THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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No. 353.—*VOL.* VII. SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1889. ONE PENNY.

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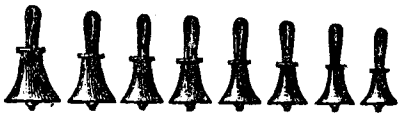

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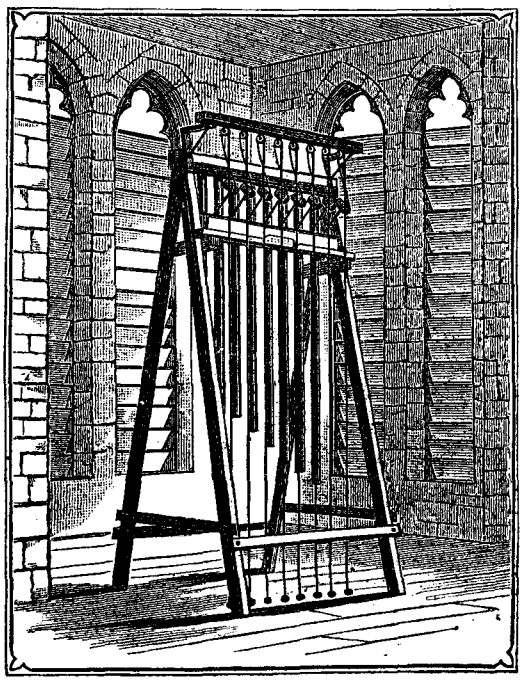

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THE SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS, GREENWICH. PRESENTATION TO THE REV. H. A. COCKEY.

A meeting specially convened for the purpose of bidding farewell and presenting a testimonial to the late Treasurer, the Rev. Herbert A. Cockey, M.A., was held at St. Alphege church, Greenwich, on Friday evening, December 21st, 1888, Messrs. W. Weatherstone, F. W. Thornton, W. G. Davis, H. Bright, H. Hill, and several others being present.

Mr. W. WEATHERSTONE presided, and in opening the proceedings said he was sure every member of the Society shared his regret that Mr. Cockey was about to leave them so soon, and after alluding to the approaching marriage of the rev. gentleman in felicitous terms, concluding by calling upon Mr. Frederick W. Thornton to read the following address :

"To the Rev. Herbert A. Cockey, M.A.—On behalf of the members of the society of Trinity Youths, we, the undersigned, beg to offer you our sincere and heartfelt congratulations on your appointment to the vicarage of Oldland, Gloucestershire, and at the same time to express our profound regret that your connection with this society must of necessity be partially severed.

During the brief period you have resided amongst us you have, by your great kindness and sound advice, become endeared to every change-ringer in the district. We can never forget that it was entirely through your efforts the revival of our Ancient Society was brought about and met with such success, and since its revival you have ever been ready with your help and good counsel to forward in every way the interests of this Society, and the Exercise generally.

We therefore ask you to kindly accept this small gift as a token of our esteem and regard, and also as a mark of gratitude for the services you have rendered us. By your removal from this neighbourhood, we lose a true friend and valuable adviser, nevertheless, we fervently pray that God may grant you good health and long life, and abundantly bless your good work in the new sphere of labour to which you have been called.

Signed on behalf of the society of Trinity Youths.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE, *Master.*
FREDERICK W. THORNTON, *Secretary.*
WILLIAM BEDWELL, *Steward.*

Greenwich, December, 1888.

The CHAIRMAN then uncovered the presentation, which consisted of a very handsome marble timepiece, subscribed for by members and friends of the society connected with the following churches, viz., St. Alphege, Greenwich, St. Margaret's, Lee, St. John's, Deptford, St. Mary's, Lewisham, St. Mary's, Woolwich, and St. Paulinus, Crayford, etc.

The Rev. H. A. COCKEY, in reply, said—Mr. Weatherstone, Mr. Thornton, and gentlemen: I beg to offer you my hearty thanks for your very beautiful gift, which I can assure you has quite taken me by surprise. I had no idea that there would be any thought of making me a present after so short a stay amongst you. It would be false modesty to try and make out that I have not done much for the Society, for my position as one of the regular staff of clergymen in the neighbourhood has enabled me to do for the society what perhaps none but a resident clergyman and a ringer could have done. But at the same time you must not give me too much credit, for others had been preparing the way by awaking an universal desire among the ringers of the district that the Ancient Society of Trinity Youths should be revived, and though I helped to *hatch* the egg, it was most certainly *laid* by others. What I have done has been a real pleasure to me, bringing me in contact, as it did, with so many pleasant companions, and giving me so many pleasant evenings of ringing. I have always found ringers' meetings most agreeable and attractive. The first, in the way of a society's meeting, that I attended, were those of the Essex Association, and I found that so many kind and hearty friends were made in this way, and the day was always so enjoyable, that each one I attended made me more eager to be present at the next. And I have always found it the same since then, wherever I have been amongst ringers. But, when one has to do with the setting on its legs of a society like ours, the interest is doubled, and the friendship between myself and the members is even stronger, and I feel that though I shall be partly severing my connection with the society by going so far away, I shall always take a deep interest in it, and shall always be ready and glad to do anything I can for it, either by advice to its members, or by endeavouring to influence the clergy of the neighbourhood in its favour. I am strongly convinced of the need for such a society in this district, where only one or two bands existed which were able to ring their eight bells in changes without extraneous aid, and where there were good ringers scattered about, one here and one there, and where there are so many who can handle a bell, and yet know nothing of change-ringing, because they had no opportunity of practising the art.' I have seen enough since I first learnt to pull a bell, in my fourteenth year, to feel sure that change-ringing is the one road to friendliness, good fellowship, and unanimity amongst ringers, because we find that if we are to get on with the science, we must pull together with the other ringers, and do our best to keep good temper and mutual forbearance in our midst. In leaving this neighbourhood, I have the happy assurance that I take with me the friendship and goodwill of a band of some thirty or forty brother-ringers, all of whom were entirely unknown to me nine months ago, and that is something that I *know* to be well worth the winning, for a ringer's friendship is always warm and hearty, and does not fade with the lapse of time. This handsome present will always serve to bring before me the faces of those who gave it, and to call to my mind the pleasant evenings we have spent together in our various belfries. I suppose I must say a word of thanks to you on behalf of the lady whom I hope before long will be my wife, and who of course will be then "endowed" with this clock amongst other "wordly goods" which I now call mine. Our worthy Master has raised my spirits ninety per cent. by the glowing description he gave just now of the felicity of married life, and I am sure my *fiancée*, the grand-daughter of such a noted ringer and authority on bells as the late Mr. Ellacombe, would attach great weight to the opinion of the Master of the Trinity Youths. I am sure, gentlemen, she will for the same reason value most highly this beautiful present, and the goodwill of which it speaks. For her, and for myself, I thank you most heartily. The clock shall take its stand shortly, if all is well, on the chimney piece of my study at Oldland. For the good wishes and kind expressions of esteem set forth in the accompanying address, I return you, if possible, even warmer thanks, but I feel that I can never express to you in words the extremely high value that I attach to your goodwill towards me.

Mr. F. PALMER (St. John's, Deptford), and Mr. H. BRIGHT (Woolwich), on behalf of the ringers of the respective churches, thanked Mr. Cockey for the kind assistance he had given them, and hoped for the pleasure of a few peals with him whenever he visited them again.

On the motion of Mr. FREDK. THORNTON, seconded by the Rev. H. A. COCKEY, a cordial vote of thanks was given to Mr. Weatherstone for presiding, and that gentleman having replied, the interesting proceedings were brought to a close.

Prior to the meeting several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the bells, conducted by the Rev. H. A. Cockey, and Mr. W. Weatherstone.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12th, at Christ Church, Southport. Ringing from 2 p.m.; meeting in the school at 6 p.m. This meeting is specially arranged at Southport, with the object of furthering the recently formed Liverpool Diocesan Branch, and it is hoped that all the ringers in the diocese will avail themselves of the opportunity, as the resolutions passed at the meeting held in Liverpool will be brought before this meeting for confirmation.

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

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., which will be free to all ringing members whose subscriptions are paid up. The tea will be followed by the usual business meeting, at which subscriptions for the current year will be received. Tower open for ringing in the afternoon and evening.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

NEW BELLS AT BURGHFIELD, CHURCH, OXFORD.

Some time ago a movement, having for its object the thorough renovation of the parish church bells, was originated in Burghfield; and now through the liberality of Mr. Richard Benyon, Mr. A. Harvey Thursby, Mr. T. Bland Garland, the Rev. D. O. Harington (rector of the parish), Mr. James Dewe, and other inhabitants of Burghfield and neighbourhood, the old bells, one of which was badly cracked, have, with a slight addition to their metal, been recast and returned to the belfry. The total cost has been about £250, and the six new bells weigh in the aggregate 46 cwt. 3 qrs. 21 lbs. on the former peal. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel, and has by them been performed in a very satisfactory manner; the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, reporting of the bells that "they are brilliant in tone, and perfectly in tune one with another," and that "better bells of the weight there could not be."

The old bells were removed from the belfry on September 5th last, when a good photograph of them was taken by the curate, the Rev. H. Mawson, prior to their being sent to the foundry. A serious defect of the former peal was the precarious state of the fittings and framework, which allowed a rather alarming amount of oscillation. This has been remedied by having in addition to new bells, an entire new oaken framework erected to carry them in two tiers. The upper tier bears two and the lower four bells—a mode of hanging which by giving more stability to the lower portion, also considerably lessens the oscillation. This is the more noticeable, as formerly the bells were hung in two tiers each bearing three bells.

An apparently minor, though practically important improvement also made is the manner in which the bell-ropes are now hung. Formerly the ropes were hung without any regard to their proper order—a state of things which prevented anything like accurate ringing; now, they are hung round consecutively, and the improvement is obvious to all who have the least acquaintance with ringing.

The ceremony of the dedication of the bells to the service of God was performed on Thursday, December 20th, by the Rural Dean (the Rev. I. B. Burne, Vicar of Wasing) assisted by the Rev. Canon Cornish (Ufton), F. C. Robinson (Drayton), and H. Mawson (Burghfield), the Rector of the parish (the Rev. D. O. Harington) being unable to be present owing to illness.

The service commenced at noon with the singing of hymn 303 (A. & M.), "When morning gilds the skies," after which a shortened form of morning service was gone through. The sermon, an appropriate and able one, was preached by the Rural Dean, the text being taken from Numb. x., 3.10. The preacher first briefly alluded to the occasion of meeting, and after dwelling upon the necessity of dedication, proceeded to state some of the superstitions connected with bells in ancient times, but now happily dispersed. He then went on to speak of the office of bells, and expressed the hope that the ringers would remember their holy office, and strive to make themselves worthy of it. Speaking of the history of the use of bells for religious purposes, he said that trumpets continued in use for a long time among the Israelites, and also among the early Christians: but in the times of persecution the latter gave notice of services personally. The cry of "Alleluia" was also used among some sects as a means of calling to worship. The first mention of bells as a means to give notice of services in Britain appeared to have been early in the 6th century, when handbells, something like a sheep bell, were used in Scotland and Ireland. The first bell erected in England was at Wareham about the middle of the 6th century; while the first peal was that mentioned by Ingulphus, the historian, as being in use at Croyland Abbey during the 10th century. From that time bells appeared to have been the general manner of calling to worship, and amongst those who, from the introduction of the bells paid attention to the art of bell-ringing, were the Archbishops Dunstan and Lanfranc. As to the method of ringing, there was still in existence a copy of the rules drawn up for the guidance of the ringers at Lichfield Cathedral, where it appeared that the bells were rung consecutively at first and then all together with a crash. The preacher dwelt further upon the influences of bells, remarking that they brought a message from God "To taste and see how gracious the Lord is," and to the sick "To put their trust in the Lord." In conclusion, he earnestly besought all to pray that God would attune their hearts that they might be in perfect union with him above.

The sermon being over, the officiating clergyman proceeded to the belfry, where, after the senior churchwarden (Mr. Dewe) had read a request on behalf of the rector and churchwardens that he would dedicate the bells to God's service, the dedication service was performed according to the forms provided for the occasion.

After the service a short touch was rung on the bells, and the clergy, the churchwardens, the ringers (who included several from Beenham), the Rev. G. F. Coleridge from Caversham; Messrs. Newell and Johnson from Reading; and Mr. Washbrook, together with others invited, proceeded to the New School, when they sat down to a cold collation, excellently catered for by Mr. Sherval.

The usual loyal toasts were given, after which "The Bishop and Clergy," coupled with the names of the Rector, the Rural Dean, and Mr. Robinson, was proposed by the Chairman (Mr. A. H. Thursby).

The Rev. H. MAWSON responded on behalf of the Rector, and referred to a note which he had received from him expressing the regret he felt at not being able to be present.

The RURAL DEAN, in returning thanks for the general toast, mentioned the thanks the parishioners owed to Mr. Dewe, whose services he highly eulogised.

The Rev. F. E. ROBINSON also spoke a few words, thanking the churchwardens for the kind way in which they had referred to his services, which he assured them were always at their disposal if needed. He congratulated them on their beautiful peal, and urged the ringers to improve themselves, for which purpose the services of Mr. W. Newell, one of the best instructors in the district, would be afforded, if required. He also expressed the hope that they would look after their bells, which, like many other things, required attention. Mr. Dewe, in acknowledging the kind remarks of the Rural Dean, said that had it not been for the liberal help he had received from the parishioners, they would not have been able to acomplish so much: as for himself, he had only done his duty. Mr. W. Newell made a few remarks on the bells, describing them as a pretty musical peal.

The party then adjourned to the church, where a 720 was rung through in less than half an hour. This completed the formal days' proceedings, but changes were rung at various times throughout the day till nine p.m., when all was brought to a conclusion.

As a fitting memorial of the occasion a leaflet, headed with a pretty little woodcut of the church, and containing some original stanzas entitled "The voice of the bells,"—the joint production of the Rector (Rev. D. O. Harington) and curate (Rev. H. Mawson), was distributed to each person present at the morning service and at Advent evening service.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The next Quarterly Meeting of this society will be held at All Saints', West Bromwich, on Saturday, January 12th. Members assemble at the tower at 2.30 p.m. J. R. KEBLE, *Hon. Sec.*

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—ROSSENDADE BRANCH.

The next ringing meeting of the above branch will take place on Saturday, January 12th, at the parish church, Haslingden. Bells ready at 2.30. Meeting in the school at 6 o'clock.

J. T. STOTT, *Local Sec.*

SALISBURY (Wilts).—On Wednesday, December 19th, at St. Martin's church, 1120 of Kent Treble Bob Major. W. J. Prince, 1; A. W. Barkus, 2; W. S. Wise, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; A. P. Goddard, 5; H. D. Adams, 6; J. R. Jerram, 7; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 8. And on Saturday, December 22nd, 1296 of Bob Major. A. W. Barkus, 1; S. Lawrence, 2; W. S. Wise, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; J. Blackbourn, 5; H. D. Adams, 6; J. R. Jerram, 7; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 8.

RE-OPENING OF THE BELLS OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, MONMOUTH.

The bells of this parish church during the century and a half which they have been in existence having become worn and thin in places, and in danger of being cracked by the repeated striking of the clappers on particular places, the vicar, the Rev. E. J. Hensley, some time ago called in Mr. G. Phillott, of Cheltenham, a practical and experienced ringer, and Mr. J. Belcher, captain of the Cheltenham society, who gave their services gratuitously, and examined the bells. Acting upon their opinion the vicar convened a meeting of parishioners, when it was resolved that a tender from Messrs. Warner and Son, of the Cripplegate Foundry, offering to quarter-turn the bells, re-hang them, and put them into a thorough going condition be accepted. Messrs. Warner completed their share of the contract, and the formal re-opening of the bells took place on Thursday, December 6th. During the afternoon the newly restored bells were put to a practical test by the Cheltenham society, who rung various touches of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples, Mr. J. Belcher, the captain, conducting. J. Belcher, 1; W. Morris, 2; W. T. Pates, 3; W. Hooper, 4; F. Musty, 5; G. Phillott, 6; G. Aycocks, 7; A. W. Humphries, 8.

At five o'clock the Cheltenham and Chepstow ringers with a few friends sat down to an excellent dinner which had been prepared for them at the "Beaufort Arms," Hotel by Mrs. Garrett.—Mr. J. Belcher presided, and Mr. H. Stephen Lewis occupied the vice-chair. The Rev. E. J. Hensley said grace, but was unable to stay to sit down with the company. After dinner the toast of the "Church and Queen" was given from the chair, and duly honoured.—The Chairman then proposed the health of the Vicar, and in the course of some remarks alluded to the visit of himself and Mr. Phillott when they inspected the bells; he also spoke of the work of restoration of the bells by Messrs. Warner as having been performed in a very satisfactory manner. There were a few minor faults, such as a little stiffness in the working of the tenor bell, but he thought they would perhaps come right of themselves in time.—The toast was befittingly received, and Mr. H. S. Lewis responded on behalf of the vicar.—The vice-chairman proposed the health of Mr. Belcher, and, in replying, that gentleman gave them some good advice, the outcome of his nearly 50 years experienee as a ringer. He told his hearers that they must not expect to learn all the science of bellringing in the belfry, they should pick out their changes at home, and meet together and practise them on handbells. Mr. Phillott thanked the vicar, churchwardens, and ringers of Chepstow for the kind reception and hospitality according to himself and his brother Cheltenham ringers. He re-echoed the opinion of Mr. Belcher as to the work done by Messrs. Warner. In the course of his observations he said they had present amongst them a veteran ringer in the person of Mr. W. Morris, who was 79 years of age last birthday, but was yet able to ring a peal or two with any man. Messrs. Belcher, Phillott, W. Morris, and another ringer then gave an example of the intracacies of change-ringing by performing a course of Grandsire Caters on handbells, after which the company separated, the Cheltenham visitors having to return by the seven o'clock train.

In the evening, Divine Service was held in the church and attended by a large congregation. Besides the Lord Bishop of Llandaff the following clergy were present. Revs. E. J. Hensley, M.A., vicar of Chepstow; W. H. Williams, M.A., rector of Portskewett and rural dean (who also acted as bishop's chaplain); W. E. Rosedale, M.A., Vicar of Tiutern; R. Qoarrell, Chepstow: Watkin Daivies, B.A., vicar ot Matherne; N. Shafto Barthropp, M.A., vicar of Itton; and Pitt Ekyn Vicar of Magor and Redwick. The serviee opened with the hymn 'Blessed city, heavenly Salem.' followed by the openiog prayer of the Evening sevice, and the 19th Psalm. The Rev. W. H. Williams read the lesson.

After some special prayers had been read, the Bishop took for his text the tenth chapter of Numbers, verse 10, "Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginning of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, that they may be to you a memorial before your God. I am the Lord your God." The Bishop made allusions to the occasion of the service, and then to the uses of the bells in calling people to worship. At one time people were called together by couriers, by rattles, by trumpets—which had been succeeded by bells. He spoke of the introduction of the four-sided bell in the 7th centuary. He described bells as the Church's messenger, inviting all to the marriage feast and the food that was awaiting to supply their spiritual needs; they proclaimed the communion of loving hearts. He spoke of the bells as superseding the uses of the trumpet as described in the text; their speaking out of the solemn funeral knell and their ringing on occasions of national and domestic joy and bereavement. The bells and tower were to the people generally what the preacher and the pulpit were to the congregation—they taught lessons of Christian love and sympathy, and warned the people to meet their God. He deprecated the disgraceful scenes that were formerly only too common in the belfries: the belfry was a part or member of the church and should contribute to the usefulness of the whole.

A hymn, 'Now again our bells have mounted,' was sung whilst the collection was being made, and the choir retired from the choir stalls to the organ-gallery, where with the assistance of several ladies and gentlemen of the town they sang Mendelssohn's "Lauda Zion." Mr. A. E. Kingsford presided at the organ, and the quartette in the piece was sung by Miss E. Kingsford, Miss Rowe, Miss F. Bluett, and Mr. C. H. Clarke. The benediction, pronounced by the Bishop, brought the service to a close.

THE LONG PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS AT APPLETON, BERKS.

On Monday, December 31st, ten members of the Oxford Guild succeeded in ringing at the first attempt, 15,041 of Stedman Caters. As it wasthewish of the ringers to ring the peal in the year 1888, and as permission could not be obtained till the very last day of the year, with short notice the band assembled, several of them not knowing for certain if the peal was on or not till the day previous. However, nine o'clock saw nine of the band on the spot, some having had to come a long distance that morning. The tenth man, Mr. Avery, had not turned up. However, determined to have a start, one of the band started of to the next village to find the missing one, and found him quite busy, thrashing corn. The corn thrashing was soon under fresh hands, and at 10.30 the fine peal of ten bells struck off into Stedman Caters, the striking being splendid, up till four o'clock, when one of the band attemped to go in awrong way. That was soon remedied, and the bells struck along as well as ever for two more hours, then another little hitch occurred which seemed to wake the men up to some downwright good hitting, which was kept up till the bells run round at 7.46 p.m. the whole peal being timed at four mins. to the course outside the tower, and the ringers were congratulated outside on ringing a first-class peal and it may mentioned that greatest credit is due to the tenor ringer for the way he had stuck to his work and struck his bell. The bell, like the 8th, requires a lot of pulling, owing to their being in the top tier of a shaky tower, nine feet square, sometimes pulling one arms nearly out, and sometimes not going up sufficiently, thus requiring double the pulling they should if they were steady, and to ensure sound striking, Notice was sent various ringers as there was no time for advertising in "THE BELL NEWS."

A HUNDRED POUNDS FOR A FAN.—Not for an old fan of historic or artistic interest; not for a relic to be preserved, and to show new generations how their forefathers lived; but a hundred pounds for a modern fan to be carried, soiled and ruined. Surely, of all vanities this is the vainest;* of all luxuries waste the most wantom. The art of the painter is not encouraged but degraded, and no one and no art is really benefitted by the extravagance; look at it how we may, there is no plea to be raised for this. A hundred pounds! What education it might bring to untaught aspiring talent—what pleasure to a hundred fanless, pretty girls! —*F. Mabel Robinsou, in "The Woman's World"* for January.

* The proposed attempt for the long peal of Bob Major at Warnham, on December 11th. 1888, had to be abandoned through one of the band falling ill. The attempt will be made as early as possible in the New Year.

RAWTENSTALL.

A large church clock has been erected in St. Mary's tower by John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works Derby. The new clock has four dials each 7 feet 6 inches across, it chimes the Cambridge quarters upon the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 7th bells, and strikes the hours upon the largest or tenor bell. All the latest improvements are incorporated in this clock so that perfect accuracy of timekeeping will be ensured in all states of the weather. Extreme states of the temperature and violent winds have a very trying effect on large clocks unless properly provided for. The dials are constructed of skeleton iron framework, glazed with white opal glass and will be illumiuated by gas at night. There is special automatic apparatus by which the gas will be turned on at sunset and off at sunrise. The clock movement with all the adjacent wheels and connections are fixed in the same room as the dials, the bells being in the room below. There is a thoroughly good glass case to protect the clock works. The main frame of the clock is of one solid casting of iron, planed smooth and true with all the various wheels, bushes, levers and fittings affixed to it by levers in such a way that any seperate one may be removed without interfering with the other parts. This is a great convenience in large clocks of this kind. All the wheels are of the finest gun metal, with their teeth cut from the solid so as to be perfectly accurate and smooth. The pinions into which the wheels gear are of the best cast steel properly hardened and tempered. There is a special apparatus for maintaining the action of the clock during winding—without such a contrivance the clock would stop several minutes every time of winding as may constantly be observed of old church clocks. There are two small dials upon the clock frame shewing minutes and seconds, by which the whole of the external hands will be regulated and set to time simultaneonsly. The escapement of this clock is a most important feature, as in conjunction with the peudulum it rules and governs the whole machine. There are many kinds of escapements, but the one here employed was invented by Lord Grimthorpe, the distinguished inventor of many valuable improvements in clockwork. It is called the double-three-legged-gravity, and drives a pendulum which is also compensated in such a manner by zinc and iron tubes that it always remains the same effective length throughout all changes in temperature. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, have carried out the whole of the work and the same firm are now making church clocks for all parts of the country.

HOLY TRINITY, OLD HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

The Holy Trinity Ringers had their Annual Supper on Wednesday, December 26th, at which the vicar, the Rev. E. Brewer, was present. In the course of a response to a hearty welcome, Mr. Brewer proposed the health of the Rev. C. W. Bassano, who has just been ordained, and is leaving the band for a curacy at Cheltenham. Mr. Bassano returned thanks commenting on the pleasure he had had in learning and achieving successes with the band from the commencement, and hoped to see glowing accounts of their progress in "THE BELL NEWS" from time to time.

The report for the year showed that 21 720's had been done in the following methods:—Grandsire, Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, College Single, Court Bob, Oxford Bob, Woodbine, Double Court, Double Oxford, and Association Exercise; and a peal of Bob Major (5376), and of Kent Treble Bob Major (5024). Members of the band have taken part in three peals of Grandsire Caters, and one of Grandsire Triples. Touches have been rung of Double Norwich and Duffield, in addition to the more common methods.

On Christmas Eve the band rang at midnight H. Reeves' quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins. The bells were rung half muffled on New Year's Eve before 12 o'clock, and a touch of Grandsire Triples afterwards.

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

Obituary.

JOHN BROOKS.

We have this week to record the death of the above veteran ringer, who died at Brighton on December 19th, aged 68 years. Deceased who was a native of Chailey, Sussex, commenced his ringing career at a very carly age, having to stand on a stool while trying to manage his bell. It is not known at present how many peals he has rang, but he succeeded in obtaining his first peal at Waldron, and it is believed his last peal was at Lewes. For some years he was a member of the Brighton society at St. Nicholas Church; only two members are left now that were connected with him at that time. In 1875 he left Brighton for Northampton, and joining the ringers there he soon after became captain of the band. He was a good ringer and conductor, and also a great lover of hand-bells. In the early part of 1888 his health began to fail, and he expressed a wish to return to Brighton, where he had spent many years of his life, and had many friends. Towards the end of the summer he visited St. Nicholas, and rang his last touch, a 350 of Grandsire Triples. He still kept getting gradually weaker, and as the year was drawing to a close, he passed away, leaving a widow, to whom he had been wedded for forty-four years, to mourn his loss, and also a daughter. The funeral took place at the Brighton cemetry on the 26th December. A wreath of flowers was placed on the coffin by two old ringing friends, Messrs. Hilder and Jay, and on the evening of the 27th the Brighton society met at St. Nicholas, and as a mark of respect to his memory rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled, particulars which will be found in another column. The Brighton ringers desire respectfully to express their sympathy with the family in their sad bereavement.

ROCHDALE, LANCASHIRE.

A tea party and ball was held by the Healey company at the Conservative Club on Saturday, December 8th, in honour of the marriage of the Rev. Robert Minnitt, M.A. The ringers and their friends, to the number of about fifty, sat down to an excellent knife and fork tea, their lady friends presiding at the tables. After tea the conductor was appointed chairman, who in a short address said it gave him very great pleasure to meet his fellow-ringers on all occasions, and congratulated them on the progress they had made in the art since they rang their first peal in February, 1887. Having cordially thanked the company for their presence, he hoped they would not forget to give the toast of the evening to the rev. gentleman to whose generous liberality the organisation of that party was due. The evening was then spent in singing and dancing till about eleven o'clock, when the company broke up by singing "Auld Lang Syne" and the National Anthem, everybody expressing themselves well pleased.

RINGERS' SUPPER AT NETHERTON.

On Monday evening, December 31st, the ringers of St. Andrew's church, with Messrs. W. Micklewright, sen. and jun., held their annual supper at the house of Mr. J. Prestidge, one of the ringers. A good substantial repast (of the old English style), was provided by the host and hostess in a splendid manner, and to which full justice was done. After the withdrawal of the cloth, a convivial hour was spent in which ringing was the topic, conversation suitable only for ringers' company. The remainder of the evening was spent in listening to some good songs and recitations, a very pleasant and harmonious evening being enjoyed by all. Soon after the hour of eleven they wended their way to the tower and rang good-bye to the year that is gone, and welcomed the New Year with joyous ringing, wishing one another a Happy New Year, and trusting that it will be a bright and prosperous one.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The next Quarterly Meeting of the above society will be held at the "White Swan" Hotel, Edmund Street, on Monday, January 7th, at 8 p.m., when all members are earnestly requested to attend.

W. BROOK, *Sec.*

11, *Tennant Street.*

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
J. George, Coventry	0	1	0
F Sinkins, Slough	0	5	0
W. Lincoln, Writtle	0	1	0
A. Edwards, Writtle	0	1	0
H. Scarlett, Stoke Newington	0	2	0
H. W. Elliott, do.	0	1	0
H. Spencer, do.	0	1	0
W. Waterman, junr. do.	0	1	0
G. Blaber, do.	0	1	0
G. Chalkley, do.	0	0	6
G. Waterman, sen. do.	0	0	6
H. Nunn, sen., Woodford	0	1	0
F. Nunn, Woodford	0	1	0
Romford Company, per A. J. Perkins	0	8	0
D. Lovatt, London,	0	5	0
J. Barry, London	0	1	0
Mr. Peart, St. Bride's	0	1	0
W. D. Mathews, London	0	2	0
Mr. Clarkson, do.	0	0	6
J. Wheeler, do.	0	0	6
E. E. Vinen, do.	0	2	6
Ilford Company, per W. F. Mumford	0	5	0
W. Moore, London	0	2	6
G. Newson, London	0	2	6
W. L. Chamberlain, London	0	2	0
A. E. Church, London	0	1	0
J. Woods, Kenninghall	0	1	0
Joseph Woods, Kenninghall	0	0	6
A lady, per H. Dains	0	1	0
Midhurst Company, per W. Selby	0	2	6
A Lancashire lad, Prescott	0	2	0
F. Rumens, Hackney	0	0	6
G. Page, Hackney	0	0	6
T. Page, Hackney	0	0	6
W. B. Manning, Walthamstow	0	1	0
A. S. Barrell, Walthamstow	0	1	0
T. Jackson, Hackney	0	1	0
W. H. Tubbs, Hackney	0	1	0
G. J. Smith, Hackney	0	1	0
W. D. Smith, Hackney	0	2	6
Total	£14	18	6

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
E. J. F.	0	1	0
Total amount with Treasurer	10	0	0

Further Subscriptions will be thankfully received by

W. J. FISHER.

The Imperial Hotel, Bournemouth.

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.*

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 1889.

THE peal recently performed at Fulham by the Burton-on-Trent Society has, with regret be it said, been the cause of an ebullition of feeling the reverse of friendly. In asserting this, we do not mean to contend that the blame lies all one side, for the correspondence of last week shows that some defenders of the peal can be as trenchant and spirited in their replies as the sceptic who initiated the agitation. There appears to be no great effort made by some of the writers in replying to Mr. WINNY, for the display of that courtesy by which the strictures of an opponent should be met, though the opponent himself should lack in this direction, as in this case he may have done. It frequently happens that sentiments put upon paper, or as our friend "FREE LANCE" says, "reduced to writing," do not always accurately or strictly convey the exact meaning uppermost in the mind of the writer. Consequently it is much better, especially with such a question as the performance of a peal, that endeavours should be made to settle the divergent points verbally, among the disputants themselves. No effort should be spared to bring about such a result, in order to avoid the unpleasant consequences that must ensue from a wordy war in public, when sometimes temper is apt to get the upper hand of judgment. Naturally the Burton gentlemen feel hurt at the accusations made against their performance, and their accuser, and others with him, feel that he has taken a proper course in publicly stating his opinions about it. We say nothing upon the points of dispute, only upon the manner in which the contention is being carried on.

Any one, we suppose, has a perfect right to doubt the truth of a peal which has been rung, or to call into question its quality. But these objections may be made in a way which would not affect the pleasant relationship which ought to exist between our ringing brethren, and any one who has an inclination therefore to combat the report that a "true peal" has been rung should be careful to avoid doing so in an objectionable or discourteous manner. Let us not be misunderstood. We are not even hinting that Mr. WINNY acted discourteously. That is for the Exercise to judge. We are speaking now in a general sense. Many there are who, hearing a doubt expressed of some performance, delight in propagating the rumour in unmeasured language, while at the same time they are totally unacquainted with the facts. We know districts which are blessed—or the reverse—with these sort of people, some of them of comparatively no standing in the Exercise; others whose strength of lung and blatant slander in language very far indeed from respectable, are the only modes they have of attaining a notoriety. The existence of this kind of person amongst us too painfully shows that with all our refinement we still retain much of the dross.

The Metropolis.

HAMPTON, MIDDLESEX.—THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

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

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.		Tenor 13 cwt.	
JAMES NICHOLLS	*Treble.*	JOHN M. HAYES	5.
HENRY R. NEWTON	2.	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL..	6.
GEORGE T. MCLAUGHLIN	3.	RICHARD T. WOODLEY ..	7.
HENRY LANGDON	4.	WILLIAM E. GARRARD ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by G. T. MCLAUGHLIN.

The ringers wish through this medium to thank the Vicar for his kind offer of a tablet to record the peal, and for the use of the bells; and Mr. W. Benn the steeple-keeper for having everything in readiness.

HIGHGATE.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANNE, BROOKFIELD,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

JOSEPH WOODS†	*Treble.*	THOMAS TITCHENER.. ..	5.
GEORGE NEWSON	2.	‡BENJAMIN FOSKETT	6.
W. L. CHAMBERLAIN* ..	3.	JOHN WOODS	7.
ARTHUR JACOB	4.	JAMES HANNINGTON.. ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN REEVES and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

†First peal. *First peal of Major. ‡First peal in the method. Messrs. Joseph and John Woods hail from Kenninghall.

The Provinces.

OXFORD.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 24, 1888, *in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,*
At Merton College,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Thrastans' Composition. Tenor 36 cwt.

William Finch	*Treble.*	Charles Hounslow ..	5.
Job Howes	2.	Thomas Payne..	6.
Frederick Castle	3.	James W. Washbrook ..	7.
Rev. F. E. Robinson ..	4.	A. Strange & A. Barney	*Tenor.*

Conducted by James W. Washbrook,

ABINGDON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*
At the Church of St. Helrn.
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;
Tenor 20 cwt.

Albert Kimbre..	*Treble.*	Edgar Humfrey	6.
Harry Sheard	2.	Harold Humfrey	7.
James W. Washbrook ..	3.	Harry Fruin	8.
Thomas Short	4.	John Brown	9.
Edward Aldworth	5.	Arthur Burgess	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by James W. Washbrook.

HERNHILL, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,*
At the Church of St. Michael,
A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Sottanstall's Ten-Part.

Edward E. Foreman* ..	*Treble.*	*Frederick T. Harris ..	5.
Herbert F. Foreman* ..	2.	†William W. Boulden ..	6.
George A. Ransom* ..	3.	Henry G. Fairbrass ..	7.
Rev. F. J. O. Helmore ..	4.	*Albert Allen	*Tenor.*

Conducted by Henry G. Fairbrass.

The Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, H. G. Fairbrass, and A. Allen hail from Canterbury; W. W. Boulden, G. A. Ransom, and F. T. Harris from Boughton, Blean; and the Brothers Foreman belong to the local company. *First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. The ringers desire to express their best thanks to the Vicar for the use of the tower and bells.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(The Crawley and Warnham Branches.)
On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,*
At the Parish Church,
A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt.

Edward Dewey..	*Treble.*	Benjamin King	5.
Thomas Andrews	2.	Frederick Wickens ..	6.
Walter Wadey	3.	†Frederick W. Rice ..	7.
Albert Ellis*	4.	Henry Burstow	*Tenor.*

Composed by Benjamin Annable, and Conducted by Frederick W. Rice.

*First peal with a bob bell. †First peal as conductor. Messrs. Andrews, Burstow, and Wadey hail from Warnham; the rest belong to the Crawley branch.

BETCHWORTH.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, *in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,*
At the Church of St. Michael,
5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;
Being a 720 *each of the following*:
Violet, Oxford, Kent Treble Bob, Grandsire, College Single, Oxford Bob, and Plain Bob.
Tenor 12½ cwt. in G♯.

Frank Sanders	*Treble.*	Edward Moses	4.
George Williams	2.	Ralph Arnold..	5.
Frank Arnold	3.	Walter Sadler	*Tenor.*

Conducted by G. W. Sadler.

This is the first peal on the bells. Mr. G. Williams hails from Midhurst, Sussex.

SOUTHPORT, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(The Liverpool Diocesan Branch,
On Wednesday, December 26, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,*
At Christ Church,
A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES:
In the Kent Variation. Tenor 10 cwt,

*John Bennett	*Treble.*	*John R. Pritchard.. ..	5.
*Richard Hill	2.	*William Ward	6.
David E. Rimmer	3.	*William Davies	7.
*John Aspinwall	4.	*Robert Williams ..	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by Robert Williams.

*College Youths. ‡First peal in the method.

Mr. Bennett hails from Kidderminster, Mr. Ward from Woodbridge, both of whom were elected members of the Association previous to commencing the peal. Messrs. Hill and Rimmer belong to the local society; the remainder to Liverpool.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 27, 1888, *in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes*
At the Church of St. Peter,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Thurstans' (Inverted.) Tenor 9 cwt.

Harry Sheard	*Treble.*	Harold Humfrey	5.
Albert Kimbrey	2.	Edgar Humfrey	6.
James W. Washbrook ..	3.	Harry Fruin	7.
Rev. F. E. Robinson ..	4.	Thomas Short	*Tenor.*

Conducted by James W. Washbrook.

T. Short's 50th peal.

EXETER.—THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD, AND THE ST. SIDWELL'S SOCIETY.

On Thursday, December 27, 1888, *in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,*
At St. Sidwell's Church,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Holt's Original. Tenor 24 cwt. in D.

Thomas Mudge*	*Treble.*	Ferris Shepherd	5.
William Stocker	2.	Edwin Shepherd	6.
Dr. A. B. Carpenter ..	3.	James Moss	7.
Stephen Binfield	4.	Thomas Lake	*Tenor.*

Conducted by Dr. A. B. Carpenter.

*First peal.

CROYDON, SURREY.
THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 27, 1888, *in Three Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,*
At the Church of St. Peter,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Holt's Ten-Part. Tenor 27 cwt, in E♭.

Alfred Arnold*	*Treble.*	†Henry Brooker	5.
William States	2.	Alfred Bruce..	6.
William J. Chambers ..	3.	Thomas Verrall	7.
Robert E. Pearson‡ ..	4.	George Burt	*Tenor.*

Conducted by W. States.

*First peal. ‡First peal in the method. The above was rung to commemorate the 20th, birthday of W. J. Chambers, his brother ringers wishing him many happy returns. This is also the first peal by W. States as conductor.

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On New Year's Day, 1889, *in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,*
At the Church of St. Mary,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;
Tenor 22 cwt.

Charles T. Hopkins ..	*Treble.*	William Bedwell	6.
Frederick G. Newman ..	2.	Frederick W. Thornton..	7.
Hirzel F. De Lisle, Esq.	3.	Rev. T. L. Papillon.. ..	8.
Arthur Edwards	4.	Rev. Herbert A. Cockey	9.
William Lincoln	5.	James Parmenter	*Tenor.*

Composed by John Cox, and conducted by Frederick G. Newman.

Mr. Thornton was elected a member of the Essex Association before starting for the peal.

STONHAM ASPAL, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 27, 1888, in 3 Hours and 13 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAMBERT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

STEPHEN WIGHTMAN, JUN.	*Treble.*	WILLIAM G. CRICKMER ..	5.
CHARLES MEE	2.	GEORGE WIGHTMAN.. ..	6.
FREDERICK MEE..	3.	ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN ..	7.
DAVID G. WIGHTMAN ..	4.	THOMAS STEWARD	*Tenor.*

Composed by D. PRENTICE, and Conducted by FREDERICK MEE.

First peal of Major by the treble and fifth men. Messrs. Mee and Steward hail from Ipswich: the rest are all members of All Saints', Brandeston, society.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEY.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE BRIGHTON BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in 2 Hours and 48 Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.

JESSE NEVES	*Treble.*	HENRY BONIFACE	5.
HARRY MILES*	2.	WILLIAM PALMER	6.
JAMES SEARLE	3.	HARRY WESTON	7.
JOHN FOX	4.	EDWARD BUTLER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES SEARLE.

*First peal.

MIDHURST.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE MIDHURST BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in Three Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES ON SIX BELLS;

BEING FOUR 720'S OF KENT TREBLE BOB, AND THREE 720'S OF PLAIN BOB.

W. COURT	*Treble.*	*J. LEE..	4.
G. BAKER	2.	G. BATTS	5.
C. TRIBE	3.	G. WILLIAMS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by G. WILLIAMS.

G. Baker hails from Arundel. *First peal in any method.

ARUNDEL, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

(THE ARUNDEL AND WARNHAM BRANCHES).

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

W. TWIGG	*Treble.*	F. LUXFORD	5.
G BALCHIN*	2.	E. EDE	6.
C. BLACKMAN	2.	H. H. CHANDLER	7.
W. SHORT	4.	C. HAYLER..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by G. BALCHIN.

*First peal as conductor. Messrs. Chandler and Short hail from Warnham.

ST. ALBANS, HERTS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS, AND THE HERTS AND ESSEX ASSOCIATIONS.

On Friday, December 29, 1888, in Two Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT 3a, ST. PETER'S STREET,

UPON HANDBELLS RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 12 size in F.

HENRY LEWIS	1-2.	GEORGE W. CARTMEL..	5-6.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM..	3-4.	RICHARD M. PRATT ..	7-8.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAM CARTMEL.

Umpire—Mr. Thomas Long.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in Four Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 8064 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

JOHN MASON*	*Treble.*	WALTER REA	6.
OLIVER JAMES	2.	GEORGE HAYWARD	7.
WILLIAM JAMES	3.	ALFRED MOORE..	8.
THOMAS ALBUTT	4.	GEORGE BARNE..	9.
WILLIAM ROBERT SMALL..	5.	JAMES PARRY	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HAYWARD.

*First peal in any method. This peal was rung to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the 12000 of Bob Major, rung on this date 1788. Mr. Small hails from Tipton, Staffordshire. The peal will be found in "THE BELL NEWS" for May 12th, 1888, This is the longest peal rung by the Association, and the longest peal on the ten bells

IPSWICH, SUFFOLK.

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

On Monday, December 31, 1888, in 3 Hours and 15 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-TOWER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 32 cwt. in C. Sharp.

WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE ..	*Treble.*	ROBERT HAWES	5.
FREDERICK TILLETT.. ..	2.	WILLIAM P. GARRETT ..	6.
ALBERT E. DURRANT.. ..	3.	ROBERT H. BRUNDLE ..	7.
HENRY BOWELL	4.	WILLIAM MOTTS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 29, 1888, in Three hours and Ten Minutes.

AT ST. MARTIN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

ARTHUR W. BARKUS	*Treble.*	THOMAS BLACKBOURN ..	5.
SYDNEY LAWRENCE	2.	ALFRED P. GODDARD ..	6.
WALTER S. WISE	3.	HENRY D. ADAMS	7.
CHARLES A. CLEMENTS ..	4.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD ..	8.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGATS of Chesterfield, and Conducted by WILLIAM H. GIFFORD.

CROYDON, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 31, 1888, in 3 Hours and 26 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF UNION TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 32 cwt. in Eb.

ROBERT E. PEARSON* ..	*Treble.*	WILLIAM STATES	5.
ARTHUR B. CARPENTER,..	2.	ALFRED BRUCE	6.
WILLIAM J. CHAMBERS*..	3.	THOMAS VERRALL	7.
HENRY BROOKER*	4.	WILLIAM HILL	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by Dr. A. B. CARPENTER.

*First peal in the method. This is Dr. A. B. Carpenter's fiftieth peal.

APPLETON BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD, APPLETON SOCIETY AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, December 31, 1888, in Nine Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 15,041 CHANGES;

Tenor 14¾ cwt. in Eb

FREDERICK WHITE	*Treble.*	REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	6.
CHARLES HOUNSLOW.. ..	2.	JESSE AVERY	7.
HERBERT BAKER	3.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK ..	8.
WILLIAM BENNETT	4.	REV. G. F. COLERIDGE ..	9.
GEORGE HOLIFIELD	5.	STEDMAN WHITE	*Tenor*

Composed and conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

This is the greatest number of changes yet rang on ten bells.

BRIERLEY HILL.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 27, 1888, in 3 Hours, and 7 Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

RICHARD PERKINS .. ..*Treble.* (2nd man left out)	*LAWRENCE W. GRIFFITHS 5.
THOMAS ALLDEN.. .. .. 3.	ALFRED BEDDALL .. .. 6.
ALFRED WHATMORE .. .. 4.	WILLIAM F. HARTSHORNE 7.
	HARRY HARTSHORNE ..*Tenor.*

Conducted by HARRY HARTSHORNE.

*First peal with a bob bell. The band meeting one short the second was left out and the tenor rung in. These bells have lately been rehung by Messrs. Barwell, of Birmingham, but the going of them is far from satisfactory.

BISHOPS STORTFORD, HERTFORDSHIRE.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 31, 1888, in 3 Honrs and 12 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIE T. PRIOR .. ..*Treble.*	HENRY PRIOR .. .. .. 5.
WALTER PRIOR.. .. .. 2.	*FREDERICK W. CHAPMAN 6.
CHARLES PRIOR .. .. .. 3.	PHILLIP SPRINGHAM .. 7.
GEORGE PRIOR .. .. .. 4.	HENRY J. TUCKER .. ..*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by HENRY J. TUCKER.

This peal which is now rung for the first time has the 4th and 5th each twelve times wrong, and sixteen times right, and the 6th. twelve times wrong and twelve times right, and was rung as an anniversary peal of a 6156 Grandsire Caters rung at the above church on December 30th, 1830. †First peal.

Date Touches.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LIVERPOOL.—On Monday evening, December 31st, the following members of St. Luke's Society rang the old year out with a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 6 mins. R. S. Mann, 1; P. Barton, 2; Wm. G. Mann, 3; F. W. Moore, 4; R. Branagan, 5; W. James, 6; John R. Pritchard, 7; R. Gowans, 8. Composed by John R. Pritchard, and conducted by R. S. Mann.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH (Leicestershire).—On Monday, December 17th, at the parish church, a date touch of Bob Major (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 9 mins. W. Liggins, 1; W. J. Smith, 2; J. Dunmore, 3; J. Hopkins, 4; W. Owen, 5; L. Bullock, 6; J. Jaggar, 7; W. Canner, 8. Composed and conducted by J. Jaggar. It is the longest length in the method by all the band, also the longest touch of Major ever rung on the bells.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE AND SUSSEX ASSOCIATIONS.

ST. ALBANS.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Wednesday, December 26th, at the business premises of Mr. H. Lewis, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1888 changes), in 55 mins. Henry Lewis, 1-3; E. Percy Debenham, 3-4; W. H. L. Buckingham, 5-6; George W. Cartmel (conductor), 7-8. Composed by John Carter.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

HAGLEY.—On Sunday, December 30th, a date touch of Bob Major (1888 changes), in 1 hr. 21 mins. C. Barrett, 1; T. Lees, 2; H. Morris, 3; J. Smith, 4; W. Short, 5; A. Orford, 6; H. Harris, 7; W. F. Hartshorne, 8. Composed and conducted by William F. Hartshorne.

AUGHTON (Lancashire).—On January 1st, at Christ Church, Aughton, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1889 changes, in 1 hr. 12 mins. H. Cave, 1; T. Taylor, 2; T. Eastham, 3; R. Foster, 4; N. Spencer, 5; W. Bentham, 6; C. Sharples, 7; T. Gardner, 8. Composed and conducted by R. Foster. Tenor 16¾ cwt.

ST. ALBANS.—On New Year's Eve, on the occasion of a midnight service, at the Cathedral, a half-muffled date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1888 changes, was rung in 1 hr. and 16 mins. R. A. Fowler, 1; E. Mitchell, 2; T. Grant, 3; R. M. Pratt, 4; J. C. Mitchell, 5; W. Battle, 6; G. W. Cartmel (conductor), 7; E. A. Hulks, 8.

MOSSLEY (Lancashire).—On New Year's Day, at the parish church, the Kirkburton company, and Mr. Jno. Holden (Mossley), rang a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, 1889 changes, in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. Copley, 1; John Holden, 2; A. Armitage, 3; R. Hill, 4; Jos. Copley, 5; Jos. Pickering, 6; Henry Shaw, 7; Henry Shaw, 8. Tenor 13 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

RYDE (Isle of Wight.)—On Christmas Eve, for evening service at the church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples 1260 changes), in 50 mins. A. R. Ward (first quarter-peal), 1; O. Coombes, 2; W. Ward, 3; W. Jennings, 4; H. Jennings (conductor), 5; J. Norris, 6; E. Hatcher, 7; A. Ward, 8. Also on Christmas Day, for evening service, 700 Grandsire Triples. S. V. Salisbury, 1; W. Ward, 2; A. R. Ward, 3; W. Jennings, 4; H. Jennings (conductor), 5; J. Norris, 6; E. Hatcher, 7; A. Ward, 8.

THE WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

WORCESTER.—On Wednesday, December 26th, at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. S. Cotton, 1; T. Barber, 2; W. Powell, 3; W. Short, 4; H. B. Kingsford, 5; W. Page (conductor), 6. Also 120 of Stedman Doubles. At St. Helen's 504 of Grandsire Triples. W. Powell, 1; T. Barber, 2; W. Short, 3; G. Hobbs, 4; H. B. Kingsford, 5; L. Longney (conductor), 6; W. Page, 7; T. Malin, 8. Also a 742 (taken from Holt's Original). S. Cotton, 1; T. Barber, 2; W. Powell, 3; W. Short, 4; G. Hobbs, 5; L. Longney (conductor), 6; W. Page, 7; T. Malin, 8. At St. John's church, 720 Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and twenty-six singles), in 26 mins. G. Hobbs, 1; T. Barber, 2; W. Short, 3; L. Longley (conductor), 4; W. Page, 5; H. Wilks, 6. And a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. G. Hobbs, 1; L. Longney (conductor), 2; W. Short, 3; T. Barber, 4; S. Cotton, 5; H. Wilks, 6. Also 120 each of Treble Bob and Stedman Doubles. Messrs. Short and Barber hail from Clent; L. Longney from Croome; the rest are local men.

NETHERTON.—On Sunday, December 30th, at the church of St. Andrew's, for morning service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25½ mins. E. Hampton, 1; B. Townsend, 2; J. Townsend, 3; R. Round, 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. Composed by the Rev. E. W. Carpenter "BELL NEWS," November 24th, 1888. Also for evening service (with the bells half-muffled it being the 16th anniversary of the death of Mrs. B. Skidmore, the donor of the bells), a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, in 26½ mins. W. Prestidge, 1; W. Micklewright, sen, 2; J. Townsend, 3; W. Micklewright, jun. 4; J. Prestidge, 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. And 720 of Kent Treble Bob in 27 mins. R. Round, 1; J. Prestidge, 2; J. Townsend, 3; W. Micklewright, sen. 4; W. Micklewright, jun., (conductor), 5; J. Smith, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

THE RAUNDS AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

RAUNDS (Northants).—On Saturday, December 29th, at the parish church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob and 720 of Kent. *W. Pettet, 1; A. H. Martin, 2; H. Stubbs, 3; *J. B. Martin, 4; W. J. Gilbert (conductor), 5; *Wm. Parker, 6. Also 360 Double Court. A. Coles, 1; W. J. Gilbert, 2; R. Pendered, 3; A. H. Martin, 4; W. Pettet, 5; J. B. Martin (conductor), 6. Also 360 College Little (twelve singles). A. Coles, 1; W. J. Gilbert, 2; R. Pendered, 3; J. B. Martin, 4; W. Pettett, 5; A. H. Martin (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

WOMBOURN.—On Sunday, December 23rd, at the parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins. G. Little, 1; G. Deans, 2; A. Little, 3; W. Devey, 4; H. Deans, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. And on Christmas day, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins. G. Little, 1; G. Deans, 2; H. Deans, 3; W. Devey, 4; R. Cartwright (conductor), 5; A. Little, 6. Also for evening service a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. G. Little, 1; G. Deans, 2; A. Little, 3; W. Devey, 4; H. Deans, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, December 30th, a 720 of Double Oxford Bob Minor, for evening service (nine bobs and 6 singles), in 26 mins. G. Little, 1; H. Deavs, 2; J. E. Claridge, 3; A. Little, 4; W. Devey, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. Tenor about 12½ cwt.

PENN.—On Sunday, December 30th, the local company from Wombourn rang for afternoon service at St. Bartholomew's church, a 720 of Double Oxford Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. G. Little, 1; H. Deans, 2; A. Little, 3; W. Devey, 4; J. E. Claridge, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6. Tenor 10½ cwt. First 720 in the method upon these bells.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

SLOUGH (Bucks).—On Thursday, December 13th, at St. Mary's church, for practice, 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 17 mins. W. Leader, 1; F. Sinkins, 2; R. Flaxman, 3; A. Andrews, 4; H. Reeves (Grenadier Guards), 5; W. Wilder, 6; A. C. Fussell (conductor), 7; T. Leader, 8. Tenor 9 cwt.

MAIDENHEAD.—On Wednesday, December 26th, at the church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). R. Biggs, 1; Fd. Biggs, 2; H. Stratford, 3; F. L. Free, 4; J. Evans, 5; F. Bissley, 6; J. W. Wilkins (conductor), 7; B. Page, 8. First quarter-peal by all except the ringers of the 6th, and 7th. Also a 671 in the same method. S. Goodchild, 1; J. W. Wilkins (conductor), 2; R Biggs, 3; F. L. Free, 4; J. Evans, 5; S. Quintin, 6; H. Stratford, 7; B Page, 8. And a 168. S. Goodchild, 1; F. Biggs, 2; H. Stratford, 3; F. L. Free, 4; J. Evans (conductor), 5; R. Biggs, 6; G. Bunce, 7; B. Page, 8.

GREAT MARLOW (Bucks).—On Wednesday, December 26th, at the parish church, a 112 of Grandsire Triples. E. W. Yates, 1; W. Hussey (conductor), 2; S. Goodchild, 3; F. Biggs, 4; F. L. Free, 5; J. Evans, 6; G. Bunce, 7; A. W. Truss 8. Also a 336. S. Goodchild, 1; W. Hussey (conductor), 2; F. L. Free, 3; H. Stratford, 4; J. Evans, 5; F. Biggs, 6; G. Bunce, 7; B. Page, 8. The Hughenden ringers take this opportunity of thanking the vicars of Boyne Hill and Great Marlow respectively, for the use of the bells.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SLEAFORD.—On Wednesday, December 26th, a mixed company from Lincoln visited this place, and attempted a Peal of Bob Triples on the fine peal at the parish church, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing 4,556 changes in 2 hrs. 42 mins. J. B. Fenton, 1; J. W. Watson, 2; H. Maidens, 3; H. Hoyes, 4; C. Wells, 5; L. Vickers (conductor), 6; D. W. Brown, 7; J. Ellard, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. The visitors take this opportunity of thanking the local ringers, especially Mr. Norman Snow, for having everything in readiness, and for their kind attention. This is the longest length rung by all except Messrs. Wells and Vickers.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

CROYDON (Surrey).—On Christmas Day, for early morning service, at St. John the Baptist's, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples 1260 changes, in 49 mins. H. Dudley, 1; W. J. Chambers, 2; A. Arnold, 3; H. Brooker, 4; T. Verrall, 5; W, States (conductor), 6; A. Bruce, 7; W. Hill, 8. Also a 504 in the same method. H. Dudley, 1; A. Arnold, 2; R. E. Pearson, 3; S. Fisk, 4; W. Statee, 5; H. Brooker (conductor), 6; T. Verrall, 7; A. Collins, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BOUGHTON-NEAR-FAVERSHAM.—On Sunday, December 30th, at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen singles and three bobs), in 26 mins. W. H. Hope, 1; J. Burch, 2; H. F. Foreman, 3; W. W. Boulden, 4; F. T. Harris, 5; G. A. Ransom (conductor), 6.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Monday evening, December 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins, with the bells half-muffled. T. Wragg, 1; W. Hexter, 2; J. C. Dicken, 3; S. Clarke, 4; W. Gilson, 5; J. Ward, 6; J. Barrow (conductor), 7; J. R. Ward, 8 (first quarter-peal). Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

BAGSHOT (Surrey).—On Thursday, December 27th, at St. Anne's Church, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). W. Haynes, 1; F. Francis, 2; Frank Francis, 3; W. Tidy, 4; T. Gould, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also a touch of Minor with W. Whittington, treble, and W. Haynes, tenor. Messrs. Haynes, Francis, Tidy and Whittington hail from Ewhurst. And on Saturday, December 29th, a 720 Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles). A. Harding, 1; H. Stapleton, 2; F. Francis, 3; O. Harding, 4; T. Gould, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also on New Year's Eve, a 720 of Bob Minor (26 singles). W. Stevens, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; F. Harding. 4; H. Stapleton, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also 720 Bob Minor to ring the old year out and the new one in (eight bobs and two singles). W. Stevens, 1; F. Francis, 2; T. Gould, 3; O. Harding, 4; H. Stapleton, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Tenor 21 cwt. And on hand-bells, several touches of Kent Treble Bob Minor by the same band.

BISHOP, STORTFORD (Herts).—On Christmas Day, December 25th, at the parish church, for early service, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Triples, in 43 mins. W. T. Prior, 1; W. Prior, 2; C. Prior, 3; G. Prior, 4; F. W. Chapman, 5; H. Prior, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; T. Newman, 8. Also for morning service, 672 of Plain Bob Triples. W. T. Prior, 1; C. Prior, 2; F. W. Chapman, 3; H. Prior, 4; W. Prior, 5; G. Prior, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; T. Newman, 8. And 209 of Grandsire Triples, standing as before. Also on New Year's Eve, 476 of Grandsire Triples. W. T. Prior, 1; F. W. Chapman, 2; H. Prior, 3; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 4; W. Prior, 5; G. Prior, 6; P. Springham, 7; T. Newman, 8. Also 336 of Plain Bob Triples. C. Prior, 1; W. Prior, 2; G. Prior, 3; H. Prior, 4; F. W. Chapman, 5; P. Springham, 6; H. J Tucker (conductor), 7; T. Newman, 8.

BROMSGROVE (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, December 30th, at the parish church, for Divine Service, in the morning, 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. W. James, 1; W. R. Small, 2; G. Hughes, 3; T. Albutt, 4; G. Hayward, 5; G. Bourne, 6; O. James, 7; W. Rea, 8. Also a touch of Plain Bob Major. And for Divine Service in the evening, 756 of Plain Bob Triples. G. Hayward, 1; W. Rea, 2; W. James, 3; W. R. Small, 4; O. James, 5; T. Albutt, 6; G. Bourne, 7; J. Parry, 8. The above touches were conducted by Mr. G. Hayward. W. R. Small and G. Hughes hail from Tipton.

CRADLEY (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday, December 25th, at the parish church, 720 of Bob Minor (twenty-six singles), with tenor behind. G. Dukes, 1; C. Beasley, 2; R. Beasley, 3; H. Woodall, 4; W. Woodall, 5; C. Daniel (conductor), 6; P. Beasley, 7. Also on Tuesday evening, December 4th, for practice, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. G. Dukes, 1; H. Woodall, 2; C. Daniel, 3; J. Meredith, 4; H. Harris, 5; C. Beasley (conductor), 6. H. Harris hails from Stourbridge.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—On Saturday, December 29th, at the parish church, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), taken from Holt's original. A. Harris, 1; G. Lindoff (conductor), 2; J. Baker, 3; W. Cooke, 4; W. Evans, 5; A. Haigh, 6; W. Haigh, 7; P. Taffs, 8. Also 546 Grandsire Triples. A. Harris, 1; G. Lindoff, 2; J. Baker, 3; A. Haigh (conductor), 4; W. Haigh, 5; W. Cooke, 6; W. Evans, 7; J. Wellard, 8.

GUILDFORD (Surrey).—On Sunday evening, December 30th, for Divine Service at the church of St. Nicholas, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 28½ mins. *C. W. Miller, 1; †J. Heathorn, 2; W. Groves, 3; F. W. J. Rees, 4; F. Bennett (conductor), 5; *J. J. Jones, 6. Two courses by E. Stone, and H. E. Hart. *First 720 on tower bells. †First 720 with a bob bell. And on handbells another 720 in the same method with T. H. Colburn on the 4th. Also on Monday night, December 31st, with the bells half muffled, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (with a call every lead), in 27½ mins. T. H. Colburn, 1 (first 720 on tower bells); T. Heathorn, 2; W. Groves, 3; F. W. J. Rees, 4; F. Bennett (conductor), 5; J. J. Jones, 6. And two courses by E. Stone, and H. E. Hart. Also 168 Grandsire Triples. C. W. Miller, 1; T. H. Colburn, 2; J. Heathorn, 3; F. W. J. Rees, 4; J. Jones, 5; W. Groves, 6; F. Bennett (conductor), 7; H. E. Hart, 8. Tenor 22½ cwt. The above 720's are the first which have been rung by a local band in Guildford for very many years.

HATFIELD (Herts)—On Tuesday, December 18th, at the parish church of St. Elthelreda, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by H. Rowe. And on Wednesday, an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by A. Shepherd, came to grief after ringing 3108 changes in 2 hrs. Also on Sunday, December 30th, a 447 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by A. Shepherd. And on New Year's Eve, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by H. Rowe. The following took part in the above; Mesars. Stocks, Gathard, Rowe, Shepherd, A, Smith, Richardson, Hollingsworth, Shepherd, J. Renny, Kentish, Powers.

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcestershire).—At the parish church on Christmas morning for Divine Service, a 672 and 504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Bennett, 1; G. Salter, 2; H. Williams (conductor), 3; T. Bennett, 4; H. Smith, 5; J. Rew, 6; J. Crane, 7; T. Walters, 8. T. Salter rang 5th in the 504. J. Rew hails from Sheffield, and is a member of the St. Peter's Band.

LONDON.—On Sunday evening, December 23rd, at St. Stephen's, Westminster, for Divine Service, 476 Grandsire Triples. A, G. Ellis, H. R. Newton, 2; S. J. Reed, 3; F. Inglefield, 4; E. Duff, 5; H. S. Ellis (conductor), 6; W. H. George, 7; J. George, 8. Tenor 24 cwt. This was to oblige Mr. J. George of Coventry. And on Sunday, December 30th, at St. John's Church, Waterloo Road, before evening service, 1330 of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. C. Chaplin, 1; W.

Baron, jun. 2; W. Partington (conductor), 3; S. G. Davies, 4; F. L. Davies, 5; Rev. A. W. Jephson, 6; H. L. Partington, 7; W. Chaplin, 8. Tenor 20 cwt.

PINCHBECK (Lincolnshire).—On Thursday, December 27th, at the parish church, on the occasion of the marriage of the daughter of the sexton, Mr. Laxton, eight 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. W. Doubleday, 1; T. Ladd, 2; *G. Skeef (Spalding), 3; T. Fisher, 4; *G. Ladd (conductor), 5. *College Youths.

ST. ALBANS (Herts).—*Chiming.*—On Sunday, December 30th, for afternoon service at St. Peter's Church, a 576 of Bob Caters. H. Lewis, 1-2; E. P. Debenham (conductor 3-4; G. W. Cartmel, 5-6; W. H. L. Buckingham, 7-8; T. Waller, 9-10.

SANDIACRE (Derbyshire).—On Christmas Day, at the parish church, at 8 o'clock a.m., 1260 changes, being ten 120's and sixty changes of Grandsire Doubles. G. Carrington, 1; J. Hall, 2; H. Wilde, 3; J. Bonsall, 4; R. Parkins (conductor), 5; M. Stevensoo, 6. First (1260) by all, also first 1260 on the bells. Tenor 16 cwt, 2 qrs, 14 lbs. in F.

SLEAFORD (Lincolnshire).—On New Year's Eve, for practice, in the parish church of St. Denys, a 1200 Grandsire Doubles, being ten 6-scores, each called differently, with 4 6 8 covering. W. Townsend, 1; E. Bristowe, 2; W. Maxey, 3; E. Holderness, 4; T. H. Holdich (conductor), 5; C. Harwood, 6; N. E. Snow, 7; A. G. Langdon, 8.

SYSTON (Leicestershire).—The old year was rung out in the parish church, with bells half-muffled, with a 504 of Grandsire Triples. W. Bail, 1; G. Freeman, 2; J. Pickard, 3; A. Swann, 4; G. Walton, 5; J. Hall, 6; J. North (conductor), 7; J. Freeman, 8. And the new year rang in with 630 Grandsire Triples. W. Bail, 1; G. Freeman, 2; A. Swann, 3; J. Pickard, 4; G. Walton (conductor), 5; J. Hall, 6; J. North, 7; J. Freeman, 8.

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 PROPOSED PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS AT APPLETON.

SIR,—I notice in a recent issue of "THE BELL NEWS" a letter from Mr. Russam with regard to the proposed peal of Stedman Caters at Appleton. I would like to ask Mr. Russan if he has ever been to Appleton, or ever rung upon the bells there? (or tin kettles as was once intimated), or does he know anything of the bells in question? If not, I would like to point out to him a few facts concerning these bells. In the first place the tower is a very small one, where very few would think of looking for a peal of ten; and again the bells are so hung that the ropes have a slanting or zig-zag descent to form the circle below, thus making the "go" of the bells quite as hard or harder than the majority of peals with their tenors a ton. I think if Mr. Russam was to pay a visit to Appleton, he would find that the back bells require quite as good men at their rope's end as in the peals he mentioned. Then again, the ringing room is very small, and well packed when all ten are on, and none too airy, which makes it very warm work in long touches, the ringer of the fourth having to stand in a niche cut out in the seat of the only window, which no doubt is very comfortable. Perhaps there are a good many ringers who will agree with what Mr. Russam says, but very few that have paid Appleton a visit would think of endorsing it. W. J. FISHER.

Bournemouth.

THE PROJECTED LONG PEAL AT APPLETON.

SIR,—In "THE BELL NEWS" of December 15th, it was announced that a long peal of Stedman Caters would be attempted at Appleton on Monday, December 24th. On seeing this notice, Mr. Ward wrote at once on behalf of the Cheltenham long peal band to the Rev. F. E. Robinson asking him to kindly send the composition of the intended peal and also the time of starting. To this Mr. Robinson replied that they "could not obtain leave to start at all in that week," and this information was confirmed in our paper of the 22nd instant, with the further statement that it would "not be started for till after the new year." On Sunday 30th, Mr. Robinson sent a post card (which was not received by Mr. Ward until late on Monday) to the effect that the peal would be started for on the Monday (31st) at 9 a.m., but the length of the peal and the constitution of the band he did not know.

I think it is due to ourselves and the Exercise at large to state these facts, in case it should be thought strange we were not represented at Appleton on Monday. I feel sure it will not be thought that this is written in any spirit of unfrendliness, but in what I conceive to be the true interests of change ringing. W. T. PATES.

P.S.—Since writing the above I hear that the peal (15035 in 9 hrs. and 16 mins.) was accomplished, and most heartily congratulate the band upon such a magnificent performance. I ought to say that the composition was not forwarded to us as requested.

A CORRECTION.

SIR,—The peal rung at Writtle, on December 26th, (see "BELL NEWS," December 29th, page 501), should have been credited to the Sussex Association, of which all our band are members. The omission was mine. T. L. PAPILLON, *Hon Sec. E.A.C.R.*

Writtle, Decemb.r 31st, 1888.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

EVERTON.—The following is the ringing done for the month of December.—On Thursday, December 6th, 720 each of College Pleasure and Treble Bob. On Saturday, December 8th, 720 of College Pleasure and Treble Bob. On Thursday, December 13th, 720 of Violet Treble Bob. On Saturday, December 15th, 720 [of] College Exercise and Treble Bob. On Monday, December 17th, 720 of London Scholars' Pleasure and Treble Bob. On Thursday, December 20th, 720 of Oxford Delight and Treble Bob. On Saturday, December 22nd, 720 City Delight and Treble Bob. On Sunday, December 23rd, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. On Monday, December 24th, 720 of Duke of York Treble Bob, also 720 of New London Pleasure and Treble Bob. On Tuesday, December 25th, 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob, also 720 of Kent Treble Bob. On Monday, December 31st, with the bells half-muffled, 720 of New London Pleasure Treble Bob. The following are those that took part in the above, all being local men: Charles Lindley, Fred Durdy James Holgate, John Swindin, William Stevenson, Joseph Swindin, George Brown. George Pearson took part in the Oxford Treble Bob.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last, pursuant to the notice which appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" a district meeting was held at Eversholt, and a fair gathering of members took place. The Eversholt bells have recently been put into complete order, and a new second bell being substituted for the old one by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough. Among those present were the Rev. W. S. Baker, the rector, his son, and the Rev. W. W. C. Baker, one of the hon. sec's of the Association. Messrs. I. Hills, S. Cullip, W. Allen, M. Warwick, Bedford; Mark Lane, W. Smith, Aspley Guise; A. Morrison, F. Flood, Chas. Herbert, hon. sec., Woburn.

During the afternoon and evening some well-struck touches were rung, among them being 720 of Plain Bob Minor. A. Morrison, 1; W. Smith, 2; M. Warwick, 3; Mark Lane, 4; I. Hills, 5; W. Allen, 6. Also a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. W. Allen, 1; S. Cullip, 2; M. Warwick, 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; Mark Lane, 5; I. Hills, 6. And 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. I. Hills, 1; S. Cullip, 2; M. Warwick, 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; W. Allen, 5; M. Lane, 6. Several 120's of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung, Mr. F. Major, of the Eversholt company, covering very well indeed with the tenor, which weighs 17 cwt.

At half past four the Rector very kindly invited all present to partake of tea at the Green Man Inn where a room had been reserved for the ringers, some of whom made use of the handbells. The Rector presided, his son taking the vice. All present thoroughly enjoyed the pleasant meeting, and desire to return their best thanks to those two gentlemen for bringing about such a successful and interesting gathering.

A USEFUL WORK BAG.—At one side of the fireplace stands my work-bag on its own four legs. It is very convenient, being just the height of a chair, and so much more tidy than a hanging bag. I made it out of one of the shilling camp-stools, the legs of which I first painted white; I then lined a piece of strawberry-colour plush with blue sateen, and made it into a bag without a bottom, and fastened it on to the seat of the camp-stool. I then turned it inside out and sewed a piece of the sateen over the ends to quite cover the seat; this formed the bag. Below the camp-stool seat I saw a deep frill of white Valenciennes lace to hang down: the bag was tied with ribbon to match the velvet. These bags look pretty made of any stuffs. Chintz pattern crettonne is a favourite and cheap material.—From "Csssells Family Magazine" for January.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

O'er the snowy meadows ringing
Come the chimings sweet and clear;
Hark the message they are bringing—
"Unto all a glad New Year!"
List how softly they are stealing,
Louder now, oh joyful bells!
Then again so faintly pealing,
Thus the music dies and swells.

How I love to hear them ringing,
Like a tuneful hymn of praise!
With the bells my heart is singing,
"Joyful be the dawning days!"
New Year, New Year! thou hast roses,
Summer light and all things fair;
Every hour new joy discloses,
Blessings crown us everywhere.

As I write, the few remaining moments of the old year are swiftly passing away. The muffled tones of the bells in the tower fill the air with a mournful cadence, announcing the approaching demise of 1888, and with it another period of our life and country's history. Before long the muffles will have been removed, and then "in tones loud and clear" will come through louvres of the belfry windows the announcement that a New Year has just dawned upon us "for weal or for woe." Surely, as the Christmas-tide just past is rightly a season of joy and thanksgiving, so should the advent of the New Year be a time for reflection upon the past and of hope for the future. Our past is before us; it stares us in the face with its joys and its sorrows. they are gone beyond recall. But the future is an "unknown quantity," we know not whither it shall lead. Although we are, humanly speaking, "creatures of circumstances," or—to put it more correctly—frail beings in the hands of an all-merciful God whose doings we are unable to fathom, yet we have sufficient margin allowed us to make our path—to a certain extent—rough or smooth. Then let us at this season, proverbial for its formation of good resolutions, make at least one good resolve, namely, by mutual bearing and forbearing one with another, so to smooth our pathway through the next twelve months of our lives (if we should be spared), that when we once more exchange the time-honoured greeting of "A Happy New Year," we may be able to reflect that this now coming year has really been one of "peace and goodwill" all round. May the New Year also prove one of steady progress in the art. In the words of the old toast—

"May good ringers flourish,
May bad ringers mend;
May change-ringing prosper
Till the world's at an end.

* * * * *

Once more, my friends—A Happy New Year to all! And if in the year now opening, I should feel prepared to write what seem to be harsh words on any of your doings, believe me that I shall have done it not only with the best intentions, but also with very great reluctance. I never write words of censure without feelings of pain. Bnt amidst all things, believe me, I must be honest. If I write words of praise, they come from the heart. If I write words of censure it is only through a sense of duty and mya nxiety for the good of the Exercise that I do so. Therefore, let us in the future agree to take "the good and bad alike as it comes," remembering that in one point at least we are all agreed, namely, the desire to further the interests of that art to which we are devotedly attached.

* * * * *

The achievements of the past year, so ably summarised in Saturday's leading article, may well give us cause for pleasant reflections. Not only have we beaten all previous record in the number of peals rung, but, as has been well observed (and which is even a more satisfactory sign of progress made) much more attention has been paid than heretofore to the musical qualities of peals composed and rung. This fact denotes a growing and praiseworthy desire on the part of our brethren to get the best music possible out of their bells. This is as it should be: and as the musical taste developes and increases amongst us, there can be no doubt that in the future even more regard will be paid to this aspect of our ringing.

* * * * *

But if our ringing performances have been so satisfactory, what can be said of that other equally important branch of our work—organisation—to which the leader of last Saturday makes no reference? How do our County Associations and Guilds stand on the first day of 1889, compared with their position on the same day of the previous year? We shall, I trust, ere long be favoured with our friend Mr. Attree's ever-welcome analysis of peals rung, which denotes so practically what progress has been made in the science; then would it not be equally interesting and useful to us if we could have a return shewing what has been done in the work of organising our forces, and of raising our art to its proper position? Of course, we have reports of meetings week by week, just as we have of the peals rung; but I think that a short and succinct account from each Association would be very valuable.

* * * * *

Worthy secretaries, I throw out this suggestion for your consideration. If you think it worth actiug upon, and send me (through the editor) such reports, I will gladly collate them and put them into shape for the pages of "THE BELL NEWS." We hould by that means be able to form a pretty correct idea of our position both socially and scientifically, and thus might endeavour to regulate our affairs for the future, armed with a better knowledge of our true position.

* * * * *

Mr. Winny has properly set loose the "dogs of war," by his letter on the peal at Fulham. I rather fancy somehow that he will before this have come to the conclusion that he has brought a finely developed hornet's nest about his ears. But, of course, it is his turn next, and doubtless many like myself will be curious to see if or how he is going to turn the scales in face of the weight of last Saturday's letters. One thing is certain—there can be no backing out—the question must be fought out for the credit of the Exercise; and I would add in all earnestness, let it be fought out honourably and courteously, as should be all controverted questions which arise amongst us.

FREE LANCE.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

On Saturday, December 29th, a 5120 of Bob Major was rung at St. Martin's church to replace a 5120 in the same method which was rung at this church on October 17th last, and which afterwards proved to be false. The figures of this false composition appear in the Shipway Reprint, part iii., page 24. The same evening also happened to be the fifth anniversary of the first 720 of Bob Minor ever rung in Salisbury, viz., Saturday, December 29th, 1883, by H. O. Dowling, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; A. S. Dowling, 3; T. Blackbourn, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; J. R. Jerram (conductor), 6. This may seem a small matter to many, but as it was the first change-ringing of any note in Salisbury, and as it was struck well, it was thought a great deal of at the time. Mr. H. O. Dowling is now at Texas, U.S., and Mr. A. S. Dowling (now the Rev. A. S. Dowling), was recently living at Barking, in Essex.

SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS, GREENWICH.

Members are requested to note that the next meeting at St. Alphege Church will be held on the second Tuesday in January.

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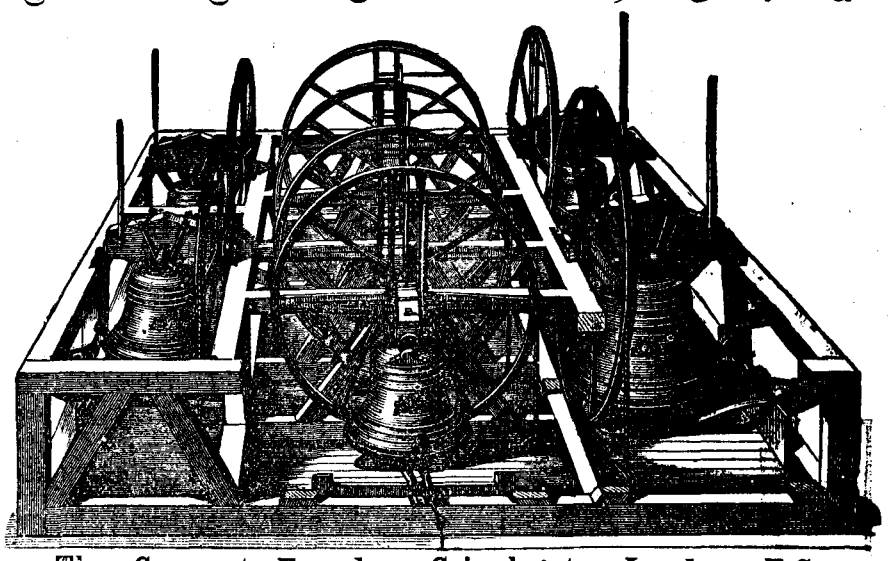

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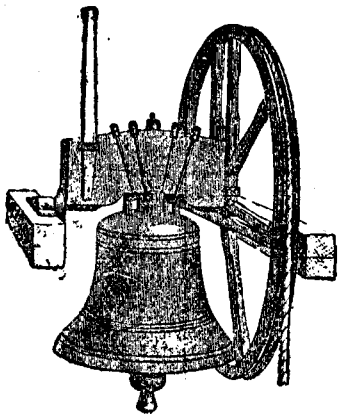

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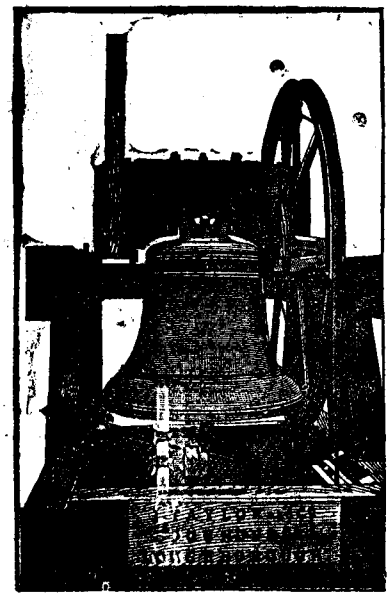

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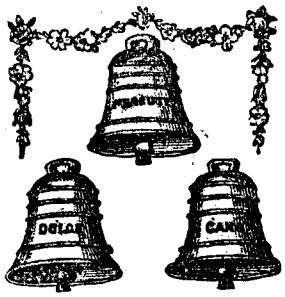

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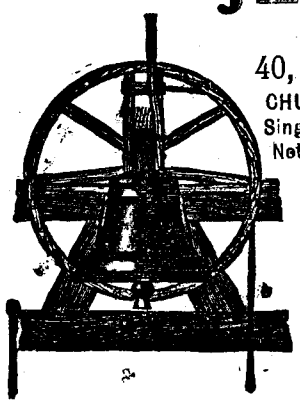

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