THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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No. 352.—*VOL.* VII. SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1888. ONE PENNY.

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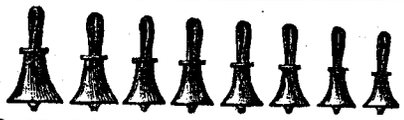
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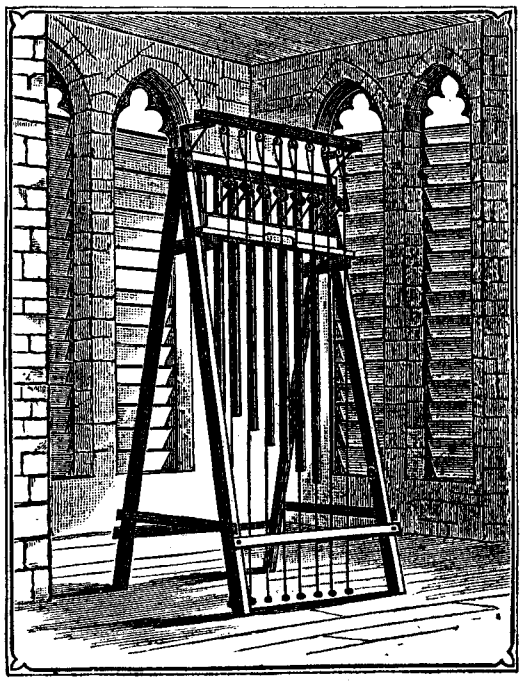
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THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN BRANCH.

A most successful and harmonious meeting took place on Saturday last, in the Cocoa Rooms, St. Luke's Place, Liverpool, for the purpose of forming the above Branch. The meeting opened at 5.30, when there were present about thirty ringers, representing Aughton, Blackburn, Hindley, Huyton, Liverpool, Ormskirk, Prescot, Sefton, Southport, Upholland, and Wigan, and the secretary and treasurer of the county association. The Rev. D. Jones, of Aughton, was unanimously voted to the chair, and explained the object of the meeting.

Mr. F. W. Moore proposed "that having heard the remarks of the chairman, it was desirable to form a branch of the Lancashire Association for Liverpool and district." This was seconded by Mr. W. Bentham and carried unanimously.

Mr. John R. Pritchard then proposed "That the branch should be called 'The Liverpool Diocesan Branch.'"

Mr. R. Hill seconded, and this motion was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. R. Pritchard then proposed "That meetings be held monthly alternately at eight and six-bell towers." This also was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Joseph Prescott, Hindley, proposed, and Mr. W. G. Mann, Liverpool, seconded, "That Mr. John R. Pritchard be elected local Secretary," which proposition was unanimously carried.

Mr. James, Liverpool, proposed "That the various superintendents of towers, being members, should form a provisional committee to select the places of meeting, six of whom to form a quorum." This was also agreed to.

Mr. J. Martin, churchwarden of Sefton parish church, in a few well-chosen remarks, wished the branch every success, and was elected an honorary member.

Mr. F. W. Moore also addressed the meeting, and gave some very appropriate remarks on the duties of clergy and wardens to the ringers, and the ringers' duties to the church.

The Chairman then proposed a vote of thanks to the wardens of St. Luke's church for kindly placing the bells at the disposal of the meeting. The meeting then proceeded to the election of members, when forty performing and two honorary members were added to the roll of the Association. A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding brought a very pleasant meeting to a close.

After the meeting touches were rung on the bells of St. Luke's church, and also on the handbells in the ringing room. The next meeting of this branch will be held (in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the County Association) at Southport, on Saturday, January 12th, 1889, when it is to be hoped all ringers in the diocese will attend.

40, *Lowther Street, Liverpool.* J. R. PRITCHARD, *Local Sec.*

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.

The Fourth Quarterly Meeting of the above Branch will be held at Prestbury, on Saturday, January 12th, 1889. Bells ready at 2 o'clock, tea at 5, in a building adjoining the Vicarage, and the usual business meeting immediately after. All ringing friends will be welcome. W. WALMSLEY, *Local Sec.*

Gurnett, near Macclesfield.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Monday, January 14th. Tea at the Leopold Coffee Tavern at 6 p.m., followed by the usual business meeting, at which subscriptions for the ensuing year will be payable. Further particulars next week. ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

December 25th.

ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.

The usual quarterly meeting of this Society will be held at the tower on Tuesday, January 1st, 1889. A. THOMAS, *Secretary.*

ST. GABRIEL'S, PIMLICO.

It is with the most sincere regret that we have to announce the lamented and unexpected death of the wife of the Rev. J. H. Ellison, Vicar of St. Gabriel's, Warwick Square. It was only last year that her marriage took place at Lambeth Palace Chapel, under the happiest and brightest auspices. About six weeks ago she was safely delivered of a son, and appeared to be progressing favourably. Recovery was somewhat slow, but her death on Wednesday, December 19th, was almost sudden. A local paper, referring to the deceased lady, says:

"Mrs. Ellison was the youngest daughter of the late Archbishop Tait, and was not the least brilliant of a specially gifted family. Besides intellectual talents of no mean order, she had a most lively fancy and humour, a keen wit, an unruffled good-temper, and the most engaging manners. She was the delight of a very large family circle, and a still wider surrounding of friends. She was the support of her father's declining years, and the comfort of his many and repeated domestic bereavements; and it was most touching to see them as almost playful companions together, and to hear her gay and sweet voice singing about the old halls and galleries of Lambeth Palace. She had much that recalled her illustrious father both in face and character. Many of the happiest homes of England are desolated by this untimely loss, and the deepest and most respectful sympathy must be felt for her husband, whose life is so prematurely overshadowed."

The deceased lady was only twenty-eight years of age. The first part of the funeral service took place at St. Gabriel's, on Friday, December 21st, and she was laid to rest the next day at Addington. Last Sunday evening a muffled peal, consisting of the usual whole pull and stand, was rung at St. Gabriel's. C. F. Winny, 1; H. Swain, 2; W. Hoverd, 3; W. E. Garrard, 4; G. T. McLaughlin, 5; W. T. Cockerill, 6; R. T. Woodley, 7; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 8. Afterwards two courses of Stedman Triples was rung. The ringers also forwarded to the Vicar a letter of condolence.

VISIT OF THE BENINGTON RINGERS TO WIDFORD, ESSEX.

It is already known to the Exercise that this peal of bells (tenor 12 cwt. in G) has recently been augmented from six to eight. Besides two new trebles, the back six have been thoroughly overhauled, the second and sixth are placed in a new oak frame above the others, the whole having new sallie rollers and iron guides for the ropes, with chiming apparatus complete. The work has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner, through the munificence of A. Pryor, Esq.

On Wednesday, December 19th, by the kind invitation of the donor of the new bells, there journeyed to Widford L. Proctor, Esq., and the Benington ringers, accompanied by Mr. H. Baker and Mr. J. Gray, of Hertford, where they arrived about 11 a.m. The bells were raised in peal, and afterwards touches of Stedman, Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge, and London Surprise were brought round during the day, amounting to upwards of 4000 changes. At 2 o'clock the party sat down to an excellent repast, provided by host Clark, at the "Sir Evelyn Wood," afterwards returning to the tower, where ringing was kept up until 4 p.m. The visitors having expressed themselves greatly pleased with the splendid "go" of the bells, then made their way to Chelmsford, and rang a short touch of Stedman Triples and 416 of Double Norwich, at St. Mary's, afterwards catching the 6.30 train *en route* for Hertfordshire. The Benington ringers included Samuel Page, John Kitchener, Joseph Kitchener, L. Chapman, J. Warner, N. Warner, C. Shambrook, and W. Hobbs. H. B.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR BIRMINGHAM, ASTON, AND THE SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.

The first general meeting of this Guild will be held at St. Martin's Mission Rooms, Barwick Street, Edmund Street Birmingham, on Tuesday evening, January 8th, 1889, at 8 o'clock, when all the present members of the St. Martin's and Holt Societies are earnestly requested to attend.

W. H. GODDEN, *Sec. pro tem.*

OPENING OF ST. MARY'S TOWER, RAWTENSTALL.

On Thursday evening, the formal opening of the new tower clock and bells, in connection with St. Mary's Church, Rawtenstall, took place. The Bishop of Manchester preached the dedicatory sermon from St. Mary's pulpit, to an exceedingly large audience, and was listened to with profound attention. The following clergymen were present :—Revs. Canon Champneys, vicar of Haslingden and Rural dean; J. G. Haworth, vicar of Tunstead; A. Spencer, vicar of Goodshaw; E. Holliday, vicar of Cloughfold; I. Downham, vicar of Baxenden; C. Wesson, vicar of St. James' Waterfoot; A. Smith, and T. F. Jones, curates, Stacksteads; J. Gardner, curate of Goodshaw; R. W. Hay, Newchurch Grammar School, and curate of Haslingden; Rev. J. M. Mather, Revs. J. Norris, J. Dodd, and J. Given, Rawtenstall.

The Bishop then ascended the pulpit. He said they had met to dedicate that tower and bells to that house of prayer. He supposed the principle upon which they had proceeded in their work had been this, that so far as they were able to secure it, every one of their gifts to God should be perfect of its kind. So thoroughly did the builders of the Middle Ages, recognise this principle that they made not only every stone perfect that was exposed to view, but also those inside. The eye of man might not rest upon them, but the eye of God would, and so far as their efforts could prevent it, they were determined there should be no defect in their gifts. He believed they at that place had carried out that principle, and he congratulated them on their work, and might God grant His blessing on their works of faith and labours of love.—His Lordship then preached an impressive sermon from Matthew, 12 chap. and xxxvi. verse.

The bells were opened by the Newchurch ringers with a 504 Grandsire Triples, before and after the service. And on Sunday, for Evening Service the same company rang another 504. After Evening Service a 720 Plain Bob Minor. T. Harrison, 1; T. N. Pickup, 2; J. B. Taylor, 3; James Pickup, 4; John Smith, 5; John Kershaw, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. The bells are by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, and the clock by Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, and they give every satisfaction.

RAVENINGHAM CHURCH BELLS, NORFOLK.

The bells in this parish were re-opened on Saturday, December 22nd, after having been entirely re-hung upon a new stout English oak frame. Two new bells have also been added to complete the peal. Saturday being the day fixed for the opening ringers were invited, and the following places were represented: Eye, Beccles, Loddon, Norton, Thurlton, etc. Through the liberality of N. W. Bacon, Esq., J.P., of Raveningham Hall, a substantial dinner was provided to which about twenty sat down and did ample justice to. The chair was taken by Mr. J. Mendham, agent to N. W. Bacon, Esq., and the vice-chair by Mr. George Day, Eye. The bells formerly consisted of three, which are from the Norwich Foundry, 1676 and 1617, bearing the city shield, and have now, through the generosity of N. W. Bacon, Esq., been augmented into a peal of five, by the addition of two new bells, and they are considered by all who have heard them to be a very pretty musical peal. The two new bells were cast by John Warner and Sons, of London.

During the evening several toasts were proposed and drunk, including the health of the donor of the bells, and that of Mr. J. Mendham, who has taken much interest in the restoration, being one of the ringers, and to him thanks are due for the use of his excellent peal of handbells during the evening.

The clergy who have been attached as curates to the parish church at Halifax under Dr. Pigou have presented their former vicar with two handsome easy chairs for the library—one in morocco leather, and the other upholstered in rich velvet for Mrs. Pigou. The Rev. H. Robinson said that while offering their congratulations their feelings were mingled with regret at Dr. Pigou's departure. They recalled with much pleasure the kindness not only of himself but also of Mrs. Pigou, who had endeared herself to them by ever making them feel that the vicarage was a home where they always had a kindly greeting. The Dean and Mrs. Pigou feelingly acknowledged the gift. A silver plate inserted in the book-rest bore an inscription.

ACCIDENT TO A BELLHANGER.

An inquest was held on Saturday, at the Bristol General Hospital, by the city coroner, Mr. Wasbrough, concerning the death of Alfred York. The coroner said the case before them was one in which a bellhanger, who had been severely injured by a bell falling on him, died on Friday at the Hospital. James York, of 19, Hillgrove-hill, Stoke's-croft, son of the deceased, said his father was a bell-hanger, and his age was 52. He lived in the same house as witness. While deceased was engaged at Withington, Herefordshire, in hanging a peal of bells a bell fell on him. This happened on November 28. George Liversha, of 4, Queen-street, Eastville, said he was engaged with the deceased in hanging the peal of bells. The deceased was working under a bell, when the bolt which was keeping it up broke, and the bell fell on the deceased. The bell weighed 9½ cwt. One of the jury asked if the bolt was a temporary one. Witness said it was not, and in reply to the question whether the bolts were tested before they were used made answer that they did not test them, as they were supposed to be tested by the blacksmiths of whom they were bought. Dr. H. C. Newnham, said the deceased was brought to the hospital on November 28, suffering from a compound fracture of the leg. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death. The coroner then recommended that all bolts should be tested before being used.

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
Mr. F. White, Appleton	0	2	6
Mr. J. Avery, Appleton	0	2	0
Mr. R. Bennett, Appleton	0	2	0
Mr. W. Bennett, Appleton	0	2	0
Mr. G. Cook, Appleton	0	2	0
Mr. G. Holifield, Appleton	0	2	0
M. J. Mayo, Tetsworth	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.

The *Carnarvon Herald* states that Dr. Gardner, the Queen's physician in Scotland, has reported to the Archbishop of Canterbury that the Bishop of St. Asaph is incapable of resigning, owing to mental inability to give that attention which would make such an act valid, and if pressure were exerted fatal results might follow. The signature of the Bishop of St. Asaph to the commission appointing the Bishop of Bangor to officially act for him in the diocese was made before a recent serious collapse, and even then only a mark was appended and witnessed. Under the peculiar circumstances it is announced that the Archbishop is consulting the law officers of the Crown to endeavour to relieve the deadlock.

NOTICE OF LONG PEAL.—Twelve members of the Yorkshire Association will attempt 10,196 of Stedman Cinques at the parish church, Sheffield, on Monday, December 31st, to commence at 10.30.

THE PROPOSED ADDITION TO WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

Westminster Abbey is a building of such surpassing interest that any matter relating to it is worthy of public attention. The manner in which its walls are covered and often disfigured by its multitude of monuments, cannot escape the eye of the most casual observer. However wrong it may seem from an æsthetic point of view, it is unquestionably true that the chief interest of the Abbey for the general visitor lies in these very monuments; and the interest is historical not, æsthetic. In them it contains what is perhaps the most impressive and certainly a most popular lesson in the national history. When therefore we are met by the fact that the Abbey is full—too full as many think—and that the time has come when no more monuments can be placed in it, it is necessary to consider how provision may be made for the future. For the necessity of making adequate provision for continuing this as yet unbroken line will be admitted by every one.

More than twenty-five years ago Sir Gilbert Scott proposed to build in Abingdon-street, facing the Houses of Parliament, a moumental cloister stretching from the Chapter-house to Great College-street. In the November Number of the Nineteenth Century, at the end of an article on recent work in connection with the public buildings of London, Mr. Shaw Lefevre discussed another scheme for adding to the Abbey a building styled variously a chapel, a cloister, and a new south transept. The plan now advocated consists of an oblong building to be erected on the south side of the Abbey between the Little Cloisters and the Jewel Tower, with its east side facing Old Palace-yard. This site is now occupied by houses of no architectual interest, and if cleared would give space for a building 200ft. long by 100ft. wide. It would include within its walls the remains of St. Catherine's Chapel, the altar of which might be rebuilt to be used in connection with the memorial or dedicatory services; its main entrance from the exterior would be at Poet's-corner, but it would be more closely connected with the Abbey by a passage from the south transept under the buttresses of the Chapter-house, and by an entrance from the Little Cloisters; one great merit, it is suggested, of this plan would consist in opening up a view of the Chapter-house and of the south elevation of the Abbey.

A building of such a size, and necessary of considerable architectural pretensions, would of course involve a large outlay of money. And there is the site to be bought. Mr. Shaw Lefevre's proposals for raising the required funds are given in the same article and are as follows:—For the site a sum of about £80,000 is required. The building itself, he estimates, would involve an outlay of some £50,000 or £60,000., though surely this is too little. It is not to be expected that Parliament will vote the money. But in the course of the next year, we are told, there will come into existence a quasi-public fund upon which no one has any claim, and for which as yet there is no destination. The much abused London coal duties, at first intended to cease on July 1st, 1888, were extended to July 1st, 1889, in order to free certain bridges over the Thames and the Lea from tolls. After providing for this it is estimated that there will be a surplus of not less than £120,000 to be disposed of as Parliament may think fit. It is proposed that this fund should be appropriated "as an inducement to private liberality for works of public improvement."

One half of the amount necessary for the erection of the chapel might come from this fund and the remaining half be raised by public subscription. Among the supporters of this scheme are such well-known names as those of the Duke of Westminster, Lord Wantage, Lord Brassey, Baron F. de Rothschild, Mr. Cubitt, Mr. H. H. Gibbs, Mr. Bertram Currie, and Dr. E. Freshfield.

In conclusion, it is suggested that the building should remain in the hands of the Government, who would be responsible for its maintenance and repair, and regulate the burials and the placing of monuments in it. It might be called Victoria Chapel.

Notice has already been given—and this shows that the promoters are in earnest—of an intended application to Parliament in the ensuing session to authorise the compulsory purchase of the site and to sanction the application of part of the coal duties for the above purposes.

Obituary.

THOMAS BARROTT.

We regret to have to announce the death of the above ringer, who was accidently killed on Friday, December 14th, whilst following his employment at the Besom Hill Brick Works, by a fall of shaol and stone, killing him on the spot. He was in his 26th year, and leaves a wife and child to mourn his loss. For many years—up to his untimely death—the deceased was an active member of the Moorside tower and handbell ringers, and has rung in about eight peals and a few date touches. He was looking forward to going out with the ringers on Christmas Eve, and was whistling a few minutes before his death a tune which they had been practising for that occasion. On the Sunday following his death, the bells were rung deeply-muffled, and a 760 of Grandsire Triples was rung for morning service. In the evening the company met early and rung the first four parts of Reeves's Variation. A. Butterworth, 1; T. Greenwood, 2: J. Gratrix, 3; George H. Beaver, 4; F. Cocks, 5; W. Sutcliffe, 6; J. Taylor, 7; J. Crossley, 8. Messrs. Beaver and Cocks hail from Glodwick, Oldham; J. Gratrix from Manchester; the rest are of the local company. Both touches were conducted by Wm. Sutcliffe. In the evening the ringers wended their way to the tower, and rang a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. and 57 mins., as a token of respect to their deceased brother-ringer. Adam Butterworth, 1; Thomas Greenwood, 2; William Pitman,* 3; Samuel Stott, 4; Joseph Taylor, 5; William Sutcliffe, 6; James Siddall, 7; *John Crossley, 8. Conducted by Wm. Sutcliffe. *First peal. Messrs. Stott and Siddall hail from Oldham; the rest belong to the local company. The deceased was laid to rest on Tuesday in St. Thomas's churchyard, Moorside, before a large and sympathising crowd of people. He was followed to his last resting place by his widow and child, parents, sisters, brother and other relatives and friends, and the workmen at the brickworks, and the Moorside ringers. The Rev. George Holmes, son of the Vicar, officiated at the service, and sympathised with the bereaved, and said he had known the deceased when a boy. Over the grave his brother ringers rang that beautiful hymn "Go bury thy sorrow," and a course of Grandsire Minor on the handbells. The procession then returned, after which the ringers ascended the tower and rang a touch of Grandsire Triples 350 changes, with the bells deeply muffled. They subsequently adjourned to the house of Mr. John Lees, Sholver Moor, where a sumptuous tea was provided for them and the workmen of the brickworks. After the cloth was removed (Mr. Isaac Bassett in the chair), Mr. Thos. Mellowdew, Sholver Moor, and the host delivered some appropriate remarks about the deceased. Mr. Adam Butterworth moved that a message of condolence be sent to the deceased's widow, sympathising with her in her sad bereavement. Mr. James Siddall, of Oldham, seconded it, in a few touching remarks, the company unanimously agreeing. Mr. Thomas Mellodew thanked them on behalf of the widow, parents, and relatives for assisting them in the painful duty they had to perform that day. Mr. Adam Butterworth then recited some verses which he had composed for the occasion.

As the result of a munificent gift, a new parish is being formed in Hastings, and a church will, it is hoped, be built without delay. A lady some months ago, having consulted the Rev. H. D. Jones, rector of Upper Street, S. Leonard's decided to build and endow a church in memory of her husband, at a cost of £15,000, in the poor and populous district of All Saints', Hastings. The offer made was readily accepted by the Rev. G. A. Foyster, the vicar, on condition of the Bishop's approval of the scheme of patronage by which Mr. Jones was to choose the first vicar. Mr. Foyster was able to add that a site had already been promised by the Rev. C. Sayer-Milward, who owns land in the parish. The first incumbency has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. H. U. Whelpton, curate of Christ Church, Albany Street, N.W., and son of Prebendary Whelpton, of Eastbourne. The appointment has been approved by the fundress and the Bishop.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"A Happy New Year."

Let us hope that the coming year of grace may prove so to all of us. But we should try to make it so far as we can by the practice of the cardinal virtues, notably of self-denial. This virtue is an important factor to the well-being of our art. Let us then practice it in and out of season. Then we shall hear no more of the ravings of spite and jealousy.

* * * * *

I am obliged to Mr. Mead for his very interesting epistle. Although I am rather inclined to think that his letter was intended more for my private perusal than for publication, yet the information it contains sufficiently warranted its "reduction to print," while at the same time, to my mind, it fully bears out my previous remarks which give rise to it. I gave the Clun men credit for perseverance, and surely the story told by Mr. Mead is one long narrative of drawbacks, and a steady determination to surmount them. First they have the opposition of the old stoney ringers, which they appear to have settled satisfactorily. Then their efforts to procure the restoration of the tower and the substitution of a good peal of eight in place of their present "very poor peal of six," although not so successful as they deserve to have been, yet seem to me full of promise for the future. Take heart, my friends, keep pegging away, and and success will attend you sooner or later—probably sooner.

* * * * *

That part of Mr. Mead's letter referring to the restoration of their church is, I am sorry to say, only too common with us. Large sums are collected and spent in the "restoration" of nave and chancel, vestry and organ chamber. Expensive oak and tile work are laid down for the purpose of beautifying the interior; but the poor old tower, which for generation after generation has pointed heavenward, is left in its dilapidation and dirt. Nobody goes up its spiral staircase to view its interior, save the ringers, and perhaps the sexton when he has to ring the death-bell or wind up the clock. The parishioners see it only from the outside, which to them seems as solid as ever it did. Thus it is so often our towers and their contents are neglected, and left to "rack and ruin," so that in many places when the ringers are not so persevering as the men of Clun, they give up ringing, in disgust, the bells remain silent and all above is forgotten, till some day a clock weight, or a rotten beam, or a stone gets loosened from its fastenings and comes thundering down into the church below, dealing destruction in its course, Then the people wake up, and wonder how this has come to pass; how it is that such a dreadful state of affairs exists in their but recently restored and beautiful chuch. They talk of the narrow escape, and what might have been the case had this "accident" happened during service time: then in the flush of the moment they commence to do that which they ought to have done years before—finish the work of restoration properly—only to find that what might have been previously accomplished with tens of pounds. now costs hundreds.

* * * * *

Here is a parish which eleven years ago spent £7,000 in the church, but where the Committee "did not see their way clear" to raise but another seventh of that sum to properly complete the work. Thus the state of the tower is a disgrace to the church and parish. But, ringers of Clun, you have made a good start—two bells towards the eight. Surely with the powerful help of Vicar, Curate, Organist, and good ladies in the parish, you are on the right track, and bound to win. My earnest hope is that this time next year you may be ringing together in a restored belfry, and usher in Christmas with a touch of Major on a fine new ring of eight.

What a contrast is this story told by Mr. Mead to the report we have from Kimpton! After thirty years of enforced silence through this very cause—the dilapidated state of the tower—the bells have been once more made ringable, thanks to the good effects of the worthy vicar. The presence of the Bishop and Archdeacon of St. Albans at the reopening was a fitting recognition not only of our art, but also of the vicar's energy and perseverance, and it is to be hoped that we shall soon read of substantial progress made by the local band under the tutorship of Mr. Robinson.

* * * * *

The ringers of Mossley and Sharnbrook are to be congratulated on the success of their young pupils, who have evidently commenced early in life, one fifteen, one fourteen, and one thirteen years of age, all of whom have rung their first 720 of Minor. But I should like to know how the conductor of the latter company managed to crowd fifty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles into one 720 of Grandsire Minor.

* * * * *

It is to be hoped, for his own credit's sake, that the conductor of the peal of Treble Bob at St. Andrew's, Well Street, will be able to answer satisfactorily the doubting queries respecting it. Certainly the temperate language used by the two correspondents does somehow give an unpleasant *prima facie* appearance of good grounds for their questions. They do not appear to be of that disagreeable species of humanity which we have too often amongst us, who seems to think that his great object in life is picking holes and fault-finding. Among ringers he is generally to me found putting disagreeable questions which he knows serve no purpose but to make things unpleasant. If a peal has been rung, which he has not taken part in, he is replete with queries and inuendoes: first as to the truth of the composition, then as to its having been properly conducted and rung; if he fails to find in them a peg to hang up a case on, then he will fall back on his last resource—"Oh, the striking was bad; it was'nt worth counting a peal," and so on. Well, the best mode of dealing with these conceited would-be mischief-makers is to "leave them severely alone," and they will in the long run extinguish themselves. But as I observed before, I don't think these queries in question come from such a quarter, and thus I shall look with some interest for the answer.

* * * * *

And now a word with our friend Mr. Attree. With all due deference to him, I think he has made but a poor defence of the practice which I complained of. His whole letter, indeed, smacks so much of that old familiar *tu quoque* style of disputation, as to take away much of the weight it otherwise might have. His points, too, are so easy of annihilation that I really feel almost ashamed of tackling them. But by way of illustration I will just mention one or two. First the peculiar connection which he endeavours to form between my weekly motto and my remarks on this subject; which had no existence save in his own mind. Then the argument having reference to the appearance of what he seemed to consider extraneous and (to us) useless matter; that is a point altogther wide of the question, and does not affect the point at issue in the slightest. Again, the cases which he cites in favour of his contention are actually the cases which I wrote in favour of, *i.e.*, where there is something more than ordinary in their nature. I am afraid I am spinning out my notes to and inordinate length this week, or I might have had a little more to say to our friend Mr. Attree. As it is, I would recommend him to produce something stronger if he wishes to convince anyone that he is right in his contention.

Mr. Worsell reverts to the recently suggested "Ringers' Benefit Society," and like many others, seems to be impressed with the many difficulties in the way. But, in whatever shape it might assume, there can be no doubt that we, as a fraternity, ought to have some properly constituted plan of helping brothers in distress. Let me then strongly urge upon our friends to give this subject their earnest thought; and more, while they are holding happy unions together this Christmastide, devote a little time to the discussion of the point, have an interchange of ideas, so that when the holidays are once more over, we can express our opinions which have thus been formed after careful consideration.

* * * * *

I wish our friends of the Oxford Guild every success with their proposed attempted long peal of Stedman Caters, at Appletno, as announced. May "the course-ends roll up like clockwork," one after the other till the welcome words "That's all," brings to an end a peal the ringing of which will afford pleasant recollections to the performers.

* * * * *

Our Christmas number contains two capital stories, and a splendid portrait of a very expert rmger. I trust that the future portraits of our paper will be of the same order. They can be utllised for framing, or inserting in a kind of portfolio made for the purpose; and thus every ringer will be able to possess a ringers' portrait gallery. Let me commend this idea to my readers. I am told that each of these portraits cost nearly a penny each to produce, so that we ought not to murmur at the increase in the price of the number. And with respect to the stories I can affirm without fear of contradiction, that shorter stories not near so interesting are sold at railway bookstalls for sixpence and one shilling. The tale entitled "A Merry Peal," certainly gives above three penny's worth of amusement and interest. And our old friend Trippels also is to the fore again.

* * * * *

Once more my friends—everyone, great and small—accept the heartiest new year's festive greetings from your humble servant, and well wisher,

FREE LANCE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—PROPOSED BLACKBURN BRANCH.

A Ringing Meeting will be held at Blackburn parish church, to-day, Saturday, December 29th, at 2.30 p.m. At 6 o'clock a meeting will be held to arrange necessary details and establish the branch. All change-ringers in the district are cordially invited to attend. It is especially hoped that every belfry in the district will send one representative at least, to express the opinions of his band, and to give support to the proposals submitted to the meeting.

JAMES HORROCKS, *Sec.*
93, *Henry Street, Church.*

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting proposed to be held at Leighton Buzzard, to-day, Saturday, Dec. 29th, cannot be held there as the tower is under repair. It will therefore be held instead on that day at Eversholt, the six bells having just been overhauled by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, and put in good ringing order.

CHARLES HERBERT, } *Hon. Secs*
W. W. C. BAKER, }

Eight members of the Sussex County Association will, if all's well, make an attempt for a 13,440 of Bob Major. at Warnham, on Monday, December 31st, 1888.

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	0
C. E. Malim, 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	0
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
W. Baron, London	0	2	0
W. H. D. Porter, Battersea	0	1	0
A. G. Thomas, Esq., Battersea	0	5	0
S. Baker, Battersea	0	1	0
W. Ambrose, Battersea	0	1	0
A. Swetman, Battersea	0	1	0
Mr. Comley, Battersea	0	1	0
H. S. Thomas, Esq., and a few Friends, Battersea ...	1	7	6
Mr. Glover, Battersea	0	2	0
Waltham Abbey Society, per W. C. Dymock ...	1	0	0
J. Bristow, Birchington	0	2	6
R. K. Knight, Walthamstow	0	2	6
E. Moses, Reigate	0	1	6
J. W. Mansfield, London	0	1	6
G. C. Hammond, London	0	1	0
B. Foskett, London	0	1	0
M. A. Wood, London	0	1	6
All Hallows (Tottenham) Society, per W. P. English	0	10	6
F. Wells, Glemsford	0	1	6
R. Wells, Glemsford	0	0	6
T. Card, Finchley	0	2	0
A. Wright, West Ham	0	1	0
W. Dickinson, West Ham	0	1	0
Total	£11	6	0

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.

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.*

W. LINCOLN.—Very little harm is done. The compiling of reports for publication should be strictly delegated to one person only of the company.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1888.

THE issue of our last number for the year 1888 affords a fitting opportunity for some remarks on the progress made in the science and art of change-ringing during the last twelvemonths—a subject which deserves special recognition at our hands, when we compare the position of the Exercise at the date of the first appearance of our paper with its position and achievements at the present moment; and we trust that we shall not expose ourselves to the charge of vanity, if we venture to express the hope that the weekly appearance of "THE BELL NEWS" during the last eight years has not been without its influence in bringing about the results which we deem it our duty to summarise and chronicle.

The past year has been in various ways a remarkable one in the annals of change-ringing, and though it is the fashion to relegate the "palmy days" of the Exercise to a former generation, we cannot help thinking that if records were thoroughly searched and tabulated, that for the year which now closes would be found to be greatly in advance, in all important respects, of any which have gone before it. It is true that in the days of the giants men delighted to handle heavier metal in ringing their long lengths; but after all, this was merely a trial of physical strength and endurance, which did not touch the higher and finer interests of the art, and however much we may admire, as they deserve, these achievements of old, we think that we have something better and more noble to show in the superior and more general advance of the intellectual side of the art during recent years.

First, then, let us notice briefly the additions to the literature of change-ringing which have been made during 1888. This year has given to the Exercise the last work of its faithful and devoted friend, JASPER SNOWDON; his admirable Treatise on the Grandsire System bringing to a premature close the incomparable "Change-Ringing Series" with which he had purposed to endow the art he loved so well. Many of us, as we read his lucid explanations, and, above all, the very interesting and erudite chapter on the "History of Grandsire," could not fail to be conscious once more

> "of the touch of a vanished hand,
> and the sound of a voice that is still."

This year has also seen the production, in completed form, of Mr. HEYWOOD'S Treatise on the new method, "Duffield," which he has presented to the Exercise. In certain respects, this method marks a new departure on the scientific side of change-ringing; presenting new principles and new effects, which are well worthy of acceptance. The method is still too young to have secured anything like general attention; but its scientific merits are such as will, we doubt not, receive the recognition due to them as ringers, in general, advance in scientific knowleege add attainments. The Treatise, with its collection of the most notable compositions hitherto produced in the method, is a welcome addition to our literature: for it paves the way to a reformation of much which has for long sadly needed amendment.

In the next place, we note, with satisfaction, the greater regard that is being paid to the musical qualities of the peals which have of late been composed and rung. This is evidenced by the footnotes appended to records, as well as by many of the compositions which have appeared in our columns from time to time. There is still much room for improvement in this direction; but we are glad to recognise and welcome the advance already made.

When we turn to the number and character of the peals rung during the year, the beating of previous records is still more patent. Thanks to Mr. ATTREE'S careful analysis, we are enabled readily to compare one year's achievements with another's; and though the returns for the closing year are not yet complete, enough is still

shewn by the return for eleven months to make evident a very considerable advance in this respect. The total number of peals rung during the year has considerably increased; and this increase is not the result of spasmodic effort, or established and acknowledged rivalry; for the increase has been more or less steady month by month. What does this imply? It implies, not so much that individual societies are increasing their performances as that fresh companies are coming to the front, and fresh towers being opened for peal-ringing. The art is extending and gathering in new votaries from new districts. The advanced character of very many of the performances is also a conspicuous feature in the year's doings. Peals have been rung, on varying numbers of bells, in some sixty different methods, all told; including four Surprise methods, and such unusual names as Prince Albert Major, Violet Major, Canterbury Pleasure Major and Triples, and Place Triples, besides other methods which have not been much practised for many years. This revival of forgotten methods is a cheering sign, it shows an increasing spirit of enterprise which augurs well for the future; and though the more notable performances are to be credited to three or four enthusiastic bands, yet they are no longer confined, as was once the case, to isolated efforts waiting long for repetition or imitation. In this connection we gladly note the fact that the Ipswich Tower Society have, before the end of the year, broken through the cloud which has so long brooded over Double Norwich Maximus; and we are confident that before long we shall have the pleasure of booking a first peal—the first peal for many, many years, and the second ever rung—to the credit of that talented company. Nor must we pass over, as a feature of the year's performances, the long peals achieved by the Oxford Diocesan Guild, lowering the previous record in three methods, Double Norwich being one. A word of recognition is also due to the six-bell ringers for the energy and enterprise they have displayed in several places by scoring five thousands in different methods. We have had pleasure in recording many performances of this class during the year—performances, in our judgment, of no mean kind; evidencing much industry and devotion to the art, and giving token that those who have achieved such peals have had the best possible training in the art of method-ringing to fit them for taking part in the more ornate branches of Major ringing, when the suitable opportunity occurs.

Enough has been said to point out the real progress which has been effected, and to encourage our brethren to renewed perseverance, fresh enterprise, and more notable achievements than even the past year has witnessed.

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

To-day, Saturday, December 29th, 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 "Rougemont Hotel." Tickets 2s. 6d. each; all friends are heartily welcome.

B. MUNDY,
A. W. SEARLE, } *Hon. Secs.*

48, *Sandford Street, Exeter.*

The Provinces.

CAPEL, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, December 18, 1888, *in Two Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

5040 CHANGES ON SIX BELLS; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT SURPRISE AND TREBLE BOB METHODS;

LONDON SURPRISE, SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE, WELLS SURPRISE, CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE, COLLEGE EXERCISE, COLLEGE PLEASURE, AND OXFORD.

Tenor 7¼ cwt.

JOHN AKEHURST	*Treble.*	MARK JENKINS	4.
ROBERT JORDAN	2.	ALFRED D. MILLS	5.
EDWIN JORDAN	3.	DAVID JORDAN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by DAVID JORDAN.

The above was rung on the eleventh anniversary of the erection of the treble bell.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

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

On Wednesday, December 19, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' TEN PART. Tenor 30 cwt. in D.

GEORGE SALTER	*Treble.*	W. HENRY SMITH	5.
HARRY WILLIAMS	2.	J. THOMAS SALTER	6.
RICHARD E. GROVE	3.	JOHN CRANE	7.
THOMAS BENNETT	4.	THOMAS WALTERS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by J. THOMAS SALTER.

First peal as conductor.

MITCHAM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 19, 1888, *in* 2 *Hours and* 53 *Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION.

SAMUEL GREENWOOD ..	*Treble.*	GEORGE FOSTER	5.
JAMES DREWITT	2.	GEORGE PELL	6.
EPHRAIM BURTENSHAW ..	3.	JOSEPH FAYERS	7.
CHARLES E. MALIM	4.	HARRY PATES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL GREENWOOD.

BRANDESTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRANDESTON BRANCH)

On Saturday, December 22, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.

5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN SURPRISE METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 *each of the following:*

LONDON, ROCHESTER, CHICHESTER, WORCESTER, SUPERLATIVE, COVENTRY, AND CAMBRIDGE.

Tenor 9 cwt.

STEPHEN WIGHTMAN, JUN.	*Treble.*	GEORGE WIGHTMAN ..	4.
ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN ..	2.	DAVID G. WIGHTMAN ..	5.
WILLIAM G. CRICKMER ..	3.	STEPHEN WIGHTMAN, SEN.	*Tenor.*

Conducted by DAVID G. WIGHTMAN.

This is the first 5040 of Surprise peal rung in Suffolk.

HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

The usual quarterly meeting of this Society will be held at the tower, on Thursday, January 3rd, 1889.

W. H. GODDEN, *Secretary.*

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 20, 1888, *in* 3 *Hours and* 10 *Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

SAMUEL HARROP	*Treble.*	JOSEPH MALONEY	5.
JOHN HARROP	2.	*CHARLES GRAY	6.
JOHN SIDEBOTHAM	3.	GEORGE BRADDOCK	7.
JESSE B. HIBBERT	4.	JOHN PYE, JUN.	*Tenor.*

Composed by the late WILLIAM HARRISON, and Conducted by JOHN SIDEBOTHAM.

*First peal.

Messrs. John Harrop, Sidebotham, and Braddock, hail from Mottram; Hibbert from Whitfield; and Gray from Dinting; the rest are of the local company.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

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

On Thursday, December 20, 1888, *in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 26 cwt.

HARRY WAKLEY	*Treble.*	EDWARD ISAAC STONE ..	5.
JOHN AUSTIN	2.	A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD ..	6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY	3.	THOMAS HOLMES	7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN	4.	WM. WAKLEY	*Tenor.*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by WM. WAKLEY.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 21, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART (Reversed). Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

RICHARD C. BURRELL* ..	*Treble.*	ARTHUR EDWARDS	5.
JOHN DAINS..	2.	WILLIAM J. PIPER	6.
ABRAHAM SHUTTLEWORTH†	3.	WILLIAM LINCOLN	7.
HIRZEL F. DE LISLE, ESQ.	4.	ALFRED TARBUN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM LINCOLN.

*First peal. †First peal of Triples.

WARNHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE WARNHAM BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 22, 1888, *in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,*

A PEAL OF CANTERBURY PLEASURE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Composed by WALTER CHARMAN, and Conducted by HENRY H. CHANDLER.

This peal was rung prior to the eight o'clock service in the morning.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 22, 1888, *in* 2 *Hours and* 53 *Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS'S 5-PART. Tenor 17½ cwt.

WALTER PEGRUM	*Treble.*	MARK L. MYHILL	5.
JOHN GOBBETT	2.	ACKLAND J. PERKINS ..	6.
BENJAMIN KEEBLE	3.	EDWIN BARNETT	7.
WILLIAM NASH	4.	SAMUEL JAMES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by ACKLAND JAMES PERKINS.

This is the quickest peal rung on the bells.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE,

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On *Saturday, December* 22, 1888, *in Three Hours and Five Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES'S FIVE-PART (No. 3). Tenor 24 cwt.

EDWARD JAMES*	*Treble.*	DANIEL J. ASTON	5.
FRANCIS E. WARD	2.	WILLIAM H. FUSSELL ..	6.
H. L. JAMES	3.	WILLIAM J. SEVIER	7.
CHARLES KING	4.	FREDERICK STEPHENS ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FRANCIS E. WARD.

*First Peal.

DEWSBURY, YORKSHIRE.

THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE AND STALYBRIDGE SOCIETIES.

On Saturday, December 22, 1888, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

JOHN LAWTON	*Treble.*	BENJAMIN BROADBENT ..	5.
HUGH SHAW	2.	GEORGE LONGDEN	6.
WILLIAM FAWCETT	3.	SAMUEL WOOD	7.
EDMUND SCHOFIELD	4.	JOHN THORP	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

The first four hail from Stalybridge; the last four from Ashton. The band wish to thank the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells, and the local societies for their kind reception.

PONTEFRACT, YORKSHIRE.

On Monday, December 24, 1888, *in Three Hours and Four Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

W. PEARSON†	*Treble.*	*F. HARGREAVES	5.
S. BROOK*	2.	J. POLLARD	6.
F. MOODY*	3.	*C. WATTS	7.
H. DODDS*	4.	†J. CARTER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by C. WATTS.

This is the first peal on the bells. *First peal. †First peal in the method. Mr. H. Dodds belongs to the St. Philip's Society, Manchester. Mr. J. Pollard hails from Hull; the rest are local men.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE BRIGHTON BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 24, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,*

AT THE BRIGHTON PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 10 cwt.

GEORGE F. ATTREE	*Treble.*	FRANCIS L. DAVIES	5.
ARTHUR A. FULLER	2.	JOHN REILLY	6.
JOHN JAY	3.	JAMES SEARLE	7.
HARRY WESTON	4.	HORACE CORNWALL ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES SEARLE.

Mr Davies hails from London.

HURSTPIERPOINT, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE BRIGHTON BRANCH.)

On Thursday, December 20, 1888, *in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

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

Conducted by JAMES SEARLE.

First peal in the method upon the bells.

BIRMINGHAM, WARWICKSHIRE,

THE HOLT SOCIETY, ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.

On Monday, December 24, 1888, in Three Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES;

Tenor 36 cwt. in C.

THOMAS RUSSAM	*Treble.*	THOMAS REYNOLDS	7.
WILLIAM E. SMITH	2.	JOHN BUFFERY	8.
ARTHUR J. JONES	3.	WILLIAM KENT	9.
BERNARD WITCHELL	4.	JOHN JAMES	10.
HENRY BASTABLE	5.	HENRY JOHNSON, JUN. ..	11.
CHARLES STANBRIDGE ..	6.	†WILLIAM JACKSON ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, SEN., and Conducted by HENRY BASTABLE.

This is the same peal as given in Vol. vii, Page 53, of "THE BELL NEWS," with the exception of the first course, which starts from rounds, and omitting the bob at 16 gives the above number. And is the first peal of Stedman Cinques rung on church bells on this plan. This is the fourth peal rung by W. E. Smith, and the first in the method (aged 17), the other three being Grandsire Triples. †First peal on twelve bells. First peal of Cinques by this Society.

WRITTLE, ESSEX.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 18 cwt.

WILLIAM EMERY	*Treble.*	ROBERT WOOD	5
JOSEPH J. EVERARD	2.	REV. T. L. PAPILLON ..	6.
ARTHUR EDWARDS	3.	WILLIAM LINCOLN	7.
FREDERICK RADLEY	4.	*ALFRED BONNINGTON ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM LINCOLN.

*First peal. This is the first peal by a band composed entirely of Writtle men since the year 1821.

STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt.

WILLIAM P. GARRETT ..	*Treble.*	WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE ..	5.
ALBERT E. DURRANT* ..	2.	JAMES MOTTS	6.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER ..	3.	WILLIAM MOTTS	7.
WILLIAM BEDWELL*	4.	HAWKINS ENGLISH ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

H. English hails from Coddenham; W. Bedwell from Greenwich; and the rest belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich. *First peal in the method, also the first of the same method on the bells.

Date Touch.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Saturday, December 15th, at the parish church, the Southport company rang a Date Touch of Bob Major (1888 changes) in 1 hr. and 15 mins. L. Tyldesley, 1; J. Rimmer, 2; J. Rimmer, 3; B. Tungate, 4; R. Hill, 5; J. W Rimmer, 6; W. Baldwin, 7; D. E. Rimmer (conductor), 8. Composed by J. R. Pritchard.

Miscellaneous.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

RETFORD.—The Retford branch of the North Notts Association, rang on Thursday, December 20th, 2520 changes of Grandsire Minor, being three 720's, and a 360 changes (each 720 called differently.) The first 720 conducted by W. Skelton; second 720 conducted by N. G. Hunt), 1,080 conducted by H. Haigh. The time occupied was 1 hr. and 32 mins. Tenor 9 cwt. 9 lbs. H. Warburton, 1; W. Skelton, 2; W. Kipling, 3; N. G. Hunt, 4; H. Haigh, 5; R. Potter, 6. Also on Sunday, December 23rd, for Divine Service, another 720 in the same method in 26 mins. W. Skelton, 1; H. Haigh, 2; J. F. Haigh, 3; N. G Hunt (conductor), 4; J. W. Clark, 5; R. Potter, 6. This 720 was rung specially for J. F. Haigh, who was desirous of ringing through his first 720 on an extreme bell before the old year expired and whose age is only 16.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHPORT.—On Sunday, December 23rd, for evening service, 576 of Bob Major. J. Burrows, 1; Joseph Rimmer, 2; James Rimmer, 3; B. Tungate, 4; R. Hill, 5; J. W. Rimmer, 6; W. Baldwin, 7; D. E. Rimmer (conductor), 8. Tenor 10 cwt. J. Burrows hails from Dalton-in-Furness, and this is his first attempt at Major.

WALKDEN (Lancashire).—On Sunday, December 9th, 720 Grandsire Minor (32 bobs and 28 singles), was rung before Divine Service, in the morning, in 24 mins. W. Denner (conductor), 1; *Jos. Potter, 2; J. Potter, 3; J. Worthington, 4; A. Potter, 5; J. Brooks, 6. *First 720 in the method. Also on Sunday evening, December 23rd, 720 Bob Minor (twenty-one bobs and twelve singles), in 23 mins. J. Brookes, 1; J. Worthington, 2; J. Potter, 3; J. Ridyard (Worsley), 4; Jas. Potter (composer and conductor), 5; A. Potter, 6. Tenor 13¾ cwt.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Saturday evening, in St. Edwards Belfry, a 720 of Bob Minor, Peninng's (46 calls). M. L. Myhill, 1-2; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 3-4; W. Nash, 5-6.

STANSTEAD (Essex).—On Tuesday, December 4th, at the church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, by the local company, for practice, 720 Kent Treble Bob, in 24 mins. J. Cavill, 1; G. Gray, 2; Isaac Hammond, 3; J. Luckey (conductor), 4; W. Watts, 5; Isaac Cavill, 6. And on Sunday, December 9th, for morning service, 360 Double Oxford Bob. J. Cavill, 1; J. Luckey, 2; W. Watts, 3; G. Gray, 4; Isaac Hammond, 5; Isaac Cavill (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, December 18th, 720 Double Court Bob. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; Isaac Cavill, 3; G. Gray, 4; Isaac Hammond, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

THE SUSSEX ASSOCIATION.

MIDHURST.—On Tuesday, Decemher 18th, at the parish church, for practice, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. W. Court, 1; T Ellis, 2; W. H. George, 3; J. Lee, 4; W. Selby, 5; G. Williams (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, the 20th, another 720 by the same, and 720 Plain Bob Minor. W. Court, 1; *Rev. J. L. Cother, 2; G. Williams (conductor), 3; J. Lee, 4; C. Tribe, 5; G. Batts, 6. And 120 Stedman Doubles. W. H. George, 1; Rev. J. L. Cother, 2; W. Selby, 3; C. Tribe, 4; G. Williams, 5; W, Court, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. *First 720 on tower bells. On Sunday, December 23rd, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob. T. Ellis, 1; G. Williams (conductor), 2; J. Lee, 3; C. Tribe, 4; W. Selby, 5; *G. Batts, 6. *First in the method.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

RYDE (Isle of Wight).—On Tuesday evening, December 18th, at All Saints' Church, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins. J. Hewett, 1; O. Coombes, 2; W. Ward, 3; W. Jennings, 4; H. Jennings (conductor), 5; J. Norris, 6; E. Hatcher, 7; A. Ward, 8. First quarter-peal by all excepting J. Hewett, who hails from Gosport. Also on Sunday evening, December 23rd, for Divine Service, 350 of Grandsire Triples. A. R. Ward, 1; H. Jennings (conductor), 2; W. Ward, 3; W. Jennings, 4; O. Coombs, 5; J. Norris, 6; E. Hatcher, 7; A. Ward, 8. Tenor 26½ cwt.

SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

SLOUGH (Bucks).—At St. Mary's church, on Monday evening, December 24th, for practice, a 504 of Bob Triples. W. Leader, 1; F. V. H. Sinkins 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; W. A. Garraway, 4; W. Wilder, 5; R. Flaxman, 6; A. C. Fussell (conductor), 7; J. Perryman, 8. Tenor 9½ cwt.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

THAMES DITTON.—For church parade, on Sunday, December 9th, six of the above rung several 120's of Grandsire Doubles. J. Chandler, (conductor), 1; H. Potter, 2; T. Wells, 3; J. Trapmore, 4; A. Morrison, 5; G. Brickwood, 6.

THE NORTH MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

FINCHLEY.—On Thursday, November 22nd, at St. Mary's, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor in 27 mins. H. Martin, 1; F. Sparks, 2; T. Card (conductor), 3; J. Cornell, 4; C. Martin, 5; C. Crampton, 6. Tenor 10 cwt. This is the first 720 by the 1st, 2nd, and 4th men, also by the 6th man with a bob bell. It is also the first by the above asssociation which was formed on the 11th October last, for the furtherance of change-ringing. At the time of formation only one member could ring Minor, so a start was soon made in that direction with the above result. In six weeks it is hoped to make the Association a successful one by the co-operation of other towers in the district.

ASHCHURCH (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday, November 25th, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25 mins (eighteen bobs and two singles.) D. Done, 1; C. Slatter, 2; W. Wellan, 3; W. Davis, 4; C. W. Dyson (Treddington), 5; E. Wallis (conductor), 6. This 720 was rung with the bells half muffled in token of respect to Charles Hampton who was buried on that day, the late C. Hampton, was also a member of the Foresters' Friendly Society, and there was upwards of sixty brother members at the funeral. Also on Sunday, December 2nd, for morning service, a 720 Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. J. Grinaway, 1; W. Davis, 2; W. Wellan, 3; *D. Done, 4; C. Slatter, 5; E. Wallis (conductor), 6. *First 720 with a bob bell.

BALDOCK (Herts).—The following was rung on December 17th, on hand bells; 252 of Stedman Triples. T. Webb (conductor), 1; E. Bray, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Smith, 4; J. Phillips (conductor), 5; G. Spicer, 6; R. Jackson, 7; W. Bidnell, 8. This is the first touch of Stedman Triples with all local men. Also on December 19th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples. G. Poulter, 1; E. Bray, 2; J. Morley, 3; J. Craft, 4; W. Bidnell, 5; A. Thurgood, 6; R. Jackson (conductor), 7; G. Stanley, 8. Also a 1,484 in the same method. G. Poulter, 1; E. Bray, 2; J. Morley, 3; J. Craft, 4; W. Bidnell, 5; R. Jackson, 6; G. Spicer (conductor), 7 & 8.

BASINGSTOKE (Hants).—On Wednesday, December 19th, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), with 7-8 covering. *J. Ballard, 1; *W. Bullpit, 2; *T. Curtis, 3; *G. Gasson, 4; T. M. Stedman, 5; H. White (conductor), 6; J. R. Higgens, 7; W. Hatten, 8. *First 720 on tower bells. Also 120 Grandsire Doubles with S. F. W. Powell treble, conducted by T. M. Stedman. And 240 Grandsire Minor with S. F. Powell, 1, and J. R. Higgens, 5, the rest as before. S. Powell is only 12 years of age, and this is his first attempt at change-ringing in the steeple. T. M. Stedman hails from Capel, the rest belong to the local company.

CROYDON (Surrey).—On Thursday, December 13th, at St. Peter's Church, 504 of Grandsire Triples. W. States, 1; *G. Burt, 2; A. Arnold, 3; H. Brooker, 4; R. E. Pearson, 5; A. Bruce (conductor), 6; T. Verrall, 7; F. G. Hermon, 8. *First 500.

KIDDERMINSTER.—Recently at the Parish church a 720 of Grandsire Minor. J. Bennett, 1; G. Salter, 2; J. Bennett, 3; J. Crawe, 4; H. Smith, 3; T. Salter (conductor). 6. And on Sunday, December 16th, for Diviue Service in the moruing, a 1064 of Grandsire Triples in 38 mins. J. Bennett, 1; J. Bennett, jnn. 2; C. Salter, 3; T. Bennett, 4; H. Smith, 5; T, Salter (conductor), 6; J. Crane, 7; T. Walters, 8. On Thursday, December 6th, a qnarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. J. Bennett, 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; G. Salter, 5; J. Bennett, 4; W. H. Smith, 5; T. Salter, 6; J. Crane, 7; J. Zeach, 8.

PINCHBECK (Lincolnshire).—On Christmas Day, for early service, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. W. Doubleday, 1; T. Ladd, 2; T. Laxton, 3; T. Fisher, 4; *G. Ladd (conductor), 5. Longest length by all except the conductor, *College Youth. Tenor 20 cwt.

RIPON (Yorkshire).—On Tuesday evening, December 18th, the local company assembled for practice, and rung a quarter-peal (1260 changes) of Stedman Triples in 47 mins. T. Clark, 1; A. Clark, 2; J. Stronden, 3; A. Pratt, 4; A. Ingleby, 5; J. Flower, 6; W. Peck, 7; H. Rumbold, 8. Conducted by T. Clark, and composed by Mr. Lates, being the third quarter of his 5040 Stedman Triples. Tenor 21 cwt.

RUSHDEN (Northants).—On Christmas Eve, at the parish church, a 720 of College Little (22 singles). J. Bailey, 1; W. Hall, 2; H. E. Chapman, 3; W. Pettett, 4; F. Clayton, 5; A. H. Martin (conductor), 6. A 720 Bob Minor. J. Baily, 1; G. Burton, 2; J. B. Martin, 3; W. Pettett, 4; W. Hall, 5; A. H. Martin (conductor), 6. Also a 360 Oxford Treble Bob, and 360 Yorkshire Court by the above, and 360 of Oxford Bob Minor, in which C. Green and A. Clayton took part.

RAUNDS (Northants).—On Sunday, December 16th, on handbells, at the residence of Mr. F. Gilbert, a 1260 Plain Bob Triples, R. Pendred, W. J. Gilbert, 2; F. Gilbert (conductor), 3; F. Slade, 4; A. E. Chapman, 5; A. H. Martin, 6; H. Stubbs, 7-8. First 1260 on the handbells. On Sunday, December 23rd, at the residence of Mr. J. Stubb, a 517 of Oxford Bob Triples. *J. Bailey, 1; A. E. Chapman, 2; W. J. Gilbert, 3; *J. Stubbs, 4; A. H. Master (conductor), 5; F. Slade, 6; H. Stubbs, 7-8. *First attempt.

ST. ALBANS (Herts).—On Christmas Eve, at St. Peter's church, 1666 of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. and 2 mins. H. Brewer, 1; W. Brewer, 2; E. Hull, 3; W. H. Buokingham, 4; E. P. Debenham, (conductor). 5; H. Lewis, 6; T. Waller, 7; D. Gibbons, 8. On Christmas, for Divine Service in the morning, 1146 in the same me.hod in 33 mins. W. Little, 1; J. W. Brewer, 2; E. Hull, 3; H. Brewer, 4; E. P. Debenham (conductor), 5; H. Lewis, 6; W. H. L. Buckingham 7; D. Gibbons, 8. And for the afternoon service 4 courses of Bob Triples. A. Snell, 1; H. Brewer, 2; H. Lewis, 3; E. P. Debenham, 4; G. W, Cartmel, 5; W. H. L. Buckingham, 6; T. Walter, 7; D. Gibbons, 8. And on Wednesday, December 19th, for practice, 616 of Grandsire Triples. W. Little, 1; J. W. Brewer, 2; E. Hull, 3; H. Brewer, 4; W. H. Buckingham, 5; E. P. Debeuham, 6; T. Waller, (conductor), 7; A. Hull, 8. Afterwards 305 of Grandsire Caters.

STOKE PRIOR (Worcestershire).—On Thursday, December 21st, at St. Michael's church, for practice, (720 changes) of Grandsire Minor, was rung in 27 mins. O. Stainworth, 1; G. Lucas, 2; J. Thompson, 3; H. Thompson, 4; W. Lewis, 5; J. Mason (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 rung by the local company by themselves.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

By the Lindfield Branch at Lindfield.—On December 10th, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 30 mins. F. Willey, 1; A. Tompsett, 2; H. Hobden, 3; C. Tyler (eonductor), 4; G. Mason, 5; C. Holman, 6; †H. Beard, 7; †W. Hall, 8. †Covers.

By the Brighton Branch at St. Peters'.—On Sunday, December 16th, 503 of Grandsire Triples. H. Weston (conductor), 1; J. E. Worsell, 2; G. A. King, 3; E. C. Merritt, 4; J. Reilly, 5; G. F, Attree, 6; A. A. Fuller, 7; D. Ross, 8. Also for evening service, 504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Jay, 1; G. Thwaites (conductor), 2; H. Cornwall, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; E. C. Merritt, 5; G. F. Attree, 6; G. A. King, 7; G. Murray, R.E. 8.

By the Crawley Branch at Crawley.—On December 13th, a quarter-peal 1260 of Grandsirr Triples, in 49 mins. W. Ward, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Parsons, 3; B. Payne, 4; E. Dewey, 5; A. Ellis, 6; A. F. Hillier (conductor), 7; W. Collison, 8. Bells muffied in memory of Mr. M. Miller, a much respected resident. Also on December 17th, 2520 of Plain Bob Triples, in 85 mins. E. Dewey, 1; J. Newnham, 2; F. Wickens, 3; A. Ellis, 4; B. King, 5; A. F. Hillier, 6; F. Rice (conductor), 7; W. Collison, 8. This was an attempt for a peal but a change course made the conductor call stand.

By the Steyning Branch at Steyning.—On December 4th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, J. Smart, 1; T. Searle, 2; C. Tyler, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Gatland, 5; G. Smart (conductor). 6. Also 720 of Plain Bob F. Brooks, 1; C. Chambers, 2; J. Matthews, 3; *J. Smart, 4; T. Searle, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. *First 720 on a bob bell. Also on Snnday, December 9th, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; C. Tyler (conductor), 2; T. Searle, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Gatland, 5; G. Smart, 6. And on December 10th, 720 of Grandsire Minor (twenty-six singles and thirty-four bobs). F. Breoks, 1; C. Chambers, 2; T. Searle, 3; G. Gatland, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Composed by the Rev. E. W. Carpenter, and supposed to be rung for the first time. And on December 14th, 720 of Grandsire Minor. J. Smart, 1; T. Searle, 2; †F. Brooks, 3; C. Chambers, 4; C. Tyler (conductor), 5; J. Woolgar, 6. †First 720 on a bob bell. Also on Sunday, December 16th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; G. Gatland, 2; C. Tyler (conductor), 3; C. Chambers, 4; F. Morris, 5; J. Woolgar, 6.

Christ Church, Harpurhey, Manchester, was reopened on Sunday, after complete restoration and considerable enlargement. New open seats have taken the place of narrow and dark pews, a new floor and heating apparatus have been laid, two new lancet windows opened at the east end, the chancel has been brought forward and greatly improved, and new pulpit, reading-desk, and sedilia provided. Two new bays have been added to the church, forming porches, and staircases to the galleries, the gallery seats widened, a new font erected, a new vestry built, and by a new roof 10ft. additional height has been gained over the former ceiling. The new lancet windows are filled with painted glass subjects in memory of the donor's father and mother, the late Henry and Elizabeth Hilton. Two other stained-glass windows, now brought to the east end of the church, commemorate the family of Mr. F. Andrew, of Green Mount. The improvements have been at the sole cost of a lady, formerly a parishioner, and have been carried out from designs of Mr. J. S. Crowther. The reopening sermon was preached by the rector (the Rev. J. Leighton) from 1 Cor. iii. 11. The other preachers of the day were the Rev. J. A. N. Hibbert and the Rev. J. G. Haworth, vicar of Stacksteads.

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

Church News.

The Goldsmiths' Company have contributed £50 towards the Thames Church Mission.

The Dean and Chapter of Christ Church at the close of the morning service on Monday formerly elected Dr. Stubbs, Bishop of Chester, to be Bishop of Oxford, in the room of Bishop Mackarness, resigned.

Mr. Gladstone, before leaving England, forwarded 20*l.* to the Bishop of Bedford for the East London Church Fund. The subdiocese of East London now includes such neighbourhoods as Islington, Enfield, Clerkenwell, and Shoreditch.

The consecration of Dr. Jayne, vicar of Leeds, as Bishop of Chester, will not take place, as has been announced, on Friday, January 25th. No date is yet fixed, but it is hoped the necessary legal preliminaries may be completed by February 2nd, the Purification. The consecration will be in York Minster.

The congregation of St. Matthew's, Redhill, have voluntarily subscribed all expenses of a visit to the Holy Land and Egypt of the Rev. Henry Brass, as a mark of appreciation of his ministry among them during a period of more than a quarter of a century.

The living of Rype, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. R. S. Sutton, has been offered to the Rev. F. C. Fox, M.A., curate of Benenden, Kent, who has accepted it.

The following Commissioners under the Pluralties Act Amendment Act have been re-elected in the diocese of Southwell:—Canon Gray, for the chapter of Southwell; Canon Andrew, for the archdeaconry of Derby; the Rev. W. Homfray, for the archeeaconry of Nottingham.

The *Record* states that the Rev. John Hurst, vicar of St. Mark's, Tollington-park will succeed the Rev. D. L. McAnally, in the secretaryship of the Colonial and Continental Society. Mr. Hurst was ordained in 1858 in the diocese of Huron. From 1859 to 1874 he was rector of Windsor, Ontario, and from 1874 to 1875 he was assistant-minister of Huron Cathedral. In 1878 he was appointed assistant-secretary of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, and in 1881 he accepted the vicarage of St. Mark's, Tollington-park.

"Those who have criticised the Bishop of Liverpool for driving from one church to another on the Sabbath day in his carriage," says the *Rock*, "have evidently overlooked the teaching conveyed in our Saviour's question, 'Have ye not read in the law how that on the Sabbath days the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath, and are blameless?' They profaned it merely by the necessary duties of their office, and were held 'blameless' because the work was necessary for the services of the Temple. The Bishop who uses a carriage when he cannot possibly help it is in very much the same position as were the ecclesiastics of old.

On Monday se'night the congregation of St. John-the-Baptist's, Holland-road, assembled in considerable numbers in the Addison Hall to present to the Rev. S. F. Green a testimonial on the occasion of his resignation of the position which he has held amongst them during the last five years. A sum of £350 was collected, and was presented, together with an illuminated and framed address, to Mr. Green at the meeting. The chair was taken by the vicar of the parish, the Rev. G. Booker, and the presentation was made by Mr. S. Adams, one of the churchwardens, who read the address.

The Chairman next presented to Mr. and Mrs. Green a handsome silver tea-service, as a small offering from Mrs. Booker and himself.

In obedience to the Constitutions of the Cannons Ecclesiastical, and in conformity with the judgement of the Judical Committee of the Privy Council, delivered February 23, 1871, the Dean of Rochester wore at the celebration of the Holy Communion on Christmas Day in his Cathedral a beautiful and costly cope, presented to him by friends in Liverpool in remembrance of "mid-day addresses to business men" given by the Dean for several successive years to crowded congregations in the parish church of St. Nicholas.

On Thursday, December 20th, the renovated parish church of St. Lawrence, Effingham, Surrey, was reopened. A chapel or chantry existed on this spot from very early times—certainly from the twelfth century—served by the monks of the once famous monastery of Merton. to whom in 1388 William of Wykebam issued a mandate, enjoining on them the rebuilding and adorning the chancel. The great Bishop's behest has been once more obeyed and carried to a most thorough completion. About six years ago the then new vicar, the Rev. E. F. Bayly, began the good work of improvement in the services and the adorning of the sanctuary, and this being done the parishioners settled themselves to wait for some future day when the blank, dreary walls, the unsightly gallerles, and the high pews might also be swept away, Last New Years Day the same generous hand which had given such help to the vicar in the chancel made him a liberal offer towards the entire restoration. and thus encouraged he asked and obtained subscriptions to supplement his own resources. The services at the re-opening began with a celebration at 8.15 a.m., which was well attended, followed by matins at 10 a.m. and a choral celebratioa at 11.45, beginning with the processional, Salve Festa Dies. The sermon was preached by the Rural Dean, the Rev. F. P. Phillips, rector of Stoke d'Abernon, from Heb. viii. 5, At 7.30 the preacher was Canon Teesdale, from Joshua iv. 6. By lowering the floor of the nave there are now two steps up into the chancel, thereby adding to the dignity of the sanctury. In rebuilding the walls and taking away the galleries an ancient stoup was found near the old porch, which has been replaced, and in the south transept containing the chapel of St. Nicholas a stone piscina marking the place of an alter in former time. The church is dedicated to St. Lawrence and St. Nicholas.

The last of the Advent lectures at St. Alphage, London Wall, was preached on Friday evening, by Canon Benham, who (it being St. Thomas's Day), referred to the want of faith exhibited by the Apostle. Some carols were sung by the choir after the service.

New Mission buildings for the parish of St. Michael's, Camden town, were opened on Tuesday week, by the Duchess of Teck. Suitable prayers having been said by the Bishop of Marlborough, the vicar (the Rev. E. B. Penfold), read an address to her Royal Highness describing the purposes ot the buildings, and the bishop spoke of the need of mission-rooms in all parts of London, and thanked the Princess for her presence. She was then, at her special desire, conducted over the building. The architect is Mr. Lacy W. Ridge, of Upper Woburn Place, and the building consists of two large rooms in the basement, where soup kitehen and clubs will be held. In the large hall Sunday-schools, Mission services, and temperance work will be carried on, as well as mothers' meetings and a Girls' Friendly Society. The building has been specially designed with regard to ease of access to all the rooms, and has cost, including every expense, £1,950. The land is held from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners at a nominal rent. The Bishop of London's Fund has given a liberal grant, and about £300 has still to be raised.

A paragraph has appeared in several of the daily newspapers stating that the clergy in Rochester, Chatham, and neighbourhood have been considerably troubled by the falling off in their congregations since Dean Hole took up his residence in the cathedral city. The Dean inaugurated his rule by introducing Sunday evening services at the cathedral, made as popular as possible, aud evening prayer being shortened, while sacred songs are sung from the "London Mission Hymn-book." On these occasions the congregation never numbers less than 1,000 persons, and the clergy of the district complain that not only members of their flock, but their churchwardens and officers, are drawn to the cathedral, to the detriment of the local offertories. As a result of communications made to him, Dean Hole arranged for a collection to be made at the Sunday evening services, and the proceeds are to be divided among the parochial clergy whose funds have suffered for distribution among the poor.

The Bishop ot Southwell on Wenesday week, installed as Honorary Canons the Rev. J. T. Alderson, rector of Ravenstone, and the Rev. J. G. Richardson, vicar of St. Mary's, Nottingham.

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."

THE PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE AT FULHAM.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Winny's letter *re* the above peal, I should like to say that after the peal was rung, as I was leaving the churchyard in company with Mr. Woodley (Hon. Sec. of the College Youths), Mr. Winny came up and said he did not consider it much of a peal, but condescended to add "that he would give us credit for being able to ring a better one on our own bells." No mention was made about the peal not being rung true, and when he met us at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, on Sunday evening, nothing was said as to the accuracy or inaccuracy of the performance. Mr. Wakley has kindly shown me his reply to Mr. Winny's letter, and as I knew every courseeend and the time it took to ring each part, I fully endorse his remarks thereon, and consider Mr. Winny intensely ignorant of the method, and his comments most absurd.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN.

5, *St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent.*

SIR,—Mr. Winny is either totally ignorant of the method of London Surprise, quite incapable of following a bell through a course of the method, and not able to even recognise a course-end when he hears it, or, in his anxiety to discredit a performance he cannot hope to supersede in any other way, he has deliberately invented the "facts" he has thought it his "duty," without any "personal feeling" to communicate to you. If Mr. Winny is at all qualified for his self-imposed task —if the combined mantles of Henry Haley and John Cox have indeed fallen upon him—he must know that in so far as his "facts" are intended to impugn the truth of the peal, they have not even the remotest foundation of "fact" to recommend them. He must know that though as we have always admitted there were mistakes made by individual bells (I utterly deny that there was any firing or that more than one bell at a time was implicated), yet in no case was the coursing order of the bells affected. He must have been able to follow the number of courses and the number of leads in each; he must, a quarter of an hour before the end have actually heard the bells run into the plain course; have heard them remain there two leads; have heard the bobs wrong and home, with the course end 45236,—than which no course-end was ever better struck; and when in the middle of the last lead, after the 5th had been called home again, he heard a slight "trip" behind, he must have known that it was caused by a slight hesitation on the part of the 7th in going down to 565 with the 2nd; he would have heard a couple of wide blows and a close one or two; would have heard the bells come clear again and would have known that the tenor had only to run straight up from 4th's place to behind getting there at back stroke, and the bells would be round. This, Sir, is an accurate statement of the course of the peal. During the last 800 changes there had been—with the single exception I have named—no trip of any kind, the striking had been good, and there was nothing to prevent a competent man ascertaining accurately the position of the bells—and yet Mr. Winny says "the bells were at sea for coming round in the method!" Well, Sir, I assert as emphatically as I know how that if Mr. Winny is a "competent" man, he has in that statement wilfully and deliberately asserted what he knows to be false; if he is not competent then by what right, I ask, does he without the slightest proof make so disgraceful a charge against us? I have dealt fully with Mr. Winny's remarks on the truth of the peal. I do not propose to notice his other remarks; offensive, intentionally offensive, as they are, except by saying that the peal was heard by many other ringers quite as capable as himself, and of much higher standing in the ringing world, and that to them I am prepared to leave the settlement of the question whether in the short account of our visit to London which appeared in last week's "BELL NEWS," and in what I have said in this letter, I have or have not given a fairly accurate description of the performance. Lest there should be any who even now are anxious or willing to believe in the falseness of the peal, I send you a copy of the calling and beg to state that:—(1) As regards the rate per minute at which the bells were going, the first part of 1696 changes took exactly 1 hour 5 mins., the second part, as nearly as possible 1 hour 6 mins., and the last 1 hour 8 mins., so that the rate varied from about twenty-six and a half in the first part, to almost exactly 25, in the last. (2) That every bob was called and made, that every course and every lead of the peal was rung, that there was no change-course or anything approaching it, and that nothing that occurred in the course of the ringing would have justified any conductor in stopping the peal. (3) That I am prepared to maintain, on oath if need be, the absolute correctness of the whole of these statements.

Burton-on-Trent, December 24th, 1888. WILLIAM WAKLEY,

SIR,—I notice in your last issue a letter from Mr. Winny. I should like to ask that gentleman if he thinks it possible to get into a muddle so that the bells, as he says, fired (I take his word for it), and then come out clean in such a method, If they did, so much for the capabilities of the conductor and deputy, which one would think should prevent them getting into it. We see from the Burton point of view, that getting used to the gait of the bells would take up the first 500 or so, and also that one or two members did go wrong, and were put right, (don't think that would cause fire), some allowance should be made for young men who would naturally feel a little shaky, ringing before an audience composed of the great lights of the Exercise, such as our learned friend Mr. Winny tow it. Then the poor exhibition of ringing is easily accounted for by the method being unmusical. Perhaps he expected to hear Superlative music from a gentile method like London, which one would think was only invented or gathered together from all the stray-bungles, turning courses, and comicalities of other methods rung in the great city. It is most interesting to ring but to listen is rather painful, and inclined to make you bilious next morning, which may continue for a week or so, more or less. The time, so many changes per minute, how was it possible to count if the ringing was not decent? I don't understand about starting at sea and coming round by method. Does he mean to say that the Burton band completely gulled the London Exercise, and he has made a great discovery—a little better explanation about sea and method would be esteemed a favour. I should like to hear what others have to say about the peal. Mr. Pitstow, Mr. Dains, or Mr. Hayes—by the way (if he was not out of the way)—or some other friend who has not had nightmare.

ANOTHER HON. MEMBER OF ST. PAUL'S.

Sir,—I note in your issue of the 22nd inst. a letter on this subject signed C. F. Winny, and as an honorary member of the St. Paul's, Society, Burton-on-Trent branch of the Midland Counties' Association, I deem it my duty to say I consider this letter a tissue of fabrication, or gross misrepresentation of facts from beginning to end. During the ringing of this peal there was some good striking, but the bells never approached a complete fire, "and as to the bells being at sea to come round clean by the method," let any of your readers who have an opportunity look up the last half dozen changes of the plain course, and see if these changes do not appear to be foreign to the rounds so soon to follow. This being so, our critic unwittingly favors the peal he otherwise attempts to destroy. As to the speed of ringing I think him further at sea than the bells; upon this point I have the authority of Messrs. W. Baron, A. Jacob, and B. Foskett, who are I think competent to time a peal, as well as to judge its quality, and they say they found the bells going at from 25 to 27 per minute nearly, never so slow as 24, and I therefore conclude that a slight mistake has crept into the letter above mentioned. Respecting the bystanders, now although there were several of us in the cluster, I believe I am the person alluded to; be this so or not, I certainly ventured the reported expression, and mind, sir, I intended what I said, but my hope was in no way compromising, neither was it suggestive that the trip just taking place was likely to lead up to such a catastrophe by a break down. No sir, it was a hope sincere, and one that I had the satisfaction to realize in about three hours later when the bells came round. Concerning the performance, I will say here as I said previously, that, raking all things into consideration, the miles the men had travelled, the strange bells to ring upon, and above all the most complex of methods that can be selected, I think the performance is very creditable one indeed, one that shows how thoroughly these men have grasped the method, and how thoroughly they set their minds upon the work in hand. Lastly, Mr. Winny says he has no personal feeling in the matter. Well, Sir, how anyone could write such a letter without, I can hardly conjecture. While there were several other ringers on the spot, quite as able to judge what ringing a peal should be made of, and I am quite sure, quite as free from personal feeling, as your correspondent will ever be. I would here stop but cannot, as our friend possesses some rare and undoubted abilities both as ringer and conductor of peals. I therefore regret to write of him as I have done, while at the same time I feel I am thus only doing justice to all other parties concerned.

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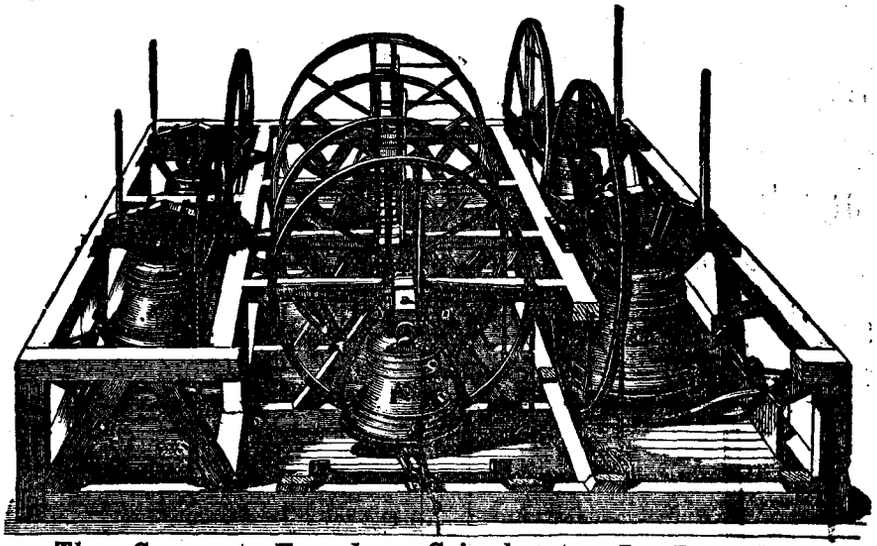
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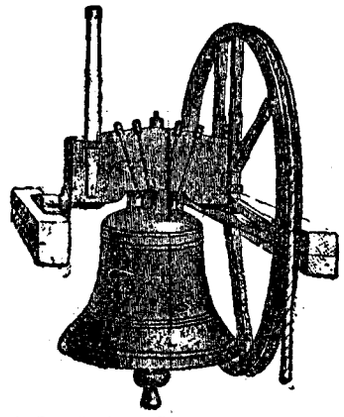
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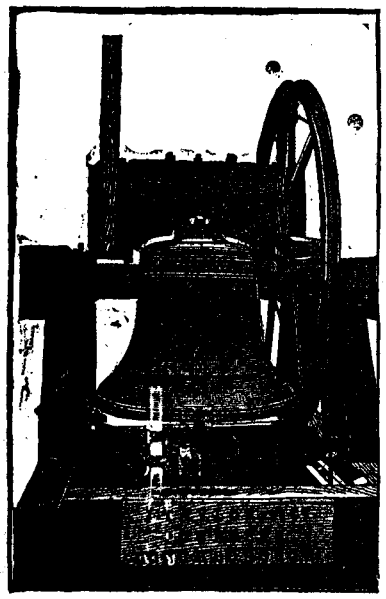
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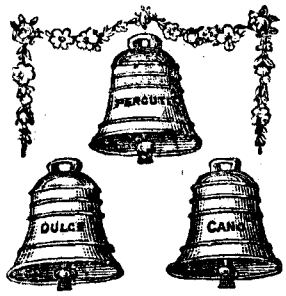
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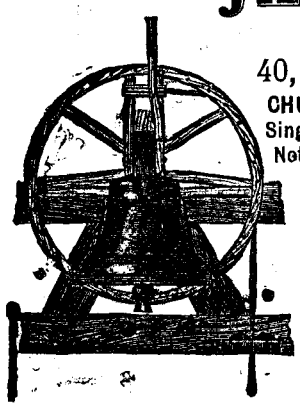


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CHRISTMAS SUPPLEMENT

TO

The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

A MERRY PEAL.

BELMINSTER is a pretty little country place in one of the great coaching roads to the North. Too large to be called a village, and too small to be a town, it can boast of a good shop, where you can buy almost anything, and of two or three establishments whose managers are rather above the rank of blacksmiths and carpenters. The great inn of former times, where the passengers of the "Fly and Rocket" used to dine, has become a boarding-school for young ladies, and now there is a railway station, whence you may reach London within the hour. In other respects Belminster has not changed much for centuries, though, as is often the case with country towns, the railway has rather diminished than increased its importance. The church, which belonged to a famous monastery of mediæval times, is large and handsome, and the tower contains a fine peal of eight bells, on which some notable feats of change-ringing were performed in the palmy days of the Exercise.

Besides the general store and workshops already mentioned, there is another industry which brings a large sum of money into the place in the form of wages. This was formerly the embroidering of smock-frocks, and, since smocks have gone out of fashion, it has been changed for the making up of cheap clothing for export. Most of the womem and girls find employment in this branch of the sweating system, which is in their eyes an unmixed blessing. But it is disliked by the farmers, who say that it makes the people so independent that a labourer will do nothing more than he pleases. If the "sweater" were resident he would no doubt be one of the magnates of Belminster, but he is represented there only by an agent who comes from London once a week to inspect the work and pay the wages of the needlewomen. After all, agriculture is a far more important industry here than all the others put together. Accordingly, it is only natural that the eyes and tongues of the public should be devoted in a special manner to the Squire, the Parson, and the tenant of the Castle Farm, who have in fact through several generations been an unfailing topic of conversation for tap-rooms and tea-tables. In this triumvirate there is always to be found a Cæsar and an Antony, while the third is usually a "slight unmeritable man, meet to be sent on errands;" but whether the parson, or the squire, or the farmer of the period is Cæsar or Antony, or Lepidus, seems to depend more upon their personal characters than upon any advantages of fortune. Ten years ago Squire Partridge was undoubtedly the Cæsar of the trio, and like other Cæsars, if he were no better or worse than his neighbours, his good and bad qualities were at least more conspicuous than theirs. He was at this time an elderly man, nearer sixty than seventy years of age, of a spare habit of body, endowed with a clear intellect and plenty of shrewd good sense, but sadly deficient in everything like enthusiasm or geniality.

He had taken a high degree at the University, and was the author of some books of repute, especially a Manual of Political Economy, much used as a text-book in superior schools.

His favourite motto was, "Be just before you are generous;" and if he could fairly call himself a just man it seemed never to occur to him that generosity also had its claim when justice had been satisfied. As a magistrate he was a terror to evil-doers, but the innocent, and even those who had been betrayed into crime through weakness or thoughtlessness, knew that their defence would be understood when he sat on the bench. Among his own set he was an admirable host and companion as long as he had his own way, but no one could make himself more disagreeable when he was thwarted.

The second member of the triumvirate, the Rev. Hugh Mildred, was an amiable man of high character and cultivated mind, who did much good in the parish, and might have done much more if he had been able to hold his own against the squire. As a rule they were excellent friends, and the parson enjoyed nothing more than a cosy dinner at the Manor House, or a chat in the squire's library. But sometimes his sense of duty would compel him to plead in behalf of a poacher's wife, or a poor creature whose rent was in arrears, or to seek the squire's support in some benevolent project for the benefit of the widows and orphans of his flock, and then the pleasant intercourse would come to an end, and he had to submit to a series of petty insults and annoyances, which were inflicted with as much pleasure to their author as they caused distress to his too good-natured friend.

Farmer Barley was not so easily managed as the parson, but he too had to confess that he was no match for the squire. He was a strong jovial man still, in the prime of life, well-known in three or four counties as a fox-hunter and breeder of Sandowns, profuse in his hospitality, but jealous of his rights.

It was of course useless to attempt to bully such a man, and the squire, whose temper was always under control, took care to make no demand of his tenant for which he could not give a plausible reason, and never sought to gain his end by mere rudeness, as he did when he wanted to reduce the parson to subjection. Nor would Barley waste words in asking for concessions which the squire was indisposed to grant. Sometimes, of course, a debateable point would arise, and then the battle was fierce indeed. Only once had the squire been beaten There was a question between them of manorial rights and copyhold in which the written law was in conflict with the custom of the district, and Barley, whose ancestors had held the Castle Farm for many generations, was ready to throw up his lease rather than give way. Then the squire's good sense prevailed, and he said to his tenant, "We must not part so. You are quite wrong, but do as you please." So the dispute was settled, and the squire bore his defeat stoically, but an illness which he had soon afterwards was attributed with some show of reason to his dissapointment. There was another difficulty in Belminster about this time which caused a good deal of ill-feeling between the labourers and the farmers, though the squire saw no occasion to interfere, except by making remarks which were equally irritating to both parties.

To do the squire justice, he had never been a grasping landlord, and his rents were low. He preferred, as he said, to have on his estate farmers whose fathers and grandfathers had been there before them, to putting up his farms to competition. Agricultural wages were also lower than in the neighbouring parishes, though the labourers were rather better off than the average owing to the earnings of their wives and daughters by needlework. This was inevitable, as was shewn in the squire's book on Political Economy, but the men could not see that it was fair that they should be paid less for doing the same work as their neighbours who had no dealings with the "sweater."

With low rent and low wages the farmers ought to have been happy men, but nothing is easier than to learn to live up to one's income, and in times of depression they would grumble as much as others who had formed more parsimonious habits. However, things went on pretty well till the men, most of whom belonged to the Labourers' Union, were ordered by the chief of their society to strike for the wages which were being paid elsewhere in the district. Squire Partridge was a great authority on rent and wages, but what he had to say on the subject, though admirably convincing to outsiders, was not calculated to calm the troubled waters. If anyone had a right to strike, he maintained it was himself, as he could find tenants for his farms any day at the increase of twenty-five per cent. But he could not blame the men for striking, or the farmers for resisting their demands. Wages depended upon supply and demand, but they could only be adjusted from time to time by what Adam Smith called "the haggling of the market," and a strike was nothing but a somewhat violent and ruinous mode of haggling. But he suspected that the farmers would be able to hold out longer than the Union, and in the meantime would be forced to use machinery, and so become less dependant than ever upon the good will of the labourers.

In due time all this came to pass, but before the strike was at an end the cordial relations between master and man which had formerly existed had become embittered, and among other evil consequences many of the labourers were alienated from the church, and either joined the dissenters, or ceased to attend any place of worship. His illness, the strike, and some other reasons which do not concern us, induced the squire to shut up the Manor house, and go abroad for a season. Two years is not a long time for the old and middle-aged, but it is long enough to change a boy into a man, and this is what happened to the farmer's eldest son. Young Tom Barley was at school at Bedford till he was eighteen, after which it was intended that he should live at home, and learn to tread in the steps of his father. Few young men have such a good start in life as Tom Barley. but of those few a considerable portion for one reason or another are discontented with their lot. This was the case in the present instance. Tom was fond of hunting and shooting, and of a life out of doors, and in the way of work he liked agriculture as well as anything else. But he was popular among his schoolfellows, and was a first-rate cricketer. He was certain to be in the University Eleven if he went up to Cambridge, and he and his friends were eager that he should have this opportunity of distinguishing himself. Besides, he was a clever fellow, though he preferred to study anything rather than Latin and Greek and Mathematics, and held revolutionary views with respect to Political Economy, which was one of the subjects in which he delighted. His father, who could afford to send him to college, and would have consented to do so if his son had been of a more docile disposition, had no idea of sending him there to learn to lead a life of genteel idleness, and, moreover, was much irritated by his taking the part of the labourers in the strikes. He was determined to knock all this nonsense out of the young man's head, so from Easter to Christmas Master Tom was constrained to remain at home, working on the farm in a rebellious frame of mind, and railing at everything which he did not happen to like. One of his grievances was the social position of tenant-farmers. Good-looking, well-dressed, of popular manners, and with money in his pocket, at school he had found himself the equal and companion of the sons of the gentry, and now it was gall and wormwood to him to see the parson and his son admitted to the squire's drawing-room, while his father and himself were allowed to penetrate no further than the gun-room. Old Barley, though a proud man in his way, had not been brought up to new-fangled ideas of equality, and had no more wish to sit at the squire's table than he had to see his shepherd and horse-keeper at his own. And he had the good sense to see that if his son wanted to be a gentleman he must try the experiment away from Belminster, where the classes were as distinct as so many Indian castes.

One of the farmer's sisters had married a doctor who had since attained some eminence in the rofession, and it happened that this Christmas their son, a medpal student at Guy's, came to spend his holidays at the Castle. Dick Bransby was the life and soul of any party of pleasure-seekers. No one was his equal in singing a comic song, or in acting a funny part in a play, or could chaff a pretty cousin with more audacity. If he had a fault it was a weakness for practical jokes, but it is fair to say that they were calculated to amuse as much, and to annoy as little, as possible. Never had they spent such a merry Christmas at the Castle Farm, and cousin Dick was not allowed to go away until he had promised to make his visit annual. But something more than amusement resulted from these festivities.

Tom Barley found that nothing would suit him but being a doctor. Not that he had any particular taste for the science of medicine, but he was determined to be a gentleman some way or the other, and by all accounts the life of a medical student seemed to be a very jolly one. His father had not the same objection to this scheme as to the other, and as his second son was only too glad to have his brother's birthright, he agreed somewhat reluctantly to allow them to make an exchange of careers, for it had always been contemplated that one of the boys would be taken under the wing of their uncle the London doctor.

Dick Bransby usually left his mark wherever he went, and there was another matter in which he was the author of a new departure at Belminster. In addition to the accomplishments which have already been mentioned, he was an excellent change-ringer, and was a member of the Guild of Æsculapius, a ringing society consisting chiefly of young doctors and medical students on the Surrey side of the Thames. Accordingly soon after his arrival at Belminster our friend Dick paid a visit to the belfry. Here he found a state of things not altogether satisfactory to an enthusiastic ringer. In former years the belfry had been a model one, and the bells could be put in order again without much trouble or expense, but they were suffering from recent neglect. There were still some change-ringers in Belminster, but a few years ago the long-suffering parson had been forced to quarrel with them on a question of belfry reform and a new set had hardly learnt to ring a plain course of Triples when the strike occurred, and they seceded, to spite the churchwardens, or for some such frivolous reason. When these troubles were over, the squire, whose house was close to the church, found that he had always disliked the bells, more perhaps because they gave pleasure to others than because they caused annoyance to himself, and was able to silence them simply by not renewing the liberal subscription which had been paid by his predecessors for some generations, and by himself in former years. The parson and some others knew pretty well that the squire would never tolerate the revival of ringing as long as he lived. But it had not been necessary for him to say so, especially as he had no right to interfere at all, and Dick Bransby had like difficulty in getting permission from the parson to form a band from among the old ringers, together with two or three of his cousins, who were popular with them on account of the line Tom had taken with respect to the strike. So, with some help from the neighbouring market town, Christmas was duly honoured on the bells once more, and the old year was rung out, and the new year in, quite in the style of the good old ringing days. Moreover, when Dick and Tom had gone to London to pursue their studies, a promising young band of ringers remained to learn the mysteries of the Exercise, and before long they began to talk of celebrating the centenary anniversary of a famous peal rung to issue in the new year of 1781. Then they joined the Diocesan Guild, and when Dick Bransby and his cousin came to spend Christmas at Belminster again, they arranged to repeat the feat of their forefathers, and left a band in training for it, being themselves ready to take the place of any two defaulters. Of course during the summer there was a cessation of practice, but in October they began again in earnest, and in the following month succeeded in ringing a half-peal of Bob Major without a hitch, and no one thought of asking how the squire would like it. This was a serious oversight, though it is impossible to say what they could have done to invert impending danger. However, one day unusual signs of movement were observed at the Manor. The chimneys began to smoke, the shutters were opened, furniture vans and other conveyances came and went through the park, and on Sunday morning the squire was seated in the great pew in church. It would be incorrect to say that his reappearance was generally welcomed, but it caused a good deal of interesting conversation. It was felt that many usurped privileges and lax proceedings of various kinds must now be given up, and on the whole quiet people were glad that it should

be so. As was remarked by a cynic at the "Green Dragon" "Well, the squire must be a good man to be sure; leastways there's a deal of mischief goes on when he's away."

Thursday was practice night for the ringers, and the first Thursday after his return the squire had a few friends to dinner. He was in excellent humour and spirits, retailing to the company stories which he had picked up on his travels. Suddenly the bells struck up, and at once the stream of anecdote was frozen up. Mr. Mildred, who guessed the cause of the squire's displeasure, explained with some embarrassment that the ringers had joined the Diocesan Guild, and that he hoped the old fame of the Belminster bells might be revived. "Ah!," said the squire, "I don't think they will keep that up long."

"Why don't you think so?" asked Mildred nervously.

"Because the ringers live in my houses, and they will have to and homes out of the parish if they are so fond of ringing."

No one ventured to remonstrate against this ebullition of despotism, and indeed it would have been of no use. The squire could be agreeable when he was in the humour, but he enjoyed making himself disagreeable infinitely more. As for the poor parson he felt that he was in disgrace, and would be cut off from all the social amenities he so loved for the next six weeks. Then his spirit rebelled against the slight put upon himself. It was the parson's business to manage the belfry, and the squire was not even a churchwarden. But what could he do? Some bitter words rose to his lips, but on the whole he thought it best to bear the affront in silence, as he had often done before in other matters. But the pleasure of the evening was gone for him, and for the other guest who were sensible of the squire's ill humour without fully understanding the cause of it.

Next morning after breakfast, when the squire as usual sat in the gun-room to transact business, he did not fail to instruct his steward to communicate to the ringers his amiable intentions. Some of the young men were for defying the tyrant, naturally thinking that life would not be worth living if they allowed themselves to be trampled upon to gratify the caprice of a cross-grained curmudgeon, to whom they applied even less complimentary epithets. Two of the Barleys, who belonged to the band, were especially loud in their indignation, but their father, who did not care about the bells, and had no mind for another quarrel with the squire as soon as he returned, peremptorily forbid their ringing without the permission of the parson. Mr. Mildred, for his part, adopted a line of conduct which was to be expected of him. He was personally in favour of encouraging the revival of ringing, but under the circumstances he thought it better that the practices should be discontinued for a month, in order that he might have time to consult with the churchwardens and ascertain the nature of the squire's objections. Then it appeared that some of the old ringers, who were not very enthusiastic in the cause, and hardly cared to ring at all unless they could count upon the squire's five-pound note at Christmas, were by no means inclined to quarrel with their bread and butter, or to risk the threatened eviction. So the band was broken up, and the hope of the centenary peal was abandoned.

When the news reached Tom Barley, who was now studying at Guy's, he was exceedingly wroth, and wanted to make a formal demand on the part of the Guild of Æsculapius for permission to ring a peal at Christmas, knowing that the parson would find it difficult to refuse so reasonable a request from a society of such high repute.

Dick Bransby, however, was of opinion that the squire would be sure to circumvent them somehow, and advised proceeding by stratagem. He was not long in concocting a scheme, the outline of which was whispered in confidence to some choice spirits of the Guild of medicos, and immensely tickled their fancy. The design and execution of this plot we shall now proceed to unfold as briefly as possible.

Dick and Tom had been engaged to spend their Christmas holidays at the Castle Farm, but it now appeared that they were reading so hard for the examination that they could not leave town, at any rate till the dance which was to come off on twelfth-night. This was a great disappointment to the fair sisters and cousins at Belminster, but excited a fit of apopletic laughter in the breast of old Sawyer, the village doctor, who was not to be imposed upon by any of Dick Bransby's devoting the Christmas holidays to hard reading. In his opinion Master Dick was not the sort of young man to be amused with the decorous pleasures of a country house, and no doubt by this time corrupted his cousin with the insidious fascinations of London life; though what their little game might be he was unable to surmise. As it happened, the old doctor's diagnosis of the young men's minds was as faulty as if he had believed implicitly in the alleged examination.

To proceed with our story. On the last day of the old year a young gentleman of artistic appearance, in whom Dick Bransby's mother would assuredly not have recognised her son, called at the Vicarage, and asked for the keys of the church. He wore a velveteen coat, and a brigand's hat, from beneath which a profusion of glossy ringlets brushed his shoulders, and he carried a large portfolio under his arm. He wished to make a sketch of the old pulpit, and he displayed so intelligent an interest in the antiquities of the place that Mr. Mildred presented him with a copy of his "History of Belminster Abbey," and would have liked to ask him to lunch had he not been deterred by his very Bohemian appearance.

The parson's key gave access to the church through the vestry, where certain keys were kept, pertaining to the tower and gates of the churchyard, which were not likely to be missed if they were in Dick Bransby's pocket for the next twelve hours. It did not take the artist long to complete his drawing of the pulpit, and he had time before the next train to grease the bearings of the bells, to adjust the ropes, to trim the lamp, and to make all the preparations which a careful steeplekeeper might think necessary before a long peal. At eleven o'clock the same night, when ninety-five per cent. of the population were already buried in their first sleep, the quiet of Belminster was disturbed by the thunder and lightning, or in plain prose by the clatter of wheels and hoofs and flashing lamps, of a great excursion break, which deposited a dozen or more of its passengers at the main gate of the churchyard, and then drove away as rapidly and mysteriously as it had arrived. The sexton, whose house overlooked the churchyard, and who happened to be seeing the old year out in company with two or three of the old ringers, and with the suppport of hot gin and water and pipes, observed from his window that after posting sentinels, who appeared to be policemen, at each gate, the rest of the party ascended the tower, and were soon off for a peal of Bob Major in capital style. Hastily finishing the contents of their tumblers, the sexton and his friends sallied forth, bent upon solving the mystery. But the policeman at the gate refused to give them any information, or allow them to pass. While they wer standing in the road conjecturing all sorts of things to account for so strange an occurrence, and guessing that the ringers must be the College Youths ("leastways they were sure no band in the Diocesan Guild could ring so well"), they were joined by Mr. Parker, the squire's butler, who had been sent by his master to order the ringers to stop at once on pain of his most serious displeasure. The Squire, who always kept an empty house at Christmas and other festive seasons had, as usual, been dining alone, and was sipping his tumbler of warm negus before retiring to rest, when the bells struck up. It would not be right to say that the joyful sound put him into a towering passion, because, strictly speaking, he never lost his temper. But he at once determined to have his will respected by making an example of the offenders. He rang the bell violently. The butler appeared with an expression of alarm on his face, knowing that something had happened to put his master out, and thinking over his own peccadilloes,

"Go to the church, Parker, and tell the ringers to stop at once; and that I shall have them up before the magistrates next Wednesday." Parker hurried off to give his message, but like the sexton was stopped by the policeman at the gate. Having explained that his master was a justice of the peace, and had a right to interfere, he persuaded the policeman to give some more information than the sexton had been able to elicit.

"We have come down from Scotland Yard," he said. "We have information that the Bermondsey burglars are secreted in the vaults of the church, or are somewhere in the neighbourhood. You had better go home and look after your plate. Sorry we can't let you pass."

"But won't you take a message to the ringers? The squire's in a terrible wax."

"Can't help that. Colonel Henderson's orders is to let no one

pass in or out, nor yet to allow any kind of communication with them as is inside. We have nothing to do with the ringers. That's another party. P'raps there's some detectives among them. But, lor bless you, I know no more of that than you. I'll tell you what I'll do for you, when the Inspector comes round I'll tell him that the squire would like to speak to him."

This was all the satisfaction that Parker could get from the policeman, so he turned to the sexton, who was as much mystified as himself. Everybody had heard of the Bermondsey burglary, but what it had to do with the excellent peal of Bob Major, which was in full swing, was not at all clear. No one ever heard of burglars and detectives ringing a peal. They must be either that unknown quantity, the College Youths, or perhaps Squire Proctor's band from Bennington, who had talked of coming to ring a peal last Christmas, though nothing had been heard of them since. Anyways, it was a most extraordinary coincidence.

So Parker had to carry back this strange tale to the squire, who told him that he was a fool, and might go to bed.

"If it were not for this confounded asthma. I would go myself and find out what it all means. However, I will be a match for these gentlemen, whoever they may be." So he got out his law books, and before he went to bed had found a case in which some ringers, who had been bribed to ring for a victory on the race-course in spite of the express prohibition of incumbent and churchwardens, had been punished with a month's imprisonment. Meanwhile the peal went on merrily, and about two o'clock the sexton, who had returned with his friends to the pipes and glasses, heard the bells come into rounds. Knowing that the end was now near at hand, they went to the window, and then they saw a curious thing by the flashes of dark lanterns and carriage lamps. The break drove up from the direction in which it had disappeared three hours before, and almost at the same moment a procession issued from the church. There were three prisoners, handcuffed, and each of them in charge of two policemen. A few others were in plain clothes. The party at once took their seats on the break, and were preparing to drive off, when the sexton and his companions appeared on the scene. They were by this time somewhat fuddled by gin and mystery, but they were burning with curiosity, and the sexton, without venturing to ask a direct question, addressed the leader of the party, whom he took for the Inspector:

"Some first rate ringing here to-night, Sir! we are ringers ourselves, and thought perhaps . . . . . "

"Oh! the ringers? Well, I dare say you'll find them in the belfry. All right, coachman!"

In a moment the break was gone, and the sexton's party naturally went to the church, which they found locked. Having shouted in vain under the tower window, where a light was still burning, they returned to the house for the key, and admitted themselves without further trouble. There was no one in the belfry, only below the old peal board they saw a sheet of white paper, on which was printed in large type an inscription to the following effect:—

"On the night of December 31st–January 1st, 1880-81, a true and complete peal of Bob Major was rung on these bells by the following members of the Guild of Æsculapius, in commemoration of the peal rung by the Belminster band exactly one hundred years ago."

Then followed the names of the ringers, and below:—

"Of the above, Thomas Barley and Richard Bransby are great grandsons of Thomas Barley, who rung the tenor and conducted the peal of 1780-81."

"Well," said the sexton," that Mr. Bransby is a comical chap as ever I see! The outdaciousness of him!! What will Squire Partridge say now, I wonder? There'll be some pretty games afore they've done, you'll see. Mark my words if there beant."

In these sentiments his companions concurred. For the next three or four days the burglars and the bells were the talk of Belminster, and it is needless to say that the squire was at a loss for evidence against the perpetrators of the trick which had been played him. So many different stories were afloat that it was difficult to say what had actually happened. But there was no doubt that the bells had been ringing half through the night, and some people thought that the break and the police were an invention of the sexton and the Belminster ringers.

When Dick Bransby came down with his cousin for the twelfth-night dance at the Castle Farm he solemnly declared that he knew nothing of the matter. He was glad to hear that the peal had been rung, and only wished he had been there to take part in it. He suspected the College Youths. They were terrible fellows for practical jokes. He knew some of them, and might have mentioned in conversation his disappointment about the projected centenary peal. If so, they had kept their proceedings very dark. No doubt it was the College Youths who had rung the peal. As for the Bermondsey burglars and the policemen there might be some truth in what was said. What was the use of detectives if they let every one know what they were about? For his part he believed there were more detectives in society than most people supposed. "Now, that man," he said to his partner in a waltz, pointing to a mild-looking youth in spectacles who was supposed to be learning farming, "I know to be a detective. Be sure you don't mention it, but I have seen him in very different company to this. Only see how he keeps his eye on that pretty little woman who is flirting with Captain Jones. Shall we take another turn?"

Tom Barley denied having anything to do with the new year's peal, though he did so with some embarrassment, and without any of that fertility of suggestion in which the vivacious Dick Bransby revelled.

Nevertheless, the record of the peal appeared in due course in "The Bell News" in exactly the same form as on the printed paper found by the sexton in the belfry, and next Christmas, the squire being again absent on the continent, all pretence was laid aside, and Dick and Tom were present at the unveiling of a new peal tablet presented by the Guild of Æsculapius in honour of their own performance and for the adornment of the belfry of Belminster church.

THE CHURCHWARDEN.

By an ex-Churchwarden.

MR. BOUNCE wss the newly-elected churchwarden of the Abbey church at Slowborough, of which we have read in former numbers of "The Bell News."

He came into office at a most unusual time of the year, viz.: early in December. How this came to pass I will explain. The former Churchwarden, an old and respected inhabitant who had held the office for more than twenty years in succession, had died rather suddenly, and his colleague was unwilling to act singly, so a vestry meeting was called, and Mr. Bounce was appointed to fill the vacancy *pro tem.* till Easter, when in all probability he would be re-elected to the office.

And now a word or two with regard to Mr. Bounce's antecedents. He was a young man, and had only lived in Slowborough for a comparatively short time, having come from London and taken on an important drapery business in the town, which had been left him by a deceased uncle some three years previous to the commencement of our story. He understood his own line of business and managed it fairly well, but he was one of those individuals who always want to be dabbling in public matters. He had put up for the Town Council once during the short time he had resided in Slowborough, but had been defeated by a large majority. He was a good Churchman and a well-meaning man. While he lived in London he had attended a somewhat "ritualistic" surburban church, and was there the incumbent's right-hand man in everything, and when he came to Slowborough he soon fell in with the Vicar and other church officers, being most zealous in every kind of church work. Hence it came to pass that he was elected to fill the vacancy above mentioned, although he was only a new comer to the town. Mr. Bounce was a bit of a radical in his way. I don't mean politically, but radical in ideas on the management of things in general. No doubt the slow and easy-going ways of an old Abbey church, where nearly everything was paid for from endowments, presented somewhat of a contrast to him when compared with a modern London church kept up entirely by voluntary contributions. Be that as it may, after his arrival at Slowborough he soon saw many things in connection with the Abbey which, in his opinion, required rectifying.

Certainly on the day of his election he shewed no signs of

bumptiousness in the vestry, but thanked the ratepayers present in the most modest manner for the honour they had done him in electing him Churchwarden; but as soon as he got out into the street he walked along with the air of a man who meant to do something to be talked about.

Nothing of any particular importance occurred during the first few days after his election, but about a week afterwards there was a vestry meeting to receive tenders for repairs to the roof of part of the Abbey, and to decide upon certain repairs to the bells.

Now Mr. Bounce was but little acquainted with matters connected with the building trade, and he knew still less about bells. However, on the day of the meeting he managed to make himself the laughingstock of several by making some absurd propositions with regard to the repairs of the roof. Next came the question of repairs to the bells. It appeared that several of the peal required new gudgeons and brasses as well as other minor repairs. Mr. Bounce did not see that anything of the kind was needed; he said that "the bells sounded all right when they were *rung* last Sunday." In reality they had only been chimed; and he further remarked that "he had been up into the bell-chamber that morning, and that the bells looked all right," and he added that "it was absurd to go to the expense of getting a bell-hanger from London, even if anything did want doing, when they had a man in the town who was a bell-hanger. The "bell-hanger" he alluded to was a local ironmonger and "house-bell hanger" who probably knew as much about a church bell as a watchmaker knows about a locomotive.

Mr. Bounce's ideas were happilly "pooh-poohed," and an order was given to a well known firm to execute the necessary repairs at once. He was not to be daunted, however, but he determined, that if he had appeared to disadvantage that morning, he would still shew that he was a man who knew a thing or two. In the meantime he made up his mind to improve his knowledge of church bells; so on the following morning he paid a visit to the belfry, where he found our old friend Mr. Trippels chiming two bells for the usual daily service.

Unfortunately Mr. Trippels was not in a very communicative mood that morning, and Mr. Bounce was unable to obtain much information from him.

In the afternoon Mr. Bounce had a fresh chance of distinguishing himself in matters parochial. It was as follows: there was a meeting of the Trustees of the choristers' school, of which body the churchwardens were members *ex-officio* and the vicar *ex-officio* chairman.

Amongst other business at this meeting the trustees had to elect a boy to fill a vacancy among the choristers which had recently occurred. After examining several testimonials, and receiving the report of Rev. Dr. Swishem (head master), who had examined the candidates as to their scholastic attainments; and after hearing the organist's report on the quality of their voices; it was decided to elect the son of a poor curate in Liverpool. As soon as the decision was announced Mr. Bounce (who was the only trustee who was not in favour of the choice), rose to his feet and said; "Gentlemen: why should we choose a boy from Liverpool to fill this vacancy, when we have plenty of poor deserving boys in our National school, I cannot understand, and—"

THE CHAIRMAN: "Excuse me, sir, you seem to be under a misapprehension. The fact is, we must have boys of some social position. The trust deed expressly states that sons of poor clergy are to have the preference."

MR. BOUNCE: "But are we bound to stick exactly to rules laid down more than two hundred years ago? I should say that—"

ANOTHER TRUSTEE: "My dear sir, we must keep to our old plan; otherwise we shall have the Charity Commissioners down upon us."

MR. BOUNCE: "Why not apply to them for a new scheme?"

THE CHAIRMAN: "I think, sir, that the majority of the gentlemen present will agree with me when I say that the plan which has always been pursued in the election of boys is far preferable to any new scheme which could be invented. As I said before, we must have sons of gentlemen in our choir, and it would not do to mix boys of a lower grade with them." (Hear hear, on all sides.)

This matter then terminated, and after some other business had been discussed, a bright idea occured to Mr. Bounce by which he thought he could distuinguish himself; so turning to Dr. Swishem, he asked if it would be convenient for him to come into the school sometime during the ensuing week, and ask the choristers a few questions upon what they had been learning; at the same time he inquired what subjects they had lately being engaged with. Dr. Swishem said he could come if he liked, and mentioned the names of several well-known Latin and Greek authors whom his boys had been reading. This completely floored Mr. Bounce, as he had never had anything but a strictly commercial education himself. So he was obliged to decline coming.

Having so originally failed in his undertaking so far, Mr. Bounce thought he would try his hand at belfry reform. Now it will be remembered that the Abbey belfry at Slowborough was quite a model belfry already, as far as the conduct of the ringers was concerned, who were also fairly profisient in several standard methods in change-ringing. But this was not enough for Mr Bounce, and hs took into his confidence the Rèv. Alban Cope, B.A., a newly-arrived curate, who knew as little of bells and ringers as Mr. Bounce himself did. It never occurred to these two worthies that the vicar, or anyone else except the ringers, would trouble much about what arrangements were made with regard to the ringing.

It will be remembered that the Abbey bells were always rung on the greater church festivals, and also on several loyal occasions. It occurred to these two gentlemen that anything which was not strictly a church festival ought not to be rung for; so between them they drew up an elaborate table for ringing days, wherein the Queen's birthday, Coronation, Mayor's day, and several other days for which the ringers received a liberal fee, were cut out, and it was arranged instead that the company were to ring a "peal" (so they called it) of five minutes' duration several times during the day on certain saints' days. This plan Mr. Bounce undertook to deliver and explain to the ringers on their next practice-night.

So accordingly on the evening of the following day when the company were met for practice, he burst into the belfry with the important document in his hand; thereby causing a well-struck touch of Treble Bob to come to grief and putting the ringers generally, and Mr. Trippels in particular, into anything but a suitable frame of mind to receive the oration which he was about to deliver.

Before he could get a word out of his mouth Mr. Trippels began with—"Now sir, you really ought to know better than to burst into a belfry in that fashion when a company are engaged ringing a touch or peal."

Mr. Trippels' observation rather took Mr. Bounce aback, but he recovered himself and said—"Oh—ah—I did'nt know it made any difference,—I should have thought you could have gone on pulling just the same. But look here,—Mr. Cope (our new curate) and I have been consulting about the days you ring on, and we think that the list I have here in my hand will be more suitable than the occasions which you have hitherto rung for. Just put this up somewhere when all the men can see it, and see that they keep to it, will you?"

Mr. Trippels took the paper and just glanced through it. He then smiled and handed it back to Mr. Bounce, saying:—"I think, Sir, you had better lay it before the vestry, and then you can get the vicar's signature and that of your colleague, and then perhaps we may consider the matter, that is if you will guarantee us the fees on all these occasions. You see the list of ringing days was fixed by the Vestry and signed by the Vicar and Churchwardens in 1839, and it has never been altered since. If you like to step over to our meeting-room at the 'Crown and Mitre,' I will shew it to you." Mr. Bounce saw that it was of no use to argue the point, so he said, "Well I must see into this matter, and by the bye, you spoke of the 'Crown and Mitre' just now—you don't mean to say that you fellows go and spend money in a public-house after you have done ringing, do you?"

Mr. Trippels' temper was now roused and said:—"Sir; I am proud to say that our company are steady and respectable men, and why we should not meet in our private room at the chief hotel in the town, where the society has met for time immemorial, I cannot say, nor shall I take the trouble to argue with you on such a ridiculous matter. You have had the bad taste

to burst in upon us and spoil our touch, and then you give us a lot of absurd rubbish to read, and afterwards insult us and give us a temperance lecture. I have our vicar's full permission for all we do here, and I may tell you that individually you have no right to interfere."

Mr. Bounce saw that he was getting the worst of it, so he left the belfry, saying that he would see the vicar about the matter.

This he did that very same evening, but the vicar considered that his plea was absurd, and gently hinted that in future he had better use a little more consideration before attempting to alter any old customs.

The next day was Friday, and there was the usual morning service in the Abbey at eleven o'clock, with the weekly lecture which was paid for from an old endowment. Mr. Bounce did not often go to church on weekday mornings, but he took it into his head to do so to-day. When service began he observed that only eight of the twelve choristers were in their places. He immediately thought that here was a chance for distinguishing himself in the execution of his duties, and he determined to see into the matter after church. I am sorry to say that his mind was so busily occupied in considering how he should act that he paid very little attention to the service. As soon as it was over he made his way to the choristers' school, intending to interview Dr. Swishem, and demand the reason why all the boys were not at church that morning. Unfortunately both the Doctor and Mrs. Swishem were out when he arrived, and were not expected home for an hour or more; so he thought that the best thing to do would be to speak to the boys themselves. Now if Mr. Bounce had appeared to disadvantage before the ringers on the previous he determined to make ample amends for it now by the grandeur and magnificence of his speech before the chorister boys.

Before we go further it will perhaps be better to explain to the reader the reason why all the boys were not at church that morning, which was as follows:—The weather had been unusually severe, and three of the boys (including Alec, the senior chorister) were kept indoors with bad colds and sore throats, whilst another (Master Xerxes, of whom we have read before), had on the day previous been engaged in a pugilistic encounter with a big town boy who had often annoyed the choristers; and between whom there had existed a continual feud for some time past. Now although Xerxes had managed to defeat the enemy, he had not altogether escaped some damage to himself, but had received a black eye and sundry scratches and bruises, and he was not just now quite presentable to the public. Consequently he had been sent up to the matron's room to keep the invalids company, and Dr. Swishem had given him fifty lines of Virgil to learn by way of employment.

When Mr. Bounce found that the Rev. Dr. Swishem was out he made his way to the school room and learned from one of the boys there the true state of the case: whereupon he demanded to see the matron, and this good woman having been fetched, he requested to see the invalids. Very reluctantly she led the way to her room, where he found the boys before-mentioned sitting by the fire and reading sundry periodicals published expressly for schoolboys.

"Oh! so this is the way you boys spend your time, is it?" he exclaimed; "I should have thought that although you may not be well enough to go out, Dr. Swishem might find some profitable employment for you which would improve your minds, instead of reading that trash. And let me tell you that (if it was my custom to rebuke those who were ill, which it is not), I should say that had you boys taken reasonable care of yourselves, you would not be laid aside now. As a trustee of this school I must say that we cannot afford to clothe, keep and educate delicate boys who are of no use to us as choristers, and I shall mention this at next meeting."

While he was speaking, Xerxes grinned, and the other boys looked sheepish. Alec, who was a sensitive boy, was near crying. Mr. Bounce now turned his attention to Xerxes, and was about to give him a severe lecture for fighting, when he was interrupted in a way in which neither he nor the boys expected. It was in this wise: The church bell-hanger from London had already commenced the repairs to the pells alluded to in the former part of our story, and Mr. Trippels was up in the bell-chamber with him, giving certain directions about what wanted doing. Just as Mr. Bounce entered the school premises, Trippels happened to be looking out through the louvers of the bell-chamber, and saw Mr. Bounce going towards the school. He then observed to the bell-hanger—

"I'll tell you what it is,—Mr. Redleaf—we've just got a new churchwarden here, and ever since he was elected, he's been poking about and trying to interfere with everything. There's one blessing, and that is, although he's elected, he hasn't been admitted into office by the Archdeacon yet—and he can't be till next Easter—if indeed, he doesn't give in before then. And it's just this, neither the Vicar nor anybody thinks much of him, or his doings; and as he has not yet been legally admitted, nothing he does will stand law if the point were contested. Now, last night he came to us in the belfry and spoilt a touch of Treble Bob, and then wanted to shove some absurd rules on us about our ringing days. And now I'll bet a penny he's off to show his authority over those young cubs at the choir school,—I know Dr. Swishem is out,—and although I'm only an outsider, and only go to teach mathematics twice a week, I feel that under the circumstances I ought to go over and see what he's after. Goodness knows what he'll say or do. He'll make those kids think he's King of England before he's been there five minutes. What do you think, Mr. Redleaf?"

Mr. Redleaf agreed that if the new churchwarden was such as Mr. Trippels represented, that he (Mr. Trippels) was certainly justified in looking after his proceedings. Accordingly Mr Trippels put on his coat and went down, and arrived at the school just as Mr. Bounce had gone up to the matron's room. On finding out where he was, Mr. Trippels followed, and arrived just at the moment we last left Mr. Bounce. Now Mr. Trippels did not want to have any scene before the boys, so he quietly informed that gentleman that he wanted to speak to him immediately on a matter of considerable importance. Mr. Bounce was only too pleased to think that he was such an important personage as to be consulted on weighty matters, so he followed Trippels at once out of the school premises. When they got outside, Mr. Trippels said "I don't know, sir, what has been the object of your visit to the school to-day: possibly you may want to make some new arrangements about the boys and their duties, as you did with us ringers last night, but let me tell you—as an assistant in the school—that whatever anyone may have to say on such matters must go through the Rev. Dr. Swishem, as head master. Even the Vicar himself would not presume to do otherwise. You will please excuse me for mentioning the matter, but I have no doubt that the Doctor will hear any suggestions you have to make when he returns, but he will of course use his own judgement as to whether he carries them out."

When Mr. Bounce found out what Mr. Trippels really wanted him for he flew into a passion, and accused that gentleman of interfering with him in the execution of his duties. Mr. Trippels simply smiled contemptuously and walked away.

Mr. Bounce determined to see Dr. Swishem as soon as he returned, and to talk the matter over with him. This he would have done; but that afternoon, just as he was about to start on the aforesaid errand, he received a somewhat curt note from the Doctor, saying that "he would trouble him not to interfere with his boys any more," and asking him "to make any suggestions he might have to make to him, and him only," and further adding "that he, as head master, should in any case reserve to himself the right of rejecting or carrying out such suggestions as he thought fit." This note completely shut Mr. Bounce up in this matter.

It still wanted about a week to Christmas, and during that time Mr. Bounce had time to consider the various mistakes he had made during the past fortnight. After carefully thinking over the matter he determined to change his tactics and come out before the public as "Lord Bountiful," and to overcome everybody by his wonderful activity in assisting all good works, and by the magnificence of his gifts and subscriptions to every parochial institution. Accordingly he began by sending donations of one guinea each to the parochial clubs, library, and other institutions. He also sent a guinea to Dr. Swishem to be expended in prizes for the choristers, and he further determined to present a guinea to the ringers on Christmas Eve, and to go up into the belfry and deliver it to Mr. Trippels in person. So on Christmas Eve he made his way to the belfry in good time, arriving at the church before any of the ringers. As he had had

some difficulty in finding bis way up the stairs in the dark on his previous visit, he took care this time to bring a small hand lanthorn with him. He found the door at the bottom of the stairs unlocked, so he went up, and as none of the company had as yet arrived, he determined to ascend to the bell-chamber and inspect the work which had recently been done to the bells by the aid of his lanthorn. When he arrived at the bell-chamber he ceuld not see any difference in the general appearance of the bells from what it was before the work was done: and considering that the repairs had consisted chiefly in new gudgeous and brasses, it was scarcely likely that an uninitiated observer would detect any difference. So he entered the bell-chamber and groped his way along the frames to the opposite side from the door. He had no sooner reached this point when he perceived the bells beginning to move, and he had just time to recede into a window when two or three deafening clangs reached his ears, and the whole peal were in due time raised. Now Mr. Bounce was no coward, so he made up his mind to stay where he was till the bells stopped. "I suppose," said he to himself, "that when they stop they'll be all down as they were when I came up first. It's rather a nuisance sticking here in the cold, but still they won't be long, and there'll be no harm done." Just then he happened to turn round, and as he did the seventh which swung close to the window where he was, touched his arm and wiped her lip on his coat sleeve, depositing a lot of grease thereon which had dropped from her bearings. He was not hurt, but he was annoyed to have a good coat spoiled.

Contrary to Mr. Bounce's expectations the bells did not stop so soon as he imagined they would, and when they did they still maintained a vertical position. The fact of the matter was that, as it was Christmas Eve, the ringers determined to raise the bells in peal, ring a short tonch, and leave them up ready for Christmas morning. This they did, going straight into the touch as soon as the bells were up, without setting them. When the bells were set Mr. Bounce waited for a minute or two, expecting them to go down in some way or other, he knew not how. Finding that they did not do so he began to call out, but it was too late, as the ringers had left the belfry; and as the church stood in the middle of a large railed churchyard, nearly a hundred yards from the street, it was scarcely likely that anyone would hear him, considering the noise and bustle of the down on a Christmas Eve. Now anyone accustomed to the bells could have easily got out of the bell-chamber, although they were all up, but Mr. Bounce had an idea that the least touch would send them off, and he dare not move from the window where he was. So all he could do was to stay where he was, and shout. Although no one could hear him in the town it was quite possible that anyone in the churchyard or on the premises of the choristers' school, which was only about fifty yards from the tower, might do so. So we will leave him for a short time and take a look in at the school premises. Dr. Swishem was sitting in his study, having just returned from the schoolroom, after having read prayers and sent the boys to bed. He took off his cap and gown and sat by the fire indulging in a reverie. He had heard that day that a former chorister, now grown up, who had been under his charge some eight years previously, was going to the bad; and as he had taken a great deal of pains with him when a boy, he was naturally distressed at what he had heard. "Ah!" said the Doctor to himself, "I've much to be thankful for after all. My lot would be an enviable one to many a parochial clergyman, with perhaps several thousand souls in his parish. Here am I with only a dozen boys to look after, and a sermon to preach once a week; and my boys are absolutely under my control while they are here, and if I can't bring them up in the way they should go, it's a pity. By God's help I'll try and do my duty to them." While the Doctor was thus musing, his pupils had gone up into their dormitories. A small boy happened to look out of one of the windows facing the Abbey tower, and saw a light in the bell-chamber, and thought he could hear someone shouting, so he went up to one of the elder choristers and said "I say, Montie, there's a light in the tower; I wonder what it is." "Why you little duffer, Archie," said Montague, "It's only old Trippels oiling the bells, come, make haste and undress and get to bed." "Oh, but I don't think it can be him," said Archie, "he would'nt be up there so late as this, and I think I can hear somebody shouting too." "No,—catch old Trips up there this time of night," said Xerxes, who had just come up, "he'll be making himself comfortable at the 'Crown and Cushion' by now." Mr. Trippels' habits were pretty well-known to the choristers. Boys always find out anything which they are no wanted to know. Montague lifted the window, and shouts were distinctly heard so as to leave no doubt but that someone was shut up in the bell-chamber. It was therefore decided that Montague had better go down and inform Dr. Swishem of the matter. This he did and first tapped at the study door, as the doctor was occupied with his thoughts as above related. "Please there's a light in the tower, and we can hear somebody calling," said Montague, in answer to the Doctor's inquiry as to what he wanted. "Eh! What? Nonsense, boy," said the Doctor. "Oh but there is Sir, I'm sure,—would you mind looking out, Sir?" said the boy. Therepon Dr. Swishem, accompanied by Montague, left the room and went to a side door next the churchyard, which when he had opened, Mr. Bounce's shouts could be distinctly heard. "Why, Montie," said the Doctor, "This is a regular ghost story,—good enough for the Christmas number of some magazine. I wonder where Mr. Trippels is—we must get the belfry key—but stay,—we'll just go across the churchyard to the vicarage. I believe the vicar has a key of his own and it will save time; you can come too if you like."

Thereupon both pedagogue and pupil crossed the Abbey yard, and entered the vicarage garden, and rung the bell at the front door.

Now the Rev. Jabez Orthodox had invited oue of his curates to dine with him that evening. The curate being a bachelor, his vicar thought it would be more lively for him to dine at the vicarage than to be alone in his lodgings on Christmas Eve, and both vicar and curate were discussing matters parochial after dinner when Dr. Swishem and his pupil were announced. The Doctor soon explained his errand, but it turned out that the vicar had only a key to the church, and not one to the belfry staircase. "Have you any idea where we should be likely to find Mr. Trippels?" said the vicar. Dr. Swishem said he didn't know, but Montague said "Please, Sir, I think he'll be down at at the 'Crown,' er—I mean the ringers room at the 'Crown and Mitre Hotel.'" All three clergymen recollecting the habits of the ringers generally, and Mr. Trippels in particular, thought that Montague's suggestion was probable. The curate undertook to go and find him, and made his way across the churchyard, through the market place and into the yard of the "Crown and Mitre." When he arrived all the company of ringers had left, except Mr. Trippels, whom he found standing in the bar and having a final glass before going home. Matters were soon explained, and Mr. Trippels having the keys with him, the curate and he went at once to the Abbey. By this time the Vicar, Dr. Swishem and Montague had arrived at the west doors. These were soon opened and the staircase door unlocked. Mr. Trippels and the curate ascended the stairs with a lanthorn, while the rest of the party remained below. On gaining the bell chamber they found Mr. Bounce in the position before described.

"Oh, Trippels," said he, "I'm in such a predicament. I came up to see you to-night, and you were'nt here, so I went up to have a look at the bells, and then you began to ring, and I could'nt get out, and I've been here ever since."

"So it seems," said Trippels, dryly. "All I can say is that I hope you've had a pleasant evening, but why on earth did'nt you come out when we stopped?" Mr. Bounce then explained his fears of sending some of the bells off.

"Pooh!" said Trippels, swinging himself along the frame between the lips of the upturned bells to where Mr. Bounce was, "Now give me your hand." Mr. Trippels then half led aud half carried the affrighted churchwarden across the frame and safely deposited him on the stairs. They then went down, and Mr. Bounce related his adventure to the Vicar and Dr. Swishem below.

The vicar insisted upon the whole party adjourning to the vicarage. On their arrival there he gave Montague a glass of wine and as many oranges as he could cram into his pocket, and Dr. Swishem sent him to the school, where he recounted the whole adventure to au admiring audience in the dormitories. As for the rest of the party the vicar suggested that "something hot" would not be amiss, and thereupon he insisted on their partaking a stiff glass of grog all round. This, Mr. Bounce especially, was very glad of, as he had been nearly frozen.

Trippels and the curate lit their pipes (the other three were not smokers), and it was past midnight when the party broke up.

Christmas morning dawned clear and frosty, and Mr. Bounce was awakened at an early hour by the Abbey Bells. When he got up he found himself not much the worse for his last night's adventure.

Before morning service he went up into the belfry and wished Mr. Trippels and the rest of the company. "A Merry Christmas," and then presented them the donation he had intended giving them on the previous evening.

I need not go through all the events of that Christmas Day, as nothing unusual occurred. After this Mr. Bounce forbore to meddle with matters which he did not understand, and by Easter he had become quite accustomed to the duties of his office, so that he was then unanimously re-elected; and before another Christmas the church officials and the parishioners generally came to the conclusion that the new churchwarden was "not such a bad sort after all."

THE RINGERS.—(OLD STYLE.)

The old church bells were merry, merry bells, altho' they were but three,
The Ringers too as jovial set, as ringers ought to be.
Now it happened once upon a time, but when I can't reveal,
That these old ringers sallied forth to ring a midnight peal.

They spent their evening as before, in soaking well their clay,
And when they sallied forth to ring could scarcely see their way.
To see them walk, and hear them talk, along the road was rich,
And strange to tell one old boy fell and rolled into the ditch.

They pulled him out, then to the church these ringers did repair
Unlocked the door, then on their knees went scrambling up the stairs;
They oft' their coats and seized the ropes, but could not start at all,
'Till each man had to make his stand, with his back againstthe wall.

The bells begun, with three, two, one, and then went one, three, two,
For on that night to ring them right was more than they could do.
They stamped and tugged, and blowed and lugged, nor was it long before,
The big bell ringer missed his pull and tumbled on the floor.

He soon got up and seized his rope and tried with might and main,
But every time he tried to ring he tumbled down again.
The other two whose eyes were shut, kept on their bells a-ringing
Till one says "Stop, we'll have a drop, and finish up with singing"

The bells they stopt, and down they sat upon the belfry floor,
And drank till all the beer was gone, of that you may be sure.
Then groping back their way downstairs, as homeward they did reel,
Each one declared, he'd never heard, a better midnight peal.

For it really is a funny thing, the tales that I've been told,
It shows us clear, what ringers were, in the merry days of old.

THE TOCSIN.—The word Tocsin will be familiar to most, in connection with the sounding of an alarm by means of tolling a large bell, generally the largest in the principal church tower of the town, city, or village, as the case may be. The word seems to be derived from the Portugese tongue; in that language "sino" is a bell, while to "tocca" is to "make" or "do," or as we say, to play a musical instrument. Thus to "tocca rebecqua" is to play the violin, while the Blacksmith will shout to his assistant or hammerman to "tocca," "tocca," when he wants him to strike, or "do" his work; So "tocca-sino" is to ring the bell, and thus "Tocsin."

INNOCENCE (A fact).—Tom was a hardened criminal of about three and a half years; manifold had been his transgressions, culminating in stealing a bun from the confectioner's counter while his mother and the man of flour and jam were discussing matters at the other end of the shop. The infamy of this act was duly impressed upon Tom's mind at bed and prayer time, and must have sunk very deep, for the next morning at the breakfast table, with his mouth full of bread and butter, he said, "Mamma, do you fink God'll give me anover chance?"

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE TRUE HISTORY OF THAT AMBITIOUS TENOR MAN.

"*The Belfry*,"
Christmas Eve, 1888.

You'll recollect some time ago I wrote a short narration
About a simple Tenor-man, a man of aspiration,
Who, at vast expense, and enterprise, well worthy of the cause
Had purchased all the costly tomes that treat upon the laws—

Of scientific ringing; and had bothered his weak brains,
And at length achieved a peal of Grandsire Caters for his pains.
And how his friend (?) the Teacher-man had disappeared from view
These incidents, perchance dear Sir, are borne in mind by you.

Now this peal of Grandsire Caters had so puffed him up with pride,
That he strutted round quite haughty, and piled on lots of side,
While his costume underwent a metamorphosis so vast,
As recalled to an observant eye some pictures of the past.

Before his Grandsire Cater days, he'd mount a modest tile
Of felt, round topped and dark in hue, and quiet as to style,
But now to ape a College Youth is what he would be at,
To invested four-and-ninepence in a sleek Bell-topper bat.

Having thusly aped the apex of the College Youths attire,
To clothe his nether man appropriately did aspire,
So to St. Martin's Lane he went, and to a tailor there
An order gave, which rather made Sartorio to stare.

Said he "I know the Cumberlands, those noble ringing swells,
Whose meeting house is in this Lane, they ring St. Martin's bells,
When ringing, blithe as butterflies, industrious as ants:"
So make for me, same style as theirs, some wide Bell-bottomed pants.

Now wide Bell-bottomed trousers, as you dear Sir, well know,
Are not just now the fashion, and they make a man look low;
He then with most perverted taste, discarded modern hose
And like the dame of Banbury Cross, hung Bells upon his toes.

A swell of this strange type of course had views about his neck,
Which might be termed advanced, indeed he'd always worn large check,
But checks were now discarded, and he studied with a view
To clothe his throat to mark his taste, and still be loud in hue.

So he bought a large sized bicycle, and on it hung *eight* Bells,
The extra seven to mark him off from other cycling swells;
Then off he wheeled to Macclesfield, and of Matthews of that ilk,
Purchased forty "ringers' badges," splendid neckerchiefs of silk.

Fom Macclesfield to Birmingham, and found John Carter there,
Had some chat on ringing matters, and then John displayed his ware,
Of gold, or silver, copy of Great Paul, our man debated
Within himself, then bought them both, and went his way elated.

He always lit his pipe with matches, of the make of Bell and Black,
And his modest quenchers purchased either at the "Bell and Mackrell in the Mile End Road, or travelled on until he reached Cornhill,
Then at the "Bell" in Gracechurch St. his pipe and glass he'd fill.
(Note.—And empty two or three times).

With costume thus conspicuous he did'nt feel small beer,
But felt a something wanting to crown his costume queer;
So when he went a courting, and was walking out his gell (*groans*)
(Rhymes are a fearful drain on the brain *space* of the unaccustomed rhymester, Mr. Editor).
For a buttonhole he always wore a Canterbury-Bell.

All this was fairly praiseworthy, but I grieve to have to say,
From his lofty aspirations this young man fell away;
The Bell idea he'd worked quite dry, he had no further hopes,
(That young "gell's" name was Sally), so he turned his mind to ropes.

The state required a servant, a man whose "line" was cord.
'Mong'st others (some were Baronets), our hero sent in word
That he the post would undertake; but he did not get the place,
And the Exercise are thankful that they're spared the sad disgrace.

What's that I hear you say, dear Sir? I thought you murmured "space,"
And that "Comps and Printers' Devils are not of patient race:"
The hero's name you'd like to know? ah! that I must not tell,
But by special Act of Parliament, 'tis lately changed to Bell.

And so, dear Mr. Editor, I hope that the individual is now happy, and will not worry your readers any more with his vagaries, which have become as tiresome to them, no doubt, as they have to

Yours (more or less) rythmically,
THE WANDERING BELL-HAULER.