

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 350.—VOL. VII.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1888.

ONE PENNY.

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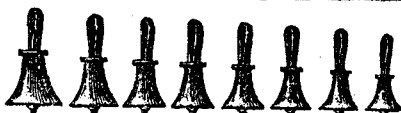
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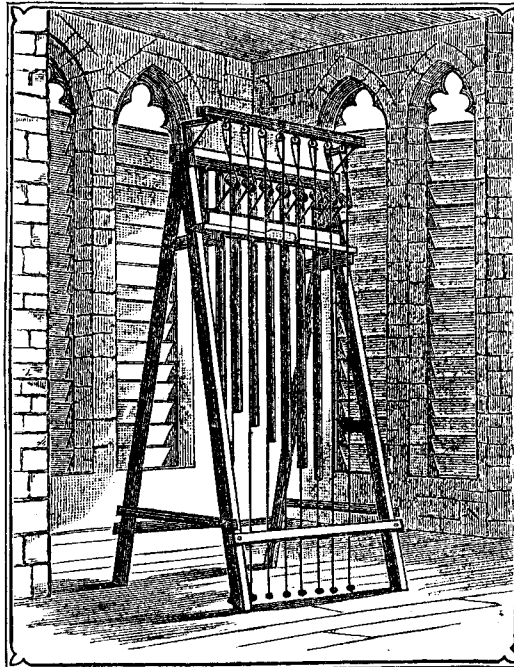
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MESSINA CATHEDRAL.

There are sound reasons for the belief that both Dogberry and Verges were, at a certain period, on the roll of the one Company, and that the "Sexton," who by virtue of his office, was also steeple-keeper at Messina Cathedral, but no ringer, was likewise a member of the same paternity. This latter worthy had been approached, in an underhanded manner, by some unscrupulous members of the (friendly) rival company, with a view to getting, or rather trying for, the first peal in a new method, name now unknown, just then becoming fashionable in the ringing world. Now the "Sexton" being a deep card, with an eye to the main chance, had decided in his own mind that the approaching marriage of Claudio with Hero, the daughter of Leonato, the Governor, was the opportunity to go for this peal, for, as he argued to himself, "the Governor, his daughter, being the first lady in the city, and, moreover, the darling and only child of her father, it will be but fitting that she should be greeted on her wedding with something more than the usual two peals of twenty minutes each by the scruffe. So they can go for their peal, and even if they get out early they are sure to try again and so ensure an hour or two of ringing, while if they get it, it will take them about three hours and a quarter, and either way I can tap Leonato copiously for the extra ducats; and at the same time no respectable and enthusiastic band will ever think of pay when ringing a first peal in the method in an opposition tower"; and then he winked.

This crafty scheme of the "Sexton," however, did not work out, as owing to circumstances too numerous to be detailed here, but which are given in full by one William Shakespeare, a member of the Stratford-on-Avon Band, the wedding did not, at that time, come off, although, happily, a few days later, the pair were made one, by special license it is to be presumed, in a room of Leonato's house, and at the same time and place, the lady's cousin Beatrice was united to Don Enrico Irvingi.

Now the "Sexton" had in a weak moment, confided to his cronies Dogberry and Verges, his contemplated treachery to the scruffe, and those worthies, although generally hanging together, had happened to take different views of the matter; this difference of opinion culminated in one of the twain stigmatising his quondam friends as "vagrom men," and joining the (friendly) rival company; and to this day, occasional specimens of their descendants, with all the distinguishing characteristics of their notable forefathers, may be found gracing ringers' meetings, both in town and country; while the children of the "Sexton" have by no means died off the face of the land, and still tread "the ways that were dark" of their common ancestor.

It is said that in 1643, or 1658, for the accounts differ this much, the great bell was taken down from the north western tower and shipped off to Naples, where it was melted down and from the metal made an equestrian statue of Carl IV., King of Spain, Naples, and Sicily. A ring of marble let into the floor at the western porch of the cathedral commemorates the size of this bell; the marble ring is nine feet eleven inches in diameter.

The great earthquake of 1783 demolished this tower amid the general destruction of the city, though the body of the Cathedral seems to have suffered but little, and since then two rather poor looking lantern towers have been added to the east end of the building, the northern one only of which has bells. These are six in number, ranging from 53 inches down to 16 inches in diameter. The three smaller are dated 1868, and are of ordinary modern shape, the larger three, which are of the same general shape, are very long wasted, the fourth, as to size, is very badly cracked, and the largest, which is worn very thin at the clappering on the soundbow, and has never been quartered, has the inscription:—

AVE MARIA GRATIA
PLENA
MDCXXXI

They are all hung, rigidly, on beams in the windows, and the clapper ropes let down to the ground floor.

At the foot of the ancient staircase that led up to the demolished tower, but which in itself still stands intact, within the main body of the building, is a large bell resting on wood blocks a few inches high, upon the pavement. This bell, which is a fine clean casting, is of the diameter, at the mouth, of 6 ft. 7. ins.,

at the crown, 3 ft. 2 ins., height 6 ft. 4 ins. At the crown are no cannons, but six holes of 3½ inches diameter, the crown being 5 ins. thick; there is also the running head of 9 inches diameter and 6 inches high, and which was evidently much higher when run and has been broken off at 6 inches, shewing sound, solid, metal, at the fracture. The sound-bow is 8 inches thick. It was cast to commemorate the great earthquake, as shown by its lettering, which runs thus: on the obverse

SD X SF X SI X MINIRE NOBIS.

ST MARIA A SACRIES LITERIS

ORA PRO NOBIS

a bust of the
Virgin & Child
both crowned
11 inches high

FERDINANDX IV

REGNANTE

On the reverse—

OPVS PAOLI COSTANTINO ET VINCENTE CIVFRIDA

TERRAMOTO SUBVERSO TVRRT
AE CAMPANVM RUNA DIFFRACTUM
RESTITUIT AVXIT DICAVIT

laurel Crown
Maltese
Cross laurel

S. P. Q. M.
RELIGIO
A. D. 18MDCCLXXXII

Having got their big bell it proved to be, for many years, a white elephant, for the existing towers are evidently incapable of carrying it; so it stood on the cathedral floor, mute and inglorious and without use, until about twenty-five years ago, when a certain individual, evidently an offshoot of the house of that artful "Sexton," "struck a bright." A large iron-bound box was prepared, and fitted with double padlocks, one key of which is supposed to be held by the Municipality, and the other by the cathedral authorities. In the lid of the box is a small slit, and over the box is a printed placard, framed and glazed, setting forth a parable to the effect that the bell is cracked, and begging the faithful to contribute their cash towards the cost of re-founding it. Great is the power of Faith, for the coins fall in a perennial shower; but alas for human credulity, the only crack that can be found in the neighbourhood, is not in the bell, but is the crack or slit, in the lid of the box with the iron clamps, a crack just large enough to admit a silver dollar, that being the largest coin of the realm, should, perchance, any of the faithful feel faith enough to drop one in.

A document displayed alongside the placard, sets forth that the treasure chest was last opened in August, 1885, when the amount then found therein, added to previous sums from the same source, amounted to 2828 lire 44 centesimi, equal to in English money £113 2s. 6½. It is safe to prophecy that that bell will not be recast for a very considerable time to come.

The Cathedral is oblong in plan, with a rounded east end; the length 295 ft., breadth 98 ft., and height 105 ft. In ancient times a famous Greek Temple of Neptune overlooked the dreaded whirlpool Charybdis, at a distance of about four miles from the new site of the Cathedral. The remains of this pagan temple were utilised for the erection of the christian edifice, notably twenty-four huge pillars of granite or porphyry; these are of different lengths, but are equalised as to height, to support the roof, by the varying heights of the marble bases upon which they are set. Into the western front is built many lengths of white marble frieze, about twelve inches in width, carved in alto-relievo, showing the various agricultural and manufacturing processes connected with corn, wine, oil, and flax. In addition the vine is glorified to an extent commensurate, with its importance as a food in the old Greek economy, very many lengths of the marble frieze being devoted solely to the Divine plant. Very elaborate carved marble columns are also worked into the portals showing cupids, monkeys, and satyrs, sporting in foliage. Two exquisitely carved, slender, spiral columns of white marble, twisting opposite ways, and life-sized figures of lions or some such animals, but with the heads sadly damaged, are at the central western door. In addition to these spoils of the old Greek temple much mosaic of fine Sicilian marbles enrich this front. The floor is composed of an intricate mass of patterns in various coloured marbles; here are squares, circles, diamonds, lozenges of every conceivable shape, tre-foils, quatre-foils, cinque-foils, stars, half-moons, crescents, a bewildering array of shapes, all fitting and merging one into another and forming one harmonious whole. Lying at an angle across the floor is a Gnomon, or Meridian Indicular and perpetual diary, also of marble, about 80 ft. long by 5 ft. wide. The months and days

of the months are each marked off, inlaid with vari-coloured marbles, and a hole in the roof of about one inch diameter, permits the sun, each day at noon, to shine upon the proper day marked on the floor. An inscription notifies that this remarkable contrivance was the work of the blind priest, Antonio M. Iaci, in 1804; and it is said that our Lord Nelson, who was also Sicilian Duke of Bronte, and then held Sicily against Napoleon, made splendid offers to the blind astronomer, to induce him to proceed to England to take a high post in the Royal Observatory; but in vain. Love of country was, with the blind philosopher, stronger than the love of self. Near the foot of the great altar, let into the floor, is a circle of purple porphyry, about three feet in diameter, regarded as a precious stone. The great altar itself is a most marvellous work of the most beautiful inlaid marbles in mosaic, the design being largely made up of tropical fruits, flowers, and birds, the rare and valuable lapis lazuli, verde antique, and rose marbles entering largely into this beautiful work of art. It is some forty feet in height and breadth, and not merely front show, for back and sides are all of the same costly material and workmanship. The stalls, numbering forty, are of exquisitely carved and various designs in a dark, hard, wood, several of them, however, are much decayed.

The domed roof over the altar has a gigantic mosaic portrait of the Archbishop Tabiat, by nationality a Greek, during whose sway the building was either created, or largely restored. His tomb bears the date 1336. There are many splendid tombs of various Archbishops and Cardinals, either natives of Messina, or who have held the Archi-episcopate. Two, of quite recent date, are magnificent specimens of the sculptor's art.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—MANCHESTER BRANCH.

On Monday, December 10th, eight members of the Manchester Cathedral Ringers, assisted by Messrs. Barratt and Grimshaw, of Eccles, attempted a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5021 changes, composed by the late John Cox, at the Cathedral, in honour of the marriage of Mr. A. E. Wreaks, which took place the same day at St. Mary's Church, Crumpsall, but unfortunately after ringing 1 hr. 45 mins. a change course occurred, and stand was called. After a short interval queens and firing were rang. The band afterwards adjourned to the meeting-house, Crown Hotel, Blackfriars Street, where the health and happiness of Mr. Wreaks and his bride was drank, and a very pleasant evening was spent with the hand bells. The band rang as follows: T. G. Downes, 1; Joseph Turner, 2; James Gratrix, 3; Thos. Thorpe, 4; Joseph Grimshaw, 5; James Barratt, 6; George E. Turner, 7; James Thorpe, 8; John Eachus, 9; Harry Chapman, 10.

EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

This Association held its quarterly meeting at Heath, near Chesterfield, on Saturday, December 1st, 1888, when the Rev. Canon Cottingham gave a short address on Bells and Bell Ringers which was warmly responded to by the ringers present. After the meeting, thirty-eight members being present, a vote of thanks was given to the Chairman, the Rev. J. B. Nodder, of Ashover, and the Rev. Sanderson, of Heath, after which a few 120's of Bob Doubles and several 120's of Grandsire by the different churches represented were rung.

GEDNEY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Tuesday, December 4th, the ceremony of formally handing over to the churchwardens a new set of twelve handbells, the cost of which has been defrayed by subscription, was carried out. The churchwardens accepted the same as the property of the parish, and promised that an entry should be made in the vestry book to that effect. The new ringers rang some tunes and touches on the bells, and considering the short time they have had for practice, acquitted themselves in a highly satisfactory manner, and bad fare to leave the old style of handbell ringing in this parish far behind.

BIDDENHAM.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday evening, December 8th, the ringers of this parish, at the kind invitation of Mr. Chas. Howard, sat down to an excellent supper at the Manor House, the occasion being the farewell of Mr. C. R. Howard, who is leaving for Australia.

Supper being over, Mr. King, on behalf of the Vicar, Churchwardens and Ringers presented Mr. Howard with an appropriate address and also a dressing case, in recognition of his services in connection with the ringing.

Mr. Howard, in thanking the donors, expressed his sorrow at leaving, and handed each of the ringers a present in remembrance of his connection with the belfry. Afterwards a very pleasant evening was spent, the proceedings being enlivened by several touches on the handbells, interspersed with songs. Mr. Howard is a prominent member of this Association, and thanks mainly to his exertions, the Biddenham Belfry was some time ago thoroughly renovated, while the ringing under his leadership has been greatly improved, as the reports of peals which from time to time have appeared in these columns amply testify.

The ringers of Biddenham are to be congratulated on having in their belfry what, we believe, no other belfry in the county contains, namely, "The Church Bells of Bedfordshire," being a complete list of the parishes, with name of church, number of bells, weight of tenor, name of maker, and in fact, full particulars of all the bells in the county. This is written in "Church Text," and is the work of Mr. Howard, and will be a lasting memorial of his connection with the belfry.

Obituary.

JOHN VERNON.

We deeply regret to announce the death of the above member of the St. Matthew's Society, Hayfield, who died November 22nd, aged 38 years, and was interred at the above place, on November 27th. The funeral was largely attended by relations, ringers, and friends. The body of the deceased was borne to and from the church by four of his ringing friends, Thomas Brocklehurst, T. Whitehead, A. Rangeley, and J. Brocklehurst. Several invitations were sent out to neighbouring churches. Old Glossop was represented by Mr. J. Sellers, and Mr. J. Pye, jun. The bells of St. Matthews were deeply muffled. The first touch was rung by W. Booth, 1; Joseph Brocklehurst, 2; T. Whitehead (conductor), 3; J. Wheatcroft, 4; A. Rangeley, 5; T. Brocklehurst, 6. The next was a 720 of Oxford, with A. Rangeley on the treble, A. Hadfield on the fifth the others as before. Later in the evening another 720 was rung by W. Booth, J. Brocklehurst, T. Whitehead, A. Rangeley, T. Brocklehurst, J. Pye, jun. The deceased had the honour of ringing (5040's) on different dates at St. Matthews Church, Hayfield, in seven different methods, and he is the first member taken from them, and his loss will be deeply regretted by all who knew him. The ringers of Hayfield take this opportunity of thanking the Vicar and churchwardens for allowing them the use of the bells on this occasion.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—MANCHESTER BRANCH.

A meeting of the above Branch will be held at the parish church, Eccles, on Saturday, December 15th. Bells ready at three o'clock. A good attendance is requested.

JOHN EACHUS, Secretary.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—On Thursday, November 29th, for practice at the parish church, 336 Grandsire Triples. W. Preston, 1; M. Warwick (R.E.), 2; G. Lindoff (R.E.), 3; A. Haigh (conductor), 4; W. Cooke, 5; W. Evans, 6; W. Haigh, 7; C. Harvey, 8. Also 504 of Grandsire Triples, standing as before, G. Lindoff (conductor). Also on Tuesday, December 4th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 46 mins. W. Preston, 1; G. Lindoff, 2; W. Haigh, 3; W. Cooke, 4; W. Evans, 5; J. Baker, 6; A. Haigh (conductor), 7; M. Warwick, 8.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

On Tuesday, December 4th, the local company rang with the bells half-muffled two 720's of Oxford and Violet Treble Bob, as a tribute of respect to George Smith, who has been a member of the above company for twenty years, and died after a short illness at the age of 41 years. Deceased met with an accident two years ago while following his employment as a circular sawyer, which cost him all the fingers on his right hand, and made ringing with him at an end, and although he has been assisted by many friends his trouble has been great, losing his hand and unable to follow his employment in one year, and a few months after having his wife laid-up with a long and painful illness. The ringers who took part in the above are the following:—F. Hancock, W. Price, E. James, J. Shaw, G. Norman, G. Marsden (conductor), and T. Lunn.

ANALYSIS OF PEALS RUNG DURING THE YEAR 1888

	Jan. to Oct.	Nov.	Total.
Ancient Society of College Youths ...	71	10	81
Midland Counties Association ...	58	9	67
Sussex County Association ...	54	8	62
Oxford Diocesan Guild ...	48	9	57
Essex Association ...	43	3	46
Lancashire Association ...	37	7	44
Norwich Diocesan Association ...	28	3	31
Yorkshire Association ...	26	3	29
Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association ...	19	4	23
United Counties Association ...	15	7	22
Surrey Association ...	18	2	20
Society of Royal Cumberland Youths ...	18	1	19
Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford ...	15	3	18
Salisbury Diocesan Guild ...	13	2	15
Kent County Association ...	14	1	15
St. James's Society, London... ..	14	0	14
Worcester and Adjoining Districts Association ...	13	1	14
Hertford Association ...	8	6	14
The Holt Society ...	10	1	11
Winchester Diocesan Guild... ..	8	1	9
Hertford College Youths ...	7	0	7
Liverpool Youths' Society ...	4	2	6
Trinity Youths ...	5	0	5
All Hallows Society ...	3	0	3
Waterloo Society, London ...	3	0	3
St. Martin's, Birmingham ...	3	0	3
Devonshire Guild... ..	3	0	3
Birmingham Amalgamated Society ...	3	0	3
Bedford Association ...	1	1	2
Eastern Counties' Guild ...	1	0	1
Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association ...	1	0	1
Durham and Newcastle Association... ..	1	0	1
Bath and Keynsham Deaconries Association ...	1	0	1
Chester Diocesan Guild ...	1	0	1
North Lincoln Association ...	1	0	1
Independent Societies ...	74	7	81
	642	91	733
Less peals entered under two Associations	64	7	71
Total... ..	578	84	662

The above peals were rung in the following methods:—London Surprise Major, 2; New Cumberland Surprise Major, 1; Cambridge Surprise Major, 9; Superlative Surprise Major 12; Double Oxford Bob Major, 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 18; Stedman Cinques, 4; Stedman Caters, 27; Stedman Triples, 44; Duffield Royal, 4; Duffield Major, 3; Treble Bob Maximus, 3; Treble Bob Royal, 12; Treble Bob Major, 103; Prince Albert Major 1; Violet Major, 2; Grandsire Caters, 43; Grandsire Major, 2; Grandsire Triples, 240; Grandsire Doubles (5040), 15; Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1; Canterbury Pleasure Triples, 3; Court Bob Triples, 2; Oxford Bob Triples, 7; Union

Triples, 7; Bob Maximus, 1; Bob Royal, 3; Bob Major, 34; Bob Triples, 23; Bob Doubles (5040), 1; Place Triples, 1; in seven Minor methods on six bells, 22; in fourteen Minor methods on six bells (10080), 1; in one ditto, 3; in fourteen methods on five bells, 2; in six ditto, 5; Total 662. Quickest 5000 upon Church bells, 2 hrs. 27 mins.

	1887.	1888.
Number of peals rung in January ...	50	52
" " February ...	76	72
" " March ...	65	60
" " April ...	62	98
" " May ...	57	53
" " June ...	38	57
" " July ...	14	39
" " August ...	20	40
" " September ...	41	41
" " October ...	52	66
" " November ...	67	84
	542	662

Increase on the eleven months 120
Brighton. GEO. F. ATTRE.

DUCKLINGTON BELL FUND.

The following Subscriptions have been received or promised to the above Fund.

	£	s.	d.
The Ven. The Archdeacon of Oxford	1	0	0
Canon Bright, Oxford	0	10	0
The Rev. F. Robinson, Drayton	0	10	0
The Rev. C. D. P. Davies, Ringmer	0	2	0
Mr. T. Holford, Oxford	0	2	0
Mr. W. J. Holford, London	0	1	0
Mr. G. A. King, Brighton	0	1	0
A few Ladies	0	9	0
A. Percival Heywood, Esq., Duffield	0	5	0
E. D.	0	3	0
Mr. W. J. Swales, Norwich	0	1	0
L. L. Cardy, Sudbury	0	1	0
Mr. W. J. Holford, London (extra)	0	1	0
In small Subscriptions	0	7	9
Total amount with Treasurer	7	0	0

Further Subscriptions will be thankfully received by
W. J. FISHER.

The Imperial Hotel, Bournemouth.

ECCLESIASTICAL FLORICULTURE.—Our attention has been directed to the superior collection of "Florists' Flowers" so eminently suitable for Church and other decoration, always to be seen at the important nurseries of Mr. S. B. Goslin, jun., situate at Bexley Heath, Kent. The proprietor, it would appear, has taken great pains to bring the art of Church Floriculture to something near perfection, for from this part of the "Garden of England" may be obtained fresh, by parcels' post, supplies of artificial flowers in every conceivable color. The adoption of Artificial Flowers instead of the unseemly flock or common wadding, or puff balls, so frequently used in the formation of letters for texts—which appear to be inartistic, rough, rude, and out of character, is a sensible act, and we venture to think when it is known that such simple and faithful representations of flowers can be supplied at such moderate prices, they will be appreciated by many thoughtful minds, and will tend to promote the love of the beautiful in the most fitting positions, and greater interest in the truths to be proclaimed. Nor is Mr. Goslin only a specialist in flowers, *par et simple*, but in silver and frosted leaves of all kinds, Heath Grasses, and what may be termed berry foliage, he is a remarkable adept. Banners with white floral texts on violet, crimson, green, or maroon cloth ground, with or without borders, may be had from his establishment. We recommend our readers who take an interest in the pleasing study of Church decoration to obtain his catalogue, or pay him a visit at the Camden Nurseries, Glynde Road, Brampton Park, Bexley Heath, Kent.

LETTER FOR "FREE LANCE."

DEAR FREE LANCE,—After reading your interesting notes in "THE BELL NEWS" I thought I would drop you a line or two letting you know what difficulties we have had to contend with since we took to change-ringing. In the first place our bells are a very poor peal of six, tenor about 11 cwt. in F. Five of them were cast in 1668, and a new treble—a very long bell—was added in 1681. They have been rehung since they were first put there, all the repairs being done by local men. Change-ringing was quite unknown in this district until we took it up just before the Hereford Diocesan Guild was established. Before that time there was a lot of old round-ringers, who done all they could to put down change-ringing here; they have not done so. I think they have got disheartened, as they have all left one by one. One of them said to me he did not see any sense in it, as when we came to a nice change we only rang it once and then left it, instead of ringing it over several times and getting the music out of it. Most of us are quite young ringers, between 20 and 30, some younger, and had not rung a bell that went properly until the new peal of six was hung at Clunbury last year, but we cannot get down there as often as we should like, most of us being engaged with our work till 7 p.m. It is not our fault that the bells are in such a disgraceful state, or for want of perseverance on our part, as you seem to think, as we have drawn the attention of both the Vicar and churchwardens to them about two years ago, and they gave Mr. Buchanan permission to get a bellfounder to look at them, and we got Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough, and he recommended us to have a new peal of eight, Tenor about 18 cwt., in a iron frame. We set to work to get the money, and got our Vicar to head the list by giving the new tenor, ourselves following by giving the treble, and during the winter months we got up two concerts, and after paying all expenses we put £12 in the bank. When summer came there was a meeting called to decide the best means of celebrating Her Majesty's Jubilee. Mr. Buchanan brought forward our church bell restoration scheme, Mr. Brown, our schoolmaster and organist, the new organ scheme. He (Mr. Brown) being backed up by the sum of £125 in the bank towards a new organ, the result of a bazaar some years ago, other proposals followed, but after several meetings it was decided that after providing a dinner of roast beef and plum pudding for all the men in the parish, and tea for women and children, and providing sports, the balance, if any, should go towards a new organ, which has been dedicated, with a handsome new lectern, the gift of the Vicar, the Rev. C. Warner. After our Jubilee celebrations we did not loose heart, and have still kept the bell movement to the front, and last winter we gave a third concert, and the Miss Creswells gave a children's entertainment, and after paying all expenses we have the nice sum of about £22 in the bank. As soon as the organ job is settled and paid for we intend starting again with renewed vigour, and have no doubt we shall soon have a new peal of eight bells. We have several people promised to support us, including Mr. Brown, the organist, and the Rev. E. Brown, our newly appointed curate, who has promised to become a change-ringer. One of our greatest drawbacks is the disgraceful state of the church tower, the church being restored about eleven years ago at a cost of £7000, the late Mr. Street offering to do the tower and rehang the bells for £1000 extra, at the time of doing the church, but I suppose the committee did not see their way clear to have it done, but I think the parish has done very well, considering it is purely an agricultural one. I think I have told you all, but if you want to know more I will tell you if I can. Please excuse all faults, for I have wrote it in a hurry.

Park Cottage, Salop.

W. MEAD.

BELL RESTORATION IN THE DIOCESE OF SALISBURY.

The peal of eight bells at St. Peter's, Bournemouth, have been fitted with new gudgeons and brasses, and other minor repairs have been executed by Mr. T. Blackburn, of Salisbury. The tenor bell at Caine, weight 25 cwt., is also being rehung by the same, with a new frame. The frame of the heavy peal of six at Heytesbury has been recently repaired by a local builder.

KIMPTON, HERTS.

This little village was quite *enfete* on Thursday, the 6th inst., this being the day fixed for the re-opening of the tower and bells of the parish church by the Bishop of St. Albans, after a thorough restoration. It is about thirty years since this splendid peal of bells were rung, owing to the dilapidated state of the tower, but through the energy and perseverance of the Rev. L. Stevens, the Vicar, once more the village is enlivened with the melody of the bells. The Rev. Stevens has spared nothing to make everything as perfect as possible in the belfry, and it was a great treat for the parishioners to listen to some good ringing, before and after the service, under the conductorship of C. Robinson, of Whitwell (who has been engaged by the Rev. Stevens to instruct the young men of Kimpton).

Both the Bishop of St. Albans and the Archdeacon of St. Albans, referred to the rapid strides that were made in bell-ringing. The Archdeacon said the time had passed when round-ringing was considered an art, and now change-ringing required both great thought and tact. and he wished the Kimpton company every success.

Subjoined is the name of the ringers: C. Robinson (conductor), 1; J. Chapman, 2; J. Dennis, 3; A. Sleet, 4; W. Wells, 5; C. Gilbert, 6. In the second touch W. Ball rang the fourth. Messrs. Chapman, Dennis, and Gilbert, belong to the Knebworth Guild, Robinson, Ball, Sleet and Wells to St. Paul's, Walden.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—PROPOSED LIVERPOOL BRANCH.

The idea has long existed in the minds of ringers in this part of Lancashire that a branch of the County Association should be established in the district. At last, under the impulse given to it by the action of one of the local clergy, the scheme has been definitely started and is receiving warm support. A meeting will be held to arrange necessary details, and establish the branch, on Saturday, December 22nd, at 5.30 p.m., in the Cocoa Rooms, St. Luke's Place, Bold Street, Liverpool. All change-ringers in the district are cordially invited to attend. It is especially hoped that every belfry in the Diocese will send one representative at least, to express the opinions of his band, and to give support to the proposals submitted to the meeting.

JOHN R. PRITCHARD, Local Sec. (pro tem).

40, Lowther Street, Liverpool.

ELSTOW, NEAR BEDFORD.

This place, so well-known as the birthplace of Bunyan, has just had its church restored, under the care of Mr. T. J. Jackson, architect, and a very handsome clock has been erected by John Smith and Sons, Derby. The clock is fitted with all the latest improvements, all the wheels are of the best gun metal, with their teeth cut from the solid, so as to be perfectly accurate and smooth. The main frame is arranged so that any separate part may be removed without interfering with the remainder, and steel wire ropes carry the weights. Messrs. Smith & Sons guarantee the clock to go with very great accuracy, and so form a standard of timekeeping for the place. The clocks at Wootton and Goldington, near Elstow, were also made by the same firm.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—BROMSGROVE BRANCH.

NOTICE.—The members of this branch of the above Association intend celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 12,000 of Bob Major which was rung at Bromsgrove on December 29th, 1788, conducted by Charles Ravenscroft. Dinner will be provided at the "Golden Cross" Hotel. Further particulars will appear shortly. Any member of the above Association wishing to attend will receive a hearty welcome. Tickets for dinner 2s. 6d. each, can be had by applying to

Stourbridge Road.

WALTER REA, Sec.

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

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

On Thursday, December 6th, ten members of this Society met by invitation of Mr. Chapman, at the Roe Buck, Hampstead, to celebrate the completion of a tablet recording the peal of Cambridge Surprise rung at St. Annes Church, Highgate, on 26th June, 1888. This Tablet is of marble in the shape of a bell, and has been most ably executed by Mr. G. Hannington, of Highgate, from a drawing kindly supplied by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of the Crescent Foundry, Cripplegate. The Tablet has not been fixed yet as it is not quite decided whether it shall be placed in the belfry or in the vestibule. After doing full justice to the supper, the rest of the evening was spent in harmony, in which Messrs. Chapman, Foskett, Newson, and the Hannington brothers took part, the above gentlemen also obliging with several tunes and touches upon the hand bells. Great regret was expressed that Mr. J. Barrett had to leave early on account of the serious illness of his wife, and his brother strings sincerely hope she will have a speedy recovery. J. H.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

A quarterly meeting of this Association was held at St. James', Leyland, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Saturday, December 8th. Members were present from Blackrod, Chorley, Eccleston, St. Andrews, Leyland, and St. James', Leyland. Several 720's of Bob Minor and Touches in other methods were rung at intervals during the afternoon and evening. The meeting was held at 5 o'clock in the School-room, and was presided over by Mr. John Milner, of St. James', Leyland. After the minutes of the last meeting had been read and confirmed, and other business gone through it was arranged that the next quarterly meeting should be held at St. Mark's, Preston. Votes of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells and school brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

JAMES HIGSON,

57, Chorley Road, Blackrod.

ST. SIDWELL'S AND ST. DAVID'S SOCIETIES,
EXETER.

On Saturday, December 29th, 1888, a ringing meeting of the above Societies will be held at Exeter. The towers of St. David's and St. Sidwell's will be open for ringing at two p.m. At 7 p.m. a dinner will be provided at the "Roguemont Hotel." Tickets 2s. 6d. each, all friends are heartily welcome.

B. MUNDY.

A. W. SEARLE. } Hon. Secs.

48, Sandford Street, Exeter, December 11th, 1888.

CHETTON, SALOP.

A company of ringers from Burwarton visited the above church on Wednesday evening, November 28th. The Rector of Burwarton, the Rev. A. James kindly providing traps for the conveyance of the party who were met at Chetton by Mr. J. Jones, the foreman of the local ringers. Several six-scores conducted by J. Sanderson, with J. Bowen, treble, were rang, and a 360 of Doubles by W. H. Fassell, 2; J. Underwood, 2; G. Preece, 3; W. Bowen, 4; J. Sanderson, 5; J. Wellings, 6. The bells were cast by Rudhall, of Gloucester. Tenor 13½ cwt. and ring very well, but only of late possessed stays, which were fixed by a carpenter from Chilmarsh, in a very extraordinary manner on the wheels.

A peal was rung by the local band, in whole pulls, who are a smart company. This meeting was arranged with a view of furthering the objects of the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers, to which all the above-named belong.

NOTICE OF LONG PEAL.—A band of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, will, if all is well, attempt a long peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton, on Monday, December 24th.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR MR. DORAN,

	£	s.	d.
E. F. Cole, Esq., London ...	1	0	0
Dr. A. B. Carpenter, Croydon ...	0	10	0
Mr. H. Hopkins, London ...	0	2	6
J. E. Worsell, Brighton ...	0	5	0
H. Swain, London ...	0	2	0
W. H. Dallimore, West Ham ...	0	2	0
W. Smith, West Ham ...	0	1	0
Rev. H. A. Cockey ...	0	5	0
W. Hawkes, Springfield ...	0	2	0
J. R. Haworth, London ...	0	2	6
Collected at Brentwood ...	0	2	0
G. Williams, Midhurst ...	0	2	0
J. Dains, Widford ...	0	1	0
W. J. Piper, Widford ...	0	0	6
A. Shuttleworth, Widford ...	0	0	6
A. Tarbun, Widford ...	0	0	6
L. Green, Wanstead ...	0	2	6
R. Turner, London ...	0	2	0
H. Springhall, London ...	0	1	0
S. Hayes, London ...	0	1	0
J. Smith, Kingston-on-Thames ...	0	1	0
J. Potter, West Ham ...	0	1	0
H. Randall, West Ham ...	0	2	6
C. E. Malin, Esq., London ...	0	10	6
H. Dains, London ...	0	2	6
A Friend, per W. B. ...	0	2	6
C. Hopkins, Walthamstow ...	0	2	6
West Ham Company, per H. Randall ...	0	10	0
R. T. Woodley, London ...	0	1	0
J. Nunn, Walthamstow ...	0	1	0
A. Jacob, London ...	0	1	0
T. Maynard, Walthamstow ...	0	2	6
C. Dempsey, West Ham ...	0	1	0
S. Joyce, London ...	0	1	0
J. Hannington, London ...	0	2	6
J. Rogers, London ...	0	5	0
G. Rochester, Sawbridgeworth ...	0	1	0
H. W. Tarling, Sawbridgeworth ...	0	1	0
A. Brown, Sawbridgeworth ...	0	1	0
P. Springham, Sawbridgeworth ...	0	1	0
W. Morris, Sawbridgeworth ...	0	1	0
C. West, Biddenham ...	0	2	6
N. J. Pitstow, Saffron Waldron ...	0	2	6
W. H. Fussell, Slough ...	0	2	6
A. C. Fussell, Slough ...	0	2	0
W. Wilder, Slough ...	0	2	2
J. Perryman, Slough ...	0	2	0
H. J. Tucker, Bishops Stortford ...	0	2	0
F. W. Chapman, Bishops Stortford ...	0	2	0
H. Prior, Stansted ...	0	1	0
G. Prior, Stansted ...	0	1	0

It is proposed to close the above list on December 29th, 1888, and any other brother strings who should feel disposed to give a small trifle towards this deserving case will be gratefully received by the undersigned

H. RANDALL.

24, St. Mary's Road, Plaistow, E.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 1st, at St. Martin's, Tipton, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Ven. J. H. Iles, Archdeacon of Stafford and President of the above Society, eight members attempted to ring a peal of Plain Bob Major, but it came to grief after ringing about 1700 changes. Afterwards was rung the usual peal, consisting of the whole pull and stand, and a 1008 of Plain Bob Major. E. Goodreds, 1; W. Cheshire, 2; B. Gough, 3; H. Mills, 4; W. R. Small, 5; W. Micklewright, 6; G. Hughes, 7; S. Smith, 8. Messrs. Cheshire and Gough belong to Coseley, Smith to Netherton, Micklewright to Dudley. Conducted by Mr. George Hughes.

WANTED a good Bell-ringer who thoroughly understands the methods of change-ringing, and capable of writing out changes. To go abroad to erect and ring Harrington's Patent Tubular Bells. Passage paid out. A Carpenter or Fitter preferred. To a steady man this would be an excellent opening Address immediately, stating Age and Salary required, to HARRINGTON & Co., Coventry.

THE
RINGERS' GUIDE

TO THE
CHURCH BELLS OF DEVON,

COMPRISING :

PART I.—A Brief History of Bells and Bell-Ringing, with special reference to Devon.

PART II.—A List of the Church Bells of Devon, corrected up to date and abridged from the detailed Catalogue of Inscriptions, Diameters, &c., compiled by the late Rev. H. T. ELLACOMBE.

BY

CHARLES PEARSON, M.A.,

Member of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers.

CLOTH ILLUSTRATED, PRICE 2s. 6d.

WILLIAM POLLARD & Co., PRINTERS, EXETER,
1888.

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER,
WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED NEXT WEEK,

WILL CONTAIN

A PORTRAIT

Of that well-known Change-Ringer, Mr. WILLIAM COOTER, of London, with short Biographical Sketch.

The number will contain Two Stories :—

"A MERRY PEAL,"

By the Author of "The Belle of Belsham."

AND

"THE CHURCHWARDEN."

By the Author of "The First Peal."

And other interesting matter.

The Price of publication of the Christmas Number will be
THREEPENCE.

The Portrait is a splendid Lithograph, on a separate sheet of paper, being thus suitable for framing. It is a perfect likeness of Mr. Cooter, and when framed will appear equal to a Steel Engraving. The cost of this process of portraiture renders it necessary that the number should be slightly increased in price.

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.

JOHNSON E. HERN.—We have not received your letter.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1888.

For a company of ringers from the Metropolis to visit a provincial town in order to ring a peal is not an event of unusual occurrence. A hearty reception and a widespread interest in the performance are sure to be accorded, and many are the pleasant reminiscences that attach to such outings. Very rarely, however, have our friends from the country brought a band to the metropolis, and the visit of the Burton-on-Trent company last week may almost be ranked as a new departure. Wonderful as are the abilities of these gentlemen, it cannot but be considered a bold programme that London Surprise should have been the method chosen for the occasion. Clearly the inducement to this choice lay in the fact that never hitherto has a peal in that most intricate of methods been achieved in the locality from whence it derives its name. We rejoice that success has crowned the intrepid resolution, and that a peal of London Surprise within the Metropolitan area is now an accomplished fact.

We believe we are correct in saying that to Mr. HENRY DAINS were due the excellent arrangements for Saturday last. To him therefore as well as to the Burton company are due the thanks of London ringers for the compliment paid to the ringing community of the Metropolis. The opportunity of welcoming the St. Paul's Society last week was no doubt most acceptable to those, by no means few, of our local brethren who have at various times made acquaintance with the hearty welcome to friends from a distance which is always to be found at Burton. It is to be hoped that the precedent now initiated may be often followed in the future, for we can conceive nothing as more likely to strengthen the bonds of union between town and country members of the Exercise than reciprocal visits from which each party may obtain not only pleasure but also incentives to progress.

The Metropolis.

FULHAM, MIDDLESEX.

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

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS

**A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088
CHANGES.**

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

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by
WILLIAM WAKLEY.

This is the first peal of London Surprise ever rung in London, and is also the first in this intricate method ever achieved by any band on bells other than those on which they were accustomed to practice.

LONDON.—THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND
YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 1, 1888, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SEPULCHRE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in D.

JOHN ROGERS Treble.	ARTHUR JACOB 6.
WILLIAM LALLY 2.	ALBERT E. CHURCH 7.
WILLIAM HOVERD 3.	GEORGE WILD 8.
HENRY SWAIN 4.	GEORGE NEWSON 9.
W. L. CHAMBERLAIN* .. 5.	JOSEPH BARRY Tenor
	JAMES WHEELER

Composed and Conducted by JOHN ROGERS.

*First peal on ten bells. The above peal, in 62 courses, has 60 undisturbed from Titium position, each bell twelve courses behind the 9th, the sixty 9-7-8's, and is believed to contain the greatest properties ever obtained in a peal of this method and number and was rung on the occasion of the birthday of H.R.H. the Princess of Wales, by special desire of the Churchwardens of this ancient church.

The Provinces.

HAGBOURNE, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, November 30, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 23½ cwt.

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

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION,
AND THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, KIDDERMINSTER.

On Wednesday, December 5, 1888, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt in D.

JEREMIAH BENNETT .. Treble.	J. THOS. SALTER 5.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL .. 2.	THOMAS BENNETT 6.
GEORGE SALTER 3.	RICHARD E. GROVE 7.
JOHN BENNETT 4.	JOHN CRANE Tenor.

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD, and Conducted by R. E. GROVE.

First peal of Major on the bells. The peal rung here on October 17th last, was a Worcestershire Association peal.

TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 6, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF DAVIES'S FIVE-PART. Tenor 23 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.

WM. HAMPTON Treble.	THOS. DEVEREUX 5.
R. H. WITHERINGTON .. 2.	FRANCIS E. WARD 6.
CHAS. W. DYSON 3.	JOHN HALL 7.
LIONEL LONGNEY 4.	WM. HAINES Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS E. WARD.

BISHOPSTONE, WILTS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 6, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 16 cwt.

HARRY SHEARD Treble.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 5.
JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. 2.	WILLIAM J. () 6.
WILLIAM LAWRENCE .. 3.	REV. G. PETER .. GE .. 7.
ERNEST NAPPER 4.	DENNIS NA Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

This is the conductor's 200th peal.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, December 7, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR,

5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

HARRY WOODWARDS .. Treble.	JESSE AVERY 5.
WILLIAM BENNETT 2.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 6.
BENJAMIN BARRETT 3.	FREDERICK WHITE 7.
GEORGE HOLFIELD 4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

HANLEY CASTLE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES;

Being Thirty-Two Six-scores with Extremes, and Ten with Plain leads,
each called differently.

Tenor about 16 cwt.

HARRY WILLIS Treble.	WILLIAM TARLING 4.
ALBERT PITT 2.	ROBERT G. KNOWLES .. 5.
ALBERT ASPEY 3.	WILLIAM TURNER Tenor.

Conducted by ROBERT GEO. KNOWLES.

First 5040 by all, also first 5040 upon the 16 lbs.

GILLINGHAM, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S SIX-PART.

Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE CHANTLER* .. Treble.	MAURICE WARWICK (R.E.) 5.
JAMES TULLETT* 2.	*JAMES BAKER 6.
ALBERT RING* 3.	GABRIEL LINDOFF (R.E.) 7.
ABRAHAM HAIGHT† .. 4.	WILLIAM HAIGH Tenor.

Conducted by GABRIEL LINDOFF.

*First peal. †College Youth. This is the first peal on the bells since 1811, when a peal of Oxford Treble Bob was rung.

SITTINGBOURNE (Kent).—On Friday, December 7th, for practice at the parish church, 504 Grandsire Triples. J. Mann, 1; C. Bourguin, 2; C. Willshire, 3; Rev. E. W. Carpenter, 4; B. J. Bottle, 5; J. G. Elliott, 6; S. Snelling (conductor), 7; J. Wilson, 8.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE. WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 9½ cwt.

C. BARRETT	Treble.	H. HARTSHORNE	5.
T. LEES	2.	G. PAGETT	6.
H. MARTIN	3.	*W. F. HARTSHORNE	7.
H. HARRIS	4.	J. CRUMP	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM F. HARTSHORNE.

The ringers desire to express their best thanks to the rector for the use of the tower and bells. *First peal as conductor in the method.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE BRIGHTON BRANCH).

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

GEORGE F. ATTREE	Treble.	JOHN JAY	5.
GEORGE A. KING	2.	ARTHUR A. FULLER	6.
HARRY WESTON	3.	JOHN REILLY	7.
JAMES SEARLE	4.	WILLIAM ROBINSON	Tenor.

Conducted by GEO. F. ATTREE.

WOOLWICH, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS, AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 13 cwt.

HENRY BRIGHT	Treble.	JAMES CHARLES HARVEY	5.
WILLIAM BEDWELL	2.	REV. H. A. COCKEY	6.
YORK GREEN	3.	EDWARD E. RICHARDS	7.
GEORGE CONYARD	4.	*RICHARD G. CARTER	Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM BEDWELL.

*First peal. The ringers wish to thank the Rector and Churchwardens, for kindly allowing them the use of the bells.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE WARNHAM BRANCH).

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF COURT BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

JESSE GARMAN	Treble.	WILLIAM SHORT	5.
WALTER CHARMAN*	2.	HENRY H. CHANDLER	6.
THOMAS ANDREWS	3.	HENRY BURSTOW	7.
HARRY COOK	4.	THOMAS HOGSFLESH	Tenor.

Composed by FREDERICK WICKENS, and Conducted by HENRY H. CHANDLER.

*First peal in the method. This is the 50th peal by Mr. William Short, the captain of the Warnham branch.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND THE HERTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

HENRY BREWER*	Treble.	E. P. DEBENHAM	5.
JESSE W. BREWER*	2.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM	6.
EDWARD HULL†	3.	THOMAS WALLER	7.
JOHN C. MITCHELL	4.	ARTHUR HULL	Tenor.

Conducted by EDWARD PERCY DEBENHAM.

*First peal. †First on a bob bell. Messrs Brewer were elected members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, previous to the starting for the peal.

ARUNDEL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE ARUNDEL BRANCH).

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART

Tenor 14½ cwt.

S. LONG*	Treble.	C. BLACKMAN	5.
W. CHALLEN	2.	G. BALCHIN	6.
O. EVERSHEDE†	3.	E. EDE	7.
F. LUXFORD	4.	*C. HAYLER	Tenor.

Conducted by F. LUXFORD.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

HENRY BASTABLE	Treble.	THOMAS REYNOLDS	5.
WILLIAM HENRY GODDEN*	2.	BERNARD WITCHELL	6.
WILLIAM KENT	3.	HENRY JOHNSON, JUN.	7.
CHARLES STANBRIDGE	4.	JOSEPH JOHNSON	Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY BASTABLE.

*First peal with a bob bell.

CARSHALTON, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 10, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN HARTLEY†	Treble.	ARTHUR B. CARPENTER	5.
JOHN BRANCH	2.	*JOHN HARDING	6.
GEO. WELLING	3.	CHARLES BANCE	7.
JAMES W. TRAPPITT	4.	HENRY BROOKS	Tenor.

Conducted by DR. A. B. CARPENTER.

*First peal of Grandsire. †First peal with a working bell.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 11, 1888, in 2 Hours and 57 Minutes,

AT CHEIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt. 8 lbs.

LEWIS WHITMORE*	Treble.	JAMES W. RIMMER	5.
JOSEPH RIMMER†	2.	*LEWIS TYLDESLEY	6.
JAMES RIMMER	3.	WILLIAM BALDWIN	7.
BENJAMIN TUNGATE*	4.	DAVID E. RIMMER	Tenor.

Composed by the late WILLIAM HARRISON, and Conducted by DAVID E. RIMMER.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. ‡College Youth.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 11, 1888, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SHIPWAY'S COMPOSITION.

JESSE GARMAN	Treble.	HARRY COOK	5.
WALTER CHARMAN	2.	WILLIAM SHORT	6.
HENRY H. CHANDLER	3.	HENRY BURSTOW	7.
THOMAS ANDREWS	4.	GEORGE WOODMAN	Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY BURSTOW.

This peal was rung to commemorate the birthday of Mr. Henry Burstow. The ringers wish him many happy returns of the day.

SALTAIRE, YORKS.

THE SOCIETY OF COPLEY SCHOLARS, AND THE
YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 8, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES UPON SIX BELLS,

Being seven 720's of Plain Bob Minor, each differently called.

Tenor 9 cwt.

B. T. COPLEY .. .. .	.. .. .	4.	G. TITTERINGTON .. .. .	.. .. .	4.
J. COTTERELL .. .. .	.. .. .	2.	B. F. LAMB .. .. .	.. .. .	5.
A. RILEY .. .. .	.. .. .	3.	F. LONDON .. .. .	.. .. .	Tenor.

This peal, which is the first on these bells, and the first of Minor by all, was rung as a Conductors' practice, each ringer calling a 720 in turn, beginning and ending with the treble. It was also rung on the first attempt. B. T. Copley and G. Titterington, hail from Bolton; J. Cotterell and B. F. Lamb from Bradford; A. Riley from Saltaire; and F. London from Shipley.

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

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

On Thursday, December 6, 1888, in 2 Hours and 39 Minutes;

AT THE "HALBERT INN,"

ON HANDBELLS RETAINED IN HAND.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 21 size in D.

WILLIAM MOTTS .. .. .	.. .. .	1-2.	JAMES MOTTS .. .. .	.. .. .	5-6.
WILLIAM P. GARRETT .. .. .	.. .. .	3-4.	WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE .. .. .	.. .. .	7-8.

Composed by H. HUBBARD, and Conducted by J. MOTTS.

Date Touches.

THE HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

ASTON.—On Sunday morning, December 2nd, before Divine Service at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, a date touch of Stedman Caters (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 10 mins. H. Johnson, jun., 1; A. Jones, 2; C. Stanbridge, 3; W. Smith, 4; T. Russam, 5; J. Buflery, 6; B. Witchell (conductor), 7; W. Kent, 8; T. Reynolds, 9; W. Jackson, 10. Composed by Henry Johnson, sen.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BACUP.—On Tuesday, December 4th, at Christ Church, a date touch (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 10 mins., in the following methods: 600 Plain Bob, 600 College Single, and 688 Oxford Single. W. Ormerod, 1; J. Hardman, 2; A. A. Downing, 3; A. Chew, 4; A. White, 5; W. Smith (conductor), 6. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a last tribute of respect to the late Vicar, the Rev. John McCubbin, who for thirty-four years had been at the above church, and was also an hon. member of the above Association.

TUE BROOK NEAR LIVERPOOL.—On Sunday, December 8th, at the church of St. John-the-Baptist, an attempt to ring a peal of Bob Major (5024 changes), unfortunately came to grief after ringing 4576 changes, in 3 hours, owing to a mistake on the part of the conductor. J. R. Pritchard (composer and conductor), 1; P. Barton, 2; W. G. Mann, 3; W. James, 4; R. Hill, 5; D. E. Rimmer, 6; J. Aspinwall, 7; W. Davies, 8.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Saturday, December 8th, at St. James's church, a date touch of Bob Triples (1888 changes), in 1 hr and 8 mins. Tenor 15 cwt. F. Merrison, 1; J. W. Stickney, 2; G. M. Brownrigg, 3; A. Chaffer, 4; J. F. Mallaby, 5; T. Stockdale, 6; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 7; F. Sharp, 8. The company met for a peal, but after ringing an hour they were stopped by a defect in the chiming apparatus and a date touch was rung.

RAWMARSH (Yorks).—On Friday, December 7th, at St. Mary's church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 5 mins. T. Whitworth (conductor), 1; S. Whitworth, 2; V. Hawkins, 3; J. Hawkins, 4; J. Ensor, 5; J. Farmery, 6; R. Whitworth, 7; J. Scholfield, 8. The above touch was rung with the bells muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Mrs. W. T. W. Fitzwilliam, whose funeral took place on Thursday, December 6th, at the churchyard of Marhome, near Peterborough.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LINCOLN.—On Monday, December 10th, a mixed company of Lincoln ringers rang at the church of St. Peter-at Arches, a date touch of Bob Triples (1888 changes), in 1 hr and 7 mins. J. B. Fenton, 1; J. W. Watson, 2; H. Maidens, 3; H. Hoyes, 4; C. Wells, 5; I. Vickers (conductor), 6; D. W. Brown, 7; J. Ellard, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. Composed by Mr. Charles Jackson, Hull.

Miscellaneous.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

TWYFORD (Herts).—On Tuesday, December 4th, at St. Mary's church, 720 of Grandsire Minor in 25 mins. C. Hawkins, 1; *G. Smith, 2; *Rev. C. Buxton, 3; W. West, 4; A. Ashford, 5; F. Hewlett (conductor), 6. *First 720.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FOY (Herefordshire).—On Sunday, November 18th, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. J. G. Wall (conductor), 1; H. Bussell, 2; E. Turner, 3; J. Clark, 4; J. Andrews, 5; A. Bird, 6. Tenor 11 cwt. Also several six-scores of Stedman Doubles by the above, with H. Phillips from Bristol.

BURWARTON (Shropshire).—On Monday evening, November 26th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Doubles (six different six-scores), in 27 mins. J. Bowen, 1; J. Underwood, 2; G. Preece, 3; W. H. Fussell (conductor), 4; J. W. Sanderson, 5; J. Wellings, 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

BRIDGNORTH.—On Saturday, December 1st, at St. Leonard's church, two 168's of Grandsire Triples. H. Fowles, 1; W. Rickhuss, 2; E. Baker, 3; J. E. Hall, 4; W. H. Fussell, 5; H. Jones, 6; J. Overton, 7; H. James, 8. Tenor 20 cwt.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday, November 7th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). W. Allen, 1; I. Hills, 2; F. Sharp, 3; F. Smith, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; F. Keech, 6. Also on Friday, November 9th, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). F. Smith, 1; W. Hall, 2; F. Keech, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; W. Allen, 6. And on Thursday, December 6th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). I. Hills, 1; W. Hall, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; F. Smith, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; W. Allen, 6. Also on Thursday, November 15th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). F. Hull, 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; I. Hills, 3; W. Hall, 4; F. Smith, 5; *F. Sharp (conductor), 6. *First 720 as conductor. And on Friday, November 9th, at St. Paul's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins., containing the nine 4-6's, nine 7-4's, and nine 6-7's, Queens and Tittums. J. Spencer, 1; W. Allen, 2; F. Smith, 3; S. J. Cullip, 4; W. Hall, 5; C. W. Clarke (composer and conductor), 6; I. Hills, 7; F. Keech, 8. Followed by 742, 672, and 336 in the same method, and 224 Bob Major, and 224 of Kent Treble Bob Major. The above was rung on the election of the Mayor, J. Hawkins, Esq., a hon. member of the above Association.

SHARNBROOK (Beds).—On Saturday, November 10th, for practice at St. Peter's church, 720 Oxford Bob (eighteen bobs and two singles). J. Dickens, 1; W. Page, 2; E. Coleman, 3; L. Bell, 4; C. W. Clarke, 5; A. J. Barcock (conductor), 6. Also 216 Grandsire Minor, and 120 Grandsire Doubles. And on Saturday, November 17th, 720 Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles). C. Allen (aged 13, first 720, and first attempt), 1; L. Bell, 2; W. Page, 3; E. Coleman, 4; A. J. Barcock, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also two 120's of St. Simon's Doubles. And on Saturday, December 8th, 720 Grandsire Minor (fifty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles). J. Dickens, 1; L. Bell, 2; E. Coleman, 3; A. J. Barcock, 4; W. Page, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by all except the conductor. Also 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). J. Dickens, 1; C. Allen (first 720 with a bob bell), 2; L. Bell, 3; E. Coleman, 4; W. Page, 5; A. J. Barcock (conductor), 6. And 360 Oxford Bob Minor. C. Allen, 1; L. Bell, 2; E. Coleman, 3; W. Page, 4; A. J. Barcock, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also 120 Grandsire Doubles, with T. Bamsome, 1.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FRITTENDEN.—On Friday, November 23rd, at the church of St. Mary, 720 of Bob Major. E. Watson, 1; J. Goldsmith, 2; C. Walter, 3; W. E. Pope, 4; J. G. Tillmon, 5; E. Taylor, 6; E. Pope, 7; T. Daynes (conductor), 8. Also a 336 of Grandsire Triples. E. Watson, 1; W. E. Pope, 2; C. Walter, 3; J. G. Tillmon, 4; E. Taylor, 5; T. Daynes, 6; E. Pope (conductor), 7; J. Goldsmith, 8.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

PIMLICO.—On Sunday, November 25th, for evening service, at St. Gabriel's church, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, in 46 mins. W. Hover, 1; G. T. McLaughlin, 2; E. Carter, 3; H. Newton, 4; F. G. Newman, 5; J. N. Oxborough, 6; C. F. Winney, 7; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 8. Tenor 16½ cwt.

LONDON.—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Sunday, December 2nd, at the "Rochester Arms," 1260 of Grandsire Triples. G. T. McLaughlin, 1-2; C. F. Winney, 3-4; J. M. Hayes, 5-6; F. Davey, 7-8. Also a course of Stedman Triples, and a touch of Grandsire Triples, with W. H. George, 7-8; conducted by J. M. Hayes. Mr. Davey hails from Exeter.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY LONDON.

ST. ALBANS.—On Monday, December 3rd, at the office of the *Herts Standard*, on handbells retained in hand, 720 of Bob Minor (non-conducted). J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; G. W. Cartmel, 5-6.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRANDSTON.—On Saturday, December 8th, at the parish church, an attempt was made to ring a Surprise peal but after ringing 720 each of London, Rochester, Chichester, Worcester, and 120 of Superlative, in 1 hr. and 45 mins, the second rope broke. S. Wightman, 1; A. S. Wightman, 2; W. G. Crickmer, 3; G. Wightman, 4; D. G. Wightman (conductor), 5; S. Wightman, sen., 6.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BACUP.—On Sunday morning, December 2nd, for Divine Service at Christ Church, 720 Oxford Single. W. Ormerod, 1; J. Hardman, 2; A. A. Downing, 3; A. Chew, 4; A. White, 5; W. Smith (conductor), 6. Also for evening service 720 Plain Bob (eight bobs and six singles. Z. Lord, 1; J. Hardman, 2; J. B. Taylor (Newchurch), 3; A. A. Downing, 4; J. Smith (Rawtenstall), 5; W. Smith (conductor), 6. The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled, as a last tribute of respect to the late vicar, the Rev. John McCubbin, who for thirty-four years had been at the above church, and was also an hon. member of the above Association.

BOUGHTON NEAR FAVERSHAM.—On Sunday morning, November 25th, at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, 720 of Bob Minor (twenty-eight bobs and eighteen singles), in 25 mins. W. W. Boulden (conductor), 1; H. Foreman, 2; E. Foreman, 3; G. A. Ranson, 4; F. T. Harris, 5; W. Hope, 6. And after afternoon service, 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. W. Hope, 1; H. Foreman, 2; E. Foreman, 3; W. W. Boulden, 4; G. A. Ranson, 5; F. T. Harris (conductor), 6. Also on Tuesday, November 27th, 720 of Bob Minor (thirty singles and six bobs), in 25 mins. W. W. Boulden (conductor), 1; J. Burch, 2; E. Foreman, 3; W. Hope, 4; R. Castle, 5; G. A. Ranson, 6. This was rung on the occasion of the wedding of Mr. Thomas Harris one of the local ringers, with Miss Jane Exton, of the same parish, his brother ringers wishing them both long life and happiness.

GREENSTEAD GREEN (Essex).—On Sunday, December 2nd, at St. James' church, for afternoon service, 360 of Plain Bob Minor (nine bobs). S. Buss, 1; E. Chaplin, 2; F. Webb, 3; W. Claydon, 4; F. Saunders, 5; E. Radley (conductor), 6. And after service, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. E. Chaplin, 1; F. Saunders, 2; H. Wiffen, 3; W. Ward (conductor), 4; T. Arnold, 5; E. Radley, 6. Also 216 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (twelve bobs and two singles). S. Buss, 1; W. Ward, 2; F. Webb, 3; W. Claydon, 4; E. Radley (conductor), 5; F. Saunders, 6. Messrs. Radley, Saunders, and Chaplin, hail from Stisted, Claydon and Webb from Colne. Ward from Halstead; the rest belong to the local company. Tenor 14 cwt.

BUNWELL (Norfolk).—On Sunday, November 25th, at St. Michael's church, 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. Also on Monday, November 26th, for practice, two 720's of Kent and 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 on Sunday, December 2nd, for Divine Service, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. R. Hutton (conductor), 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; J. Hilling, 3; A. Dunnett, 4; E. Coleman, 5; J. Hinchley, 6.

BISHOPS STORTFORD (Herts).—On Thursday, November 29th, at the parish church, 503 Grandsire Triples. W. T. Prior, 1; W. J. Prior, 2; G. Prior, 3; F. W. Chapman, 4; H. Prior, 5; P. Springham, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7. This was rung without a cover. Also on Sunday morning, December 2nd, for Divine Service, 720 Grandsire Minor in 27 mins. T. Newman, 1; G. Prior, 2; F. W. Chapman, 3; H. Prior, 4; P. Springham, 5; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 6.

HANLEY CASTLE (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, December 2nd, at the parish church, three six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. A. Newman, 1; R. G. Knowles (conductor), 2; C. A. Clews, 3; C. B. James, 4; T. H. Gwynn, 5; A. Aspy, 6. Second six-score.—A. Newman, 1; E. B. James, 2; C. A. Clews, 3; A. Aspy, 4; T. H. Gwynn, 5; F. Jelf (conductor), 6. Third six-score.—A. Newman, 1; E. B. James, 2; A. Aspy, 3; C. A. Clews, 4; T. H. Gwynn, 5; F. Jelf (conductor), 6. Also two courses of Grandsire Triples. C. A. Clews, 1-2; E. B. James, 3-4; F. Jelf, 5-6; T. H. Gwynn, 7-8. In the second course A. Newman rang 1-2; the others as before. A. Aspy hails from Old Hanley, the rest belong to the Malvern Priory company. The ringers wish through the medium of this paper to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells.

MOSSLEY (Lancashire).—Recently at St. George's church, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins. J. Greaves (aged 15 years), 1; F. Rhodes (aged 14 years, first 720), 2; A. W. Holden (first 720), 3; H. Mayall, 4; J. Holden, 5; T. B. Dicken (conductor), 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

SALISBURY.—On Wednesday, December 5th, at St. Martin's church, 1260 of Grandsire Triples. W. E. Ramshaw (longest touch), 1; H. D. Adams, 2; A. P. Goddard, 3; A. W. Barkus, 4; W. S. Wise (conductor), 5; C. A. Clements, 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; W. M. Lush, 8. And 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. A. W. Barkus, 1; W. S. Wise, 2; H. D. Adams, 3; A. P. Goddard, 4; C. A. Clements, 5; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 6.

WALTON-ON-THAMES (Surrey).—On Monday, December 3rd, for practice at the parish church, several plain courses, and 168 Grandsire Triples. G. Atkins, 1; G. Luker, 2; E. Bromham, 3; T. Bond, 4; J. Sedgely, 5; G. Woodiss (conductor), 6; B. Wickens, 7; F. Tingey, 8. This is the first ever rung by a local band; they are making steady progress, and have until recently received instruction from Mr. J. M. Hayes.

WOKING (Surrey).—On Sunday morning, November 25th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Doubles. W. Furlonger, 1; *Frank Arnold, 2; F. Arnold, 3; R. Arnold, 4; W. Sadler, 5; *A. Sanders, 6. Also after service 720 in the same method. W. Furlonger, 1; *W. C. Ryde, Esq., 2; F. Arnold, 3; *F. Ryde, Esq., 4; R. Arnold (conductor), 5; A. Sanders, 6. This is the first 720 on the bells. The brothers Arnold hail from Betchworth, the rest are of the local band. *First 720.

WORCESTER.—On Sunday, December 9th, on the occasion of the Mayor and Corporation, attending Divine Service at the Cathedral, 403 of Grandsire Caters. W. Pudge, 1; W. Powell, 2; H. Pheasant, 3; G. Hobbs, 4; J. Morris, 5; L. Longley, 6; H. Wilks (conductor), 7; J. Reynolds, 8; W. Page, 9; T. Malin, 10. Another 500 conducted by L. Longley, unfortunately came to grief three leads from home. Tenor 52 cwt.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

By the Arundel Branch at Arundel.—On Sunday afternoon, December 2nd, 1260 of Grandsire Triples. W. Twigg, 1; E. Ede, 2; O. Evershed, 3; W. Challen, 4; G. Balchin, 5; C. Blackman (conductor), 6; F. Luxford, 7; R. Goatcher, 8. Also for evening service, 503 Grandsire Triples. C. Tribe, 1; H. Haggett, 2; C. Blackman, 3; G. Baker, 4; G. Balchin, 5; F. Luxford, 6; G. Williams (conductor), 8. Tribe and Williams from Midhurst. And for evening prayer, 210 Grandsire Triples. C. Tribe, 1; G. Balchin, 2; C. Blackman, 3; G. Williams (conductor), 4; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 5; F. Luxford, 6; G. Baker, 7; G. Treagus, 8. Also on Monday evening, December 3rd, 504 Grandsire Triples. S. Long, 1; G. Blackman, 2; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 3; W. Challen, 4; C. Blackman, 5; F. Luxford (conductor), 6; E. Ede, 7; A. Mills, 8.

By the Brighton Branch at Brighton.—On Sunday, December 2nd, 504 of Grandsire Triples. D. Ross, Esq., 1; G. F. Attree, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; E. C. Merritt, 4; G. A. King, 5; G. Thwaites (conductor), 6; J. Jay, 7; H. Tugwell, 8. Also on Monday, December 3rd, 504 of Stedman Triples. J. Searle, 1; G. Thwaites, 2; E. C. Merritt, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; G. A. King, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; J. Reilly (conductor), 7; H. Tugwell, 8.

By Mixed Bands at Heene.—On Saturday, December 1st, on the occasion of Association meeting, 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Searle, 1; G. A. King, 2; Staples, 3; J. Gasson, 4; G. F. Attree, 5; J. Jay, 6; G. Williams, 7; H. Weston (conductor), 8. Also 504 of Stedman Triples. H. Weston, 1; J. Searle (conductor), 2; J. Reilly, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; G. Williams, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; G. A. King, 7; J. E. Worsell, 8. And 504 of Grandsire Triples. Staples, J. Searle (conductor), 2; G. A. King, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; H. Weston, 5; J. E. Worsell, 6; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 7; J. Reilly, 8. Also 504 J. Reilly, 1; Staples, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; J. Searle, 4; G.

Williams (conductor), 5; G. F. Attree, 6; G. A. King, 7; E. Butler, 8. And 504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Searle, 1; *H. Bassett, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; H. Boniface, 4; G. A. King, 5; J. Reilly (conductor), 6; G. Williams, 7; E. Butler.

By Mixed Bands at Heene.—On Saturday, December 1st, on the occasion of Association meetings, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. *W. H. George, 1; —Staples, 2; H. Meads, 3; C. Tribe, 4; G. Williams (conductor), 5; J. Gasson, 6. *First 720. Also 720 of Plain Bob Minor. —Staples, 1; C. Tribe, 2; H. Evans, 3; G. F. Attree, 4; C. E. Golds, 5; H. Hills (conductor), 6. And 720 of Plain Bob Minor. H. Bassett, 1; C. Tribe, 2; H. Evans, 3; H. Hills, 4; —Clear, 5; J. Searle (conductor), 6. Also 120 of Stedman Doubles. W. H. George, 1; —Staples, 2; Rev—Cothor, 3; C. Tribe, 4; G. Williams, 5; H. Holman (conductor), 6.

By the Rigger Branch at Rigger.—On Monday, November 26th, for practice, 504 of Grandsire Triples. *T. Miller, 1; †A. Washer, 2; A. Starks, 3; C. Painter, 4; H. Jones, 5; G. Washer, 6; C. P. Davies (conductor), 7; †F. Newham, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. *First 504 on the treble. †First 504 with a bob bell. †First 504 on the tenor.

By the Steyning Branch at Steyning.—On Monday, November 19th, 720 of London Scholars' Pleasure. J. Smart, 1; G. Gatland, 2; C. Chambers, 3; C. Tyler, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, November 22nd, a 720 of Plain Bob. *F. Brooks, 1; G. Gatland, 2; J. Matthews, 3; C. Chambers, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. *First 720. And on Sunday, November 25th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; C. Chambers, 2; G. Smart, 3; S. Searle, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. Also 720 of Double Oxford. J. Matthews, 1; G. Gatland, 2; C. Tyler, 3; C. Chambers, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, December 2nd, 720 of Woodbine. J. Matthews, 1; C. Tyler, 2; G. Gatland, 3; C. Chambers, 4; F. Morris, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, November 26th, a 5040 in seven different Treble Bob methods, in three hours and seven minutes.

Correspondence.

[While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.]

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

CORRECTIONS.

SIR,—In your issue of December 8th, page 463, in the peal rang at Ashby-de-la-Zouch, it should read John Jaggard, 7; and not John Bullock. Also on page 451, of December 1st, R. Logie was the umpire for the peal on handbells rung at Burton, and was rung at the 10th attempt, the other nine being as follows: 1200, 1300, 3000, 3922, 1876, 1120, 1904, 1890, 2744. J. JAGGARD.

SIR,—In answer to a paragraph in your last issue, I find there is a great mistake as to the representation of Lancaster ringers. Mr. R. S. Hirst only represents the St. Mary's company, there being two other companies, St. Thomas's, with a ring of six bells, with Mr. B. A. Edmondson, conductor, and St. Peter's with a ring of eight bells, Mr. P. Mulligan, conductor. R. T. EDMONDSON.

THE PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR AT ST. ANDREW'S, WELL STREET, LONDON.

SIR,—With reference to the above, which was published in your issue of the 1st inst., as being rang at the above church on the 24th ult., I am informed by a reliable authority that 2-3 "shifted course," and remained so for some time; also when "that's all" came up, 4-5 were found to be the wrong way, and were put right. I should like to know whether such is the case. Would the conductor (Mr. A. Jacob), be kind enough to enlighten us. If my informant is correct in his statement, why did not some one contradict the peal last week. He tells me he was not the only one who heard the peal. CONDUCTOR.

SIR,—In your issue of December 1st, there is a report of a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major rang at St. Andrew's Church, Well Street, London, on November 24th. Now, Sir, I should like to ask the conductor how many times the 2nd and 6th changed courses, and also how many times the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th were shifted in the last two or three leads to bring the bells round. And also if it is a fact that when the band separated they were under the impression that they had not rung a peal, the said members being surprised and annoyed when they saw it published as a peal. S.W.

ANSWER TO "FREE LANCE."

SIR,—In "Notes by the Way," under the quotation "Retrogression is contrary to nature," "Free Lance" raises a question I consider of some importance to the ringing community; I refer to the reports in "THE BELL NEWS" of touches rung upon practice nights and for Sunday services. I fail to see where the writer would have the line drawn, and what should, according to his idea, be sent for insertion in "THE BELL NEWS." He says he is always glad to read of such touches as quarter peals and 720's having being brought round; but is not a 500 or even a 120 by a young band equally creditable and as worthy of insertion as a quarter-peal or a 720 accomplished by a band after years of practice. Again, as to the reports of ringing for Sunday services, would it not be well if more, rather than less, were forthcoming, even though nothing extraordinary is achieved? It would, at all events, show that the bells (in these reformed days) were being put to their proper use in being rung for each Sunday Service, instead of, as I fear it is, too often still the case, that they are only raised once a month on ringing Sundays, or in many places are never raised except for week-day practice. Supposing "Free Lance's" suggestion be carried out and only extraordinary performances are reported, what will occupy the space (on an average six or seven columns per week) now devoted to the reports of ringing? Can matters of interest, or instruction, to ringers be found from week to week, or will our journal, which boasts of being a "Ringers' Record," commit an act so "contrary to nature as retrogression," by devoting the space so provided by recording additional extraordinary "Burial Cases," "alleged assaults by rectors," "Black Letter Saints' Day," etc., such as appeared last week? GEO. F. ATTREE.

Brighton.

PROPOSED BENEFIT SOCIETY, AND MR. DORAN'S CASE.

SIR,—Some few weeks since, the idea of "A Ringers' Benefit Society" was proposed in these columns. While much is to be said in favour of such a grand idea, a great many objections may be raised. Firstly, would it be wise on our part to attempt to counteract the efforts and work of such societies as the A.O.F., M.U.O.F., and other existing benefit societies, societies for that one-object. I am afraid that between the promotion of the art of change-ringing and belfry reform, and the working of an Association for the promotion of thrift among ringers, between the two we should come to the ground. It is perhaps needless to add that ringers are not restricted from enjoying the advantages such societies as are here spoken of offer. Secondly, to float successfully a ringers' benefit society means the incurring of a great expense, much more than I venture to think ringers would feel prepared to pay, at any rate I do not think we are going to talk them into such an idea so very easily. To judge by the miserable response made to Mr. Randall's appeal on behalf of Mr. Doran, here is (what is in my opinion) a very deserving case, brought to our notice not only by Mr. Randall, but by one of our most prominent ringers, Mr. Henry Dains the Hon. Sec. of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and again by the respected editor of our "weekly" himself, so that we cannot doubt the case. But what do we find; some three months after the appeal as been made we find the magnificent sum of £5 17s. 6d. has been subscribed amongst 42 ringers out of the many hundreds there are existing, who are enjoying the greatest blessings that Providence can bestow upon them, viz., health and strength. I do not hesitate to say that such conduct on our part is simply disgraceful, that so many ringers should abstain from subscribing their mite. I take for example the Association of which I am Assist. Hon Sec; on looking down the list of subscribers I see that out of a membership of over 600 only 2 names occur. I do regret to think this should be the case, the matter would bear a different complexion if an appeal were often made, but this is only the second time such an appeal as been made this year. I am fully aware my remarks will not be met with approval by many of my brother-ringers, but here is a fact and as a fact, brother-ringers, I submit it to your consideration. You know the old Scotch proverb still stands good. "Many a mickle makes a muckle." That happy Christmastide is fast approaching, do your best now the opportunity presents itself, to make at least one home bright and cheerful if possible, and you may rest assured that your Christmastide will be doubly happy. I could say much more, but for fear of trespassing on valuable space, I now close, feeling sure my remarks (although harsh perhaps) will not have been made in vain.

JAMES EDWARD WORSSELL, Assist. Hon. Sec. S.C.A.C.R.
14, Foundry Street, Brighton.

The easternmost window in the north gallery at St. James's, Piccadilly, has just been filled with painted-glass in commemoration of the bicentenary of the consecration of the church. The chief subject represents the raising of Lazarus, and has been executed by Messrs. Ward and Hughes, under the superintendence of Mr. Wimperis.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"All's well that ends well."

Without a doubt, the most prominent feature of last Saturday's issue is the numerous array of peals reported. That circumstance denotes forcibly enough the fact that we are once more "in the thick" of the peal ringing season, and moreover, that our friends in various parts are by no means "letting the grass grow under their feet" in this respect.

* * * * *

In the weekly list of peals there are, of course, always some more or less interesting features; but last Saturday's collection seems to be more than usually notable. Not the least of this is the number of "first peals" or "first peals in the method," for I find that among the ringers of the twenty-one peals in question, no less than forty-six of them come under this category. If that is not an unmistakable sign of progress, I confess I don't know what else is. It shews that after many months of training on the part of the seniors, the young ringer has given evidence of his diligence in mastering the art, and thus rewarded the patient endeavours of his tutors by piloting his bell through his first peal. It shews signs of progress also in other cases where a band has set about mastering a fresh method, and after much practice together succeeded in "pulling off" a "fiver" in it.

* * * * *

But if our Triples and Major ringers have been busy, surely the six-bell men must be credited with having been no less so, seeing that there are six peals to their credit, and their selection of methods which they rang, also, denotes long and constant practice.

* * * * *

I was rather surprised, though, to learn that the Steyning men rang their first combination of Treble Bob methods on the 20th ult. They were so well to the fore twelve months ago, that I imagined a peal of this kind was among the number. Nevertheless, although it has been longer in coming, I am pleased to see it.

* * * * *

The band who visited Frampton must have been eager for a peal when they rung these bells to the tune of forty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. Perhaps the fact of its being the first on the bells as well as the first by the treble-man had something to do with it. The most credit in connection with that performance is undoubtedly due to the conductor, and shews that he is gifted with a good memory. But my friends, when you have a ring of six, why content yourselves with the very limited compass which five bells afford! Why not turn the tenor into the work and ring more pleasant and varying Minor methods? Of course, I might be met with the rejoinder that many with eight bells in their tower content themselves with ringing Triples. But considering the difference in the "extents" between Doubles and Triples, there is no analogy in the cases. Anyhow, seeing that you have successfully brought round the first peal on the Frampton bells, let us read before long that you have met again in the same belfry and been equally fortunate with a good peal of Minor.

* * * * *

By the way, I see the All Souls (Halifax) Society have been regaling the ears of our old friend Mr. Sottanstill with a peal of Treble Bob on the bells of his quaint old parish church of Sowerby. But what struck me most in this was the fact that six out of the octave are starred as being members of the Yorkshire Association. Why didn't they get the other two proposed, and thus have made it what it so nearly is—an Association peal. Perhaps it was an oversight.

The Lancashire Association is bidding fair to be top scorer with their handbell peals; two more this week. In fact, I have noticed with pleasure of late an appearance of much vigour in the County Palatine, both in the matter of ringing and also in their work of organisation. I ventured some time ago to remark upon the very large number (proportionately) of peals by independent societies, in that county, which seemed to indicate that this Association was a long way off embracing in its ranks the bulk of the ringers. But if this life and vigour be maintained, I do not doubt that ultimately these outsiders will be brought in, and that Association become as extensive and potent for good as even its most zealous members could wish for.

* * * * *

That reminds me of a story I heard a little time ago (and I am forcibly impressed with the idea that it came from Lancashire), which, if true, tempts me to think that they must have some queer individuals to deal with. One of the members waited upon a certain clergyman, and asked him to become an honorary member, as they were naturally anxious to have the support of the clergy. By way of supporting his request he shewed the Rev. gentleman a copy of their report, which contained a list of their hon. members. After looking through it, the said vicar returned the book with the discouraging remark that he could not comply. "Why so?" queried the astonished ringer. "Oh!" said he, "how do you suppose that I, as an evangelical, could allow my name to appear in that list among those High Churchmen and Ritualists?" That must have been a settler. At all events, so the story goes, it settled the point as to his becoming a member of the association. I should be glad, for the sake of our clergy, if this story could be contradicted; for if true, it shows that intolerance and bigotry are not confined to the lowest and most ignorant of our countrymen, but that these unworthy features manifest themselves even among the ranks of those who are our spiritual guides, and who should be examples for us to follow.

* * * * *

The Midland Counties men seem to be going in for "splicing" just now. Let us hope these splices will all of them be happy ones; and with respect to the latest of them, may Mr. Walter Canner's family obligations not tempt him to become lax in his ringing work, and that he will find in his good wife a worthy help-mate, so that in year's to come he may still be found "the worthy captain of the Ashby Society."

* * * * *

This brings to my mind the performances of another ringers wife, to whom I have previously had the pleasure of referring, namely, Mrs. Williams. This lady appears to be making good progress in handbell ringing, and her exploits would be worthy of any of the oldest masculine practitioners amongst us. I think Mr. G. Williams must have found an apt pupil in his "better half," who seems quite at home with 7-8 either in Grandsire, Stedman, or Plain Bob. He has made a good splice, evidently, and is to be congratulated accordingly.

* * * * *

The Devonport Dockyard men deserve credit for their perseverance with their quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. Six consecutive meetings with six consecutive failures was certainly disheartening enough, but they strove on till success rewarded their efforts. Their experience in this is by no means unique, as many of us know from personal experience; but that by no means detracts from the merit of their praiseworthy and continued efforts. I wish them every success in their desire to cheer the heart of their esteemed president with a whole peal, and hope ere long to have the pleasure of congratulating them on the event.

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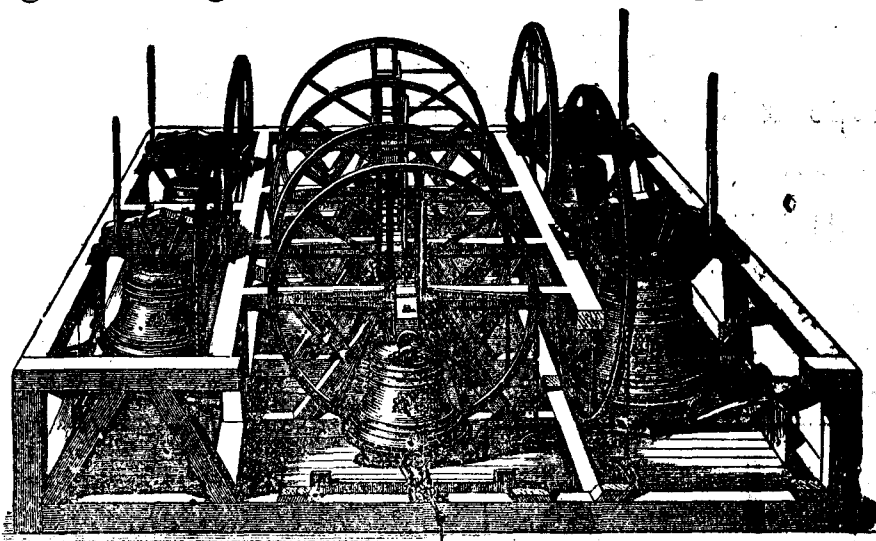
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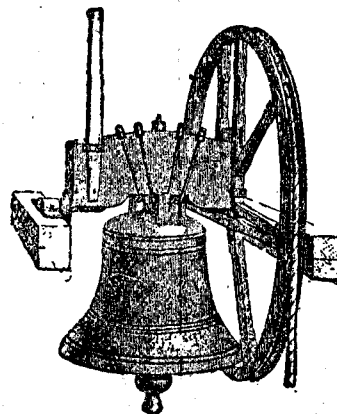
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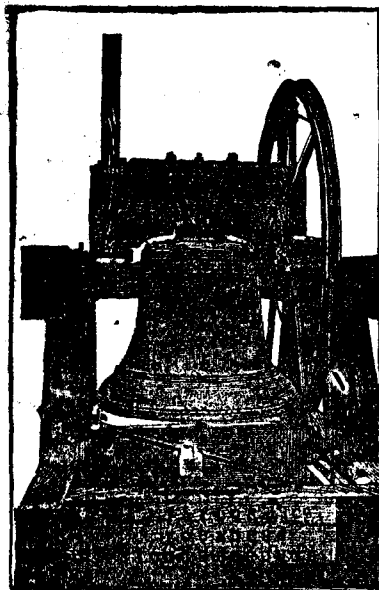
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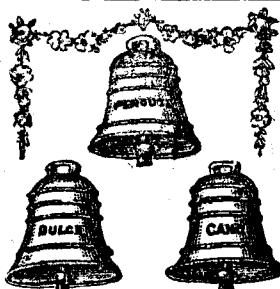
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