the new and more commodious premises opposite the church being erected in 1859. Mr. Sottanstill, after remaining some time a scholar, became a teacher in the school, and he occupied that position for 46 years. During that time at least 600 scholars must have come under his tuition. He occupied a place in the choir from 1815 to 1834, and from 1820 to 1834 he was also a ringer. The climax of his fame was reached by the publication of his work on campanology, by which he popularised the art of bell-ringing, and made Sowerby famous in the annals of that pleasing art. The chief lessons to be drawn from a life like that of Mr. Sottanstill was that diligent perseverance and an unostentatious pursuit of duty brought their own reward. It was with great pleasure he proposed they should drink to the health and happiness of the venerable old man.

The company responded with great heartiness.

The Liversedge Ringers having given another pleasing performance on the handbells,

The Rev. J. EALES replied on behalf of Mr. Sottanstill, thanking the vicar, churchwardens, and his friends for the kindness shown to him in his old age. The following are some particulars of his life, written by himself. He (William Sottanstill) was born at Sowerby on the 9th of July, 1800. His father, John Sottanstill, was a ringer at St. Peter's, Sowerby, soon after the present bells were hung in 1781, and continued a ringer till 1827. He lived to a good old age, and passed away on the 29th of November, 1859, when he was 87 years of age. He (William) commenced to ring in 1820, and five years later he turned his attention to the composition of bell music. He composed two volumes, the first being for two, three, four, five, and six bells, and the second for seven and eight bells. He was forty years in completing the first. His attention was first directed to ringing when a young man by hearing the sound of St. Peter's Church bells, one Sunday morning, when he was powerfully impressed by their sweet tones, and he resolved he would learn to be a ringer. He got several other young men to join him, and they got on very well. Their first attempt at a peal of Bob Major took place on the 14th of September, 1823, and they afterwards attempted a peal of 5,000 changes. After ringing for over three hours, they were obliged to call "stand," on account of a mistake by the conductor. The peal of 5,024 changes of Treble Bob Major (being No. 1, p. 393, in his work on Change Ringing, published in 1867) was rung at Elland Church, in February, 1828, in two hours and fifty-nine minutes, and that was the first peal he conducted. The second peal (p. 470 of the same work), consisting of 5,664 changes of Treble Bob Major, was rung at St. Peter's, Sowerby, for the first time on the 5th of November, 1832, in three hours and twelve minutes. The band of ringers were:—Nicholas Hitchen, 1; William Whiteley, 2; William Sottanstill (conductor), 3; Eli Hellawell, 4; James Nicholl, 5; Abraham Nicholl, 6; John Nicholl, 7; Thomas Nicholl, 8. Tenor 15 cwt. There had been many changes in the art of ringing since he first commenced. Reference had been made to the first Sunday school, in Sowerby, started by the Wesleyans. He was a scholar at that school, and when teaching was over the scholars were marched in order to St. Peter's to service. The Rev. Joseph

Ogden was incumbent at that time, and he resolved to establish a Sunday school. He appointed John Barraclough and his wife, of Sowerby Town, to teach boys and girls; he also appointed Samuel Mitchell, of Sowerby-street; John Broadbent, of Triangle; and Gilbert Walsh, of Mill Bank, as teachers, and they taught at their own homes, the children being afterwards marched to service in church. The last-named teacher was the nephew of the Rev. J. Walsh, who was minister at St. Peter's in 1750. Gilbert's father entered the army, and on his death Gilbert was placed under the care of his uncle, the Rev. J. Walsh. Gilbert Walsh had his boys at Thorp, when the hall was building, but the boys did so much mischief that he was obliged to take them away. They were then taught in the pews of the church till the owners complained that the pews had been cut with knives. The boys were then removed to the old school, and the girls were taught in the prayer-house at the almshouses till 1817, when a school was erected on the south-east side of the church. The present school was built in 1859. He well remembered the day (March 22nd, 1837) when he was appointed parish clerk by the Rev. W. H. Bull, and what the latter said to him. He had done duty under three ministers, viz., the Rev. W. H. Bull, the Rev. Richard England Brook, and the Rev. A. L. W. Bean, and twenty curates (applause).

MR. ROBERT CLARK proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for their having supplied the means for the entertainment of those present. This was seconded by Mr. B. Horsfall and carried, and the Chairman responded. The Liversedge ringers gave another touch on the handbells.

At the request of Mr. Sottanstill, the Rev. A. H. S. BEAN thanked the Liversedge ringers for their splendid services on the bells that day.

MR. LUKE ILLINGWORTH replied in an effective speech, in which he said he and his father had known Mr. Sottanstill for over 60 years. He was glad to have the opportunity of taking part in the ringing of his jubilee peal.

The Sowerby ringers followed with another touch on the handbells.

MR. R. HANLEY, in a very humorous speech, referred to his introduction to Mr. Sottanstill eight years ago, and to his intercourse with him since. He greatly prized his friendship.

It may be added that Mr. Sottanstill, who was present during the whole of the proceedings, appeared to be in good health, and to greatly enjoy the honour done him.

During the afternoon, two touches composed by Mr. Sottanstill, were rung on the Sowerby church bells in honour of the event. The first, by the Sowerby Society, consisted of 1887 changes of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 10 mins. W. Sutcliffe (conductor), 1; Thomas Berry, 2; R. Normanton, 3; J. Smith, 4; H. Wolfenden, 5; D. Howarth, 6; J. W. Barrett, 7; W. Oates, 8. The second touch, by the Liversedge Society, consisted of 1887 changes of Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. W. Lang, 1; J. Knott, 2; L. Illingworth (conductor), 3; S. Goodall, 4; H. Brook, 5; M. Ramsden, 6; A. Briggs, 7; W. Collins, 8. The performances were exceedingly creditable to the ringers and to the composer in whose honour they were given.—*Local Paper.*

THE BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Harborne, on Saturday, April 21st. By kind permission, the tower will be open for ringing at 4 o'clock, meeting to take place afterwards, when all members and friends are invited to attend.

J. CARTER.

Obituary.

SAMUEL ALLEN.

We regret to have to record the death of the above-named ringer, who died at Dronfield, near Sheffield, on Monday, April 16th, in his 75th year. The deceased rang his first peal—5040 on six bells—at Dronfield, on Whit-Monday, June 5th, 1842. The funeral took place on Wednesday, April 18th. Ringers were present from Sheffield, Staveley, Norton, Penistone, Ecclesfield, and Eckington. Muffled peals were rang on the bells after the funeral.

SIR PRYCE JONES ON BELLS.

ON Friday evening, April 6th, a musical evening was given in the Public Rooms, Newtown, presided over by Sir Pryce Jones.

The Chairman, in opening, said the programme was a rather long one, and no doubt would prove most interesting. It was no part of his programme, however, to enter on anything like a speech, but perhaps there were many present who would naturally enquire what the proceeds arising from that concert would be given to. To those enquiring minds he would say that it was for the purpose of starting a nucleus for the formation of bell ringers' club, and to enable the society to purchase handbells if the funds would admit. It was an instance of how local history repeated itself. He well remembered whilst a boy being one of many on the corners of the street listening to the practices on the bells of Newtown parish church. There was, at that time, a keen competition between Newtown bell-ringers and their neighbouring bell ringers; and their most dangerous rivals belonged to the parish of Bettws. There were numbers besides himself who could remember the competitions in their old parish church, which was now partly decaying. Bells were and had been from time immemorial associated with almost every important event connected with a person's life. They announced the arrival of the son and heir, and with peals of joy they rang out their congratulations when he attained his majority, or when he married. They tolled his parting knell, and last of all, they rung the muffled peal o'er his grave. If he was successful in his enterprises socially, commercially, or politically, the bells announced the fact. The bells had been useful even in calling attention to disasters such as fires, and there were those who would remember the fire at the factory near at hand, when the alarm was given by the church bells. The parish bells of Newtown were not only perfect in their musical tone, but there were none sweeter than theirs. He was satisfied that he was speaking the sentiments of not only members of the Church, but of those who consistently attended other places of worship, that they, like all Englishmen would regret and mourn the day when those historical bells and the belfries which contained them should cease to exist and never again be heard. Who was there, Nonconformist or Churchman, who would not think it strange if they did not hear on Christmas Eve or New Year's morn the bells of their parish church? The funds that they required were not great, and surely the little money that was required would not be denied. He would be glad to start the list if it were necessary that subscriptions should be started for it. As he saw many people before him who had on several occasions interested themselves in the events of his life, and he and his family had to thank them for their kindness and support, they would forgive him for mentioning that on April 6th, 1859, now twenty-nine years ago, he was married in the Newtown parish church. It was a coincidence, but it was a remarkable one, as he had nothing to do with fixing that date for their entertainment. On that day the bells rang merrily, and he could remember the people gathered round the church gates, and his carriage window was accidentally smashed to pieces, and people said "What ill luck." He confessed that it had not been ill luck either on his or his wife's part, and that proved the exception of those sayings. He trusted that the programme would afford them pleasure that evening.

A capital programme of music was then gone through. The accompanists were Mr. J. Macrone and Mr. A. Williams. The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

BREDENBURY, HEREFORDSHIRE.—RINGERS' OUTING.

On Monday, April 9th, by the kind invitation of Mr. W. H. Barneby, the Suckley band visited the parish church and rung a six-score of Grandsire Doubles. The ringers wish to thank Mr. Barneby for the kind manner in which he provided for them, and to acknowledge the courtesy which they met from the Bredenbury ringers.

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

There will be a committee meeting held on Saturday, May 5th, in the church room, Stoke, to elect a clerical Treasurer.

E. GLOVER, *Hon. Sec.*

THE SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS, GREENWICH, KENT.

In 1782 a society, yclept the Trinity Youths, was formed at Deptford, Kent, with headquarters at St. Nicholas church, for the purpose of furthering the art of change-ringing. For some years the society flourished, and according to the peal-book, several creditable performances were duly accomplished under its auspices, including a 10,080 of Bob Major at St. Mary's, Lewisham, and numerous peals in the more intricate methods at Greenwich, Woolwich, Lewisham, and Deptford. Tablets recording these are still to be seen in the respective towers. Unfortunately by death of members, lack of support, and other causes, the society gradually decreased, until two only could lay claim to membership. A short time ago, however, it was suggested that if the society of Trinity Youths could be resuscitated, it would not only be a boon to the ringers of this district, but would tend greatly to advance the Exercise and save young beginners numerous journeys to London in search of practice. This suggestion met with very cordial support, and arrangements were thereupon made for a meeting at St. Alphege, Greenwich, on Tuesday, April 17th, to discuss and if possible to bring the matter to a successful issue. 'There was a goodly array of ringers, "Stoney Bob" and Stedman being alike represented, and during the evening several touches of Grandsire, from Doubles to Caters, with a sprinkling of Bob Major, were brought round.

Ringings being concluded, Mr. W. Weatherstone introduced Mr. Richard Smith, aged 79, one of the remaining members of the old society, and stated that his colleague, Mr. James Dyer, aged 85, was unable to be present through illness. He however, had appointed Mr. Weatherstone to act as his proxy in conjunction with Mr. Smith for the election of new members. This was therefore at once proceeded with, the following names being eventually submitted and accepted, making with the two old members a total of fifteen. Messrs. J. Dyer, R. Smith, W. Weatherstone, H. A. Cockey, A. G. Freeman, F. W. Thornton, E. E. Richards, J. Laws, W. Bedwell, J. Crowder, W. G. Davis, J. Lamb, W. Foreman, S. Gibbs, and W. Everard. The next business was to elect officers, the following selections being unanimously made: Master, Mr. William Weatherstone; Secretary, Mr. Frederick W. Thornton; Treasurer, Rev. H. A. Cockey; Senior Steward, Mr. J. J. Lamb; Junior Steward, Mr. W. Bedwell. The officers-elect having expressed their thanks, it was decided to make St. Alphege, Greenwich, the society's headquarters, meeting each Tuesday at 7.30 p.m., until further notice. The framing of rules, etc., was postponed for some future occasion. There are several good rings in this district, viz., Greenwich (ten bells), Deptford (St. John's and St. Nicholas), Lewisham, Lee, and Woolwich, eight bells each. With the exception of the latter place, but little half-pull ringing has been done, although several peals have been rung by the St. James' and other London Societies.

The Secretary will be glad to receive the names of any ringers in the neighbourhood willing to join, who may be unable to attend the next meeting. It is earnestly hoped that members of kindred societies will co-operate, and thus endeavour to make the Society of Trinity Youths a complete success.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A bye Meeting of this Association will be held at Westbury-on-Severn (six bells), on Tuesday, May 1st, 1888. Short service at 11.30, in the parish church; dinner at the "Red Lion" at one o'clock. 1s. 6d. allowed to members who have given notice to Rev. Pitt Eykyn, Magor Vicarage, Monmouth, not later than Thursday, April 26th. Trains: Gloucester, 9.20; Grange Court, 9.35; Bristol, 7.55; Chepstow, 10.3; Newnham, 10.43. Return: Grange Court, 7.26; Gloucester, 7.45; Newnham, 6.35; Chepstow, 7.10; Bristol, 9.12.

ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The above Association will hold a quarterly meeting at Walsden parish church, on Saturday, May 5th, at 5 o'clock, in the schoolroom. The bells will be at the disposal of members and friends at two. Subscriptions are now due.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

On Monday evening, April 16th, the local company met for practice on the bells of SS. Peter and Paul. A start was made for a touch of Bob Major, but after ringing fifteen minutes a loud report was heard upon the floor underneath the bells. This caused the ringers to set their bells, and upon entering the bell-chamber found the clapper of the 7th bell broken off within twelve inches of the crown staple. A short touch of Bob Minor on the front six brought the evening's practice to a close. But by Saturday evening the clapper was again repaired and restored to its proper place, and an attempt was made to ring 1680, the first part of Holt's three-part peal of Bob Major, which was brought round in 1 hr. 12 mins. W. Hollocks, 1; C. Fisk, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; Jno. Moore, 4; H. Smith, 5; W. Snell, 6; A. Symonds (conductor), 7; W. Moore, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. in F. This is the longest touch in any method by the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th men. Messrs. W. and A. Hollocks, Moore and Snell hail from Preston; the rest are local men.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that the next Quarterly Meeting will be held at St. Alban's church, Rochdale, on Saturday, May 5th. There will be a short service in the church at 5 p.m., at which members and friends are asked to attend. The business meeting will be held in St. Alban's schoolroom, Drake Street, immediately after service, and over which the vicar, the Rev. W. Cooper, M.A., has kindly consented to preside. The bells (8), tenor 17 cwt., will be at the disposal of members from 2.30 p.m., up to the commencement of the service, and again at the close of the meeting. Members on arrival to meet in the schoolroom, where companies can be formed for ringing. The committee will be very pleased to see as many as possible at both the service and the meeting.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.--ROSSENDALE BRANCH.

On Saturday last, April 21st, a meeting of the above branch took place at the parish church, Newchurch. During the afternoon and evening several 500s of Grandsire Triples, touches of Plain Bob and College Single. A meeting was held in the schoolroom, presided over by Mr. Nutter, of Ramsbottom, and it was decided to hold the next ringing meeting at Christ Church, Bacup. During the meeting eight new members were proposed from the belfry of St. Saviour's, Bacup, the branch now numbering upwards of fifty members. Votes of thanks were accorded to the rector and churchwardens for the use of the bells and school, and to the chairman for presiding, which brought the meeting to a close, thirty members having been present and taken part in the ringing.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Lincoln, on Saturday, April 28th. Tea will be provided at 5 o'clock at the Guild Court (foot of the Steep Hill) at 1/3 each, members free; after which the business meeting will be held. Members and visitors intending to be present at tea are requested to communicate with me not later than Wednesday, April 25th. J. W. WATSON.
15, Knight Street, Lincoln.

FOY, HEREFORDSHIRE.

The ringers of this parish have lately been presented with a new set of muffles for the use of the church bells, and a set of handbells, twenty in number, by their Vicar, the Rev. T. C. Wilton.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The first quarterly meeting of the Macclesfield branch of the above Association was held at Bollington, on Saturday, April 14th, when members attended from Macclesfield, Bollington, Prestbury and Gawsorth. Thirteen fresh members were elected, bringing the total up to forty-four. After the meeting touches of Grandsire and Stedman were rung on the tower bells,

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Grandsire:
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Sir,—
Triples

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."

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

SIR,—I should like to follow up my remarks of February 4th on Grandsire Triples with another plan, "A six-part peal containing the 6th and 7th always called before." After arranging a table of lead-ends with the 6th and 7th called before, it can be seen at a glance that the thing will not come in two three-part touches, and that sixty more calls must be used, making 180 in all, which admits of 120 problems. In two cases the thing comes in two three-part touches and eighteen three-lead bits. These three-lead bits can be inserted with thirty-six Grandsire singles, and the getting into the second half can be done with a Grandsire ten-part or six-part single, but as there is no call at a 6-7 in either of these cases, the neatest arrangement is with six-part singles. I enclose a peal on this plan, which contains several interesting features, but taking the number of calls—so many of which are singles—into consideration, I am afraid the whole thing is objectionable. The next plan on the list is the twenty-four 6-7's. This plan gives a better excuse for the using of singles. In the first place it costs 120 bobs to extract the twelve out-of-course 6-7's, which means twelve three-lead bits, and then twenty-four Grandsire singles must be substituted for bobs to insert them, and the thing appears in six two-part touches, or twelve parts alike. Now the first thing that occurred to me was to see if the thing would come in three parts without increasing the singles with 135 calls. The nearest approach is three long parts and three short ones out of fifteen problems. After trying for a six-part or three-part with 150 calls with no better result, although there are 120 problems, I returned to the 135 calls where I have a kind of six-part which I enclose. I have not given an arrangement with 5-6-7's for part-ends, because it would contain twelve more singles; the plan is capable of many interesting variations, including a kind of twelve part I have with 130 calls. I think it is curious that the following peal should contain all 2-3's, 3-5's, and 5-2's in the first three parts, and all 3-2's, 2-5's and 5-3's in the last three parts.

5040.

2 3 4 5 6 7

6 7 2 4 5 3 2
5 3 6 2 4 7 2
4 7 5 6 2 3 2
S 6 3 4 2 7 5 1
5 2 6 7 3 4 1
4 7 5 3 2 6 1
S 3 6 4 2 7 5 1
4 7 3 6 5 2 3
2 6 4 5 7 3 1
7 3 2 4 5 6 2
S 6 5 7 2 4 3 2
3 2 6 4 5 7 1
7 4 3 5 2 6 1
S 5 6 7 2 4 3 1
6 7 5 2 4 3 4
4 3 6 5 2 7 2
7 5 4 2 3 6 1
3 6 7 4 2 5 2
6 7 3 4 2 5 4
4 7 6 5 3 2 5
7 6 4 5 3 2 4
4 3 7 6 2 5 3
S 6 5 4 2 3 7 1
7 2 6 3 5 4 1
4 3 7 5 2 6 1
S 5 6 4 2 3 7 1
3 7 5 4 2 6 2
2 6 3 5 4 7 2
7 5 2 4 6 3 1
2 6 7 5 3 4 3
FL 2 4 5 3 6 7 2

Five times repeated,
with a Holt's six-part
single at the end of the
third and sixth parts.

Farnham Royal, Slough.

5040.

2 3 4 5 6 7

7 5 2 6 3 4 1
3 4 7 2 6 5 2
5 2 3 6 4 7 1
4 7 5 3 6 2 2
3 7 4 2 5 6 5
S 7 2 3 6 4 5 5
5 6 7 4 2 3 1
3 4 5 2 6 7 1
S 2 7 3 6 4 5 1
6 7 2 5 3 4 5
4 5 6 3 7 2 1
6 7 4 5 2 3 3
7 4 6 5 2 3 4
6 2 7 4 3 5 3
7 3 6 2 5 4 3
2 3 7 4 6 5 5
5 4 2 6 3 7 1
3 7 5 2 6 4 2
2 7 3 4 5 6 5
S 7 4 2 6 3 5 5
5 6 7 3 4 2 1
2 3 5 4 6 7 1
S 4 7 2 6 3 5 1
3 5 4 2 6 7 2
Twice repeated.
With a Grandsire
Single at the end of
the third and sixth
parts.

3 2 4 5 6 7

5 7 3 6 2 4 1
3 2 5 7 4 6 3
6 7 3 4 2 5 1
7 3 6 4 2 5 4
4 3 7 5 6 2 5
2 5 4 6 3 7 1
3 7 2 4 6 5 2
4 7 3 5 2 6 5
S 7 5 4 6 3 2 5
2 6 7 3 5 4 1
4 3 2 5 6 7 1
S 5 7 4 6 3 2 1
6 7 5 2 4 3 5
7 5 6 2 4 3 4
2 5 7 3 6 4 5
4 3 2 6 5 7 1
5 7 4 2 6 3 2
2 7 5 3 4 6 5
S 7 3 2 6 5 4 5
4 6 7 5 3 2 1
2 5 4 3 6 7 1
Twice repeated.

J. J. PARKER.

THE PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES AT DRAYTON, BERKS.

SIR,—In your issue of the 21st inst., I observe a peal of Stedman Triples rung by the members of the Oxford Guild at the above place

in 2 hrs. 27 mins. The members of the Oxford Guild have done some wonderful things of late, but this surpasses all their previous accomplishments. Surely they must have made a mistake in the time, or one of their watches took a fit to stop for a quarter of an hour, or perhaps they got into a scramble and opened into some convenient change to bring the bells round and thus cut out five or six courses.

11 Church Row, Bethnal Green.

G. MUSKETT.

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—The report of the seven 720 Surprise methods rung at Capel on Saturday, March 31st, and appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" of April 7th should read Durham, London, Superlative, Wells, York, Cambridge, and Chichester, instead of London, Superlative, Wells, York, Cambridge, and Chichester.

D. JORDAN.

TREBLE BOB MAJOR COMPOSITIONS.

SIR,—It has been the aim of some of our friends of late years to try and keep the 2nd bell away from dodging with the tenor at the wrong, and peals of 5000 changes and upwards have been composed upon the plan, and thus the desired object is obtained. The object of this letter may or may not be known, but the fact is that several old peals are capable of variation in such a way as to develop the much desired quality. Here is an illustration from an old peal of mine, first rung in the year 1880 at the Chapel-of-Ease, Islington, London. In the variation the 2nd bell is never in 6th's place at a course-end.

ORIGINAL PEAL.

5088.

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H
3 5 2 6 4 - - -
6 3 5 4 2 - - 2
5 3 4 6 2 - 2 1
4 3 6 5 2 - 2 1
5 4 3 2 6 - - 2
4 2 3 5 6 1 - -

VARIATION PEAL.

5088.

2 3 4 5 6 M B W H
4 3 5 2 6 - - 2 1
2 4 3 6 5 - - 2
4 6 3 2 5 1 - -
6 2 4 5 3 - - -
5 6 2 3 4 - - 2
2 6 3 5 4 - - 2 1

Each twice repeated.

H. DAINS.

147, Barnsbury Road, London, N.

AN OMISSION.

SIR,—I omitted to state in the report of the peal of Grandsire Caters, on handbells, at St. Albans, on the 10th inst., that Mr. David Gibbons, of the St. Peter's Society kindly acted as umpire, and also that Mr. Henry Lewis heard a good part of the peal.

J. C. MITCHELL.

QUICKLY RUNG PEALS.

SIR,—In your issue of April 21st, I find a notice of a peal of Stedman Triples rung at Drayton in 2 hrs. 27 mins., being supposed the quickest on record. It probably is in the method, but a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the front eight at Christ Church in this town on October 25th, 1852, in 2 hrs. 23 mins., tenor 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 14 lbs. I may also remark that other quick peals have been rung in this parish and district, notably the following at All Saints in this parish on April 8th, 1884; Treble Bob Triples, in 2 hrs. 45 mins.; September 15th, 1847, 5024 Treble Bob Major, in 2 hrs. 48 mins., tenor 15 cwt.; Tip-ton, February 2nd, 1852, 5056 Treble Bob Major, in 2 hrs. 45 mins., tenor 12 cwt.; November 21st, 1849, at Christ Church, 5075 Grandsire Caters in 2 hrs. 57 mins.; May 10th, 1852, 5082 Grandsire Cinques in 3 hrs. 14 mins., tenor 24 cwt.; and 5003 Grandsire Caters in 2 hrs. 54 mins., at Wednesbury, tenor 24 cwt. These I think will be found to be some of the quickest ever rung. I may say the whole of these bells are hung in towers of limited size, and therefore are short in the stroke, which may account for their being able to be taken along so quickly.

S. MARSH.

West Bromwich.

NARROW ESCAPE OF BELL RINGERS.—At Halstead, Essex, on Sunday morning, April 22nd, when the bells were chiming for service, a weight of the new clock and chimes, weighing 6½ cwt., erected in the tower of the parish church to commemorate the jubilee, fell, crashing through the belfry floor into the church, and smashing a seat. One ringer, named Chaplin, had a narrow escape, the weight almost grazing him, while another, named Gladwell, was struck on the head with a piece of loose metal. Sacks of sawdust are placed underneath the weights to break a possible fall, but the course of this weight was diverted by striking against a beam. There was no one in the church at the time of the occurrence.

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.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1888.

The Provinces.

GLADWICK, NEAR OLDHAM, LANCASHIRE.

On Friday, April 20, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARK,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 8½ cwt.

JOSEPH SHAW	Treble.	CLEMENT DRONSFIELD ..	5.
FRED COCKS	2.	ALBERT CLEGG	6.
SAMUEL STOTT	3.	THOMAS BARRATT	7.
EDWIN B. SHAW	4.	LUKE HAMPSON	Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER, of Birmingham, and Conducted by SAMUEL STOTT.

The above peal is in twelve parts. The Brothers Shaw hail from Leesfield; Thomas Barratt and Luke Hampson from Moorside.

BIRMINGHAM.

THE HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S SIX-PART. Tenor 12 cwt in G.

WILLIAM HENRY GODDEN ..	Treble.	WILLIAM MUNDAY	5.
THOMAS MILLER	2.	ARTHUR J. JONES	6.
CHARLES STANBRIDGE ..	3.	† JAMES PLANT	7.
THOMAS REYNOLDS	4.	* WILLIAM JACKSON	Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES PLANT.

*First peal. †First peal in this Society as conductor.

DERBY.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.—DERBY DISTRICT.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW LITCHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 20½ cwt. in Eb.

CHARLES DRAPER	Treble.	CHARLES HART	5.
THOMAS ALTON	2.	ALBERT ED. THOMPSON ..	6.
JOHN WM. THOMPSON	3.	HARRY C. WOODWARD	7.
WILLIAM B. MIDGLEY	4.	GEORGE MOTTASHAW	Tenor.

Composed by L. STAINS and Conducted by HARRY C. WOODWARD.

First peal in the method by all except the conductor, and the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells. It is also believed to be the first peal in the method ever rung in Derby in which all the ringers belonged to the town. The peal is in two parts, and consists of fourteen courses, and is considered a production of great merit, the calling of which will be found on page 220 of Shipway ("BELL NEWS" edition).

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Thursday, April 19, 1888, in Three Hours and Twenty-seven Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR,

5056 CHANGES. Tenor 26 cwt.

GEORGE ROBINSON	Treble.	JOHN CARTER	5.
JOHN AUSTIN	2.	HARRY WAKLEY	6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY	3.	THOMAS HOLMES	7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN	4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY	Tenor.

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

This composition, which is now rung for the first time, contains the whole musical extent of the 6th, viz.: twelve times in 6th's place, and six times in 4th's, the 2nd never in 6th's place. Rung to celebrate the marriage of Rowland Cartwright (Master of the St. Benedict's society, Wombourne, and an honorary member of the St. Paul's society), with Frances Catherine, second daughter of the late Rev. E. W. Stubbs, vicar of Sturcheley, Salop. Mr. John Carter hails from Birmingham and this is his first peal in the method.

FOXEARH, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

Birthday Peal.

On Friday, April 20, 1888, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt.

SAMUEL SLATER	Treble.	GEORGE MAXIM	5.
WALTER P. GRIDLEY	2.	ROBERT MINGAY	6.
JOHN LEE	3.	OLIVER GARWOOD	7.
FREDERICK WELLS	4.	CHARLES SILLITOE	Tenor.

Composed by W. D. CROFTS, and Conducted by CHARLES SILLITOE. The peal will be found in Snowdon's "Treatise on Treble Bob," part II, page 22, and is now rung for the first time. It was rung as a birthday compliment to Master W. F. Foster, eldest son of the Rev. J. F. Foster, who attained his 13th year on that day. This is the longest peal yet rung on these bells. Messrs. Slater, Wells, and Garwood hail from Glemford; Sillitoe from Sudbury; the rest are local men.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

THE ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY, ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Handbell Ringing.

On Friday, April 20, 1888, in Two Hours and Thirty-five Minutes,

AT THE MEETING HOUSE, "THE HALBERT INN," NORTHGATE ST.,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 22 size, in C.

WILLIAM MOTTS	1-2.	FREDERICK TILLET	5-6.
JAMES MOTTS	3-4.	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE ..	7-8.

Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

Umpires: Messrs S. Tillett, W. P. Garrett and A. E. Durrant, who with other ringers gave applause to the finish of a fine struck peal. This peal was attempted on Thursday to be rung in honour of the memory of Lord Beaconsfield, but after ringing upwards of 300 changes a shift occurred, and stop was called. It is the first rung in the method by four members of the St. Mary-le-Tower society and Norwich Diocesan Association, and was rung upon the Rev. A. H. Hayes' splendid-toned peal of eight bells kindly lent to R. Brundle.

QUORNDON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(THE LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH).

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14½ cwt. in F#.

CHAS. SMITH	Treble.	J. W. TAYLOR, JUN., Esq. ..	5.
R. LANE	2.	J. WARD	6.
J. C. DICKENS	3.	W. BIRKINSHAW	7.
J. HARDY	4.	A. R. ALDHAM	Tenor.

Composed by W. HARRISON, and Conducted by A. R. ALDHAM.

Messrs. Dickens and Ward hail from Long Eaton.

WEST BROMWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.
SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5058 CHANGES.

Tenor 23 cwt. 3qrs. in Eb.

WILLIAM COOPER Treble.	THOMAS HORTON 6.
JOHN TINSLEY 2.	WILLIAM SMITH 7.
SAMUEL REEVES 3.	WILLIAM R. SMALL 8.
JOHN FRISBY* 4.	CHARLES PRICE 9.
ADAM H. HILL* 5.	JAMES HALL Tenor.

Composed by H. JOHNSON, SEN., of Birmingham, and Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

*First peal of Caters. The peal has the 5th and 6th each twelve times wrong and right, without a 8-9 or a 7-8 being called.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.
WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Nine and-a-half Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5075 CHANGES.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

THOMAS ALBUTT Treble.	WALTER REA 6.
OLIVER JAMES 2.	GEORGE HAYWARD 7.
HARRY MASON 3.	ALFRED MOORE 8.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 4.	GEORGE BOURNE 9.
WILLIAM JAMES 5.	JAMES PARRY Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HAYWARD.

H. Mason hails from Old Hill, this being his first attempt to ring Caters. W. H. Fussell from Slough, the rest belong to Bromsgrove. The figures of this composition which is now rung for the first time, will be published in a future number.

BRADFORD, YORKSHIRE.
THE BRADFORD OLD SOCIETY AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt.

A. MOULSON Treble.	THOS. POLLITT 6.
J. H. FISHER 2.	J. ANGUS 7.
H. RAISTRICK 3.	J. H. HARDCASTLE 8.
BEN F. LAMB 4.	F. LONDON 9.
J. BROADLEY 5.	G. A. O. NETTLETON .. Tenor.

Composed by THOS. POLLITT and Conducted by J. H. HARDCASTLE.

This is the first peal of Caters by all the company, and the first on these bells. It was also rung at the first attempt. Mr. B. T. Copley officiated as umpire, and he pronounced the peal to have been well rung, not a single "slip" of any moment occurring from beginning to finish; his opinion being endorsed by several ringing friends who heard the peal from the outside.

ROYDON, ESSEX.
THE HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.
On Tuesday, April 24, 1888, in Two Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
5040 CHANGES, IN SEVEN DIFFERENT MINOR METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 each of the following:—

DOUBLE COURT, COLLEGE SINGLE, OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB, OXFORD BOB, PLAIN BOB, AND GRANDSIRE.

Tenor 8cwt. 3qrs. 18lbs.

EDWARD CAINS Treble.	JOSEPH POMFRET 4.
WILLIAM BENNETT 2.	HENRY PHILLIPS 5.
MATTHEW ELLSMORE 3.	HERBERT BAKER Tenor.

Conducted by HERBERT BAKER.

This is the first time these bells have been rung, having only just been hung. The first five are new, by Mears and Stainbank, and the tenor by Pack and Chapman in 1776.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—EASTBOURNE BRANCH.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

J. ROLLISON Treble.	T. HART 5.
C. HARFFEY 2.	T. LEWIS 6.
E. WILLOUGHBY 3.	*T. WILLOUGHBY 7.
L. HUGGETT 4.	J. LEWIS Tenor.

Conducted by T. WILLOUGHBY.

First peal in the method at Eastbourne, also in the method by all. *First peal as conductor.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, April 21, 1888, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

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

Tenor 9½ cwt.

WILLIAM COBB* Treble.	FREDERICK FIELD 5.
REV. F. E. ROBINSON 2.	H. D. BETTERIDGE, ESQ. 6.
CHARLES TRINDER 3.	THOMAS SHORT 7.
REV. CANON WIGRAM 4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

*First peal of Major. This peal has the 4th, 5th and 6th eighteen times in 6th's place, and is now rung for the first time. Canon Wigram belongs to Hertford.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCASHIRE.
THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, THE LANCASHIRE AND UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATIONS.
Handbell Ringing.

On Sunday, April 22, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE HOUSE OF MR. SAMUEL WOOD, 168, BURLINGTON ST.,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 13 size in Eb.

SAMUEL WOOD 1-2.	GEORGE LONGDEN 5-6.
JAMES S. WILDE 3-4.	JOHN THORP 7-8.

Composed and Conducted by JOHN THORP.

Umpires.—Mr. W. Jakeman, who marked off the course-ends as they came up. The following members of the Ashton-under-Lyne society also listened to the peal, viz Messrs Mellor, J. Wood, J. Crabtree and S. Taylor, and complimented the ringers on the able way in which it had been struck.

DORCHESTER, OXON.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Monday, April 23, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,
AT THE ABBEY CHURCH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES:

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.

JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. Treble.	FREDERICK FIELD 5.
CHARLES TOLLEY 2.	HARRY COBB 6.
CHARLES TRINDER 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON 7.
REV. CANON WIGRAM 4.	WILLIAM COBB Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

HAGBOURNE, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, April 25, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 23½ cwt.

JAMES PETHER Treble.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON 5.
ERNEST NAPPER 2.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK 6.
REV. CANON WIGRAM 3.	WILLIAM NAPPER 7.
DENNIS NAPPER 4.	ALFRED WOODLEY Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

HADLOW, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, April 22, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 15 cwt.

ERNEST NEWMAN Treble.	HARRY PEARCE 5.
WILLIAM ELDRIDGE 2.	ALCHIN MOORCRAFT 6.
WILLIAM BELL 3.	GEORGE BELL 7.
GEORGE NEWMAN 4.	WILLIAM BELLINGHAM .. Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY PEARCE.

*First peal, age 15. Moorcraft and Pearce hail from Maidstone; the rest from Mereworth.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

Handbell Peal.

On Sunday, April 22, 1888, in Two Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. W. E. TYDEMAN, 49, CASTLE STREET,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 13 size in E.

ARTHUR W. BARKUS† .. 1-2.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. 5-6.
WILLIAM E. TYDEMAN .. 3-4.	*WALTER S. WISE .. 7-8.

Conducted by WILLIAM W. GIFFORD.

*First peal. †First peal on handbells. Umpire, Mr. William Scammell, who marked off all the bob-leads as they were rung.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(No date mentioned), in Six Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 10,304 CHANGES.

Tenor 20½ cwt.

J. MOTTS Treble.	W. MOTTS 5.
W. BUTTON 2.	A. J. LINCOLN 6.
F. WILSON 3.	R. W. STANNARD 7.
H. J. BUTTON 4.	F. J. TILLET Tenor.

Composed by A. KNIGHTS, Chesterfield, and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

The above is the longest ever rung in Suffolk, in any method. It is also worthy of notice that the average age of the company was only 21 years, as well as being all single men. Also that one of the ringers was only 17 years old. And great credit is due to the tenor man for the able way in which he rang his bell, he being only 20 years old. Messrs Motts and Tillett are from Ipswich; the rest belong to the local company.

Date Touches.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

EPSOM (Surrey).—On Monday, April 23rd, at the parish church, a date touch of Union Triples, 1888 changes, in 1 hr. 3 mins. Alfred E. Bassett, 1; William Sanders, 2; Thomas Miles (conductor), 3; G. Wyatt, 4; Harry Pederick 5; James Easton, 6; Jesse Hawkins, 7; G. Pederick, 6. Composed by Josiah Wathen, of Tewkesbury. This touch was rung to commemorate the 19th anniversary of the peal rung by four fathers and their four sons, and also Jas. Easton's birthday, his brother strings wishing him many happy returns.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PUDSEY (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, April 21st, at St. Lawrence's church, eight members of the above Association rang a date touch of 1888 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 10 mins. Fred Schofield, 1; Simeon Longstaff, 2; Arthur Spurr, 3; George Crawshaw (conductor), 4; James A. Idle (composer), 5; Joseph Chapel, 6; David Stephenson, 7; Willoughby Dixon, 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

HALIFAX.—On Sunday, April 22nd, All Souls church, for evening service, a date touch, of Kent Treble Bob Major (1888 changes), in 74 mins. H. Reynolds, 1; T. Parker, 2; G. H. C. Copping, 3; J. S. Ambler, 4; H. Payne (conductor), 5; C. E. Stewart, 6; G. D. E. Mercer, 7; S. W. Stewart, 8. Tenor 25½ cwt.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Saturday, April 21st, the following members of the local company met at St. Gregory's church, and rang a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 14 mins. Felix Tolliday, 1; Harry Harper, 2; W. Bayley Ransom, Esq., Maurice Silvester, 4; Charles Sillitoe (conductor), 5; Walter Gigg, 6; William Howell, 7; Arthur Scott, 8. Composed by Dan Prentice, of Ipswich. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

Miscellaneous.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BIDDENHAM (Beds).—On Sunday, April 22nd, for Divine Service, the afternoon, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). *F. Smith, 1; H. King, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; †H. Clifton, 4; C. W. 5; C. R. Howard (conductor), 6. *First 720. †First 720 with bob bell.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DURHAM.—On Sunday, April 22nd, at St. Oswald's church, evening service, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). W. G. Newton, 1; W. H. Craggs, 2; W. Noble, 3; J. Butterworth (conductor), 4; L. Newton, 5; W. Prince, 6. Also Monday evening, April 23rd, for practice, several touches of Grandsire Minor, including a 320. W. G. Newton, 1; L. Newton, 2; Bradford, 3; C. J. Butterworth (conductor), 4; W. Noble, 5; J. Avery, 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, April 22nd, for Divine Service, St. Michael's church, a 720 of Cambridge Surprise, in 25 mins. Watson, 1; S. Hammond, 2; F. L. Bumstead, 3; C. H. Howard, F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; H. E. Hammond, 6.

COGGESHALL (Essex).—On Sunday, April 22nd, at St. Peter's church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. T. Watson, 1; W. Dyer, 2; D. Ellis, 3; S. Hammond, 4; Jas. Nicholls, 5; H. E. Hammond (conductor), 6. Also a 360 of Plain Bob. T. Watson, 1; W. Dyer, 2; J. Sadler, 3; S. Hammond, 4; Jas. Nicholls, 5; H. E. Hammond (conductor), 6. Tenor 22 cwt. Messrs S. and H. E. Hammond and Watson hail from Braintree.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FOLKESTONE (Kent).—On Tuesday evening, April 17th, for practice a touch of 840 Grandsire Triples. John Croucher, 1; Frederick Finn, 2; James Fisher, 3; Edmund Potter, 4; Henry Croucher, Samuel Barker (conductor), 6; Frederick Slingsby, 7; George Millen, 8. Tenor 25 cwt.

WEST MALLING (Kent).—On Monday evening, April 16th, for practice, at the parish church, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure Minor, in 25 mins. J. Worsley, 1; W. Harden, 2; E. Baldock, 3; Rev. L. Brine, 4; D. Hall, 5; J. W. Leonard (conductor), 6. First 720 the method by the Malling company.

WROTHAM (Kent).—On Friday, April 13th, a 720 of Bob Minor at the parish church. F. Taylor, 1; W. Taylor, 2; G. Barham, 3; G. Osborne, 4; F. Shoobridge (conductor), 5; C. Taylor, 6; J. Rodgers, 7. On Friday, April 20th, 360 in the same method. *W. H. 1; Rev. H. E. Polehampton, 2; *G. Barham, 3; A. Phyll, W. Taylor, 5; R. Edge, 6; C. Taylor (conductor), 7; J. Rodgers, Fourth and tenor covering. *First 360 of Bob Minor. Also 252 Triples. F. Taylor, 1; F. Shoobridge, 2; G. Barham, 3; W. Taylor, 4; J. Rodgers, 5; G. Osborne, 6; C. Taylor (conductor), 7; Phyll, 8.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

RETTFORD (Notts).—On Sunday, April 22nd, six members of the above association, rang for Divine Service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty bobs and thirty singles), in 26½ mins. J. Briggs, 1; H. Hall, 2; W. Drake, 3; N. G. Hnnt, 4; J. W. Clarke, 5; R. Potter (conductor), 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CAVERSHAM (Oxon).—On Sunday, April 22nd, for morning service three 120's of Grandsire Doubles, on the back five. H. Simmonds, 1; E. Menday, 2; G. Essex, 3; J. Hands, 4; T. Newman (conductor), 5. Also for evening service, a 720 of Plain Bob. G. Essex, 1; F. Simmonds, 2; J. Hands, 3; H. Simmonds, 4; T. Newman, 5; E. Menday (conductor), 6. After service a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. Simmonds, 1; Rev. G. F. Coleridge, 2; E. Menday, 3; J. Hands, H. Smith, 5; T. Newman (conductor), 6. Tenor 17 cwt.

ST, SIDWELL'S SOCIETY, EXETER.

EXETER.—On Sunday, April 22nd, at St. Sidwell's church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes) in

rom Thurstans' peal, in 43 mins. W. Stocker, 1; A. Shepherd, 2; F. Shepherd, 3; F. Davey, 4; S. Binfield, 5; J. Moss, 6; E. Shepherd (conductor), 7; B. Munday, 8. Tenor 24 cwt., in D.

THE ST. JOHN'S SOCIETY, WATERLOO.

LONDON.—On Sunday, April 15th, eight members of the above society, rang for Divine Service at St. John's church, Waterloo road, 1316 of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins. C. Chaplin, 1; W. Broadbent, 2; Walter Partington, 3; S. G. Davies, 4; F. L. Davies (conductor), 5; Rev. A. W. Jephson, 6; H. L. Partington, 7; W. Ball, 8. Tenor 20 cwt.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CAPEL (Surrey).—On Sunday, April 22nd, six members of the above Guild, rang at the parish church, a 720 of Wells Surprise, in 23 mins. J. Akehurst, 1; R. Jordan, 2; F. Jordan, 3; M. Jenkins, 4; A. Mills, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6. Also a 720 in three different methods, viz.:—240 each of London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Superlative Surprise, in 23 mins. Standing as before.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, April 22nd, at St. Michael's church, Stoke Prior, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs), in 27 mins. W. James, 1st 720 of Treble Bob 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; O. James, 3; T. Albott (first on a bob bell), 4; G. Hayward (conductor), 5; W. Rea, 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

KIDDERMINSTER.—On Saturday, April 14th, a bob and single variation peal of Grandsire Triples, composed by B. Annable, but after ringing 2 hrs. 42 mins., it came to grief owing to a late call. J. Bennett, 1; T. Bennett (his longest length), 2; J. Carter (conductor), 3; J. Bennett, jun., 4; T. Salters, 5; W. H. Fussell (Slough), 6; R. E. Grove, 7; T. Walters, 8. Tenor 29½ cwt.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ASHLEWORTH (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday, April 15th, at the parish church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. H. G. Gardner, 1; J. Buffery (Birmingham), 2; S. Romans, 3; R. J. Wilkins, 4; H. Mitchell, 5; W. J. Sevier (conductor), 6. Tenor 18 cwt. in E. Also 720 Bob Minor, in 26 mins. W. T. Pegler, 1; J. Buffery, 2; S. Romans, 3; R. J. Wilkins (conductor), 4; H. Mitchell, 5; William Sevier, 6.

BARLOW MOOR (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, April 10th, at Christ church, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. W. Oaks, 1; W. Holbrook, 2; G. Pearson, 3; J. Darbyshire, 4; J. Wilde (conductor), 5; T. Brickell, 6; P. Brickell, 7; J. Gadd, 8. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), on the back six. G. Pearson, 1; W. Holbrook, 2; J. Wilde, 3; T. Brickell, 4; J. Darbyshire, 5; P. Brickell (conductor), 6. First 720 of Grandsire Minor on the bells. And on Sunday morning, April 22nd, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. G. Pearson, 1; W. Woodhead (Rusholme), 2; W. Holbrook, 3; J. Darbyshire, 4; J. Wilde (conductor), 5; T. Brickell, 6; P. Brickell, 7; J. Gadd, 8. Also on Tuesday, April 17th, at the Didsbury parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles). P. Brickell (conductor), 1; W. Jones, 2; J. Wilde, 3; J. Shawcross, 4; J. Banks, 5; J. Pearson, 6.

BARNWOOD (Gloucestershire).—At the church of St. Lawrence, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. H. Barnes, 1; J. Yates, 2; D. J. Aston, 3; W. J. Sevier (conductor), 4; A. A. Waite, 5; H. G. Gardner, 6. Followed by 6-score of Stedman, conducted by J. Yates. Tenor 14 cwt.

BETCHWORTH (Surrey).—On Tuesday, April 3rd, at the parish church, a 720 of Violet Treble Bob. F. Sanders, 1; F. Bridger, 2; F. Arnold, 3; E. Moses, 4; R. Arnold, 5; W. Sadler (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, April 22nd, 720 of College Single. J. Poplett, 1; F. Bridger, 2; F. Arnold, 3; E. Moses, 4; R. Arnold, 5; W. Sadler (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and twenty-six singles). J. Robinson, 1; F. Bridges, 2; F. Arnold, 3; E. Moses, 4; R. Arnold, 5; W. Sadler (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Bob. J. Robinson, 1; F. Arnold, 2; F. Sanders, 3; W. Sadler, 4; R. Arnold, 5; E. Moses (conductor), 6.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, April 15th, at St. Michael's church, 360 Double Court Bob Minor. S. Hammond (conductor), 1; F. L. Bumpstead, 2; F. Rudkin, 3; J. T. Barker, 4; E. Claydon, 5; H. Hammond, 6.

DARTFORD (Kent).—On Tuesday, April 17th, at Holy Trinity church a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles). F. Cullum, 1; E. W. Snowdon, 2; F. J. Gamlin (Rhyl), 3; J. Blackman, 4; George Conyard (conductor), 5; E. Everson, 6.

EXETER.—On Sunday, April 22nd, at St. Edmund's church, 1316 Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. S. Herbert, 1; H. Swift, 2; E. Pitt,

3; A. Searle, 4; W. Goss, 5; W. Marsh (composer and conductor), 6; W. Richardson, 7; A. Webber, 8.

GAWSWORTH (Cheshire).—On Monday evening, April 16th, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. A. Lawton, 1; A. B. Lomas, 2; C. Postles, 3; D. Lomas, 4; J. Hammond, 5; W. Henshall (conductor), 6.

HORLEY (Surrey).—On Wednesday evening, April 18th, for practice, an attempt was made for a half peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 1736 changes, in 1 hr., and 6 mins., a change course occurred, and the conductor called stand. A. Ellis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Sparks, 3; E. Dewey, 4; W. Collison, 5; T. Wickens (conductor), 6; J. Taylor, 7; W. Wallis, 8. And a 504 of Grandsire Triples. G. Wickens, 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; E. Dewey, 4; W. Collison, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; J. Taylor, 7; A. Ellis, 8. And on Sunday evening, April 22nd, for Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 43 mins. A. Ellis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; E. Dewey, 3; G. Wickens, 4; W. Collison, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; B. King, 7; W. Wallis, 8. And a 350 of Grandsire Triples. A. Ellis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; *E. Dewey (conductor), 3; G. Wickens, 4; W. Collison, 5; F. Wickens, 6; B. King, 7; W. Wallis, 8. After evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, taken from "THE BELL NEWS," in 44 mins. A. Ellis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; E. Dewey, 3; B. King, 4; F. Wickens, 5; G. Wickens, 6; †W. Collison (conductor), 7; W. Wallis, 8, †First quarter-peal as conductor. *First touch as conductor.

IGHTHAM (Kent).—On Tuesday, April 24th, at St. Peter's church, two six 6-scores of Bob Doubles, in 50 mins. *John Webb, 1; Rev. H. E. Polehampton, 2; Fred. C. Webb, 3; George Moore, 4; Fredk. Shoebridge (conductor), 5. *First 6-score.

LONDON.—Handbell Ringing.—On Thursday evening, April 12th, at the "Goose and Gridiron," St. Paul's churchyard, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 40 mins. William Baron, sen., 1-2; Challis F. Winny, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5-6; George Wild (conductor), 7-8.

NORTON (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday, April 17th, six members of the local company rang, at St. James's church, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 28 mins. (with fourteen singles and four bobs). J. Atkin, 1; *G. Butcher, H. Ward, 3; J. Biggin, 4; J. Goucher, 5; J. Allen (conductor), 6. *First 720 with a bob bell. Also on Sunday, April 22nd, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Samuel Allen, of Dronsfeld, who has rung several 720's at this church, and was well respected by all who knew him. *G. Butcher, 1; H. Ward, 2; *J. Goucher, 3; J. Atkin, 4; W. Biggin, 5; J. Allen (conductor), 6. Tenor 11½ cwt. *First 720 in the method.

NUNEATON (Warwickshire).—On Thursday evening, April 19th, at the parish church, for practice, two 6-scores of Plain Bob Doubles. W. Adler, 1; G. Winter, 2; J. Clarke, 3; H. Horwood, 4; T. W. Chapman (conductor), 5; M. George (Coventry), 6. Also six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles (each called differently). W. Adler, 1; C. Winter, 2; J. Clarke, 3; H. Horwood (conductor), 4; T. W. Chapman, 5; M. George, 6. Two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. M. George, 1; T. W. Chapman (conductor), 2; G. Winter, 3; J. Clarke, 4; W. Adler, 5; C. Palmer, 6. This was Mr. George's first touch on the treble. On Friday evening, April 20th, at the house of G. Winter, ten 6-score of Grandsire Doubles (each called differently), on handbells, retained in hand, in 40 mins. J. Clarke, 1-2; T. W. Chapman (conductor), 3-4; G. Winter, 5-6. Longest touch on handbells by the above. And 168 of Grandsire Triples, on handbells, retained in hand. J. Clarke, 1-2; T. W. Chapman, 3-4; H. Horwood (conductor), 5-6; G. Winter, 7-8. First touch of Triples in hand by the Nuneaton company.

OVERBURY (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday evening, April 17th, date touch of 1888 changes was rung in 1 hr. 10 mins., being fifty 6-scores and 88 odd changes of Grandsire and St. Dunstan's Double. The odd changes and seven of the six scores were St. Dnnstan Doubles. C. Wittle, 1; A. Devereux, 2; H. Payne (conductor), 3; J. Adkins, 4; A. Attwood, 5. This is supposed to be the longest touch ever rung on these bells.

PULFORD (Cheshire).—On Thursday evening, April 5th, the local company rang 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. G. Jones, 1; D. West, 2; G. Jones, 3; J. Mercer, 4; W. Thomas, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. On Sunday, April 8th, for Divine Service in the evening, 720 College Single. S. Jones, 1; D. West, 2; W. Morgan, 3; J. Mercer, 4; W. Thomas, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. On Monday, April 9th, 720 Grandsire Minor. A. Matthews, 1; D. West, 2; G. Jones, 3; J. Mercer, 4; W. Morgan, 5; J. Morgan (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, April 12th, 720 Oxford Bob. S. Jones, 1; D. West, 2; J. Jones, 3; J. Mercer (first 720 in the method), 4; W. Morgan, 5; G. Morgan (conductor), 6. These are the first 720s in all the above methods by D. West.

ROCHESTER (Kent).—On Sunday evening, April 22nd, for Divine Service, at St. Margaret's church, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. E. Raynor, 1; J. Tullett, 2; W. Baker, 3; G. Lindoff (R.E.) 4; A. Osborne (first 720 in the method), 5; M. Warwick (R.E., conductor), 6.

RUSHDEN (Northants).—On Thursday, April 19th, at the parish church, 360 London Single, 360 College Little, 360 College Single, 360 Oxford Bob, 360 Plain Bob, 72 Double Court, and 120 Plain Bob. And the same evening, in the National Schoolroom, on handbells, 360 Double Court, and 252 Bob Triples. The following took part in the above: J. Bailey, G. Heath, F. Clayton, G. Burton, A. E. Chapman, W. A. Hall, and A. H. Martin. The above was rung on the occasion of the Bishop of Peterborough holding a confirmation at the above church. On Friday, April 20th, at the residence of Mr. A. Clayton, on handbells, 504 Bob Triples. *A. Clayton, 1; *W. Pettit, 2; *G. Burton, 3; *G. Heath, 4; *J. B. Martin, 5; *A. H. Martin, 6; W. A. Hall (conductor), 7-8. And 360 Yorkshire Court. J. Bailey, 1; A. H. Martin, 2; J. B. Martin, 3; W. Pettit, 4; W. A. Hall (conductor), 5-6. And 360 Plain Bob. W. A. Hall, 1-2; W. Pettit, 3; J. Bailey, 4; A. H. Martin (conductor), 5-6. *Longest touch.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Herts).—On Tuesday evening, April 17th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. N. W. Tarling, 1; A. Brown, 2; W. Morris, 3; W. J. Pleasance, 4; *F. W. Tarling, 5; F. Chapman, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; P. Springham, 8. Composed by Mr. Thwaites. H. J. Tucker hails from Bishops Stortford; F. Chapman from Hadham, the rest are local men. *First quarter-peal. Tenor 25 cwt.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Sunday, April 22nd, the local company met at St. Peter's church, and rung for evening service a touch of 576 changes of Bob Major. F. Tolliday, 1; M. Silvester, 2; G. S. Brown, 3; W. Howell, 4; H. Harper, 5; A. Scott, 6; W. Griggs, 7; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 8. After evening service, a touch of 756 Stedman Triples. J. Campin, 1; M. Silvester, 2; G. S. Brown, 3; W. Howell, 4; H. Harper, 5; A. Scott, 6; C. Sillitoe (conductor), 7; H. Brackett, 8. Tenor 23 cwt. in Eb.

STEBBING (Essex).—On Sunday, April 15th, for morning service, at St. Mary's church, two 6-scores of Grandsire and one of Plain Doubles. W. Emery, 1; E. Claydon, 2; J. T. Barker, 3; F. Rudkin, 4; E. Hynds, 5. Also two 6-scores of New Doubles, and two of St. Simon's Doubles. A. Barker, 1; J. T. Barker, 2; E. Claydon (conductor), 3; E. Hynds, 4; F. Rudkin (Braintree), 5.

WELLS (Somerset).—On Tuesday morning, April 3rd, at 7 a.m., a 504 and 84 of Stedman Triples, being the first touches of any description ever rung on the bells. J. F. Hastings, 1; J. Field, 2; S. Hounslow, 3; C. Hounslow, 4; T. Payne, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; W. Finch, T. Short, Rev. —. Coode and S. Collins, 6. Tenor 57½ cwt.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

REPORT OF THE RINGING FOR THE FORTNIGHT ENDING APRIL 23rd, 1888.

By the Arundel branch at Arundel.—On Sunday, April 15th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Union Triples. G. Treagus, 1; F. Luxford, 2; H. Haggett, 3; W. Short, 4; G. Balchin, 5; H. Chandler, 6; C. Blackman (conductor), 7; R. Goacher, 8. Also a 504 of Grandsire Triples. G. Treagus, 1; C. Blackman, 2; O. Evershed, 3; W. Short, 4; G. Balchin, 5; F. Luxford (conductor), 6; H. Chandler, 7; R. Goacher, 8.

By the Balcombe branch at Balcombe.—On Thursday, April 12th, a 360 of College Single. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Bourn, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; A. Stoner, 4; H. Meads, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Bourn, 2; E. Streeter, sen., 3; T. Streeter, 4; A. Stoner, 5; J. Cheeseman (conductor), 6. Also a 360 of Woodbine Treble Bob. A. Stoner, 1; R. Bourn, 2; E. Streeter, 3; T. Streeter, 4; J. Gasson, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, April 19th, a 360 of Violet Treble Bob. R. Bourn, 1; R. Streeter, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; T. Streeter, 4; H. Meads, 5; E. Streeter (conductor), 6. Also a 240 of Plain Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; T. Streeter, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; R. Streeter, 4; A. Stoner, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. Also a 120 of Duke of York. R. Bourn, 1; A. Stoner, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; E. Streeter, 4; H. Mead, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6.

By the Brighton branch at St. Paul's, Brighton.—On Thursday, April 12th, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 19 mins. P. Allfrey, 1; G. Biggerstaff, 2; W. C. Marshall, 3; G. A. Hill, 4; J. E. Worsell, 5; W. Allfrey (conductor), 6; A. Bennett, 7; H. Cornwall, 8. And on Sunday, April 15th for service, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. J. Eves, 1; G. Biggerstaff, 2; W. C. Marshall, 3; G. A. Hill, 4; W. Allfrey, 5; J. Reilly, 6; A. Bennett (conductor), 7; J. Salmon, 8.

And at St. Nicholas's, on Saturday, April 14th, an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples, which came to grief after ringing 1380 changes, in 45 mins. Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 1; W. Palmer, 2; G. F. Attree, 3; C. Tyler, 4; G. A. King, 5; G. C. Hammond, 6; J. Searle (conductor), 7; W. Robinson, 8. And the same evening, at St. Peter's, Brighton, another attempt was made which also proved unsuccessful after ringing 2700, in 1 hr. 39 mins. A. A. Fuller, 1; H. Weston, 2; G. F. Attree, 3; G. A. King, 4; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 5; G. C. Hammond, 6; J. Searle (conductor), 7; W. Robinson, 8. And on Sunday, April 22nd, for morning service, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 17½ mins. G. F. Attree, 1; J. E. Worsell, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; J. Jay, 5; H. Weston (conductor), 6; G. Thwaites, 7; J. Mockett, 8. Also for evening service, the last 742 of Holt's Original, in 28 mins. G. F. Attree (conductor), 1; G. Thwaites, 2; G. A. King, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; J. E. Worsell, 5; J. Jay, 6; H. Cornwall, 7; J. Mockett, 8. Also on Monday, April 23rd, a 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. A. A. Fuller, 1; G. A. King, 2; W. Allfrey, 3; G. F. Attree, 4; G. Thwaites, 5; J. Searle, 6; J. Reilly, 7; H. Weston (conductor), 8.

By the Chailey branch at Chailey.—On Wednesday, April 11th, on the occasion of the wedding of T. S. Drury, Esq., and Miss Ingram, of Chailey, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. J. Reynolds, 1; A. Brown, 2; A. Gorrings, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; W. Pelling, 5; G. Gatland (Steyping, conductor), 6. Also a 360 of Bob Minor, in 13 mins. J. Reynolds, 1; A. Brown, 2; A. Gorrings, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; G. Gatland, 5; W. Pelling (conductor), 6. And on Saturday, April 21st, a 360 of Bob Minor, in 13 mins. J. Reynolds, 1; *J. Langridge, 2; A. Gorrings, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; W. Pelling, 5; O. Gatland (conductor), 6. *First 360 with a bob bell. Also on Sunday, April 22nd, a 360 of Bob Minor. J. Reynolds, 1; C. Brown, 2; A. Gorrings, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; W. Pelling, 5; O. Gatland (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Bob Minor, in 27 mins., by same band as above.

By the Crawley branch at Crawley.—On Monday, April 9th, a 928 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 35 mins. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; B. King, 3; W. Collison, 4; M. Heffer, 5; F. Rice, 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; F. Wickens (conductor), 8. Also a date touch (1888 changes) of Treble Bob Major, in 66 mins. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; B. King, 3; W. Collison, 4; M. Heffer, 5; F. Rice, 6; A. F. Hillier, 7; F. Wickens (conductor), 8. Also on Sunday, April 15th, a 1260 of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. A. Ellis, 1; J. Newnham, 2; E. Dewey, 3; F. Rice, 4; W. Collison, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; M. Heffer, 7; E. Pierce, 8. Also a 168 of Grandsire Triples. W. Ward, 1; J. Newnham, 2; E. Dewey, 3; G. Wickens, 4; W. Collison, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; J. Gasson, 7; E. Pierce, 8. Also a 640 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 23 mins. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; E. Streeter, 3; F. Rice, 4; W. Collison, 5; M. Heffer, 6; J. Gasson, 7; F. Wickens (conductor), 8. And for evening service, a 1120 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 41 mins. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; E. Streeter, 3; F. Rice, 4; W. Collison, 5; M. Heffer, 6; J. Gasson, 7; F. Wickens (conductor), 8. Also on Monday, April 16th, a 2520 of Plain Bob Triples, in 1 hr. 27 mins. A. Ellis, 1; J. Newnham, 2; G. Wickens, 3; F. Rice, 4; W. Collison, 5; A. F. Hillier (conductor), 6; F. Wickens, 7; E. Pierce, 8. An attempt for a peal, but through a change-course the conductor called "stand."

By the Cuckfield branch at Cuckfield.—On Saturday, April 21st, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 19 mins. L. Gibb, 1; R. Nash, 2; W. Fox, 3; W. Gibson, 4; H. Howell (conductor), 5; D. Denman, 6; F. Hounsell, 7; F. Smith, 8. And on Sunday, April 22nd, for Divine service in the evening, a 1120 of Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins. L. Gibb, 1; W. Gibson, 2; W. Fox, 3; H. Mitchell, 4; R. Waters, 5; H. Howell, 6; F. Hounsell (conductor), 7; F. Smith, 8.

By the Eastbourne branch at Eastbourne.—On Saturday, April 21st, at St. Mary's church, a peal of Bob Triples, in 2 hrs. 57 mins. For particulars see peal column.

By the Ringmer branch at Ringmer.—On Easter Sunday, April 1st, for morning service, a 216 of Bob Minor. A. Slarks, 1; C. Painter, 2; H. Jones, 3; A. E. Paris, 4; J. T. Rickman, 5; G. C. Hammond (conductor), 6. And for evening service, an attempt for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, but unfortunately a change-course occurred after ringing nearly 1200 changes. C. Painter, 1; Rev. C. D. Davies, 2; H. Jones, 3; A. E. Paris, 4; J. T. Rickman, 5; G. Washer, 6; G. C. Hammond (conductor), 7; A. Slarks, 8. And on Tuesday evening, April 3rd, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of respect to A. Christie, Esq., who was interred on that day, four 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, rang in whole pulls. G. C. Hammond (conductor), 1; C. Painter, 2; A. E. Paris, 3; H. Jones, 4; A. Slarks, 5; F. Newnham, 6. Also on Sunday, April 15th, a 630 of Grandsire Triples. A. Slarks, 1; A. E. Paris, 2; J. T. Rickman, 3; H. Jones, 4; G. Washer, 5; C. Painter, 6; G. C. Hammond (conductor), 7; T. Miller, 8.

By the Steyping branch at Steyping.—On Thursday, April 19th, a 720 (on handbells) of Kent Treble Bob. J. Matthews, 1; G. Smart (conductor), 2; E. Brackley, 3; F. Morris, 4; C. Tyler, 5-6. And on Saturday, April 21st, a 720 (on handbells) of Kent Treble Bob. J. Matthews, 1; F. Morris, 2; G. Smart, 3-4; C. Tyler (conductor), 5-6.

Church News.

The afternoon lecture at St. Philip's, Regent-street, next Sunday, will be delivered by Dr. Taylor, Master of St. John's, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, on the Didache.

The Bishop of Sydney intends to sail on Monday by the *Oceana* and hopes to arrive in England about June 15th. Letters may be addressed to him at 25, Delahay Street, S.W.

Archdeacon Hessey is still too unwell to hold his usual visitation of the clergy this year, but the churchwardens will be cited to appear and be admitted in the vestry of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, on May 7th.

At a meeting of the Fellows of Sion College yesterday, it was resolved on the motion of the Rev. J. L. Fish, seconded by the Rev. T. Darling, that a petition against the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill should be presented to the House of Lords.

In the case of *Hakes v. Bell Cox*, in which Mr. Bell Cox is appealing, a petition was presented to the House of Lords on Monday by Lord Penzance, asking to be made a party-respondent, the agent for Mr. Hakes consenting. The petition was referred to the Appeal Committee.

A window has been placed in the parish church of St. Martin-in-the-fields as a memorial of the Rev. W. G. Humphry, the late vicar. The subject is the Resurrection. In the lower compartment the three Maries are at the tomb, and the angel is pointing upwards and saying, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" Two cherubs above bear the words, "Victor Mortis." In the upper window is a figure of our Lord.

The Rev. William Bouverie Pusey, only surviving brother of Dr Pusey, has died at St. Leonard's, aged seventy-seven. Mr. Pusey, who was the youngest son of the Hon. Philip Bouverie (who assumed the surname of Pusey), only surviving son of the first Viscount Folkestone, graduated from Oriel in 1831. He was ordained in 1832, and for some five-and-thirty years held the family living of Langley, near Maidstone.

The death took place on Tuesday, April 17th, of the Rev. Henry Morris, rector of Withcall, near Louth, in his fifty-eighth year. Mr. Morris was presented to the living in 1869 by the Lord Chancellor, having previously been incumbent of Holy Trinity church, Reading. For the last two months he had been laid up with an incurable disease, and his death was, therefore, not entirely unexpected. During the nineteen years of his pastorate a grand work has been done in the parish of Withcall. A beautiful church has been built, new schools have been built, and everything now is in the most perfect order, and it is not too much to say that the rector's death will cause a loss that will be most deeply felt by all, and by none more than the poor, who were his constant care.

On Sunday morning, the Rev. Evan Rowlands, a clergyman, who had gone to Carlisle on Thursday, died under sad circumstances. He took longings in Castle street, the landlady asking a shilling for a bed. He begged her to make it ninnence, and as he appeared ill and seemed to have seen better days, she consented. He was out on Friday and on Saturday, seeking subscriptions for a book he had written, *Gems for Appointed Feasts*. On Saturday, he became very ill, and he died during the night. His diaries showed that he had been all over the east coast. He was to have been buried on Monday at the expense of the parish, but Canon Richmond, who was with him for some time on the night of his death, undertook the burial at his own expense.

On Tuesday, April 17th, the funeral took place of the Rev. Robert Blayney Wright, Fellow of Worcester College, and for the last thirty-seven years rector of Frinstead, Kent. He was son of the Rev. E. Wright, who held the living of Piteford, Northamptonshire, for thirty-six years. The parishes of Frinstead and Milsted were formerly united, and there had been no resident clergyman in the former until 1867, when the late Lord Kingsdown bought the advowson and presented to it his nephew, Mr. Wright. The transformation effected in the place and people has been most remarkable, and is cause for much gratitude. More than twenty of the neighbouring clergy testified their esteem by attending the funeral in their surplices, the officiating clergy being the Rev. Musgrave Hilton, and the Rev. J. W. Nutt, Rural Dean. The church was crowded with friends and parishioners of the deceased, and the coffin was covered with exquisite wreaths and flowers, was followed by his two brothers and two sisters, and other relatives.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—ERECTION OF A PEAL-BOARD AT STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

ON Tuesday, April 3rd, the members of the Stockton society met together to celebrate the erection in the ringing-chamber of the parish church of a peal-board, to commemorate two peals of 5040 changes, each in seven methods of Surprise Minor, one rung on May 24th, 1887, and the other as a Jubilee peal on November 9th, of the same year. The board is the work of a local artist, and was placed for a time in the principal entrance to the church, in order that it might be seen by the parishioners, many of whom warmly expressed their admiration of it. The upper part is adorned with the Royal Arms, the lettering being in gilt on a soft green back ground. After ringing 720 York Surprise, the company adjourned to the "Royal Oak," where they partook of supper. After the removal of the cloth, the loyal toasts were duly honoured. These were afterwards followed by a series of toasts, which brought out the eloquence of each of the company in turns. The proceedings were enlivened by songs and touches upon the handbells, which included a course of Treble Bob Major by four of the company. The strictures recently passed upon these methods by "Free Lance" were referred to as emanating from a quarter incompetent to judge upon what constitutes a legitimate distinction between one method and another, an opinion which has since been endorsed by another society in the south.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting of this Association will be held at Brighton, on Whit-Monday, May 21st, 1888. Details of arrangements will be published in next issue.

Brighton.

GEO. F. ATTREE.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

ON Saturday, April 21st, the parish church ringers, with their wives, assembled together at the "Golden Lion," Churchgate, and partook of a knife and fork tea, supplied by the hostess, Mrs. Hamer, the occasion being promoted by the painful necessity of one of their brother ringers, John Newburn, leaving them to go to America. After the inner man was justly attended to, and the cloth removed, a very enjoyable evening was spent in songs and handbell ringing by the ringers. A song entitled "Bells in the Tower," was rendered by Mr. Peter Nuttall, and Mr. R. Hart very pathetically gave "Night Duty in the Street." Afterwards a course of Grandsire Triples was rung, after which Mr. John Whitehead sang "Where is my boy to night," also a tune on the handbells, viz., "Soldiers' joy horn-pipe," which was encored again and again, and they replied with "Washing Day," a merry little air. Mr. John Newburn then sang "The boat that first brought me over," after which the meeting was brought to a close by thanking him very heartily for his past services, and many many well wishes in his new home. Afterwards the meeting was closed by a vote of thanks being given to the Chairman (Mr. James May), and the vice-chairman (Mr. W. Gorton), and also to Mrs. Hamer, the Hostess, and by request a short touch of Grandsire Triples was given. J. Whitehead, 1-2; W. Holden, 3-4; J. Higson, 5-6; J. Newburn, 7-8.

THE IRISH EXHIBITION IN LONDON.—In addition to the already remarkable list of persons prominent in politics, religion, law, literature, and society, who have given their active support to this peaceful effort to benefit the sister kingdom, are the following:—The Earl of Leitrim, who has joined the Executive Council, the Earl of Aberdeen, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Earl of Dufferin, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and Sir Algernon Borthwick, Bart., M.P. Many of the Corporations in Ireland, including Dublin, Belfast, and Waterford, have officially taken up the subject, and have strongly urged upon the trading community in their respective districts, their conviction that Irish industries are likely to be substantially benefitted by a comprehensive display in London of what Ireland's markets and manufactories can produce. A most significant fact tending to show that one of the primary objects of the promoters is likely to be fully realised, occurred at the Mansion House in Dublin, at a meeting over which the Lord Mayor (Mr. Sexton), presided.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"The bells, the bells of motherland,
Of England green and old,
That out from fane and ivied tower
A thousand years have tolled;
How glorious must their music be
As breaks the hallowed day,
And calleth with a seraph's voice
A nation up to pray!"

ARTHUR CLEVELAND COX.

In your last Saturday's reports of meetings, two points are raised which to my mind are deserving of the very greatest consideration of the Exercise; and I feel I shall not be using your valuable space to little purpose, if I refer to them at some length this week. These points, moreover, will not fail to have additional importance attached to them by reason of their having been raised by two high dignitaries in Church and State. Placed in conjunction with each other, they bring to the front most forcibly the duties of our clergy and ringers with respect to the work in which we are engaged, and to the Church to which we belong.

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His Worship the Mayor of Bedford (who I was exceedingly pleased to see presided at the Annual Meeting of that County Association), suggested that the clergy "should sometimes point out to their congregations the use of bells, and encourage them to ring them." This suggestion is a veritable *multum in parvo*; and the more I look at it, the more I am impressed with its value, if properly acted upon. In the round of our Church's year—in addition to the set Fasts and Festivals—we have special sermons and addresses with reference to our choirs, our Sunday and week-day schools, our Missions, our poor, and our various parochial organisations; why, then, should we not have annually an address devoted to that branch of Church work in which we are most intimately engaged, in all churches which are the fortunate possessors of a ring of bells and an intelligent body of men able and willing to use them? Dearth of knowledge naturally begets lack of sympathy, and where there exists an indifference on the part of the parishioners towards the efforts of the ringers, may it not in almost every instance be truthfully attributed to the fact of their ignorance in ringing matters? Then what plan could possibly be conceived more calculated to remedy this state of things than the suggestion made by the Mayor of Bedford? If once a year the vicar of the parish explained to his people the use of the bells and the work of the ringers, there can be no doubt whatever that by this action would arise a closer bond of union between clergy, ringers, and parishioners, which would tend to the mutual benefit of all, and our Church would be the gainer thereby.

* * * * *

Here is work for our County Associations to take up. Every week almost almost discloses new channels for good in which they may move. If the time should be deemed premature for the adoption of a general "Ringers' Sunday" throughout the country, at any rate it is within the bounds of practicability for them to induce our clergy to set apart at least one service during the year for this special purpose. Even if difficulties stood in the way (as they naturally will do), and its general adoption was very tardy, we should remember the old saying that "Rome was not built in a day," so neither may the desire of our hearts meet with a speedy fulfilment. But at the same time, we may keep plodding on, ever having in view the object to be obtained, and if we do this, success is (humanly speaking) certain.

* * * * *

Although we may find in sadly too many instances a grievous indifference on the part of our clergy to the work of the ringer; yet, on the other hand when we look around and see how that we number in our ranks so many energetic parish priests who are enthusiastic change-ringers, and see also how many more we have who, though not practical ringers themselves, are no less earnest in promoting and encouraging the work, we surely ought to take heart and be much encouraged for the future.

* * * * *

As my foregoing remarks respecting the duties of the clergy have been called forth by the words of a layman in high position

in the State, my next point—that of the duties of ringers towards the Church—is raised through a remark made by a high dignitary of the Church—the Dean of Wells. He was, he said, "greatly surprised at the large number of ringers in the Oxford Guild (nearly a thousand), and was sure that such a society of Church workers must do an immense amount of good." He is food for reflection. Apart from the strictly religious aspect of the question (which I leave for better hands than mine to deal with), I would address myself as a layman to my brother laymen on our duties and responsibilities as loyal sons of our mother Church in one particular direction—that of Church defence. While we are busily engaged in the pursuit of our loved art, we should never allow our pleasure to cause us to forget those duties which we owe to her, or lose sight of those responsibilities. We see our Church surrounded by enemies—from the Romanists on the one hand, through the labyrinth of "isms" which exist amongst us, to the secularist and infidel on the other. We see organisations existing and men banded together for the express purpose of effecting her destruction; enemies are numerous and as unscrupulous as they are active; they are "always at the gate." This, it may be said, has been the case for centuries back. True; but that fact in itself proves the necessity of constant watchfulness and zeal on the part of her sons. Every year gives evidence that her enemies are striving to strengthen their position, and devising new modes of attack; consequently, if her defenders are not at least equally diligent in repairing the breaches and strengthening the fortification, they will be culpably negligent in their duty. Then, to bring the matter home. We should specially remember always that we are Churchmen first, and ringers after. We possess, as ringers, numerically strong and powerful organisations throughout the country; it would indeed be difficult to mention any other specific body of men in connection with the Church which can equal ours in numbers and intelligence. It is therefore quite within our power to do that "immense amount of good" which Dr. Plumptre speaks about. Shall it ever be said of us that "we have been weighed in the balances and found wanting?" Surely, never. While the enemies of the Church are active, let us be active too. Let every County Association and Guild be in very deed a body of Church defenders; let every company of ringers be a branch of such a body; and let every individual ringer consider himself a member. Then when the day of election arrives we shall by our influence, our words and our votes, so make our power felt at the polling booths, that we shall effectually

"Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,"

and shew the enemies of our Church that they have a new compact, and powerful organisation to deal with, and that when they next venture to attack, thirty thousand English ringers "will know the reason why."

* * * * *

I had not intended to have referred to essentially ringing matters this week; but I cannot close without noticing two circumstances of a very satisfactory character which you report in your last issue.

* * * * *

The first is the augmentation of the ring at St. Cuthbert's Wells, which we are told has been accomplished through the energy of the Wells Amateur Ringing Society, who have themselves given the two new trebles. This society is to be heartily congratulated on the possession of a ring of eight, and is no less deserving of praise for the very generous manner in which they have carried out their work.

* * * * *

The other circumstance to which I have pleasure in alluding is the fact that at last, Double Norwich has found its way into Yorkshire, a peal having been successfully accomplished at Sheffield, on Saturday, the 14th inst. Let us hope that this method (to which the late Jasper Snowdon devoted a whole volume) has not become so exhausted in its travels that it will be allowed to rest there for a prolonged period, but that we shall see it again figuring in the list of peals performed by the County Association.

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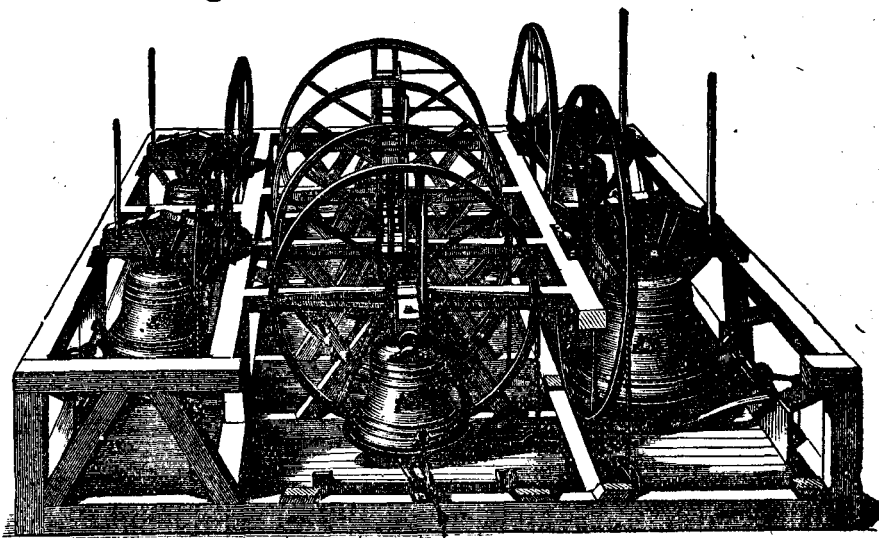
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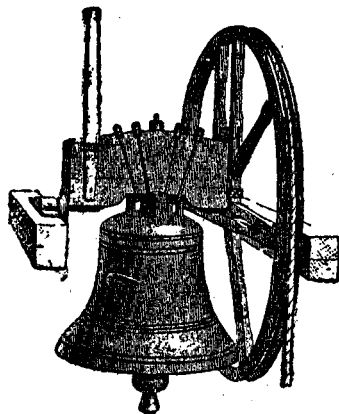
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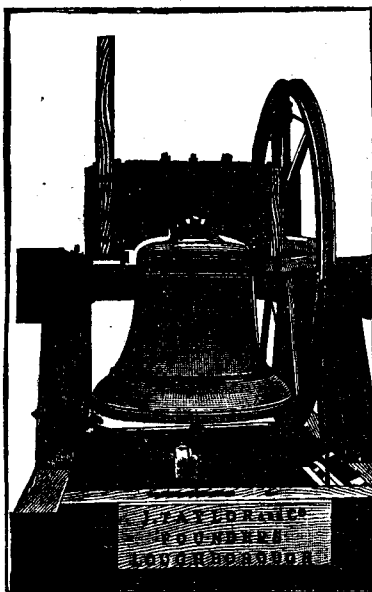
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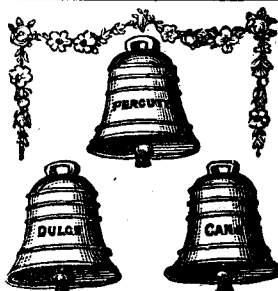
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