

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 324.—VOL. VII.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1888.

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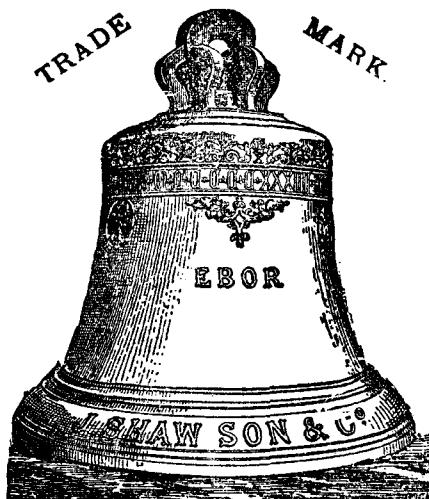
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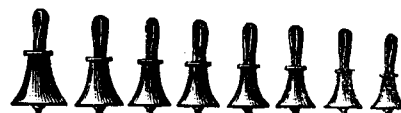
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THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

On Saturday last, June 2nd, the quaint old town of Pontefract was more than usually animated. The causes of this were: first, the fact of its being market day, and second, the visit of the Yorkshire Association to that place, with its accompanying unusual sound of merry peals on the bells of the two churches throughout the afternoon. Over 100 members attended from Armley, Birstall, Bolton, Bradford, Doncaster, Huddersfield, Keighley, Ripon, Rothwell, Sheffield, Shipley, Tong, Wakefield, York, and other places. Considerable interest had also been evinced by the churchpeople of Pontefract with regard to this first meeting of the Association in their town, and the Vicar took occasion in his monthly pastoral letter to address them as follows:—

"My dear parishioners: On Saturday next, June 2nd, the bells in our church tower will give forth an unwonted succession of sounds which you can scarcely fail to hear. Many of you will ask, what does it all mean? You will probably be told, and the announcement will be perfectly correct, that Her Majesty's birthday is being kept *officially* on that day. But that is not the explanation of the ringing which will then greet your ears and the ears of the market folk. No: but the explanation is, that the Yorkshire Association of change-ringers have selected our good old town for their next place of meeting. It is more than possible that the coincidence of Her Majesty's birthday with the day of meeting may keep some of the ringers at work in their own belfries, and thus take away from the number who would otherwise visit us. As it is, a company of from 120 to 150 are expected to handle the ropes—not all at once, of course—preparatory to enjoying a meat tea in the Infants' Schoolroom, Northgate. When ample justice has been done to the viands—that, I believe, is the correct way of describing what is done at the table on such occasions—one of the Association meetings will be held. Do you know much—I confess to knowing very little—about such things as Grandsire Triples, Grandsire Major, Bob Major, Kent Treble Bob Major, Yorkshire Court, and such like technical phrases? When I read that the late Edward Webster's longest length was 6720 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, at Pudsey, my breath is fairly taken away. I have a dim sort of notion—but I daresay I am all wrong—that the aforementioned worthy once pulled that number of times at a particular bell-rope, in a particular peal, without either pulling the bell down, or his own arm out of its socket. In the days of my youth I did once try to be enrolled among some clergy bell-ringers, but I draw a veil over my performances. There is every reason to suppose that Europe is the birthplace of modern bells, they seem not to have existed as musical instruments until the middle ages. The bells mentioned in the Bible were noisy accoutrements not capable of being arranged so as to produce the consecutive sounds of a musical scale. We read in the book of Exodus, xxviii., 33-35, that bells of gold were attached to the bottom of the High Priest's robe, in order that he might be heard when he came into, or went out of the Holy Place. The bells were set alternately with pomegranates; their tinkle served to notify to the people some solemn point or process in the ceremonial. We also gather from Zechariah xiv., 20, that bells were hung upon the bridles, or around the necks, of war-horses. The Greeks used to say of a horse not trained to war, that it had never heard the sound of bells. There is no doubt that horses do like a jingling sound; and when Zechariah says that 'in that day there shall be upon the bells (margin bridles) of the horses, Holiness unto the Lord,' he wants us to understand that, in the days he describes, the spirit of religion shall mingle itself with *all* pursuits and occupations. That is a very instructive little sermon which you and I may profitably preach to ourselves. An Italian Bishop, called Paulinus, is said to have been the first who used bells in the Christian churches to call the people to prayer, for which purpose it had been customary until then to use wooden mallets. The care bestowed upon their form and construction, particularly in Holland and Belgium, led to the casting of those rich and mellow-toned instruments whose sounds ever stir deep emotions in us, whether of joy or sorrow.

There is in souls a sympathy with sounds,
And, as the mind is pitched, the ear is pleased,
With melting airs or martial, grave or gay.

There are but few persons who do not agree with Thomas Moore, when he says:—

Those evening bells, those evening bells,
How many a tale their music tells
Of youth, and home, and that sweet time,
When last I heard their soothing chime.

"Such poems, for example, as the 'Bells of Shandon,' Longfellow's 'Belfry of Bruges,' Edgar Allan Poe's 'Bells,' are, I may say in passing, well worth reading and thinking over, in case you may wish to pursue the subject. We should be badly off without bells, as we have once or twice found out, when they were not in use. No doubt some people who live near to them sometimes wish them further away; but they must kindly make a sacrifice of their own feelings for the sake of the gratification which the sound of those bells does unquestionably give to those whose home is not close to the church tower. Bells were very generally adopted in this country as soon as parish churches were erected, and they give rise to that remarkable part of ecclesiastical architecture, the bell-tower, it being thought necessary to elevate them in order that their sound might reach to a greater distance. Early in the tenth century, the Abbot of Croyland gave the church of that Abbey a great bell, to which six more bells were added by his successor. We, in this country, have learnt to make use of bells in a way even now imperfectly understood on the Continent, namely, that of hanging them on the axis of a wheel, and ringing them by a swing. That swinging, so as to turn the mouth of the bell heavenwards, is very suggestive. It warns us against being 'of the earth, earthy;' and cries, '*Sursum corda*,' 'Lift up your hearts.' But my clapper is getting talkative, so I must let my bell run down. Believe me, yours very sincerely,

The Vicarage, June 1st., 1888.

JAS. J. CHRISTIE."

It should be mentioned that a large contingent of members of Leeds and Hull were prevented from attending, the former by reason of the funeral of the late Mr. T. West, and the latter owing to their having arranged to fittingly celebrate Her Majesty's birthday.

At 3.30 a Committee Meeting was held in the Schoolroom, at which nearly all the officers were present, when twenty-nine new ringing members were elected, and other business transacted. At 4.30, between eighty and ninety sat down in the National School and partook of a very substantial meat tea, to which ample justice was done by the visitors. The room was very prettily decorated with banners, etc., and the tables presented a most charming appearance, being loaded with (in addition to the generous supply of substantial viands) a profuse display of plants, laburnums and other sweet-smelling flowers being also in abundance. The tables were presided over by Mrs. Christie, Mrs. Tomlinson, Miss Christie, Mrs. Ryder, and Mrs. Broadhead, assisted by many other ladies.

Towards the close of the tea, the Rev. J. S. Barry B.A., favoured the company present with a most efficient rendering of Edgar Allan Poe's celebrated poem, "The Bells," which was much appreciated, and was greeted with the enthusiastic applause which it so well merited. The reciter shewed that he was possessed of a fine voice, and evidently had trained himself well in the use of it.

Tea being disposed of, the general business meeting followed, the number present being augmented by the arrival of several other members and friends. Mr. W. Snowdon presided, being supported by the Rev. J. J. Christie, M.A., Vicar of Pontefract; the Rev. W. M. Tomlinson, M.A., Vicar of All Saints; the Rev. J. S. Barry, B.A., Curate of the parish church; Mr. Broadhead, Warden of the parish church; Mr. Keighley, Warden of All Saints; and other gentlemen.

The PRESIDENT commenced by reading the minutes of the previous meeting, which were unanimously passed and signed.

A course of Grandsire Caters on handbells was then rung by W. H. Howard, 1-2; C. H. Hattersley, 3-4; Mr. Thompson, 5-6; Thos. Hattersley, 7-8; W. Pearson, 9-10.

Mr. W. H. Howard proposed that the October meeting be held at York, adding that the Very Rev. the Dean had promised to make all arrangements for the annual service to be held in the Minster, and to preach the sermon. This motion was seconded by Mr. Thompson, and carried amid loud applause.

The Rev. W. H. Sandford and Mr. Albert Fearnley were then elected auditors.

The President moved, and Mr. W. Stainthorpe seconded, a resolution to the effect that any clergyman who was a honorary member, and had a ring of five or more bells at his church, should have a copy of the annual report sent to him each year free of cost. This was carried unanimously.

The President then briefly referred to the death of the late Mr. T. West, of Leeds, who had been for many years a talented and enthusiastic ringer, and also a member of the Association since its commencement. Mr. West had, through illness and other causes, left a widow and a large family totally unprovided for; it was therefore, he said, much to the credit of his brother ringers of Leeds parish church, that they had undertaken the whole cost of his interment, including the purchase of a grave. He hoped also that the fund which they intended to raise for the benefit of the widow and orphans (of which Mr. H. W. Needham, 49, Green Mount Street, Beeston Hill, Leeds, has been appointed treasurer) would be largely supported.

Mr. Thos. Hattersley moved a cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar and Wardens of the parish church for the use of the bells and the schools. This was seconded by his brother, Mr. C. H. Hattersley, who in doing so said he had noticed with much pleasure how that of late years the clergy were coming more and more amongst the ringers. It was, he thought, a good sign, and shewed not only that their art was becoming more understood and appreciated, but also that the clergy, wardens, and ringers were getting more in accord and concord one with another. That was one of the most pleasing signs of the times, and he hoped that this satisfactory state of things would long continue and improve. This motion having been carried enthusiastically.

The Rev. J. J. Christie, in responding, said he was very glad to have that opportunity of speaking a few words not only to his own ringers but also to the ringers of the great county of Yorkshire, and of assuring them of his hearty goodwill. He was also indebted to them for having given him the text for his monthly letter to his parishioners, which he remarked was singularly his 111th—three ones. After referring to the great bells on the Continent, and the sweet-toned chimes of Belgium, he went on to say that taking bells generally, and change-ringing particularly, he considered there could be no doubt that we in England more than held our own. Making some humorous remarks respecting bells and belles, which were productive of much merriment, he alluded to the address which he had issued to his parishioners with reference to that meeting, and said that all of them to whom he had spoken personally on the matter had entered into the affair most heartily. His experiences in ringing had been of a very minor character; although he did once join a society dignified by the high-sounding name of the Clergy Society of Campanologists, he confessed he never made much progress, and his last efforts in bellringing were on the 27th June, 1878, when he rung his induction bell at the parish church of Pontefract. He promised humorously that should he ever have to perform the same operation again, he would invite all the members of the Yorkshire Association to see him do it. He hoped, however, that all the visitors would return to their homes well pleased, and that the following morning would see them in their places in church, shewing that they did not call others to do that which they themselves neglected; that Vicars, Wardens, and ringers would always act in harmony with each other, and so lead a good life here that they might be prepared to lead a blessed life hereafter.

Mr. W. Whitaker proposed, and Mr. W. Stainthorpe seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar and Wardens of All Saints for the use of the bells, which was carried very heartily.

The Rev. W. M. Tomlinson, M.A., replying to the vote, said he was exceedingly glad to see that the ringers of the

present day were of so much better stamp than those of years back. They used to be, as he thought, a very "shady lot," but now they were more of a "sunshiny" character. While he could speak well of his own ringers, he was very glad to be able to say the same of the present class of ringers throughout the land, and he concluded his remarks with a very cordial expression of good feeling towards the ringers and their work both in its scientific aspect and in its object of calling the people to the House of God.

Mr. B. T. Copley proposed, and Mr. J. Broadley seconded, a cordial vote of thanks to the ringers of Pontefract for their excellent arrangements, to the ladies who had so well looked after the tea, and to the Rev. J. S. Barry, for his talented recital. This was carried with loud cheers.

The Rev. J. J. Christie and Mr. Churchwarden Ryder were then elected honorary members, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Snowden for presiding brought the proceedings to a close.

During the afternoon the bells of the parish church (8), and All Saints (6) were kept going by the visitors, and in spite of the wet weather, the meeting was a most successful and pleasant one throughout.

The annual meeting of the Association will be held at York, on Saturday, October 6th. There will be special service in the Minster in the afternoon, at which the Very Rev. the Dean of York will preach: particulars of which will be announced in due course.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—ANNUAL MEETING AT BRIGHTON.

The fourth annual meeting of the above Association was held at Brighton on Whit-Monday. The various delegates and members arrived at an early hour, and the proceedings opened with ringing at the churches of St. Peter and St. Nicholas.

A special short service was held at St. Peter's church at noon when the vicar of Brighton (the Rev. Prebendary J. J. Hannah) gave an address to the members, basing his remarks upon the 1st verse of Psalm cxx., "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord." In the course of an able address, the preacher observed that bell-ringing was in itself a means to an end. They did not ring simply for the purpose of perfecting themselves in a beautiful art, but with the object of inviting people to go into the House of God. Bell-ringing was doubtless a healthy form of exercise, but they must not forget their work was active service for God. A collection was made on behalf of the funds of the Association, and the service then concluded.

It was proposed that the Vicar should unveil five marble peal tablets in the belfry of St. Peter's Church at the conclusion of this service, but the ceremony was postponed, and some further ringing filled up the interval before luncheon. The luncheon was served in the Central Schools, Church-street, at 1.30 p.m., and the Rev. Canon Sutton (Rype) presided. About 100 members sat down to an excellent repast served by Mr. Mutton, of King's-road.

At the conclusion of the meal the annual meeting was held, when the Vicar of Brighton presided, and was supported by the Hon. Secretary (Mr. George F. Attree), Canon Sutton, the Rev. J. Puttick, M.A. (Vicar of Alfriston), the Rev. R. Hay-Hill (Rector of Parham), the Rev. R. F. Tompkins (Arundel), the Rev. T. A. Turner (Wartling Vicarage, Pevensey, late President of the Lancashire Association), and other gentlemen.

The Hon. SECRETARY having read the minutes of the last meeting, the President of the Association (the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Chichester) was unanimously re-elected to that office, after which the Vice-Presidents were also re-elected.

The following gentlemen were also re-elected to serve as a Committee: The Very Rev. the Dean of Battle, the Rev. C. H. Borrer, M.A., the Rev. Prebendary J. J. Hannah, the Rev. J. B. Orme, M.A., the Rev. Divie Robertson, M.A., to act with one delegate for each band of ringers connected with the Association.

The Hon. SECRETARY said that during the year there was

nothing that had been necessary to refer to the Committee. He explained that the Committee had their work lessened by the holding of frequent district meeting.

The Rev. R. F. TOMPKINS, of Arundel, was re-elected Hon. Treasurer, and suitably acknowledged the honour conferred upon him.

In proposing the re-election of Mr. G. F. Attree as Hon. Secretary, the CHAIRMAN said he did not think the Society would have become what it had had it not been for the services of that gentleman. The resolution was agreed to.

The HON. SECRETARY, in returning thanks for his re-election, referred to the increase in the work of the Secretary, and the calls made upon his time by his own business. With the assistance, however, of Mr. J. E. Worsell, of Brighton, whom he had pleasure in proposing as Assistant Hon. Secretary, he trusted to satisfactorily discharge his duties.

The resolution having been seconded, Mr. WORSSELL briefly returned thanks.

The Rev. C. Bond (Vicar of St. Nicholas, Brighton) and Mr. Masters (churchwarden at Lindfield) were unanimously elected honorary members of the Association. Twenty-five active members were also proposed and elected.

The annual report was then taken as read. This stated the instructors of the Association had during the year been doing useful work in several parishes by imparting the knowledge of scientific ringing, and encouraging young hands to persevere and overcome the many obstacles they are sure to encounter. The Committee were sorry to report that at the present time some of the finest peals of bells in the county were seldom heard to advantage, as change-ringing was not practised by the local bands. They trusted that as the Association became better known the six eight-bell towers, and the 21 six-bell towers at present unaffiliated might be induced to join the Association. A glance at the pages set apart for the record of peals and touches shewed that much practice and time had been spent, with a result of which any Association might be proud. Seventy peals containing 5040 or more changes had been rung, a total which had never before been recorded by any single Association. Peals in several methods, including Kent Treble Bob Major, Plain Bob Major, Canterbury Pleasure Triples, and Stedman Triples had during the year been scored for the first time by members of the Association, in addition to the 70 peals, seven half-peals, three date touches, 43 quarter-peals, 12 other touches, containing upwards of 1000 changes, and no less than 308 peals of Minor (exclusive of those forming 5040's) had been rung. During the year much had again been done to improve the condition of bells and belfries throughout the county, but there were still too many parish churches where decay and neglect prevented the bells, provided in years gone by, being put to their proper use.

The statement of accounts was then submitted, shewing a deficiency of £14 14s. 8d.

The HON. SECRETARY explained that during the year heavy expenses had been incurred, and mentioned that that was the first year they had had a deficiency. He thought, however, that with careful management they could get the balance on the right side.

The Rev. R. F. TOMPKINS (Hon. Treasurer) said they need not be under any great dismay over such a small debt. He congratulated the Association upon having established itself in the remotest corners of West Sussex, but there were many vacant places in East Sussex, which they should try to get affiliated with them.

The Rev. R. HAY-HILL pointed out the items charged for conveying teams from one church to another, and suggested that members walk to places instead of riding at the expense of Association.

The balance-sheet having been adopted, the Rev. R. HAY-HILL proposed a resolution to the effect that members should not ride to other churches except at their own expense.

The Rev. R. F. TOMPKINS hoped the meeting would not hastily decide upon that motion.

After a brief discussion the proposition was agreed to.

It was then decided that the next eight-bell tower district meeting for West Sussex should be held at Heene, Worthing, and the next six-bell tower district meeting for East Sussex at Alfriston.

The Vicar of Brighton next presented to the Secretary of the Steyning band of ringers (Mr. F. Morris, jun.) the challenge bell given by the Association, and which, having won, they are to retain for one year.

The HON. SECRETARY said some time ago the Association decided to obtain a challenge bell. He was instructed to obtain one, and having seen Messrs. Warner and Son whilst in London, they not only made the bell before them, but also nicely fitted it into a case. After receiving it he had a letter followed from Messrs. Warner asking the Association to accept the bell as a present from that firm. He therefore, thought they should pass a resolution to Messrs. Warner, and he should like to propose the following resolution: "That the members of the Sussex County Association of Ringers, assembled at their fourth annual meeting, hereby express their appreciation of the handsome present of Messrs. Warner and Son in the form of a challenge bell, and the Hon. Secretary be requested to forward the best thanks of the members to Messrs. Warner."

The resolution was cordially agreed to.

Mr. F. MORRIS acknowledged the receipt of the present in suitable terms.

The HON. SECRETARY then explained that it was desirable that a committee should be appointed to draw up rules relating to the future mode of scoring for the challenge bell.

A Sub-Committee was then appointed to consider this matter, and after a vote of thanks had been accorded to the Vicar of Brighton for presiding and taking such an interest in the Association, the meeting concluded.

About six o'clock a number of the members sat down to tea at the Central Schools, Mr. G. F. Attree presiding over the gathering. Following this some further ringing was indulged in by the visitors, and the day's proceedings were brought to a conclusion.

At the luncheon delegates were present representing nearly all the branches of the Association.

The following ringing took place during the day at the parish church, a 640 of Kent Treble Bob Major. A. A. Fuller, 1; J. Newnham, 2; F. Harding, 3; J. Cheeseman, 4; W. Wadey, 5; E. Moses, 6; S. Brooker, 7; F. Wickens, 8. Also a 504 of Stedman Triples. E. Moses, 1; J. Whiting, 2; F. Smith, 3; J. Jay, sen., 4; H. Swain, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; S. Brooker (conductor), 7; L. Killick, 8. Also a 504 of Grandsire Triples. C. Hills, 1; J. Reilly, 2; J. Jay, sen., 3; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 4; G. Thwaites, 5; H. Cornwall, 6; C. Blackman (conductor), 7; F. Finch, 8. Also a 360 of Plain Bob Minor. E. Parsons, 1; C. Clear, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; J. Barnett, 4; F. Finch, 5; C. Hills (conductor), 6. Also at St. Nicholas church, a 504 of Grandsire Triples. C. Holman, 1; H. P. Bennett, 2; E. Willoughby, 3; C. Tyler (conductor), 4; E. Brackley, 5; T. Lewis, 6; C. Blackman, 7; W. Palmer, 8. And a 504 of Grandsire Triples, which was duly reported. Also some short touches of Stedman Triples and Treble Bob Major in which Messrs. Hewett, Whiting, Dawes, Jordan, Moses, Brooker, Lewis, Brackley, Stedman, Searle and Tyler took part.

ANNUAL TRIP OF THE WITTON RINGERS.

The annual trip of the above took place on Whit-Monday, Macclesfield being fixed upon as the place to be visited this year. I may mention here that last year's trip should have taken us to this ancient town, but owing to some hitch in the arrangements, the idea had to be abandoned for the time, though not forgotten, as will be seen from this year's programme, although it caused a little disappointment to both the Macclesfield ringers and Witton, especially the latter, and this year we determined to break down every obstacle, and to carry out our former arrangement.

The time fixed for the start being 8.30 a.m., shortly after this time Mr. Chambers' splendid waggonette was at the starting place with a fine pair of horses in the traces, who seemed to be eager to begin the journey, which was to furnish as fine a day's outing as could be desired by the most fastidious man living. At 8.40 we dashed away from the starting place in fine style, and bowled along the Manchester road, reaching Knutsford in about thirty minutes from the start. A short halt was made at the "Brown Cow," where refreshments were partaken of by most of the party. After a stay of five minutes, the journey

was recommenced, when Knutsford was soon left far in the rear, and we found ourselves in one of the most beautiful parts of Cheshire, bounding along a delightful country road shaded with some of the finest beech to be found in the county, and beyond there could sometimes be seen beautiful stretches of meadow land, verdant with fine crops of every description, which must I am sure gladden the heart of the country rustic to witness the beauties of his own handiwork. After passing these, another halt was made at Chelford. After leaving this place the country become more undulating, and was intersected with small streams and beautiful woodlands gaily bedecked with every variety of colour, and the air was rich with the perfume of many flowers, the woods were actually of flowers, and merry with the songs of the birds. But I must quit all descriptions now, for suddenly our destination is viewed in the distance, and shortly after we run into Macclesfield in fine style after a journey lasting two hours and a half. We drew up in the square in front of the Church, where we were met by some of the Macclesfield ringers. After refreshments, which were quickly provided by these gentlemen, we were kindly conducted through the Church, and had, through the kindness of Mr. Matthews and the vergers, all the points connected with this ancient pile, which dates back from the twelfth century, pointed out to us. It will be inferred from this that such a place must have an history of its own, one of the most important parts being the Savage Chapel, containing some well preserved monuments of this great historic family, dating from 1500. Much more might be said about this ancient edifice if space would allow it, but many of its grand points have been destroyed by so called modern improvements. It is now time to say a word about the object of our visit, and I cannot do better than begin by thanking on behalf of myself and fellow ringers, all those who so kindly received us, and for the gentlemanly manner in which we were entertained by them, and by expressing a hope that this will not be the last day we shall have the pleasure of spending together.

There was no great things expected in the shape of ringing by any of us, but after refreshments we adjourned to the tower, which contains a ring of ten bells in good running order. After raising the bells, a break was made, when orders were sent from the Mayor that we should stop the bells for fifteen minutes, which was accordingly done. After this another break was made, but after ringing for about fifteen minutes the third bell rope broke. After undergoing repairs another attempt followed, and this time some of the home men mixed with us, but unfortunately after about 300 changes had been rung the rope gave way again, when a new end had to be spliced to it, after which 720 of Plain Bob Minor was rung, and several other short touches followed, but there was no attempts to accomplish anything great. Thus ended the day from a ringing point of view, and after again partaking of the good things provided for us in such a bountiful way, each one followed the bent of his own fancy, and many and various were the results as will be seen from the following description.

After leaving the church, the town came in for its share of attention, and we were shown the most interesting parts, and Mr. Matthews kindly took us over to his house and kindly explained the mysteries of silk weaving, so extensively carried on in this part of Cheshire. This gentleman is well-known to most ringers as the manufacturer of the bellringers' handkerchief, which we saw in course of manufacture. When we again adjourned to the "Black Horse," some courses of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Caters, were indulged in by the Macclesfield ringers, and at eight o'clock a move was made for our waggnette, and after a jolly ride in the cool of the evening of two hours and a half, we reached home, everyone having thoroughly enjoyed himself, some of them so much so that they admitted they were as happy as kings.

And I may say, in conclusion, the only disappointment I experienced was because I did not hear a few courses of Stedman on the bells, but not being holiday time here, it was found impossible to get a full band together, so the thing was unavoidable, I but hope to have the pleasure when the visit is returned.

JOHN HOUGHTON.

A CORRECTION.—The weight of the tenor at St. Mary's, Cheltenham, is 22 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

On Tuesday, May 15th, 1888, at the parish church of St. Martin, a meeting was held in the belfry to unveil a peal tablet of two peals rung on the bells by members of the Tipton band. This tablet is the first ever erected in the tower. The first peal of bells were hung in the tower in 1798, being a peal of six, cast by the Whitechapel firm. One of them being broken by careless ringing, the back four were taken out and replaced by six new ones in 1848 by the same firm, leaving in the tower at the present time a beautiful peal of eight, tenor 12 cwt. 25 lbs. The first peal of Major rung on them was 5056 changes of Kent Treble Bob, in 2 hrs. and 45 mins., on February 22nd, 1852, composed and conducted by Mr. S. Marsh, of West Bromwich. There was also two peals of Grandsire Triples rung on them about the year 1856. Their was no ringing of any importance afterwards till November, 1884, when a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung, conducted by J. Fullwood, and another peal of Grandsire Major, in April, 1885. The bells, etc. being in very bad going order they were thoroughly overhauled and fitted with new brasses and gudgeons. Mr. W. R. Small was appointed steeple-keeper, and change-ringing was begun in earnest by a band who take great delight in it. 43,000 changes have been rung and brought round by the company this year in the four standard methods, viz.: Grandsire, Plain Bob, Treble Bob, and Stedman, including three peals of Grandsire Triples. At the opening of the meeting a touch of Plain Bob Major was rung by the following: H. Miles, 1; S. Spittle, 2; A. Hill, 3; E. Goodreds, 4; W. Micklewright, 5; J. Smith, 6; G. Hughes (conductor), 7; J. Goodman, 8. Afterwards the band stood in the same order as they did in the first peal, and rang a short touch of Grandsire Triples, when the Rev. A. A. Cory, Vicar, uncovered the tablet and read out the inscription painted thereon, also giving some practical advice to the ringers present on their duties as church workers, and spoke of the difference in ringing of the present day and the ringing of days gone by, which, he said, was in a great measure due to the Associations formed for the improvement of ringers and ringing. Another touch of Grandsire Triples was rung in the same order as the second peal in the tablet, with one exception, the vacancy being filled by Mr. E. Cashmore.

Mr. W. R. Small proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for his presence among them that evening to uncover the peal tablet, and for his advice and good wishes to them, and Mr. Samuel Spittle, Master of the Worcester and adjoining Districts Association, seconded.

Mr. John Warring, on behalf of the congregation, thanked the ringers for the beautiful music which they sent forth from the church tower. There were also present the Rev. H. N. Eales, Curate, Mr. Samuel Reeves, Secretary of the Archdeaconry of Stafford Association, Mr. John Smith, Secretary of the Worcester and adjoining Districts Association, and others. To close the evening's ringing a touch of Stedman Triples was attempted, but was brought to a close by the breaking of the 7th rope. W. R. Small, 1; Adam, H. Hill, 2; S. Jesson, 3; S. Reeves (conductor), 4; W. Micklewright, 5; S. Spittle, 6; G. Hughes, 7; J. Goodman, 8.

ALL SAINTS', WEST BROMWICH.

On Tuesday evening, May 29th, the members of the All Saints' society were entertained at supper by the Rev. M. M. Connor (Vicar), to commemorate the ringing of the peal which was published in "THE BELL NEWS" of May 26th. "Go" was called by the Vicar, and the fifteen members soon settled down to a steady attack on the good things provided, and got through the "courses" in a very creditable and satisfactory manner.

The cloth having been removed, the Vicar, in a few words, congratulated the ringers on the success of their getting the peal they had been striving after for some months past, and hoped it would be the means of encouraging them to still further achievements.

Mr. E. CASHMORE proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for his kindness, which was seconded by Mr. W. COOPER, and carried unanimously.

A pleasant evening was spent with cards, bagatelle, drafts, and other games.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—ANNUAL OUTING OF THE LEISTON COMPANY.

ON Whiti-Monday the above company had their annual outing under most enjoyable circumstances. It was intended to make the rendezvous at Debenham, but on account of the illness of one of the inhabitants, they could not obtain the bells, so they decided to go to Redenhall, in Norfolk. Arrangements having been made with Mr. F. Garrod, of Leiston, for their conveyance by his brake and pair, they made a start at five o'clock and made their first halt at Heveningham, a distance of twelve miles, about seven o'clock, where they rang some Grandsire and Bob Doubles upon the tower bells. About 8 a.m. they made a start for Fressingfield, a distance of five miles further, and getting the keys, they rang a capital touch of 518 Grandsire Triples, being the first part of Holt's peal. W. Button, 1; F. Lambert, 2; F. Wilson, 3; H. Button, 4; G. Morling, 5; A. Lincoln, 6; R. Stannard (conductor), 7; J. Flegg, 8. Also 288 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, with J. Motts, of Ipswich. They then went to the Club Room, and rang upon the splendid peal of handbells a course of Grandsire Caters. F. Lambert, 1-2; A. Lincoln, 3-4; J. Motts, 5-6; R. Stannard, 7-8; F. Wilson, 9-10. About 11 a.m. they made a start once more, and crossing the river that divides Suffolk from Norfolk, they reached their destination five miles further—Redenhall—about twelve o'clock, where they were met by Mr. E. Smith, of the Redenhall society, and some touches of Grandsire Triples, Oxford Treble Bob, and Bob Major were rung, and then going to the "Yew Treee," they rang another course of Caters with Mr. E. Smith in the place of J. Motts. About three o'clock they started for Halesworth on their homeward journey, and there again a 336 of Grandsire with Queens and Tittums, and then harnessing once more, they reached home about 11 p.m., with the knowledge that they had spent one of the most enjoyable days which could fall to their lot, and they also wish to thank all those who helped to make their outing so pleasant and enjoyable a one to all.

ST. TUDY, CORNWALL.

A service was held in the parish church of St. Tudy, recently, on the occasion of the re-dedication of the fine peal of five bells. The service included appropriate hymns and special prayers, and an excellent address to the ringers by the Rev. Mr. Boles, Vicar of St. Breward. Great interest was manifested by the parishioners in the event, as they have been deprived of the pleasure of hearing the familiar tones of the bells for a considerable time, it having been considered unsafe to ring them owing to the shaky condition of the old framework and fittings, which were left untouched when the church itself was restored some fourteen years since. When, however, it became apparent that the safety of the tower was endangered by continuing to ring the bells, the Rector, the Rev. G. Bridgewater, set energetically to work to procure the necessary funds to put the belfry in order, himself leading off with liberality, with the result that the landholders of the parish responded to his appeal generally, and the amount required was soon raised. The work has been carried out in a most substantial manner by Mr. Harry Stokes, of Woodbury, near Exeter. Every detail has been attended to and a chiming apparatus has been supplied. The inscription on the bell which was badly cracked and has been recast, is "Recast, Easter, 1888, in memory of Edward Auriol Magor, of Lamellen, by May Caroline, his wife." The tower has also been repaired and strengthened, and the frame has been made to take a 6th bell.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting is fixed to be held at Ashford, on Monday, June 18th. Committee meeting at 11; Service at 12, when the sermon will be preached by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. Dinner at 1. All who mean to attend, and wish for dinner tickets, should communicate with the Secretary, not later than June 12th. And if reduced fares are desired, full particulars as to trains, stations, and numbers must be given, or no application can be made. The allowance to members is 1s. besides the dinner.

Winsted Court, Leuham.

R. K. HUGESSEN, Hon. Sec.

HALF-A-DAY'S BELL-PULLING.

On Saturday, June 2nd, a mixed band of ringers drafted from Rochdale, Heywood, Bury and Manchester, had previously determined to attempt two peals during the afternoon at Holy Trinity and the parish church, Bolton. On the day in question the 1.35 p.m. train from Rochdale to Bolton contained among its passengers Messrs. Hoyle, Birtwistle and Wreaks, who is at present working in Rochdale, and at Heywood picked up Messrs. Harrison, Millett and Scholey, and at Bury Mr. E. Bishop. On arrival at Bolton Station at 2.20 p.m., all got out and were met by Mr. Hamer, one of the local ringers, who greeted the visitors most cordially. Steps were turned for Holy Trinity church, where the first peal was to be attempted, and here was found Mr. G. Turner, from Manchester, who had arrived only a few minutes before the others. The bells being up, a start was soon made for a peal of Treble Bob Major at 2.45 p.m., and all went on well till 5.36, when the joyful sound of "this is all," proclaimed that peal number one had been accomplished. Steps were then turned towards a Coffee Tavern in Bradshawgate, where a comfortable tea was enjoyed. This "half-way single" duly got over, the visitors then moved towards the parish church, where a peal of Bob Major was to be attempted. At 7.7 p.m. "go" was called a second time, and success again favoured the visitors, for at 10.5 the bells were in rounds again. No time was to be lost, however, to catch the last train to Rochdale, viz.: 10.25 p.m., the visitors thus occupying eight hours and five minutes to enter Bolton and ring two different peals at two separate churches, and leaving again. The above ringers wish to thank the local companies most heartily for their kindness in meeting them and having the bells and ropes in such good order.

A. E. W.

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, MONMOUTH.

On Thursday, May 24th, was the day fixed for the opening of the grand new Jubilee Hall which is the gift of J. A. Rolls, Esq., of "The Hendre," near Monmouth, which he has built at a cost of about £8000. The carnival commenced on Wednesday night at 9.30 p.m., with a grand torchlight procession, with nearly 400 torches, no one being allowed to have a torch that was not in fancy costume, which having paraded the town, finished up at the new hall between eleven and twelve. On Thursday the bells were rang at intervals, but being short of a conductor nothing worthy of booking was done, but after ringing touches of 168, 336, and 504, a start was made for a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing about 21 mins., it came to grief through a single being called too late. T. Jones, 1; W. Honeyfield, Esq., 2; J. Ward, 3; J. Brown, 4; A. Bird, 5; T. M. Preece, 6; T. H. Jones (conductor), 7; H. Brown, 8. After which, there being some visitors in the belfry, some ringing commonly called "stone, or churchyard bob," was done, so as to oblige all, being the first of the sort that Mr. A. Bird (who hails from Ross), had ever rung. After which some more touches of Triples, which some of the visitors seemed to think was something grand to what they did at home.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 2nd, a Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held in St. John-the-Baptist Schoolroom, Bromsgrove. The Vicar, the Rev. A. E. Seymour, M.A., presided. The usual business of the Association was transacted, in which several new members were added, including the Rev. Albany Wrey, who has just taken a curacy at Bromsgrove, and who is a ringer and a master of Stedman. The local company at this place are pretty well versed in various methods, and now with the assistance of the above-named rev. gentleman, we hope soon to see them figure in this intricate method. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the chairman for presiding, and the meeting terminated.

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, JUNE 9, 1888.

WHEN the account of the Annual Meeting of the Yorkshire Association—to be found in this issue—is perused by our readers, some satisfaction will be felt at the pastoral letter which has been sent out to his parishioners by the Vicar of Pontefract. At this ancient town, the Association had determined to hold its meeting, and the Vicar not only acceded to the request for permission to ring at his church, but wisely took steps to give the inhabitants prior information of what was going to be done. His letter will therefore be read with interest, and its somewhat quaint tone will enhance the pleasure of a perusal. The rev. gentleman confesses to know very little about the technical phrases of the Exercise, and naively asks his parishioners if they know much about them! This is not the first time we have heard of a Vicar of a parish, whose church possessed a ring of bells, admitting that he knew nothing whatever of ringing. Such confessions however, generally appear to be made in a desponding kind of way, as if the want of such knowledge was felt and deplored, and that its acquisition would be a relief. We invariably reply to such admissions in the following manner: that the apparent difficulties are easily surmounted; the desired knowledge may be readily attained; the requisite dexterity can soon be acquired; and the technicalities of the science become unfolded to all who will join our ranks. Let this be our answer to the worthy Vicar, and not only to him, but to his coadjutors in the ministry in the good town of Pontefract.

This meeting of the Yorkshire Association was evidently arranged not only for the benefit of the Association in particular, but for the benefit of the art of ringing in general. We are not acquainted with the *modus operandi* of the committee, or whether they actually strive for the purpose, but their presence in any neighbourhood seems to stir up the inhabitants, who appear to become all at once interested in our branch of the Church's work. We do not say that this is an exclusive attribute of the Yorkshire Association, but they seem to have the happy knack of arousing the public to co-operate with them. This has

been the case with the meeting in question. First of all the Vicar sends round to his parishioners a printed notice of the meeting; then we find the other clergy of the town taking part in the proceedings; and a number of ladies, relatives of the clergy, graciously presiding at the tea-table, and attending to the requirements of their ringing guests. Such a commingling is indeed very encouraging, and ringers need not lose heart when they receive such kindly attentions, though they may be met with a rebuff at other times.

Ringers are apt to speak—and they speak correctly—of the total absence of *hauteur*, or "stand-offishness" among those clergymen who are well-known ringers. We should imagine that the Vicar of Pontefract is a gentleman of the same stamp, and therefore we should rejoice to hear that he had gone in training for the accomplishment of a peal in one of those methods of which he yet knows so little about. At any rate we hope to hear of him again. We want his clapper to be again talkative and his bell not to run down.

A continued pressure on our space again prevents in the current number the appearance of several reports, touches, correspondence, and other matters. Our readers will no doubt exercise a little patience under any disappointment they may experience in consequence. All will appear in due course, and in the order which the exigencies of each case demand. We have this week, with other correspondence, an explanatory letter from our friend Mr. PENNING; this will appear next week. Some correspondents still neglect to enclose their names and addresses with their communications. This is desired so that the writers may be appealed to in case any of their statements may be impugned. An omission in this particular consigns what is forwarded to our waste-paper basket. As inefficient postage is also getting much more frequent than pleasant, we hope our friends will try to avoid this inconvenience. We shall be glad to hear of any efforts being made to extend the circulation of this journal.

The Provinces.

GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK.

On Tuesday, May 29, 1888, in Three Hours and Thirty-six and a ½ Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES.

Tenor 30 cwt. in D.

ROBERT CHRISTIAN Treble.	ARTHUR WEBBER 6.
WILLIAM BLYTH 2.	WILLIAM SECRETT 7.
JAMES BRAY 3.	THOMAS TOOLEY 8.
MATTHEW LONG 4.	WILLIAM FLETCHER 9.
DENISON HAYWARD 5.	GEORGE CROWE Tenor.

Conducted by MATTHEW LONG.

The above is the longest length ever yet rung on the bells in this method. The Rev. James F. Hastings, late of Wells and now of Yarmouth, who was outside and heard the peal, congratulated the company upon bringing round such a good peal, and invited them to partake of suitable refreshments. The above peal of bells was put in the tower by Mears and Stainbank, at a cost of £1161 3s. 4d., and were first rung on May 2nd, 1808.

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

On Thursday, May 31, 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.	HARRY WAKLEY 5.
JOHN AUSTIN 2.	JOHN W. TAYLOR, JUN. .. 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by JOSEPH GRIFFIN.

This peal, which is now rung for the first time, has the 6th the extent in 5-6, and nine consecutive courses home, the 2nd being never in 6th's place. This is Mr. Taylor's first peal in the method.

FOXEARH, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, May 31, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt.

SAMUEL SLATER Treble.	WALTER P. GRIDLEY .. 5.
CHAS. SILLITOE 2.	GEORGE MAXIM 6.
JOHN LEE 3.	PERCY C. S. SCOTT .. 7.
FRED. WELLS 4.	GEORGE C. HAMMOND .. Tenor.

Composed by W. HARRISON and Conducted by G. C. HAMMOND.

This is the quickest peal ever rang on the bells. Messrs. Hammond and Scott hail from Long Melford; Slater and Wells from Glemsford; Sillitoe from Sudbury: the rest are local ringers.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE,
WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION,
AND THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF
STAFFORD.

On Thursday, May 31, 1888, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 12 cwt. 25 lbs.

BENJAMIN STARKEY* Treble.	WILLIAM PARDOE 5.
ADAM H. HILL 2.	SAMUEL JESSON 6.
HARRY MILLS† 3.	GEORGE HUGHES 7.
EDWARD GOODREDS 4.	WILLIAM ROCK SMALL .. Tenor.

Composed by H. HUBBARD and Conducted by GEORGE HUGHES.

It is the first peal in the method by all the band except W. R. Small, and is the first peal of Bob Major on the bells. It is also the first peal of Bob Major rang by members of each of the above Associations, and was rung at the first attempt. *First peal in any method with treble. †First peal with a bob bell.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, June 1, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THOMPSON'S THREE-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WM. T. PATES Treble.	FREDK. MUSTY 5.
G. H. PHILLOTT 2.	FRANCIS E. WARD 6.
T. R. HOOPER 3.	HENRY ROBERTS 7.
HENRY KARN 4.	THOS. COMPTON Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS E. WARD.

LIVERSEDGE, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF VIOLET MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

J. W. LANG Treble.	H. BROOKE 5.
J. KNOTT 2.	M. RAMSDEN 6.
A. BRIGGS 3.	L. ILLINGWORTH 7.
S. GOODALL 4.	W. COLLINS Tenor.

Composed by WILLIAM SOTTANSTALL, of Sowerby, and Conducted by LUKE ILLINGWORTH.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DUFFIELD ROYAL, 5004 CHANGES.

Tenor 17 cwt.

JOHN CARTER Treble.	HARRY C. WOODWARD .. 6.
SAMUEL JOHNSON 2.	GEORGE HINGLEY 7.
JOHN JAGGAR 3.	JOHN W. TAYLOR 8.
JOHN HOWE 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. 9.
WILLIAM HICKLING 5.	A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, Esq.

In this peal, which is now rung for the first time, the 6th is at home at every course-end.

FOXEARH, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

Birthday Peal.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 8½ cwt.

SAMUEL SLATER Treble.	WILLIAM J. NEVARD .. 5.
CHARLES SILLITOE 2.	ROBERT MINGAY 6.
WALTER GRIDLEY 3.	GEORGE MAXIM 7.
FRED. WELLS 4.	JOHN LEE Tenor.

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON and Conducted by CHAS. SILLITOE.

*This peal, which is in three parts, has the sixth the last two course-ends at home in each part, and also either 5th or 6th one way in 5-6 at each course end. It will be found in Snowdon's *Treatise*, part II, page 20. This peal was arranged to oblige Mr. Nevard, and it is his first peal of Treble Bob Major. Also rung as a birthday peal for G. Maxim, who attained his 21st year on that day. Mr. Nevard hails from Great Bentley; Sillitoe from Sudbury; Wells and Slater from Glemsford, the rest belong to Foxearth.

HULL.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt.

CHARLIE BENNETT Treble.	TOM STOCKDALE 5.
W. SOUTHWICK 2.	JAMES DIXEY 6.
J. POLLARD 3.	FRANK DRABBLE 7.
H. JENKINS 4.	CHARLES JACKSON Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS and Conducted by CHARLES JACKSON.

This peal, which contains all the 8-6's and 8-6-7's with the 6th its extent home at five course ends and the 2nd never in 6th's place at a course end, was rung on the occasion of the celebration of the Queen's birthday.

BOLTON-LE-MOORS, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,

AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

JOHN MILLETT Treble.	JOHN HARRISON 5.
ERNEST BISHOP 2.	FRANK BIRTWISTLE .. 6.
GEORGE E. TURNER 3.	A. EDWARD WREAKS .. 7.
GEORGE HOYLE 4.	JAMES SCHOLEY Tenor.

Composed by SAMUEL WOOD, and Conducted by A. E. WREAKS.

This is the first peal in the method on the bells. Messrs. Millett, Harrison, and Scholey, hail from Heywood; Bishop from Bury; Turner and Wreaks from Manchester; Hoyle and Birtwistle from Rochdale.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

On Monday, June 4, 1888, in Two Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES UPON SIX BELLS;

BEING A 720 OF COLLEGE SINGLE, TWO 720S OF PLAIN BOB, TWO 720S OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB, AND TWO 720S OF KENT TREBLE BOB.

ALFRED MATTHEWS* Treble.	*JAMES MERCER 4.
DAVID WEST 2.	GEORGE JONES 5.
GEORGE JONES 3.	JAMES MORRISON Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES MORRISON.

*First peal.

BOLTON-LE-MOORS, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 2, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

GEORGE HOYLE Treble.	FRANK BIRTWISTLE 5.
ERNEST BISHOP 2.	A. EDWARD WREAKS 6.
JOHN MILLETT 3.	JOHN HARRISON 7.
GEORGE E. TURNER 4.	JAMES SCHOLEY Tenor.

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD and Conducted by A. EDWARD WREAKS.

First peal in the method by Messrs. Hoyle and Birtwistle.

LONGNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, June 3, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF PLAIN BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HUBBARD'S TEN-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

THOMAS BROWN* Treble.	WILLIAM JAMES SEVIER.. 5.
JOSEPH YEATES 2.	SYDNEY E. ROMANS .. 6.
HENRY MITCHELL 3.	ALFRED ARTHUR WAITE.. 7.
RAYMOND JOHN WILKINS.. 4.	*GEORGE BRUNSDEN Tenor.

Conducted by ALFRED ARTHUR WAITE.

* First peal in the method. † First peal. This is also the first peal in the method on the bells. Thomas Brown hails from Quedgley; George Brunnsden from Gloucester, the rest belong to the Upton St. Leonards and Barnwood societies.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, June 4, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 9½ cwt.

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

Composed and Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

* First peal in the method, which was rung after four practices.

CODDENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, June 4, 1888, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES: Tenor 16½ cwt.

JAMES MOTTS Treble.	ROBERT HAWES 5.
CHAS. MEE 2.	*ROBT. S. STORY 6.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER .. 3.	WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE 7.
WILLIAM MOTTS 4.	FREDK. TILLET Tenor.

Composed by H. DAINS and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

Mr. Story hails from Newcastle; the rest belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich. * First peal in the method, and also the first attempt of the same.

ERITH, KENT.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Tuesday, June 5, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S SIX-PART. Tenor 18 cwt.

FREDERICK CULLUM Treble.	GEORGE CONYARD 5.
WILLIAM BEDWELL 2.	FREDERICK J. FRENCH .. 6.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE 3.	REV. H. A. COCKEY 7.
EDWARD E. RICHARDS .. 4.	JOHN GARARD Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. H. A. COCKEY.

Messrs. Conyard and French hail from Crayford; Weatherstone from Rotherhithe; Richards from Woolwich; Bedwell and Rev. H. A. Cockey from Greenwich; Cullum and Garard belong to Erith.

MITCHAM, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 6, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt.

JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. Treble.	JAMES W. TRAPPITT .. 5.
GEORGE WELLING 2.	JOSEPH FAYERS.. .. 6.
JAMES STRUTT 3.	CHARLES BANCE 7.
REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 4.	JAMES HARRIS Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

Date Touch.

WINTERBOURNE EARLS (Wilts).—On Monday, May 14th, at the parish church, a date touch (1888 changes) of Grandsire and Bob Doubles, in 1 hr. A. P. Goddard, 1; S. Lawrence, 2; W. S. Wise, 3; A. W. Barkus, 4; T. Blackburn (conductor), 5.

Miscellaneous.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

FAREHAM (Hants).—On Monday, June 4th, at the parish church, 504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Jeffery, 1; C. Privett, 2; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 3; F. Hill (conductor), 4; G. Hackett, 5; G. Grafham, 6; J. W. Whiting, 7; G. Passingham, 8. Also 559 of Grandsire Triples. J. Jeffery, 1; F. Hill, 2; G. Grafham, 3; C. Privett, 4; Rev. H. A. Spyers, 5; G. Passingham, 6; J. W. Whiting (conductor), 7; G. Hackett, 8.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

SOUTH HACKNEY (Middlesex).—On Sunday, May 27th, at the church of St. John of Jerusalem, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins. R. Turner, 1; W. Cecil, 2; A. Cutmore, 3; S. Hayes, 4; C. Lee, 5; H. Springhall (conductor), 6; S. Joyce, 7; E. Turner, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—On Wednesday, May 23rd, at St. Hilda's church, 504 of Grandsire Triples. And on Sunday, May 27th, 720 of Bob Minor, with the bells muffled on both sides, as a mark of respect to Charles Wilkinson, one of the company, who died on Monday, April 21st, at the age of twenty-nine. His death took place somewhat sudden, he having taken part in a quarter-peal, with the bells muffled, as late as April 13th.

DARLINGTON.—On Thursday, May 24th, at St. John's church, on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, two 720's of Minor, one of College Singles and one of Double Oxford Bob Minor, in 26 mins. each. J. Bolton, 2; J. Little, 2; H. S. Taylor, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; W. D. Lister, 5; J. H. Whitfield (conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt. in G.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ST. ALBANS.—Chiming.—On Sunday, May 27th, for Divine Service, 616 of Grandsire Triples, taken from Thompson's three-part peal, in 22 mins. A. Barnes, 1-2; G. W. Cartmel, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5-6; T. Waller, 7-8. Also 216 of Grandsire Minor. A. Barnes, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; T. Waller, 5-6. And on Wednesday, May 24th, for practice, 504 of Stedman Triples. W. H. L. Buckingham, 1; J. C. Mitchell (conductor), 2; H. Lewis, 3; A. Barnes, 4; E. P. Debenham, 5; G. W. Cartmel, 6; T. Waller, 7; D. Gibbons, 8. Also a touch of Bob Major, H. Baker (conductor), 8. H. Baker hails from Hertford.

IPSWICH (Suffolk).—Handbell Ringing.—On Saturday evening, May 19th, at the Halbert inn, a touch of 503 Grandsire Caters. A. R. Aldham, 1-2; C. Mee (conductor), 3-4; A. E. Durrant, 5-6; F. Mee, 7-8; W. L. Catchpole, 9-10. Also on Tuesday morning, at Sproughton, an attempt was made to ring Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, but came to grief after ringing 1500 changes. A. R. Aldham, 1-2; C. Mee (conductor), 3-4; A. E. Durrant, 5-6; F. Mee, 7-8. Afterwards a course of Kent Treble Bob Royal, and a course of Stedman Caters, assisted by Mr. Steward, 1-2; the rest as before. Mr. Aldham hails from Loughborough, the rest belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower society, Ipswich.

BRISTOL.—On Whit-Tuesday, at the church of St. Mary-le-Port, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 35 mins. J. Falser, 1; C. Burden, 2; S. Phillips, 3; C. Trevett, 4; G. Daltry, 5; F. Price (conductor), 6; F. Ellis, 7; W. Colston, 8.

BUNWELL (Norfolk).—On Sunday, May 20th, at St. Michael's church, for morning service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob; for afternoon service, a 720 of Bob Minor; and after Divine Service, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. R. Hutton (conductor), 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; J. Hilling, 3; A. Dunnett, 4; G. Smith, jun., 5; J. Hinchley, 6. Also a 720 of Double Court. R. Hutton (conductor), 1; W. Nudds (Banharn), 2; J. Hilling, 3; J. Jackson, 4; J. Hinchley, 5; G. Websdell, 6. Also on Sunday, May 27th, for Divine Service in the morning, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. R. Hutton (conductor), 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; J. Hilling, 3; A. Dunnett, 4; G. Smith, jun., 5; J. Hinchley, 6. And after service, a 720 of Bob Minor. J. Hinchley (conductor), 1; G. Websdell, 6, the others standing as before.

LIVERPOOL.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Sunday, May 27th, at the house of Mr. J. R. Pritchard, 518 of Grandsire Triples. J. Aspinwall, 1-2; J. R. Pritchard (conductor), 3-4; T. Hammond, 5-6; *J. Martin, 7-8. *First 500.

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Sunday, May 27th, after Divine Service in the afternoon at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. H. Symonds, 1; *A. Keeble, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; Jno. Moore, 4; W. Snell, 5; A. Symonds (conductor), 6. *First attempt. Also 504 of Oxford Treble Bob (twelve bobs). H. Symonds, 1; C. Parker, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; J. Moore, 4; A. Keeble, 5; R. Keeble (conductor), 6. Messrs. Parker and Keeble hail from Monks Eleigh, Symonds from Lavenham, the rest are local men.

PAINSWICK (Gloucestershire).—On Whit-Sunday, May 20th, the local company rang a 350 of Grandsire Triples, for Divine Service at 8 a.m.; also for Divine Service, at 11 a.m., the last half of Holt's Original. A. Trigg, 1; D. Marment, 2; W. Ryland, 3; W. Hale (conductor), 4; J. Wager, 5; J. Everatt, 6; G. Smith, 7; T. Wright, 8. Also for Divine at 6.30 p.m., 700 of Grandsire Triples, standing as before, and a 504 and 350, with Mr. E. King, from Stroud, at the 7th. Also on Sunday, May 27th, for Divine Service, at 6.30 p.m., the last 742 of Holt's Original. A. Trigg, 1; H. G. Gardener (Gloucester), 2; W. Ryland, 3; W. Hale (conductor), 4; J. Wager, 5; H. Mitchell (Gloucester), 6; G. Smith, 7; T. Wright, 8.

POSTINGFORD (Suffolk).—On Thursday, May 24th, being the Queen's birthday, the local company rang 120 of Grandsire Doubles, and five six-scores of Bob Doubles, called four different ways. W. Atkinson, 1; G. Basham, 2; C. Rawlinson, 3; F. W. Hicks, 4; D. Gridley (conductor), 5.

READING (Berks).—On Thursday, May 24th, at St. Laurence's church, in honour of the Queen's birthday, 504 of Grandsire Triples. B. White, 1; W. H. Holloway, 2; W. Johnson, 3; G. Talbot, 4; W. Goseltine, 5; W. J. Williams (conductor), 6; W. Newell, 7; A. E. Reeves, 8. Also in the evening another 504 of Grandsire Triples. B. White, 1; W. H. Holloway, 2; J. Tarrant, 3; G. Talbot, 4; W. Johnson, 5; A. E. Reeves (conductor), 6; W. Newell, 7; H. Simmonds, 8. Tenor 25 cwt.

REIGATE (Surrey).—On Monday evening, June 4th, for practice at the parish church, 504 of Stedman Triples. G. Croucher, 1; *J. Bashford, sen., 2; *G. F. Attree, 3; *F. Linter, 4; W. Argent, 5; *E. Moses (conductor), 6; *E. Kenward, 7; *J. Howard, 8. *Members of the Surrey Association.

SAWBRIDGEWORTH (Herts).—On Sunday evening, May 27th for service at the Parish Church, a 504 of Stedman Triples, in 19 mins. G. Rochester (conductor), 1; N. W. Tarling, 2; T. Sebram, 3; W. J. Pleasance, 4; J. Tarling, 5; H. Saban, 6; W. Morris, 7; P. Springham, 8. And for practice on Tuesday evening, May 29th, 308 of Grandsire Triples. G. Rochester, 1; A. Brown, 2; T. Saban, 3; F. W. Tarling, 4; N. W. Tarling, 5; P. Springham, 6; W. Morris (conductor), 7; H. Saban, 8. Also a 364 of Stedman Triples. G. Rochester (conductor), 1; A. Brown, 2; N. W. Tarling, 3; W. J. Pleasance, 4; W. Morris, 5; P. Springham, 6; H. Saban, 7; F. W. Tarling, 8. Also a course of Kent Treble Bob Major. H. Saban, 1; A. Brown, 2; J. Saban, 3; W. J. Pleasance, 4; G. Rochester, 5; W. Morris, 6; P. Springham, 7; N. W. Tarling, 8. Tenor 25 cwt.

WOLLASTON (Staffordshire).—On Sunday morning, June 3rd, the local company rang for Divine Service a 720 of Bob Minor, in 24½ mins. W. Stinton, 1; J. H. Parsons, 2; J. H. Parkes, 3; W. Fryer, 4; J. Lewis, 5; H. Dakin, 6.

SALTAIRE (Yorks).—On Tuesday, May 29th, at the Congregational Church, 720 of Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. J. Stubbs, 1; R. Eccles (first 720), 2; B. Emmett, 3; B. T. Copley, 4; A. Bulmer, 5; A. Ridley (conductor).

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MEMBERS are informed that the report for 1887 (which contains amongst other matters, a full list of peals, with the compositions, rung by the Association since its formation in 1878) is now ready, and may be obtained of the local secretaries of the different Deaneries as under. Free to those whose subscriptions are paid, and to others at a price at 3d.

Deaneries.	Local Secs.
GLOUCESTER	H. Hatherley, Esq., National Provincial Bank, Gloucester.
DURSLEY, HAWKESBURY, & BITTON	Mr. F. K. Howell, Morton, Thornbury.
N'TH AND S'TH FOREST ..	Mr. J. Hern, Newnham.
BISLEY & STONEHOUSE ..	W. C. Long, Esq., Stonehouse.
WINCHCOMBE, CIRENCESTER AND TEWKESBURY ..	F. E. Ward, Esq., 438, High Street, Cheltenham.
FAIRFORD, NORTHLEACH, & STOW	T. W. Taylor, Esq., Northleach.
BRISTOL AND STAPLETON..	C. E. D. Boutflower, Esq., 30, Broad Street, Bristol.
Magor, Newport, Mon.	REV. PITT EYKYN, Hon. Sec.

BEACONSFIELD AND WOOBURN, BUCKS.

On Whit-Monday a band of the Oxford Diocesan Guild journeyed to Beaconsfield for the purpose of attempting a peal of Grandsire Triples on the excellent ring of bells in the parish church (permission having been readily granted by the worthy Vicar), which was duly accomplished. On leaving the tower, the band was heartily congratulated by Mr. Thomas Perryman, brother to the ringer of the tenor, who not only invited them to partake of refreshment at his residence, but drove the band to Wooburn to complete the second part of the programme, that being to inspect a peal tablet presented and written by Mr. Williams (churchwarden), recording a peal of Grandsire Triples rung at this church on Saturday, February 6th, 1886, this being the second peal on the bells, the first which was rung over forty-six years ago, and conducted by the late Thomas Tolladay.

Here they received a hearty welcome from the Rev. A. Woodin, and placing the bells at our disposal, several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, after which an adjournment to the inn opposite, where an excellent tea was provided by the Vicar, to which ample justice was done. A touch on the handbells, and twenty minutes walk to the station, concluded a most enjoyable Bank Holiday.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—ROSSENDALE BRANCH.

A Ringing Meeting of the above branch took place at Christ Church Bacup, on Saturday, June 2nd, when about twenty-five members from Bacup, Waterfoot, Newchurch and Bolton took part in the ringing during the afternoon and evening. Touches in Plain Bob and College Single, and a 720 of Plain Bob, and 720 of Oxford Single were rung. A meeting was held in the Schoolroom at 6.30, presided over by the Rev. J. Mc Cubbin, Vicar, who kindly consented to become an honorary member of the Association.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A Meeting of the members will be held at Hatfield, Herts, on Saturday, June 16th. The tower will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. At 5 o'clock a business meeting will be held at the Coffee Tavern, to elect an Honorary Secretary and transact general business. E. P. DEBENHAM, Hon. Sec. pro tem.
St. Albans, Herts.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—ANNUAL MEETING AT DEVIZES.

The members of this Guild held their Annual Meeting in the town of Devizes on Wednesday last. A company formed of the Salisbury (St. Martin's) and Trowbridge bands, went to ring at Bishops Cannings, and the Longbridge Deverell company rang at St. Mary's several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, as also did the Salisbury St. Edmund's company. Other bands were in attendance from the following parishes; Marlborough St. Mary, Marlborough St. Peter, North Bradley, Warminster, Great Bedwyn, Evershot, Seend, Ogbourne St. Andrew, Maiden Bradley, Mildenhall, Wishford, and Ebbesborne Wake. All the former officers were re-elected, viz.: the Rev. A. D. Hill, Master; Mr. W. Pickney, Treasurer; Mr. J. R. Jerram, General Secretary; the Revs. C. W. Hony and M. Hankey, District Secretaries; Mr. A. H. Handcock, Auditor; and the Revs. C. N. Wyld and E. G. Wyld, and Messrs. W. W. Gifford, C. A. Clements, and H. A. Garrett, Committee. The Rev. Dr. Bourne (sub-dean) was elected a vice-president. A discussion arose as to the advisability of attempting long peals on general meeting days, and it was decided not to do so in future, but it was proposed that funds permitting, the committee might occasionally pay the expenses of a band to any place in the diocese in order to attempt a peal. Some discussion also took place as to the introduction of life ringing members into the Guild, but the question was deferred until another meeting.

The annual dinner was held at the "Bear" hotel, the host catering in a very satisfactory style for about 100 guests. The chair was taken by the President of the Guild, the Earl Nelson, and among those present were the Master of the Guild (Rev. A. D. Hill, Downton), Revs. Dr. Burges and J. G. Locke (Devizes), Rev. C. W. Hony (Bishops Cannings), Rev. A. B. Thynne (Seend), and Mr. J. R. Jerram (Salisbury).

After dinner the President gave the toast of "Church and Queen," which was loyally received.

"The Health of Dr. Burges," with thanks for the use of his churches and his sermon was heartily drunk, and

Dr. BURGES, in reply, expressed the pleasure which it had given him to see them at church. Their position of ringers was a very important one in the House of God and in connection with the service of the sanctuary. In the more primitive ages the art of bell-ringing held a much more exalted status than it did in succeeding years; and it appeared that now again the old feeling was resuming its proper position in reference to the service of the sanctuary. This was as it should be. In conclusion he bade them all a hearty welcome to the town and churches.

The PRESIDENT proposed the toast of the day, "Success to the Salisbury Diocesan Bell Ringers' Guild." In doing so he enlarged upon the advantages conferred by the Guild, in promoting good fellowship, increasing the standard of efficiency of ringing, and assisting in the renovation of belfries and peals of bells. Although they had lost a few honorary subscribers, that was more than counterbalanced by the fact that more regular ringers had joined. He noticed in the report that there was a good list of belfry improvements carried out in 1887.

The MASTER of the Guild responded, and remarked upon the large proportion of young members who were joining. There was evidence that the Guild had begun to tell in the parishes, and to stir up a desire and a love for better things, and a better use of church bells. He hoped the Guild would long live and flourish.

The PRESIDENT submitted "The Hon. Secretaries—Rev. C. W. Hony and Mr. J. R. Jerram."

Mr. JERRAM, in reply, alluded to the achievements in change-ringing which last year had witnessed. He also appealed to the members to strive in their several districts to secure the support of honorary members to the Guild.

The Rev. C. W. HONY proposed "The President," and dwelt upon the practical interest his lordship took in the work of the Guild. The toast was drunk with great cordiality.

The PRESIDENT having replied, the *post-prandial* proceedings closed. The company then dispersed to the various belfries.

Obituary.

THOMAS WEST.

We regret to have to announce the death on May 31st, at the age of 41, after a very brief illness, of Mr. Thomas West, of the Leeds parish church company. Mr. West, who was a native of York, belonged to a ringing family. His first peal, which was one of Kent Treble Bob Major, was conducted by his father at St. Martin's-le-Grand, Coney Street, York, in which peal two of his brothers also took part, so that his family composed one half the band. He joined the Yorkshire Association at its commencement, with members of which he has rung fifty-one peals, comprising Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Major, Royal and Maximus, Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Stedman Caters. Before the formation of the Association he is reported to have rung other peals to the number of some ten or fifteen, of which unfortunately there is no record. He gave some little attention to the composition of Bob Major, a peal of his being published in the late Mr. Snowdon's "Rope-Sight," third edition. Mr. West, who rang for the children's service at the Leeds parish church on Whit-Monday, and was then apparently in good health, leaves a widow and nine children, who are consequently now in very straightened circumstances. As a practical expression of sympathy the parish church company and their friends undertook the entire expense of the funeral, and also bore him to his last resting place. The interment took place on Saturday, June 2nd, at New Wortley Cemetery, Leeds, and the Vicar of Leeds, the Rev. Canon Jayne, in order to show his sympathy with his ringers, took the service, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Houghton, the curate in charge of the district parish. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells at the grave side, by the parish church company, and the bells of the parish church were rung muffled for service on the following day. On Monday evening, eight members of the parish church company met at Holbeck to ring a date touch of 1888 changes of Bob Major, composed by the deceased, but owing to the falling of a ladder, placed on the frame for the purpose of ascending the spire, amongst the bells, it was abruptly brought to a close before the first course had been rung. H. Lockwood, 1; H. Hubbard, 2; H. W. Needham, 3; W. Walker, 4; J. Hutchinson, 5; T. Lockwood (conductor), 6; R. Binns, 7; G. Fothergill, 8.

JAMES RUMSEY.

We regret to have record the death of the above gentleman, who died after a brief illness on Wednesday, May 30th, in the 28th year of his age, at his residence, Copleston Road, Denmark Park. His loss is keenly felt by the ringers of St. Sepulchre's, where he had been associated from an early age, and was ringing on the 24th (Queen's Birthday). He was a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and also the St. James' Society, and had rung five peals of Grandsire Triples, and two of Caters, and took part in the last unsuccessful attempt. He was greatly respected by all who knew him. The funeral took place on Saturday, June 2nd, at Ilford Cemetery, he being interred in the family grave. There were several friends, among whom were Mr. Hart, sexton of St. Sepulchre's, Messrs. W. D. Matthews, Clarkson, Wheeler, Church, Davies, Holmes, Moore, Milner, and Lovett. A great many were absent on account of the Queen's birthday celebrations in London, in consequence of which the funeral peal was postponed till Monday, June 4th, when the usual whole pull and stand was rung by the following: D. Lovett, 1; W. Milner, 2; A. Vincent, 3; C. Holmes, 4; G. Watkins, 5; T. H. Chapman, 6; C. Clarkson, 7; W. D. Matthews, 8; J. Wheeler, 9; A. Matthews, 10. After which, the first 500 of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. F. Bate (conductor), 1; H. Davies, 2; W. Chew, 3; J. Nelms, 4; W. D. Matthews, 5; J. Barry, 6; A. E. Church, 7; J. Wheeler, 8. And a touch of Caters, in which Messrs. French and Alford, sen., and others who came to pay their last respects to the deceased, took part.

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DEDICATION AND OPENING OF TREVETHIN BELLS, MONMOUTHSHIRE.

In addition to what has already appeared in connection with this opening, we are asked to insert the following:—

A special service in connection with the dedication of these bells was held on Whit-Sunday morning, at which a sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Jones, Vicar of Bassaleg. There was a large congregation present. The text was taken from Acts ii. 2, "A sound from heaven." The preacher referred to the festival of that day, being the birthday of the Church, as it was the anniversary of Pentecost, when the apostles received the great gift of the Holy Ghost, whose presence had been manifested in the Church for nearly nineteen centuries. The mode of the Spirit's manifestation was such as to arouse the attention and strike awe into the souls present. Alluding to the power of sound over the emotions of the human heart, and to the use of bells in religious ceremonies from remote antiquity, the preacher said they were introduced into this country by Benedict, Abbot of Wearmouth. He pointed out the many associations connected with the sound of church bells, associations which he hoped might be the means of leading the thoughts of men to higher and nobler aims, concluding his discourse with an earnest exhortation to his hearers to seek the Lord in all appointed ways.

On Whit-Monday, the day fixed for the final opening, the members of the Upton St. Leonard's branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association left Gloucester by the 5.15 a.m. express, arriving at Pontypool Road station at 7.35 a.m. They then proceeded to the "Crown" hotel, and partook of an excellent breakfast. Courses of Grandsire Major and Triples having been rung upon handbells, a start was made for Trevethin church, about a mile distant, the road thereto being through some picturesque woodland scenery, which was much enjoyed. The destination was reached about ten o'clock, the visitors being met by the Vicar and several of the parishioners. A survey of the church having been effected, the tower was entered, and the bells and their appurtenances were found everything to be desired. Descending to the ringing-chamber—the appointments of which are most complete, the company raised the bells in peal, and immediately afterwards, as a trial touch, rang 504 of Grandsire Triples. This being over, the Vicar and others came into the ringing-chamber, anxious to hear the opinion of the ringers how the bells "went." A very satisfactory account having been given of their condition, and the visitors having retired, a start was made for Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, which was accomplished in 2 hrs. 52 mins., a record of which performance can be found in the number of this journal for the week ending May 26th last. Crowds of people from Pontypool, Pontnewynydd, Abersychan, and other places were present to listen to the peal, who congratulated the ringers upon their success. A course of Caters was rung upon handbells in the churchyard much to the gratification of those assembled therein.

Returning to the "Crown" hotel, the company sat down to an excellent dinner, Mr. Plumley taking the chair, and Mr. Phillips the vice-chair. The cloth being removed, and the usual loyal toasts having been duly honoured,

The CHAIRMAN said he should be glad of some information concerning the art of change-ringing. He should like to know the best means of training a young band of ringers, for he was particularly fond of any kind of music. He would like to learn the art himself, but as he had so many irons in the fire he must refrain from attempting it. He was very glad they had succeeded in ringing the peal, and he wished them every success.

Mr. H. GARDENER thanked the chairman for his good wishes. Now that they had a good peal of bells he hoped they would soon be possessed of a good band of ringers able to ring a peal.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN said he was particularly fond of bells. At one time he used to ring a little himself, at Monmouth, and he should now take up the practice of the art, and use every effort in getting young men to join, for it would be a great pity now they had a peal of bells to allow them to remain silent.

A course of Grandsire Caters was then rung on the handbells, after which a move was again made to the belfry, a very large concourse of people awaiting the arrival of the ringers. Several touches in various methods were then rung, and the bells

were afterwards lowered. A visit was then made to the vicarage, where a few courses on the handbells were rung, a performance which the vicar and his friends very much admired. He then thanked the ringers for the share they had taken in the day's proceedings, and wished them success in all their future efforts, hoping they would be spared to pay him another visit.

The company, after a short but enjoyable conversation with the local celebrities, repaired to the railway station to embark for home. Having a short time to wait for the arrival of the train, the handbells were again brought out and a course or two rung on the platform, much to the admiration of the officials and passengers. The ride home brought to a close a most enjoyable day; and the ringers desire, through the medium of this journal, to thank all their Pontypool and Trevethin friends for the kind way in which they were treated.

GLOUCESTER.

On Whit-Sunday, May 20th, for morning service, at St. Michael's church, by the local ringers, assisted by Mr. John Holden, of Saddleworth, 588 Grandsire Triples. John Holden, 1; George Brunson, 2; Richard Brunson, 3; Geo. Wanklin, 4; Frank Hart, 5; Joseph Clarke, 6; B. Etheridge (conductor), 7; H. Eakets, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. Also a short touch of Grandsire Triples, at the Cathedral. And on Thursday evening, May 24th, permission having been obtained, Mr. Holden, who was in Gloucester during the week representing his district at the Oddfellows A.M.C., met the local ringers with the intention of ringing a peal, and previous to commencing was proposed and elected a member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. The company commenced to raise the bells in peal; when about half-way up the ringers were startled by something very heavy falling upon the floor, immediately over them. The bells were dropped as soon as possible, and on one of the company going up to see what was amiss, he found that the second bell clapper had fallen out. Everyone regretted the accident, however, they did the best they could under the circumstances, viz.: rung a 720 of Bob Minor, in 24 mins. George Wanklin, 1; John Holden, 2; George Brunson, 3; Richard Brunson, 4; William Brunson, 5; Ben. Etheridge (conductor), 6. Afterwards the ringers adjourned to their meeting house, where a very pleasant evening was spent in ringing tunes and courses of Grandsire Caters, Grandsire Major and Triples, in which Mr. Holden rung a pair. The ringers beg to thank the authorities at the various churches in Gloucester for kindly granting them permission to ring, and Mr. Holden tenders his sincere thanks to the local company for the courtesy and kindness they extended to him during his visit to the ancient city of Gloucester.

DEDICATION OF BELLS AT STOKEINTEIGNHEAD, DEVON.

The bells of this parish church have lately been augmented from four to five by having an odd bell that was in the tower and forming one of the four, recast into two new trebles, and the three old bells tuned to harmonise one with another. A dedication service was held on Thursday, May 17th, at which the Hon. and Rev. J. S. Northcote (Hon. Sec. of the Devonshire Guild), preached the sermon, and a band from the St. Sidwell's branch of the county Guild was entrusted with the opening. The bells were found to go well to Grandsire Doubles and does Mr. Stokes, of Woodbury, great credit for the manner in which he has carried out the work of rehanging. Twelve months ago the belfry was in a very dilapidated state, with old half wheels for ringing, but now, through the efforts of the Rector, the Rev. E. Stephenson, and the parishioners, the parish has a very fair, well going peal of bells. The following took part in the ringing: Rev. J. S. Northcote, Ferris Shepherd, E. Shepherd, J. Moss, F. Davey, C. Curtis, and W. Stocker. Dinner was laid in the parish room, at which the local ringers sat down with the visitors.

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

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"There is room for all."

Your report of the Essex Meeting was very interesting; and, as usual, the words of the Rev. F. Robinson from the pulpit deserving of careful attention. It is to be regretted that the difficulties in the way seemed too many for the members to accept Canon Wigram's proposal. As this matter of the Herts County Association seems to be a weak spot in our constitution, is it not possible for the Canon to get together a few friends, interested in the matter, talk this matter over, and if a Diocesan Association is geographically or in any other way impracticable, may they not devise some mode of carrying on the work of organisation into Hertfordshire, better than by the motion of the Rev. H. A. Cockey, which virtually leaves matters *in statu quo*?

* * * * *

"Only a ringers' paper!" Such is the description given of "THE BELL NEWS," by one who confesses that he does not take the paper, and indeed very seldom sees it. What could have been that reverend gentleman's object in thus attacking the recognised scientific organ of the Exercise? Did he think that by so doing he was rendering some service to your contemporary? "Only a ringers' paper!" Did the speaker use those words sarcastically, disparagingly, or how? In any way, they are offensive not only to the proprietors of "THE BELL NEWS," but to our ringing fraternity also. We ourselves are *only* ringers, but nevertheless are proud of the fact; we are consequently quite satisfied to know that the journal which we look for with interest at the end of every week is "only a ringers' paper." But I need not tarry on this unwelcome subject; the words of the respected vicars of Writtle and Drayton leave nothing necessary to be added; so we may well commend them to the meditation of the Rev. Mr. Seaman, then we need not envy his subsequent reflections.

* * * * *

Mr. Parker has properly dropped a thunderbolt amongst us, regarding our much rung Grandsire Triples. There mere fact of a peal having been produced by such a well-known composer as Mr. Penning, to have been rung and conducted by one so well versed in the method as Mr. Charles Jackson, and finally to have been accepted by such an authority as the late Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon, and inserted in his last work, would have been taken by all of us as ample proof of its truth. But when after the lapse of four years we are confronted with the stubborn but incontestible fact of its being false, it is truly, as the Rev. C. D. P. Davies remarks, enough to make one dizzy. "Out of evil cometh good" is a well-known maxim, and doubtless it will prove correct in this case by causing composers and conductors to look more carefully into the compositions which they may produce or be about to conduct.

* * * * *

The explanation and ample apology of Mr. Penning relative to this matter is very creditable to that gentleman; and though like all mortals, he has made a mistake, I feel sure that, after his acknowledgment and correction of the blunder, his reputation as an authority in the method will not suffer through this unfortunate slip.

* * * * *

I feel tempted to ask, although I might appear to be "piling it on," Does not this correspondence shew in a most emphatic manner the usefulness—nay, the great necessity—to us, of "THE BELL NEWS," even if it is "only a ringer's paper?"

We are favoured once more with Mr. Attree's periodical and ever-welcome analysis of peals. His last return comprises four of the principal peal-ringing months of the year, thus it will be interesting to note the results so far as they go. The College Youths are as yet to the front with the unusually large number of thirty-six to their credit, while the Sussex men are but half-a-dozen behind, and the Midland Counties' Association through its fifteen peals in April, follows with a total of only four less than their southern brethren. But what is the great Yorkshire Association about that it has gone down to the eighth on the list, with its small total of eleven? The last but one with double-figures! Come, Yorkshiremen, pull yourselves together; we are not accustomed to see you cut such a sorry figure as this. If you don't, where will you be when Mr. Attree gives us his final reckoning up for the year?

* * * * *

I am pleased to see that our analyst has decided to act upon my suggestion as to peals by Independent Societies. My motive in making it was not for mere curiosity or to get more complete statistics; it was more with the aim of shewing the relative positions of our various county organisations and the general body of ringers in their respective districts. There can be no doubt that the returns of peal-ringing do give us a fair indication in this direction. Lancashire is, as usual considerably to the front in the matter of these peals by Independent Societies, having no less than fifteen out of a total of thirty-seven, a good long way towards one half of the whole. I frankly admit that my knowledge of ringing affairs in that county is very slight—unfortunately much more so than I would like it to be—but I look on the broad fact that while the Lancashire Association has scored eighteen peals, the Independent Societies have rung fifteen, and the Liverpool Youths another four: so that it seems to me that this County Association has not yet succeeded by far in getting the great body of efficient change-ringers amongst them into their ranks. Perhaps time, patience, and perseverance will remedy this state of things. Let us hope so.

FREE LANCE.

CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHWARK.

The original church was consecrated on December 17th, 1651, the tower being added in 1694. The present church was erected in 1738, and is of brick with stone dressings. It has a square tower surmounted by an open octagonal turret. There is some stained glass in several of the windows; one representing the arms of the see of Winchester impaling those of Morley, and another the arms of the Marshalls. The organ was presented by William Boyse, a navy surgeon, in 1789, who also gave the interest of £500 as an organist's salary. The pulpit and prayer desk are of stained oak, the former being surmounted by a sounding board, supported by two Corinthian columns. The tower contains a peal of eight bells, tenor 18 cwt. The first four bells are inscribed "I. B. Fecit 1700;" the fifth and sixth "James Bartlet me fecit 1700," the word "fecit" being turned upside down. The seventh has "Robert Catlin fecit 1741," and the tenor "John Warner and Son, founders, London, 1796. Gilbert Handasyde and James Webber, Churchwardens." There is also a call-bell, inscribed "Robert Catlin fecit 1742."

J. R. J.

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The ringers of Old Swindon parish church paid a visit to the above villages on Whit-Monday and rang several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, including six 6-scores at Longcote, each called differently. G. State, 1; A. Lawrence, 2; T. Ricketts, 3; J. Trueman, 4; O. W. Layng (conductor), 5; F. Trueman, 6. Also six six-scores at Shrivenham, Mr. Hill, the parish clerk, ringing the sixth in the first three and the first in the second

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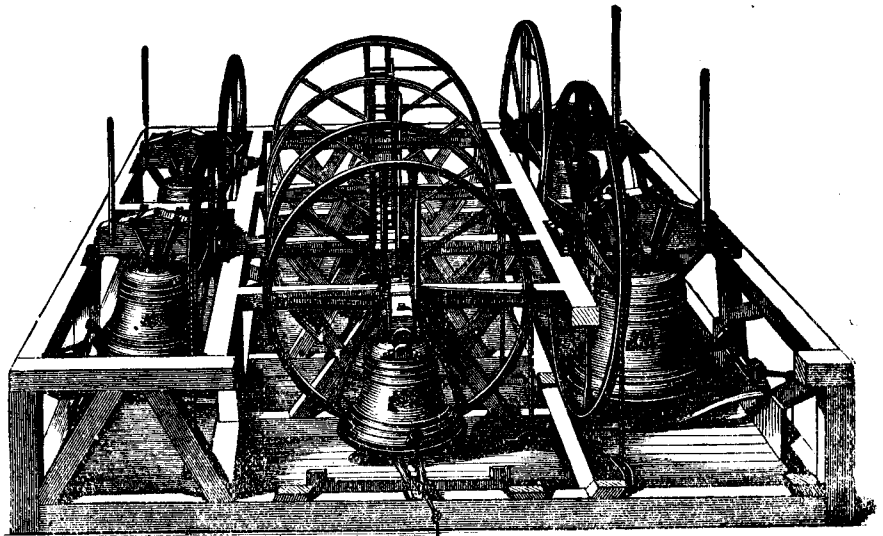
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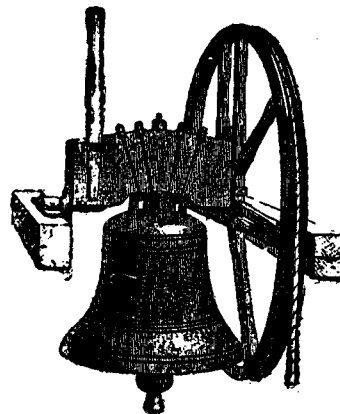
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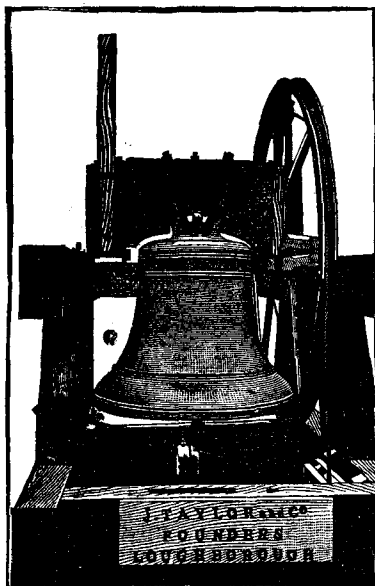
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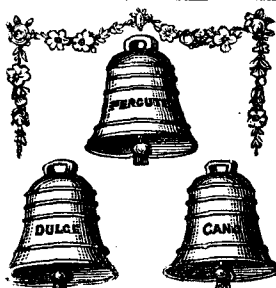
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