THE BELL NEWS
And Ringers' Record:
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 357.—*VOL.* VII. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1889. ONE PENNY.

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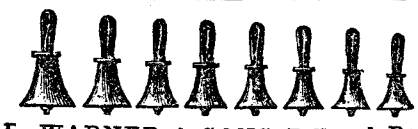

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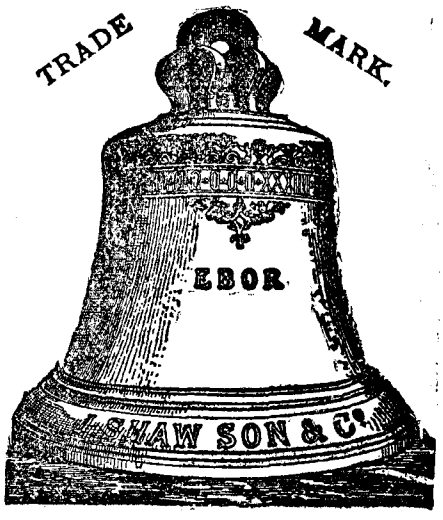

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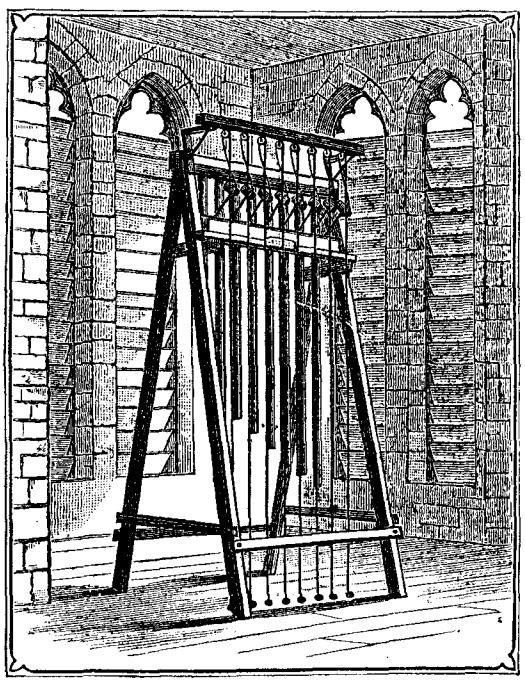

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THE PEAL OF MAXIMUS AT NORWICH IN 1817, WAS IT DOUBLE NORWICH OR NOT?

By A. Percival Heywood.

II.

The four statements with which the last paper concluded will now be taken one by one and the evidence upon each examined.

I.—Of "Court" methods on eight bells none but London Court and Norwich Court are known to have been practised.

In the *Clavis* (p.p. 112, 115) will be found a description of these two methods. No mention is made of any other Court method. Shipway (Part 1, pp. 55, 56) states that the Court system is divided into two methods, the London ringers preferring one, the Norwich the other, but goes on to say that he does not agree in either of them being the correct derivative of the original six-bell method, and therefore introduces a third and novel Court method. There is no record that this method was ever rung, as it never appears in the work of any subsequent writer. Hubbard, who came to Norwich about 1823, would have been sure to have mentioned it in his writings had such a method been known in that neighbourhood. Snowdon (p. 48) gives good reasons for believing that a peal was rung in 1764 at Whitechapel in some sort of variation of London Court. This seems strange, but even if correct, the circumstance has no bearing on the present case, as the method, whatever it was, clearly never came into general use or it would have assuredly been mentioned in either the *Clavis* or "Shipway." It may therefore be taken as certain that of "Court" methods on eight bells, for it is of Major only that I at present treat, none but London Court and Norwich Court received permanent attention.

II.—There is no record of either of the above methods having been practised on eight bells in other than its "Double" form.

Having now reduced the enquiry within the limits of the two Court methods, London and Norwich, I shall present evidence in support of the second statement.

Snowdon (p. 45) mentions that a lead of the method now known as Double Norwich is to be found in a manuscript in the Downing College Library. This information is simply of value as tending to confirm the ample testimony that the *double* method is the original one. In the *Clavis* (p.p. 112, 115) will be found, as already mentioned, a lead of each of two methods entitled "London Court Bob" and "Norwich Court Bob," these being the methods now known as Double London Court and Double Norwich Court respectively. The appellation of "double" was perfectly familiar to the author of the *Clavis* as denoting a variation of a standard method in which the duty of each bell was doubled by causing it, in addition to that devolving on it at the treble's whole pull in front, to do similar work, but in reverse, at the treble's whole pull behind. "Double Grandsire" and "Double Bob Major" will thus be found explained. It is, therefore, fair to conclude that, had there been in existence any London Court or Norwich Court method of which the Court methods given in the *Clavis* were the double variations, the author would have added to the methods described the title of "Double." But it is not necessary to dwell upon this point, for it is clear from Shipway's own writings that it was he who first extended the two known Court methods to nine, adding a new method, and dividing each into the three variations of single, reverse, and double. (See again Shipway, Part 1, p.p. 55, 56.) In Part 1, p. 65, this author writes: "It is a remarkable circumstance that all the Court Bobs that have hitherto been rung are double." Again, in Part 2, p. 214, we find: "The single method of either the London or the Norwich systems, I may venture to say, has never been rung;" and in Part 3, p. 198: "It has been noticed already, that, of the three systems of Court (the original on six bells excepted) the double method on eight and ten bells of the Norwich and the double method on eight in the London are the only peals that have been rung, consequently the greatest part of Court Bob is entirely new." It is therefore evident that at the time Shipway wrote (1813 to 1816) London Court and Norwich Court were only practised in their double form and that he himself bestowed on them the title of "Double." (See also Snowdon p. 45). To follow the history of these methods beyond the date of the peal of Maximus is scarcely necessary, but the fact that Hubbard, who long resided at Norwich, writing between 1840 and 1850, gives (pp. 26, 34, 37, 38) totally different single Court methods, while his double ones are identical with Shipway's, would forcibly point to the conclusion that the latter's single methods were never rung, at all events at Norwich. Where Hubbard obtained his single Court methods it is impossible to say; one thing however is clear, that, whether he constructed them himself or not, they are the ignorant productions of a person who thought that single methods were deduced from double ones by taking the work of the first half of each lead as in the double, and then omitting it all in the last half, letting every bell run a plain hunt to the end of the lead. This is, of course, not what is ordinarily understood as a method at all, nor is it likely that the Norwich ringers, who are known to have rung peals of Double Norwich Major in 1815 and 1817 (Snowdon, pp. 51, 52) ever troubled themselves to learn such rubbish. That these two peals were recorded as of "Norwich Court Bob Major" shews that a single method was unknown or, at all events, unrecognised. Nor does the fact that the peal rung at Saffron Walden, also in 1817 (Snowdon, p. 52), was recorded as "Double Norwich Court Bob" (Major) much affect the case, for it is more than likely that Shipway's classification was allowed due weight in a locality not only nearer to the metropolis, but where there would not be the same conservative feeling as doubtless existed in Norwich as to the proper title of a method which had been practised for many years by the Norwich ringers.

It would, therefore, appear to be abundantly clear that no single Court methods on eight bells have ever gained a standing.

I have hitherto purposely confined the enquiry to eight bell methods because I consider the fact that no Single London Court or Single Norwich Court are known to have been practised, at all events within the last hundred years, strongly confirms the contention that the same is true of these methods on ten and twelve bells for it would be totally at variance with all historical precedent to suppose that any company of ringers practised a method on ten or twelve bells before they had mastered it on eight. That a peal of "Court Ten In" should have been rung at Norwich, as it probably was (Snowdon p. 48), two years before the first recorded peal of Major in the same method, might appear to point to a contrary conclusion. When, however, it remembered that the peal of Major was one of 6720 changes, the inference seems strong that the method was well known on eight bells, and that a 5000 had probably been rung previously to the peal of Royal, though no record of such a performance remains.

(*To be continued.*)

THE NORTH MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

The first quarterly meeting of the above Association was held at Hendon on Wednesday, January 16th. Members and visitors to the number of seventy-three were present, and ringing was freely indulged in. Several 6-scores of Grandsire and Bob Doubles were rung, also various touches of Bob Minor. A splendid tablet, about to be fixed in the ringing-chamber, and recording the first 720 rung by the Association, was on view. It has been executed by one of the members—Mr. W. Russell—upon whom it reflects great credit.

A business meeting was afterwards held, Mr. T. Card, Master of the Association for the current year, presiding, and at which eight new members were elected. The Finchley branch gave notice that their tower would be open to members after evening service on the last Sunday in each month. The Hendon branch also gave notice that they had come to a similar arrangement for the first Sunday in each month. Two members volunteered, and their services were accepted, as instructors to the Edgware branch. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Edgware on Friday, April 12th, of which meeting due notice will be given.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells, and to the Master for presiding, terminated the proceedings.

Change of Address.—The address of the Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association for the future will be "County of Gloucester Bank, Limited, Newport, Mon."

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

The third Quarterly meeting of the year was held at Leicester, on Saturday, January 26th. Committee meeting took place in St. Margaret's Schools at 4.45. General Meeting at St. Margaret's Coffee House at 5.30, when 52 members were present. One Honorary member, 17 Ringing members, and 2 Life members were proposed and carried unanimously.

The President (A. Percival Heywood, Esq.) occupied the chair and congratulated the Society on its position for the year 1888, ranking as it does, second only for the number of peals rung, and practically the first as to methods. He also referred strongly to the criticism *re* the peal of London Surprise rung at Fulham by the St. Paul's society, and congratulated them on its achievement, also the Loughborough branch on the accomplishment of the peal of Treble Bob Major, 9120 changes, rung at Quorndon, and especially the Ashby band on the accomplishment of their first peal of Grandsire Triples.

At the close of the President's address, Mr. S. Maskery proposed, and Mr. H. C. Woodward seconded, "That the remarks made by the President *re* the peal rung at Fulham be endorsed by this meeting, knowing as they do that the St. Paul's company would not publish anything that was false." This was carried unanimously.

The Hon. Sec. proposed an alteration to Rule 12, as per notice given, which was carried, and in future notice of the meetings will only be given through "THE BELL NEWS," and circulars placed in the different towers.

Mr. Stephen Cooper and Mr. Alfred Millis were unanimously elected to audit the accounts of the Society. It was also considered desirable that the names of the local officer's for their respective districts for the year 1889 should appear in the coming report, and Mr. Maskery proposed, and Mr. Needham seconded the following resolution, viz.: "That the local societies of each district be asked to hold their meetings for the election of district officers at once, and communicate their names to the Hon. Sec, on or before Saturday, February 9th, 1889. The usual vote of thanks to the clergy and churchwardens for so kindly placing their bells at the disposal of the Society, and a very hearty vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding, brought the meeting to a close.

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, STRATFORD, BOW, LONDON.

On Thursday, January 24th, thirty members and friends sat down to the Annual Dinner of the above society at the "Bow Bells," Bow Road, E., the spread being placed on the table in the well-known excellent style of the proprietor, Mr. J. Gibbs. The dinner was served in the fine billiard-room of the above house, which was tastefully decorated with some fine and large palms and other plants by Mr. A. G. Tyrrell, one of the honorary members of the society.

After the cloth had been removed, the members all gathered around the festive board for the enjoyment of harmony and the social talk, the chair being occupied by Mr. R. J. Turner, and the vice by Mr. T. Baker. After the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family" had been duly honoured, the harmony was started by a selection for violin and Pianoforte by Messrs. Tyrell and Green. Then followed a first-rate song, "Nil Desperandum," rendered by the Chairman, after which the toast of "The Bow Society of Change-Ringers" was received with great gusto by the company, and responded to by the much respected secretary of the Society, Mr. D. J. Sutton. Song and sentiment then became the order of the day, and the time for parting having arrived, the company all joined hands in singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "God save the Queen" which finished a most enjoyable evening, long to be remembered by all who had the good fortune to be present.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above will be held at Birmingham on Saturday, February 9th. The tower of S. John's Deritend will be opened for ringing at three o'clock, after which a meeting will be held at the "Swan" Hotel, Edmond Street, at six o'clock prompt. All members are earnestly requested to attend, as there is most important business to be brought forward.

Park Road, Harborne. E. PARKER.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The annual meeting of the Chester Branch was held in the Schools, St. Mary's-on-the-Hill, on Wednesday evening week, the Ven. Archdeacon Barber presiding. Letters of apology for non-attendance were read from the Rev. J. H. Acheson and the Rev. H. Grantham. The Secretary and Treasurer (Mr. Pease) read the report, which was encouraging, and also presented the balance sheet. Mr. Freman Ball was re-elected chairman of the branch, and Mr. Pease secretary and treasurer; the other members of the committee are nominated by the several belfries in the union. An application for an instructor from Tarvin was read, and the secretary was requested to endeavour to make the necessary arrangements for three months, the branch being responsible for half the cost. The following resolution was then moved and carried unanimously: "That this branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers would hail with satisfaction the augmenting of the number of the Cathedral bells so as to form a peal of ten; so that the mother church might possess at least as large a peal as any church in the diocese." It was stated that the cost would probably not exceed £80. The chairman remarked that extensive repairs at the north-west corner of the Cathedral demanded instant attention, and would probably prevent the Dean and Chapter from taking the bells in hand at present. Mr. H. A. Heywood, the secretary of the Guild, was present at the meeting, and requested application to be made to him through Mr. Pease for cards of membership. A hope was expressed that more honorary members would be induced to join, and that the belfries of Aldford, Christleton, and Pulford might soon be in union with the Guild.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On New Year's Eve the ringers of St. Andrew's, Bishop Auckland, were entertained at supper at the house of the Rev. C. Sutton, Mr. W. Scott, Churchwarden, being present also. After ample justice had been done to the good things provided, the ringers proceeded to the church and rang touches of Plain Bob Major, and the old year out and the new one in. An attempt for a peal of Bob Major on January 1st came to grief after ringing 1,130 changes, owing to two bells shifting. T. Bowyer, 1; J. G. Pratt, 2; W. Charlton, 3; A. J. B. Waldron, 4; J. Pallister, 5; J. Cleminson, 6; F. Charles, 7; E. Titt (conductor), 8. On Monday, January 7th, a 720 Bob Major, standing as above; Sunday, January 13th, 704 of Bob Major, standing as above, with the exception of E. Titt, 6; J. Cleminson (conductor), 8. On Tuesday, January 15th, 1,120 Bob Major, standing as above: Sunday, January 20th, 720 Plain Bob Minor, with the eighth covering. T. Bowyer, 1; W. Charlton, 2; A. J. B. Waldron, 3: J. G. Pratt, 4; F. Charlton, 5; J. Pallister (conductor), 6; H. C. Mayne, 7.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A District Meeting will be held at Guildford, on Thursday next, February 7th. The belfry of S. Nicholas will be open for practice, from 3.30 to 5 p.m., and from 6.30 to 9 p.m. All ringers will be welcome. A meat tea will be provided at S. Nicholas Parish Room at 5 p.m., at One Shilling each, for all who send word to the Secretary before February 4th. Committee Meeting will be held at 5.30, and at the same place for election of members, and other business.

H. A. SPYERS, *Hon. Sec.*

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—MEETING AT LIVERSEDGE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, 1889.

The Committee has pleasure in announcing that by the kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. W. Fowler, M.A., and with the friendly co-operation of the Liversedge change-ringers, the next meeting will be held as above, *i.e.*, on the second Saturday in February. WM. SNOWDON, *President.*

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

Members are requested to attend the meeting on Wednesday next, February 6th, to transact some important business.

8, *Francis Street, Waterloo Road.* GEO. WILD, *Sec.*

ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, WHITCHURCH, OXON.

On Monday last, January 28th, six members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild and the above Society paid a visit to two of the eight bell towers of Wiltshire, viz : Bishopstone and Aldbourne. Journeying by G.W.R., Shrivenham (thirty miles), was reached by 10.15, and from this station a drive of two miles brought the party to Bishopstone, a picturesque little village, where plenty of watercress grows in the curious valleys to be found here. Permission having previously been obtained from the Rev. Herbert Ault, vicar, the belfry was reached, the bells raised in peal, and 240 of Grandsire, and 180 of Bob Minor brought round in fine style with 7-8 covering. J. Nicholls, 1; W. Pocock, 2; W. Lawrence (conductor), 3; C. Pocock, 4; A. C. West, 5; E. Bushnell, 6; R. Maisey, 7 : W. Lawrence, jun., 8. Tenor 17 cwt. This was the first attempt on eight bells by several of the Whitchurch band. A peal-board was now handed over to the Vicar recording the peal of Grandsire Triples rung here on December 6th last, by members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild. R. Maisey is a member of the local band, and W. Lawrence from Aldbourne. At neither of these villages is change-ringing practised, although the go of this peal is very fair, widely different from the long draught of the peal at the next village, which was reached about 1.30 after an hour's drive over the hills. All were now entertained to dinner at the house of Mr. Walter Lawrence, and afterwards a new peal of handbells, tenor No. 15 in C, were opened with a touch of 240 of Bob Minor with 7-8 behind. J. Nicholls, 1; C. Pocock, 2; W. Lawrence (conductor), 3; W. Pocock, 4; A. C. West, 5; G. Bushnell, 6; W. Lawrence, 7; Miss C. Lawrence, 8. This peal was presented to the Aldbourne ringers on this day by the conductor in memory of a late brother who was particularly fond of bells, ringing, &c., to encourage the local band to achieve the art of change-ringing. After hearing the chimes, which played every third hour play the "Sicilian Mariners" hymn, at 3 o'clock the bells were raised and several attempts made, but neither touch brought round, owing to the heavy go of the bells, and one constantly casting her rope. The visitors then proceeded to the vicarage by invitation, and performed on the new handbells (leaving them in the vicar's charge), touches of Grandsire and Plain Bob, standing much the same as before with two covers. After tea the band left for Hungerford (on the branch line), and Pangbourn was reached at 9.35, after a busy but most enjoyable day.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The members of the above Society will hold a meeting at the "Swan Hotel," Edmund Street, on Saturday, February 9th, at six p.m., when all members are earnestly requested to attend.

11, *Tennant Street.* W. BROOK, *Sec.*

THE DUCKLINGTON BELL FUND.

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Mr. Grist ,, ...	0	1	0
Miss Mc Lelland ,, (extra)	0	1	0
Total	£11	3	9

Further subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by W. J. Fisher, Great Western Hotel, Paddington.

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Amount already acknowledged	1	5	6
Mr. Mathews, Borough	0	1	0
Mr. Jones, Brierley Hill	0	2	0
Mr. Webb, Worcester	0	2	6
Mr. Ferry, London	0	2	6

Further subscriptions will be thankfully received by Mr. B. Buckmaster, 46, Newington Butts, S.E., or by Mr. Codlin, 18, Cole Street, Borough, S.E.

ST. GEORGE'S, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

No doubt many readers of "THE BELL NEWS" will remember the inauguration of a new set of fifteen handbells on July 6th, the Guild of about twenty-five members being formed a short time previous. Early in August the first 120 of Grandsire Doubles was accomplished on the handbells, and after a few practices it was got through on the tower bells; then they lost one of the six through a severe illness, lasting over two months. However, not lacking in number, another was got to fill his place. The old year was rung out with three 6-scores, called differently, with the bells muffled, and after the New Year had arrived, and the buffs taken off, more ringing was indulged in. A. E. Thomas, 1; A. Knight, 2; A. Turner, 3: H. Thomas, 4; H. Howell (conductor), 5; J. Starkes, 6. And on handbells several 6-scores, and a few plain courses of Grandsire Triples. A. Turner, 1-2; H. Howell, 3-4; H. Thomas, 5-6; W. Lansdowne, 7-8. And a few plain courses of Minor. On Tuesday, January 1st, six 6-scores called differently in 27 mins. A. E. Thomas, 1; A. Turner, 2; H. Howell, 3; A. Knight, 4; H. Thomas, 5; J. Starkes, 6. Also some Bob Doubles. On Thursday, January 17th, seven 6-scores called differently. A. E. Thomas, 1; H. Howell, 2; A. Turner, 3; A. Knight, 4; H. Thomas (conductor), 5; R. Cousins, 6. The second bell was rung without a stay. Messrs. Knight, A. E. and H. Thomas, and A. Turner never having handled a rope before the Guild was formed, having so many and all anxious to ring, made steady progress difficult. In the next report they hope to have a 720 of Minor.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Rochdale branch of this Association to be held at Heywood, is postponed until Saturday, February 9th. Bells ready at 2 p.m. Meeting in the belfry at 5 p.m.

FRANK BIRTWISTLE, *Sec.*

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of the Liverpool Diocesan branch of this Association will be held at Huyton, on Saturday, February 16th. Further particulars next week. JOHN R. PRITCHARD,

40, *Lowther Street, Liverpool.* *Branch Secretary.*

Obituary.

JOSEPH BUTCHER.

It is with regret that we record the death of this gentleman, who expired at his residence, Ivy Place, New Hampton Road, Wolverhampton, on Monday, January 21st. He had given up change-ringing some years owing to failing health, but might frequently have been seen in his garden on summer evenings listening to the music of the bells. He was Churchwarden of St. Andrew's church for several years. He was the composer and conductor of several peals of Triples, Major, and Caters, only two of which there is a record in the tower of St. Peter's church, viz.: two peals of Grandsire Caters, one of 7290 changes, in 4 hrs. 57 mins., the other, 5291 changes, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. At the usual weekly practice on Thursday last, the local company rang with the bells half-muffled, several courses of Grandsire Triples. On Saturday they were met by Mr. J. Fowler, one of the deceased's fellow-ringers (who is himself seventy years of age), and Mr. B. Dalton, of Tettenhall, but owing to being short-handed nothing worthy of note was done. The deceased was interred at the Wolverhampton cemetery on Friday, January 25th. He was eighty-three years of age.

The following is taken from a local paper. It should be understood there is only a ring of six at Horsell, therefore it is plain that the local band must be a set of very clever fellows :—

THE NEW YEAR.—The Horsell Guild of Church Bell Ringers rang out the old and rang in the new year in three merry peals on New Year's Eve. They completed peals of Grandsire Triples and Stedman's Triples, and to usher in the New Year they rang a peal of Stedman's Bob Doubles. The ringers were Messrs. E. and A. Spooner, T. Stockley, S. Daborn, F. Warner, H. Hart, J. Daborn, W. Steer, and G. Biles.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The Annual Meeting of the East Berks and South Bucks branch of this Guild has recently been held at Bray. Some good ringing was done both at Bray and at All Saints, Boyne Hill, during the afternoon and evening, and the meeting, both in numbers and interest, showed that this valuable and useful Guild of Church officers is making rapid progress in this diocese and doing good work. Among the clergy present were the Master of the Guild (Rev. F. E. Robinson), the Branch President and Secretary (Revs. A. H. Drummond and R. P. Newhouse, Boyne Hill), Revs. C. A. Raymond and T. H. Wrenford (Bray), Rev. J. Daubeny (Winkfield), Rev. J. E. Norris (Marlow), and Rev. St. John Methuen (Wycombe), and about fifty lay members also took part in the proceedings. After an excellent tea in the schoolroom, provided by Mr. Spindler, the President opened the business of the meeting with a short address. He said that the branch was in a very prosperous condition from every point of view. There was a large accession of honorary and ringing members ; more bands had availed themselves of the services of the instructors, and consequent progress had been made in the art, and three peals of Grandsire rung—at Boyne Hill, Beaconsfield, and Marlow—as against one in 1887. Two of them had been conducted by Mr. J. W. Wilkins (Boyne Hill), to whom the President paid a well-deserved compliment. He also urged the formation of junior or supplementary bands in every town, to extend the practice of change-ringing and supply any vacancies which might occur. He next drew attention to the position of ringers as Church officers and examples in every way to their parishes, as consistent and God-fearing men. Hence he impressed upon them the necessity of regular and devout attendance at the services of the church to which by their work they summoned others, and also the evil and disastrous results of any jealousy or rivalry amongst ringers with respect to individual proficiency in the art. He concluded by expressing his satisfaction at the unusual number of clergy present, and his hope that no tower would be represented on the branch list without its incumbent, and no incumbent become or be a member without his ringers following his lead.

The Rev. R. P. Newhouse then read the balance-sheet and gave a short account of the work of the branch during the past year. Noticing with satisfaction the increased expenditure for instruction, he hoped that yet more towers would place themselves under the instructors, that neighbonring towers would combine for this purpose, and thus more methods would be mastered and more progress made. He urged all probationers to lose no time in qualifying as change-ringers, and advised the establishment of a belfry fund in every tower for local and incidental expenses. He concluded by expressing a hope that in all cases the representatives of the belfries would send a prompt reply to communications which they might receive from him.

The balance-sheet was then adopted by the meeting, and the President, officers, and committee having retired from their respective offices, were unanimously re-elected in each case, with the addition of a member of committee for High Wycombe junior band.

Mr. Hanlon (Bray) expressed the thanks of his band to Mr. A. Garraway for his careful and valuable instruction during the past year.

After a few pointed remarks by the Master, on topics already touched upon by previous speakers, and on the general efficiency of the Guild, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Master for his sermon (by anticipation), and the Vicars of Bray and Boyne Hill for the use of their churches and bells.

The whole of the members then adjourned to Bray church for evensong, at which an excellent and appropriate sermon, dealing chiefly with the proper cultivation of the spiritual life amongst ringers, and admirably illustrated by reference to the use of church bells and ringing, was preached by the Master of the Guild.

ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The above association will hold the annual meeting at the Rochdale parish church, to-day, Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Bells ready at 3.0 p.m,, meeting to be held at 5.0 p.m. in the old school, Church Lane. Hoping there will be a good number present.

J. HOGGARD, *Sec.*

ST. WERBURGH'S, BRISTOL.

On Saturday, the 19th ult., the ringers of this church were kindly entertained at a capital dinner by the newly-instituted Rector, the Rev. H. Dening, at the mission-hall, Mina-road.

At the conclusion of the repast, Mr. Kebby, one of the sidesmen, proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector for his hospitality, and remarked that it was the first time he had had the pleasure of sitting down with the Rector at the ringers' annual dinner, and he hoped it would not be the last. He thought such social gatherings improved the society of the young men of the neighbourhood, and he hoped the Rector would live long enough to attend very many of such pleasant meetings.

Mr. Baynham seconded the vote of thanks, adding that it was the first ringers' dinner he had ever attended, but he fondly hoped it would not be the last. He had been connected with ringers about thirty years, and remembered the time when they were looked upon as a low dissipated class of men, but he was pleased to say that the contrary was now the case, for ringers of the present day were among the most respectable and intelligent of the whole community, and their character in this respect was still improving. The Associations throughout the country were doing an immense amount of good, and he would like to see every tower which had a peal of bells having also its own company of ringers, in order to abolish that monopoly which existed in many places where several towers were controlled by one band. He was glad to see that there was a likelihood of a society to be founded having for its object the relief of distressed ringers, and hoped it would be carried to a successful issue. He would be very pleased indeed to propose their worthy Rector as an honorary member of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, aud he thanked him on behalf of his brother-ringers for his kind hospitality that day.

The Rector, in acknowledging the vote, said he was at any time pleased to hear the bells, and always glad to meet the ringers. Bellringing was good exercise for the mind as well as the body. Young men had always some spare time at disposal, and it was better to spend some of that time in the belfry than in a worse place. He was a great advocate for any kind of athletics, and therefore he was glad to be there that evening, and pleased to see the attendance of so many young men. He hoped to be spared many years to attend similar gatherings.

The remainder of the evening was spent in tune-playing and ringing upon the handbells.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The quarterly meeting in connection with the above Society was held on Saturday, January 12th, at All Saints, West Bromwich, when the following places were represented : West Bromwich, Darlaston, Tipton, Aston, Walsall, Perry Barr, Lichfield, Willenhall, &c., and touches of Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters, Stedman Caters, and a plain course of Grandsire Cinques were rung. At 5 o'clock a short service was conducted in the church by the Rev. M. M. Connor, after which a committee meeting was held, when there were four new ringing members elected, and it was also arranged to hold the next meeting at Sedgeley, in April. Tea being ready, about thirty-six members and friends sat down and did full justice to the good things provided, when a vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the Vicar of All Saints for his very excellent address in the afternoon, and a touch of Grandsire Triples on the handbells brought the proceedings to a close.

THE ST. ALBANS CATHEDRAL SOCIETY.

The Annual Meeting of this Society was held at the Rectory on Tuesday evening, January 22nd, the President (the Ven. Archdeacon Lawrance) in the chair. The report and balance-sheet were produced and passed, the latter shewing a balance in the hands of the treasurer. Mr. R. Fowler and Mr. H. L. Waddington were re-elected treasurer and secretary respectively, and Mr. W. G. Cartmel was appointed by the Archdeacon to be conductor for the ensuing year. Mr. W. Battle and Mr. T. Grant were elected committeemen, and they with the three ex-officio members form the committee.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26th, a Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held at Cradley. There were upwards of forty members present from Bromsgrove, Brierley Hill, Cradley Clent, Dudley, Hagley, Netherton, Old Hill, Stourbridge, Tipton, and Wollaston. Touches of Bob Triples, Bob Major, 434 of Grandsire Triples, 704 Kent Treble Bob Major, and a course of Stedman Triples were rang on the tower bells.

The business meeting was held in the Schoolroom, presided over by the Master, Mr. Samuel Spittle, Dudley, who in his opening remarks briefly alluded to the analysis of Mr. G. F. Attree for the past year. He said he was pleased that the Association was making such progress in the number of peals rang, although they were in only two methods, viz.: Grandsire and Plain Bob, but hoped during the present year some peals in the more intricate methods would not only be attempted but accomplished. In conclusion he wished the members one and all success in their undertakings, and hoped they would have a bright and prosperous new year.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the usual business of the Association was transacted. Twelve new members were elected. In the course of the miscellaneous business the Hon. Sec. remarked that although twenty-one peals were credited to the Association by Mr. Attree, he had only received fourteen for insertion in the peal-book. He hoped when the Annual Meeting came that the conductors or secretaries of the various companies would not complain at the peals not being inserted. If rule ten had been carried out no cause of complaint could have been made in this respect, and he hoped that in the course of a week or two at the latest the peals would be forwarded to him so that they might appear in proper order.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Rev J. H. Thompson, Vicar, for the use of the Schoolroom, tower, and bells, and also to the Master for presiding, who suitably responded. It was arranged to hold the next committee meeting at Hagley, on Saturday, March 16th, 1889.

GRIMSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Wednesday, January 16th, the Annual Dinner of the St. James's ringers was held at the "White Hart" hotel, when about twenty-five members and friends sat down to a substantial repast provided by Host Heyhoe. After ample justice was done to the good things provided, Mr. J. Hewson (churchwarden) took the chair, and Mr. Barton the vice-chair.

The Chairman proposed "The Health of the Queen and Royal Family," and the Vice-chairman "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," which was responded to by the Rev. C. Claze, who made some suitable remarks respecting the pending prosecution of the Bishop of Lincoln.

"The Health of the Churchwardens" was proposed by Mr. D. Seamer, and drunk with musical honours.

During the evening songs were sung by Messrs. Heyhoe, Slingsby, Chaffer, and Jackson of Hull. Previous to the dinner a 742 of Grandsire Triples (the last of Holt's ten-part peal) was rung by the following: C. Jackson (conductor), 1; —. Stockdale, 2; A. Bramall, 3: A. Shepherd, 4; W. Heyhoe, 5; G. Wheldon, 6; —. Southwick, 7; J. Lamb, 8. The treble, 2nd and 7th men hail from Hull; the rest are local men.

WENHASTON, SUFFOLK.

On Tuesday evening, January 8th, the ringers and chimers of this parish held their annual dinner at the "Carpenters Arms," where a good spread was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Bell. At the close of the dinner the ringers proceeded to the tower, and several touches of Grandsire and Bob Minor were rung on the bells by the following band: W. Danford, 1; F. Lambert (conductor), 2; T. Smith, 3; R. Spalding, 4; G. Eastaugh, 5; C. Linsdale, 6. After leaving the tower handbell ringing and songs brought to a close a most pleasant evening.

WANTED immediately a set of handbells, not less thau 12, apply with full particulars and cash price to H. T. JAMES, 11, Mill Lane, West Hartlepool.

RINGERS' SUPPER AT ST. ALBANS.

The members of the St. Peter's Society held their annual supper on Wednesday, January 23rd, at the house of Mr. T. Waller, Church Green. An excellent repast was put upon the table by Mrs. Waller, which received ample justice, and, on the removal of the cloth, "go" was called by the conductor for a start on the song-and-toast course, which lasted for some hours. After "The Queen and Royal Family," and "The City and Trade of St. Albans" had been duly honoured, the chairman, Mr. E. P. Debenham, proposed the toast of the evening, "Success to the St. Peter's Society of Change-Ringers," and in the course of his speech congratulated the members upon the progress they had made in the art during the past year, and acknowledged the invaluable assistance which had been rendered by the honorary members, coupling with the toast the names of Mr. Lewis and Mr. Waller, who responded in suitable terms. The next was that of "The Honorary Members," which drew Messrs. G. W. Cartmel, W. H. L. Buckingham, A. Barnes, and W. H. Buckingham upon their feet in response. The good wishes of all present towards the President and chairman of the evening having been expressed, the toast of "Kindred Societies" was then dealt with by Mr. Debenham, who alluded to the advance in change-ringing that was being made in the county, referring to the Hatfield, Northaw, Baldock and Hitchin bands in particular as cases in point, and further evidenced by the increasing number of members in the county Association.

Mr. Cartmel, the newly-appointed conductor of the Cathedral Society, responded.

Mr. Lewis having claimed attention for the "Host and Hostess and their family," "The Visitors and the Umpires of the local handbell peals" followed, while the value of Mr. Conley's services at the piano during the evening was not overlooked, he having been kept busy nearly the whole time. The authorised programme was not got through until the first notch after midnight had been scored, although "stand" was not finally called until old Father Time had sent the small hand of the clock some way further on Thursday's first round of the dial. Songs were sung during the evening by nearly all present, Mr. Conley, as before-mentioned, kindly accompanying on the piano.

NUNEATON, WARWICKSHIRE.

On Wednesday, January 16th, the ringers of St. Nicholas' parish church had their annual supper at the house of Mr. Winter, to which about a dozen sat down to the good things provided. After satisfying the inner man, the rest of the evening was spent in tunes and change-ringing by H. Horwood, J. Clarke, T. W. Chapman, and G. Winter, and a few good songs by Messrs. W. Rowley, E. Rowley, J. Clarke, and T. W. Chapman, Mr. T. Matthews presiding at the piano. After singing the National Anthem the party broke up, all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

THE Next Annual Meeting of the above Association will be held on Saturday, February 16th, at the "Arden Arms," Millgate, Stockport. Members are hereby requested to note that the business meeting which will precede the diuner, will commence at 3.30, and dinner at 5 o'clock. Dinner tickets 1s. 6d. each. Those companies intending being present at dinner will greatly oblige by sending in their number to Mr. Fletcher, "Arden Arms," Millgate, Stockport, on or before Thursday, February 14th. Members are further requested to note that the annual subscriptions are due. The bells of St. Mary's parish church (8), have been kindly placed at the disposal of the members.

JAMES S. WILDE,
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE, } *Hon. Secs.*

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—ROSSENDALE BRANCH.

The next ringing meeting of the above branch will take place at St. Mary's church, Rawtenstall, to-day, Saturday, Feb. 2nd. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting in the school at 6.

J. T. STOTT, *Local Sec.*

THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD" *will be forwarded, post free, on the following terms:—*

One copy,	12 months	6*s.* 6*d.*
,,	6 ,, ...	3*s.* 3*d.*
,,	3	1*s.* 8*d.*

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.*

ADDRESS WANTED.—The Rev. W. PEARSON, formerly of Syston, Leicestershire.
G. P. C.—Your whereabouts.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1889.

THE steps which MR. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD is about to take for the celebration of MR. HENRY JOHNSON'S eightieth birthday has the combination of utility and pleasure. The latter in more ways than one, certainly, for it will be a pleasure not only to honour the worthy veteran of the art, but also to enjoy the society of the leading members of the Exercise who will be congregated together in response to the invitation of the worthy Squire of Duffield. It is to be hoped that the generous instincts of MR. HEYWOOD will be taken advantage of in a manner worthy of the event; whether the idea may be to give honour to whom honour is due, or to take advantage of such a reunion which the occasion will afford. The former object would appear to us the main reason for attending, though the advantages accruing to the Exercise from the latter cannot be too lightly esteemed. MR. JOHNSON has been such a central figure, as it were, of the Art for so many years, that by us he is looked upon as the Father of the Exercise, and it is by reason of such feelings towards him that we initiated, some time ago, the proceedings which resulted in that pleasing ceremony which afterwards took place.

We have said that the proposed celebration may have its utilitarian side. May we hope that among the assembled counsellors some efforts may be suggested to weld firmly together in one compact organisation the ringers of the entire neighbourhood. The St. Martin's Society is about to enlarge its borders and strengthen its stakes, could they not be persuaded to consider seriously a connection with the Association of that diocese in which the town of Birmingham is the metropolis? There are many societies within this diocese whose proceedings we scarcely hear of; and there are also many excellent peals very rarely heard. Could the St. Martin's Society lead the way to a better state of things? We think they could if they chose. We hope this hint will be met in a right spirit by them, and that when celebrating the natal day of their old and rightly-valued friend they will be of opinion that a very good plan of immortalising the eightieth anniversary of his birth will be to extend the value of his teachings, his example, his abilities, and his private worth into those parts of the Worcester diocese not so favoured as Birmingham.

The Metropolis.

THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Thursday, January 24, 1889, *in Two Hours and Forty-Two Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 18 cwt.

ARTHUR JACOB	*Treble.*	EDWARD E. RICHARDS ..	5.
JOSEPH BARRY	2.	WILLM. T. COCKERILL ..	6.
THOMAS TITCHENER	3.	FREDK. G. NEWMAN ..	7.
WILLM. L. CHAMBERLAIN	4.	PHILIP GAYMER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

The above peal was rung on the occasion of the thirty-eighth birthday of Mr T. Titchener, the ringers wishing him many happy returns.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIETY, WESTMINSTER.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, *in Three Hours and Five Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 25 cwt.

SAMUEL J. REED	*Treble.*	EDWARD DUFF	5.
JOHN M. HAYES..	2.	HENRY S. ELLIS	6.
HENRY R. NEWTON	3.	WILLIAM H. GEORGE ..	7.
AUGUSTUS F. INGERFIELD*	4.	WILLIAM CARTER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HENRY R. NEWTON.

*First peal.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, *in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,*
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5002 CHANGES;
Tenor 21 cwt.

FREDK. G. NEWMAN	*Treble.*	E. P. DEBENHAM	6.
WILLIAM CECIL	2.	EDWIN HORREX..	7.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM ..	3.	GEO. T. MCLAUGHLIN ..	8.
RICHARD T. WOODLEY ..	4.	JAMES W. DRIVER	9.
CHALLIS F. WINNY	5.	SAMUEL HOW	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN NELMS, and Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

The Provinces.

LYMINGE, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 23, 1889, *in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,*
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
5040 CHANGES UPON SIX BELLS;
Being Seven 720s of Bob Minor.
Tenor 18½ cwt.

SIDNEY FINN (aged 17)	*Treble.*	G. FINN	4.
C. LAKER	2.	A. TANTON..	5.
J. ANDREWS..	3.	J. H. CHEESMAN ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOHN HERBERT CHEESMAN.

The above was rung on the 17th birthday of the conductor.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 24, 1889, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 20½ cwt.

JOHN BUTTON	*Treble.*	ALBERT LINCOLN	5.
HENRY J. BUTTON	2.	THOMAS E. SHEARING	6.
RICHARD W. STANNARD	3.	THOMAS G. STAULKEY	7.
FREDERICK WILSON	4.	GABRIEL LINDOFF	*Tenor.*

Composed by the late JOHN COX, and Conducted by G. LINDOFF.

This is the first peal in the method by all, and the first peal of Treble Bob by Leiston men.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.—WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 24, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION. Tenor 9¾ cwt.

FREDERICK WRIGHT	*Treble.*	*CHARLES BOUGHTON	5.
HARRY MORRIS	2.	†WILLIAM SHORT	6.
THOMAS LEES	3.	THOMAS BARBER	7.
JOSEPH SMITH	4.	*WILLIAM BOUGHTON	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

*First peal. †First peal as conductor. The first four belong to the local band, the others to Clent.

STALYBRIDGE, CHESHIRE.

On Thursday, January 24, 1889, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

JOHN LAWTON	*Treble.*	SAMUEL HILL	5.
HUGH SHAW	2.	SAMUEL WOOD	6.
JOHN SIDEBOTHAM	3.	JAMES BRADLEY	7.
THOMAS BRADDOCK	4.	MATTHEW PAILTHORP	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

LOUGHTON, ESSEX.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Thursday, January 24, 1889, in Three Hours and 38 Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6016 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 21 cwt.

A. H. GARDOM	*Treble.*	EDWIN BARNETT	5.
JOHN GOBBETT	2.	BENJAMIN FOSKETT	6.
JAMES PRIEST, JUN.	3.	HUGH SCARLETT	7.
EDWARD CHAPMAN	4.	*WILLIAM LEBBON	*Tenor.*

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by A. H. GARDOM.

*First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. This peal, which is now rung for the first time, has the 5th and 6th their extent wrong and right, and was rung on the occasion of the 23rd birthday of Mr. W. Lebbon, the ringers wishing him many happy returns.

BACUP, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(THE ROCHDALE AND ROSSENDALE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 10 cwt.

F. BIRTWISTLE	*Treble.*	JOHN MILLETT	5.
JOHN SHEPHERD	2.	A. EDWARD WREAKS	6.
ABRAHAM WHITE*	3.	GEORGE HOYLE	7.
JAS. B. TAYLOR	4.	JOHN CROPPER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by GEORGE HOYLE.

*First peal at first attempt.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 13¾ cwt.

JOHN AKEHURST*	*Treble.*	ROBERT JORDAN	5.
JOSEPH NEWNHAM*	2.	ALFRED F. HILLIER	6.
EDWIN JORDAN	3.	DAVID JORDAN	7.
ALFRED D. MILLS	4.	FREDERICK WICKENS	*Tenor.*

Composed by O. LANG and Conducted by FREDERICK WICKENS.

*First peal of Major. Messrs Newnham and Hillier were elected members of the Winchester Guild before starting for the peal.

WRITTLE, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES' VARIATION. Tenor 18½ cwt.

WILLIAM E. EMERY	*Treble.*	ALFRED TARBUN	5.
REV. T. L. PAPILLON	2.	ARTHUR EDWARDS	6.
GEORGE C. SCOWEN*	3.	WILLIAM LINCOLN	7.
FREDERICK RADLEY	4.	WILLIAM J. PIPER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM LINCOLN.

*First peal. Mr. Scowen hails from Brentwood; Messrs. Tarbun and Piper from Widford; the rest belong to the local company.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

JOHN SIDEBOTHAM	*Treble.*	JAMES S. WILDE	5.
RALPH PRICHARD	2.	THOMAS WILDE	6.
JAMES SHAW	3.	JOSEPH MALONEY	7.
SAMUEL WOOD	4.	JOHN PYE, JUN.	*Tenor.*

Composed by JAMES S. WILDE, and Conducted by JOSEPH MALONEY.

The above peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled as a token of respect for the twenty-three men and boys who were killed at the Hyde colliery explosion on January 18th, 1889. Messrs. Maloney and Pye hail from Glossop; Wood from Ashton-under-Lyne; Sidebotham from Mottram; the rest belong to the local company.

HUNSDON, HERTS.—THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION AND THE HERTFORD COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DUNSTAN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14 cwt.

EDWARD CAINS*	*Treble.*	STEPHEN KNIGHT	5.
EDMUND HOLIFIELD	2.	MALTHEW ELLSMORE	6.
JAMES JAUNCEY	3.	HERBERT BAKER	7.
REV. CANON WIGRAM	4.	CHARLES LADLEY	*Tenor.*

Conducted by MATTHEW ELLSMORE.

*First peal of Triples. E. Cains and C. Ladley were elected members of the above companies before starting. This is the first peal the conductor has called.

GUISELEY, YORKSHIRE.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OSWALD,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 10½ cwt.

C. RALPH	*Treble.*	G. BOLLAND	5.
D. E. RHODES	2.	J. YEADON	6.
H. DEMAIN	3.	L. CAWOOD	7.
S. BROWN	4.	J. BADDWIN	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by LISTER CAWOOD.

Messrs. Ralph and Cawood hail from Otley; Bolland from Tong; the rest are of the local company.

FAREHAM, HANTS.—WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

ANNABLE'S SIX-PART.

D. J. JEFFERY*	*Treble.*	GEORGE BATTS..	5.
JOHN STAPLES†	2.	†GEORGE WILLIAMS ..	6.
GEORGE GRAFHAM†	3.	†JOHN W. WHITING.. ..	7.
FRED HILL†	4.	*JAMES BATTS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

*First peal. First peal in the method on the bells, also first attempt at the method by all except the conductor. †Cumberland Youths.

LONG MELFORD, SUFFOLK.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 28, 1889, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES.

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

GEORGE MAXIM	*Treble.*	HENRY DUCE	5.
SAMUEL SLATER..	2.	†HARRY SMITH	6.
OLIVER GARWOOD	3.	CHARLES SILLITOE	7.
ARTHUR SYMONDS*	4.	JOHN LEE	*Tenor.*

Composed by J. BARKER and Conducted by CHARLES SILLITOE.

†First peal. *First peal in the method. This peal, which is in two parts, has the sixth twenty-two times right and twenty-two times wrong. Messrs. Symonds and Smith bail from Lavenham; Slater and Garwood from Glemsford; Maxim and Lee from Foxearth; Sillitoe from Sudbury; Duce from Melford.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, January 28, 1889, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION. Tenor 13¾ cwt.

GEORGE MITCHISON	*Treble.*	GEORGE SMITH..	5.
WILLIAM CARTE†	2.	*WILLIAM E. SMITH ..	6.
WILLIAM LONG	3.	WILLIAM COOPER	7.
CHARLES WILLIAMS† ..	4.	CHARLES FLUCK	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM E. SMITH.

*First peal as conductor, aged 17. †First peal with a bob bell. The ages of the ringers of the first, second, and fourth bells, is 17 and 18 respectively. The above is the qucikest peal on the bells.

ROTHERHAM.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 28, 1889, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5016 CHANGES.

Tenor 32 cwt.

CHARLES BOWER	*Treble.*	CHAS. HY. HATTERSLEY..	6.
WILLIAM DAVIES	2.	JOHN HALE	7.
FRED COATES	3.	TOM LEE	8.
WALTER COATES	4.	ALFRED RODGERS	9.
TOM WHITWORTH	5.	WILLIAM HURST	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by CHARLES HENRY HATTERSLEY.

This peal has the 6th in 2nd's place throughout, with the 5th its extent behind the 9th (by the use of bobs only), and the treble never in that position. Mr. William Davies hails from Liverpool.

BRISTOL.—GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 30, 1889, in Three Hours Thirty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY DE REDCLIFFE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 48 cwt. in B.

C. H. GORDON*	*Treble.*	A. BAWN	5.
G. COLSTON	2.	†F. PRICE	6.
F. W. ELLES	3.	J. HINTON	7.
S. PHILLIPS..	4.	W. COLSTON .. .. J. PALSER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by F. PRICE.

†First peal as conductor. *First peal. The above is the first peal of Triples on the bells, which have recently been rehung by Messrs. Taylor.

BROMBOROUGH, CHESHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 26, 1889, in Three Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt.

JOHN R. PRITCHARD	*Treble.*	HENRY COLEY	5.
WILLIAM JAMES	2.	GEORGE FISHER	6.
WILLIAM BOOTH..	3.	WILLIAM DAVIES	7.
JOHN ASPINWALL	4.	THOMAS HAMMOND	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN R. PRITCHARD, and Conducted by THOMAS HAMMOND.

This is the first peal in the method on the bells, and the ringers here desire to thank the Rev. E. Dyer Green, rector, for his permission; and Mr. E. Griffiths, steeple-keeper, for having everything in readiness for them.

HAMBLEDON, HANTS.—THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 27, 1889, in Two Hours and Thirty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

5040 CHANGES IN FOUR DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

BEING 720 OF OXFORD, TWO 720'S OF KENT TREBLE BOB, TWO 720'S OF OXFORD SINGLE BOB, AND TWO 720'S OF BOB MINOR.

JAMES BATTS*	*Treble.*	CHARLES TRIBE	4.
GEORGE BATTS	2.	WILLIAM SELBY	5.
GEORGE WILLIAMS	3.	*JOHN W. WHITING ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

*First 5040 on six bells. The above is the first 5040 on the bells. Messrs. G. Batts, Williams, Tribe, and Selby, hail from Midhurst; Whiting from Fareham; J. Batts is of the local company. The above band wish to thank the Rev. Dr. White, through the medium of this paper, for granting permission for a peal, and also for his kindness in entertaining them to tea after the performance.

Date Touches.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER.—On Monday, January 21st, at the Cathedral, a date touch of Grandsire Caters (1889 changes), in 1 hr. and 14 mins. J. Grimshaw, 1; G. E. Turner, 2; J. Gratrix, 3; T. Thorpe, 4; Rev. H. J. Elsee, 5; H. Chapman, 6; J. Rogers, 7; J. Thorpe, 8; J. Eachus (conductor), 9; J. Parkinson, 10. Composed by G. Hayward, of Bromsgrove.

THE UNITED COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

MOSSLEY (Lancashire).—On Thursday, January 24th, a date touch of Treble Bob Major, 1889 changes, in the Kent Variation, in 1 hr. and 10 mins. J. J. Brierley, 1; John Holden (conductor), 2; J. Turner, 3; H. Mayall (first date touch), 4; E. Buckley, 5; M. Bradbury, 6; S. B. Dickens, 7; E. Wood, 8. Composed by A. Sykes, of Huddersfield. Tenor 13 cwt.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SKIPTON (Yorks).—On Sunday evening, January 27th, for service at the parish church, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major (1889 changes, in 1 hr. and 11 mins. F. Anderson, 1; J. Boothman, 2; J. W. Stirk, 3; W. Wellock, 4; W. Mason, 5; H. Horner, 6; W. Billows (conductor), 7; W. D. Hillary, 8. Composed by A. Sykes, of Huddersfield. The above touch appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" of January 7th.

BRAMLEY (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, January 26th, the following ringers from Moorside paid a visit to Bramley and rang at St. Peter's church, a date touch of 1889 changes in the following Minor methods: 689 Oxford; 600 Violet; and 600 Woodbine. J. Thackray, 1; J. Cooper (conductor), 2; A. Windsor, 3; T. Haynes, 4; John Thackray, 5; J. Guy 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

BLOXWICH (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, January 13th, eight Walsall ringers rang on the Jubilee bells (after evening service), a date touch of Stedman Triples,, 1889 changes, in 1 hr. and 7 mins. F. Hallsworth, 1; W. Walker, 2; J. Astbury, sen., 3; D. Chapman, 4; E. Lightwood, 5; J. Lawton, 6; J. Astbury, jun. (conductor), 7; E. Taylor, 8. Composed by A. P. Heywood, Esq.

GARSTON (Lancashire).—On Thursday, January 17th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1889 changes), in 1 hr, and 7 mins. S. Gough, 1; *T. Ellson, 2; T. Morris, 3; Wm. Weaver, 4; C. Newton, 5; T. Allen, 6; F. Turner (conductor), 7; J. Alexander, 8. *Longest length.

LIVERSEDGE (Yorkshire).—On Sunday, January 27th, for evening service, 1889 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major (with all six place bobs), in 1 hr. and 6½ mins. J. W. Lang, 1; J. Knott, 2; A. Briggs, 3; S. Goodall, 4; H. Brooks, 5; M. Ramsden, 6; L. Illingworth, 7; W. Collins, 8. Composed by A. Sykes, of Huddersfield, and conducted by Sydney Goodall. Tenor 15 cwt.

MOORSIDE, OLDHAM (Lancashire).—On Sunday, January 27th, for morning service at St. Thomas' church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1889 changes, in 1 hr. and 7 mins. A. Butterworth, 1; S. Stott, 2; W. Pitman, 3; J. Taylor, 4; W. Hall, 5; W. Sutcliffe, 6; L. Hampson, 7; J. Crossley, 8. Composed by J. Carter of Birmingham, and conducted by S. Stott of Oldham, all the others of the Moorside Company. W. Hall's first attempt of this length. It was rung in commemoration of the 69th birthday of Sally Dyson, our worthy hostess and landlady of the ringers, meeting house, "Bull's Head" Inn, Moorside, Oldham.

MIRFIELD (Yorkshire).—On Sunday evening, January 20th, a date touch (1889 changes), of Kent Treble Bob Royal, in 1 hr. and 13 mins. H. Collinson, 1; T. Crawshaw, 2; W. Holmes, 3; S. Peacock, 4; W. Peacock, 5; W. Barrowclough, 6; R. Ellis, 7; H. Hinchcliffe, 8; B. Robinson, 9; J. Peacock (conductor), 8. Composed by A. Sykes, of Huddersfield. Tenor 30 cwt.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Friday evening, January 18th, at St. Mary's church, a date touch of (1889 changes), in 1 hr. and 11 mins, in the following methods, viz.: 449 Plain Bob Minor (composed by C. E. Wilson); 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor; 360 College Single Minor; 360 Oxford Treble Bob Minor; and 360 Grandsire Minor. J. Nightingale, 1; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 2; W. J. Short, 3; W. Rushton, 4; R. H. Barton, 5; J. Bradshaw, 6. Messrs Short, Rushden, Barton and Bradshaw hail from Bootle; Wilson aud Nightingale belong to Walton. Tenor 9 cwt.

WOOLTON (Lancashire).—On Saturday, January 26th, a mixed company from Garston and Grassendale visited the parish church, and rung a date touch of Plain Bob Triples, in 1 hr. and 11 mins. S. Gough, 1; J. Turner (longest length in any method), 2; T. Morris, 3; J. Alexander, 4; J. Allen, 5; W. Weaver, 6; F. Turner (conductor), 7; P. Roberts, 8. The above is the first date touch rung on these bells, and the first in the method on the bells. Taken from Hubbard's ten-part. The ringers wish to tender their thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells.

Miscellaneous.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

FARNHAM (Essex).—On Sunday, January 27th, at St. Mary's church, 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25 mins. C. Prior, 1; G. Prior, 2; W. Prior, 3; W. Dillow (first 720), 4; W. White, 5; H. Prior (conductor), 6. And 360 of Plain Bob Minor. G. Milting, 1; G. Prior, 2; J. Dillow, 3; W. Prior, 4; H. Prior (conductor), 5; C. Prior, 6. Tenor 11 cwt.

ROMFORD.—On Sunday morning, January 6th, at St. Edward's church, 840 of Grandsire Triples, including the last 700 of Holt's Original. L. Copsey, 1; W. Pegrum, 2; J. Roughton, 3; M. Myhill, 4; B. Keeble, 5; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 6; W. Nash, 7; L. James, 8. Also on Sunday, January 20th, the first part of Reeves's Variation (560 changes), with W. Page, 5. *Handbell Ringing.*—On Monday evening, January 21st, a short touch of Grandsire Triples, and a course of Caters, with J. Scowen, 1-2; also two courses of Grandsire Cinques, being the first of Cinques by five of the band. W. Pegrum, 1-2; B. Keeble, 3-4; M. Myhill, 5-6; W. Nash, 7-8; A. J. Perkins, 9-10: L. Copsey, 11-12.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

DERBY.—On Sunday evening last, January 27th, at the church of St. Werburgh, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 47 mins., as a mark of respect to the late vicar, who was a hon. member of the Association. J. Ridgway, 1; W. H. Poyser, 2; A. Taberer, 3; J. Newbold, 4; R. Redgate, 5; L. Lomas, 6; J. Howe (conductor), 7; G. Slack, 8.

THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

WORKSOP (Notts).—On Sunday, January 20th, for Divine Service at the Abbey church, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, and 720 of Violet. S. Tomlinson, 1; D. Russon, 2; J. Marshall, 3; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 4; G. Barrowcliff, 5; R. Beestin, 6. Tomlinson, Russon, and Hargreaves hail from Shire Oak. The remainder belong to Worksop.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

HUGHENDEN (Bucks).—On Saturday, January 19th, for practice at the parish church, 1036 of Grandsire Triples. S. Goodchild, 1; F. Biggs, 2; W. Goodchild, 3; R. Biggs, 4; F. L. Free, 5; J. Evans (conductor), 6; H. Stratford, 7; B. Page, 8.

THE NORTH MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

HENDON.—On Wednesday, January 23rd, for practise, a 720 of Plain Bob (sixteen bobs and six singles) in 26 mins. W. Russell, 1; F. Pratt, 2; T. Card (conductor), 3; J. Leach (Crickelwood), 4; C. Martin, 5; C. Crampton, 6. Tenor 16½ cwt. Also at Finchley on Sunday, January 27th, a 720 of Plain Bob (fourteen singles and four bobs), in 25 mins. H. Martin, 1; F. Sparks, 2; C. Martin, 3; J. Cornell, 4; C. Crampton, 5; T. Card (conductor), 6. Also several 6-scores of Grandsire and Bob Doubles, in which Messrs. Tubb, Webb, Edmunds and Mulley took part. Tenor 10 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BACUP (Lancashire).—On Tuesday evening, January 15th, for practice at Christ church, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. W. Ormerod, 1; J. Hardman, 2; A. A. Downing, 3; A. Chew, 4; W. Smith (conductor), 5; A. White, 6. And on Sunday evening, January 20th, 720 of Oxford Single. W. Ormerod, 1; L. Lord, 2; A. A. Downing, 3; A. Chew, 4; A. White, 5; W. Smith (conductor), 6.

BLACKBURN (Lancashire).—On Sunday evening, January 20th, at the parish church for Divine Service, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 28½ mins. J. Horrocks (conductor), 1; H. Hayes, 2; J. Bentley, 3; J. Davison, 4; J. Smith, 5; W. Pattison, 6.

LISCARD (Cheshire).—On Saturday, January 19th, an attempt for Haley's Variation of Stedman Triples, was abandoned after ringing 1260 changes in 45 mins., owing to a change-course. J. R. Pritchard (conductor), 1; W. G. Mann, 2; T. Hammond, 3; W. James, 4; H. Coley, 5; G. Fisher, 6; W. Davies, 7; J. Aspinwall, 8. Afterwards 480 of Treble Bob Major, conducted by T. Hammond, treble and 2nd men changing places.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BAGSHOT (Surrey).—On Monday evening, January 14th, at St. Anne's church, for practice, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs). W. Stevens, 1; H. Stapleton, 2; F. Francis, 3; O. Harding, 4; T. Gould, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in the method by all the band. Also the first 720 in the method on the bells. And on Thursday evening, January 17th, 120 of Stedman Doubles. H. Stapleton, 1; F. Francis, 2; W. Stevens, 3; O. Harding, 4; T. Gould (conductor), 5; W. Varndell, 6. Also 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, by the same band, with E. Spooner at the tenor, W. Varndell standing out. And on Tuesday, January 22nd, 720 of Grandsire Doubles. H. Stapleton, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis (conductor), 3; O. Harding, 4; E. Spooner, 5; W. Harding, 6. And 360 of Bob Minor. W. Stevens, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; O. Harding, 4; H. Stapleton, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. And 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles.) W. Stevens, 1; H. Stapleton, 2; F. Francis, 3; O. Harding, 4; T. Gould, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 of Grandsire Minor by W. Stevens and O. Harding, who only started to learn ringing on the 25th January, 1888, and can now ring, Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, and Stedman.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRANCEPETH.—On Monday, January 21st, on the occasion of the inauguration of the new peal of eight bells the following touches were brought home: 505 of Grandsire Triples. W. Reed (North Shields), 1; F. Lees (Newcastle), 2; W. Pick (Ripon), 3; E. Wallis (Newcastle, conductor), 4; A. Ingleby (Ripon), 5; C. J. Butterworth (Durham), 6; T. Clark (Ripon), 7; J. Bolton (Darlington), 8. And 292 of Stedman Triples. A. Pratt (Ripon), 1; W. Reed, 2; W. Pick, 3; A. H. Clark (Ripon), 4; A. Ingleby, 5; W. Story (Newcastle), 6; T. Clark (conductor), 7; D. Shipp (Staindrop), 8. And 1088 of Kent Treble Bob. F. Lees, 1; G. J. Clarkson (conductor; Stockton), 2; E. Wallis, 3; T. W. Waller (Stockton), 4; C. J. Butterworth, 5; J. Cleminson (Bishop Auckland), 6; R. S. Story (Newcastle), 7; W. Newton (Stockton), 8. And 504 of Grandsire Triples. T. Buzzard, 1; J. G. Pratt, 2; W. Reed (conductor), 3; W. Charlton, 4; R. Pallister, 5; F. Charlton, 6; E. Pitt, 7; J. Cleminson, 8; all from Bishop Auckland except W. Reed. And 720 of Bob Major. T. Buzzard, 1; J. G. Pratt, 2; W. Charlton, 3; J. Pallister, 4; H. C.

Mayne (Bishop Auckland), 5; J. Cleminson, 6; F. Charlton, 7; E. Pitt (conductor), 8. Also by the same company a 336, and 160 of Grandsire Triples.

DURHAM.—On Monday evening, January 21st, at the church of St. Oswald, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. C. Bradford, 1; W. H. Craggs, 2; J. E. Avery, 3; W. G. Newton (first 720 in the method), 4; W. Prince, 5; L. Newton (conductor), 6. And on Monday, January 14th, 720 of Canterbury Pleasure. W. Liddle, 1; W. H. Craggs, 2; W. G Newton, 3; T. Wheatley (first in the method with a bob bell), 4; W. Prince, 5; J. E. Avery (conductor), 6.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

MIDHURST.—On Thursday, January 17th, for practice, 720 of Oxford Single Bob. T. Ellis, 1; W. H. George, 2; G. Williams (conductor), 3; C. Tribe, 4; W. Selby, 5; G. Batts, 6. First 720 in the method by all except conductor.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

LONDON.—On Monday, January 21st, at the church of St. George-the-Marytr, Southwark, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples (2520 changes), in 1 hr. and 30 mins. W. H. Manning (Pinner), 1; W. W. Thorne, 2; A. Hayward, 3; W. H. George, 4; W. T. Cockerill, 5; W. Weatherstone, 6; R. French (conductor), 7; J. George, 8. Tenor 18 cwt. Mr. James George of Coventry, was elected a member previous to the starting. The above was rung in houour of the 21st birthday of Edith Caroline Cassin, third daughter of the Rev. Burman Cassin, M.A., rector of the above church. Also at the church of St. Stephen, Westminster, on Sunday, January 20th, for Divine Service in the evening, the following attempted a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, which unfortunately came to grief after ringing 700 changes. H. Pryor, 1; J. Willshire, 2; S. J. Reed, 3; F. Inglefield, 4; W. Carter, 5; W. H. George, 6; H. S. Ellis (conductor), 7; J. George, 8. Tenor 24 cwt.

BRISTOL.—On Monday evening, January 21st, at St. Peter's church for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). G. Staden, 1; E. Duckham, 2; W. Trevett, 3; W. Parsons, 4; J. Hinton, 5; F. Price (conductor), 6; J. Gould (first quarter-peal), 7; J. Palser, 8.

BASINGSTOKE (Hants).—On Wednesday, January 16th, at the parish church, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), in 26½ mins, with 7-8 covering. J. Ballard, 1; W. Bullpit, 2; T. Curtis, 3; G. Gasson, 4; J. R. Higgins, 5; H. White (conductor), 6; S. Wheeler, 7; W. Hatten, 8. And 360 (eighteen bobs and twelve singles.) H. W. Powell, 1; G. Gasson, 2; W. Bullpit, 3; T. Curtis, 4; J. R. Higgins, 5; H. White, 6; T. Wheeler, 7; W. Woods, 8. And two Plain Courses of Grandsire Triples. W. Hatten, 1; J. Ballard, 2; W. Bullpit, 3; T. Curtis, 4; G. Gasson, 5; J. R. Higgens, 6; H. White, 7; T. Wheeler, 8.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—On Sunday, January 20th, at St. Mary's church, 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles.) T. Townson (conductor), 1; T. Watson, 2; J. Spencer, 3; M.Caddy, 4; T. R. Jackson, 5; J. Burrows, 6. First 720 as conductor.

DUDLEY (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday evening, January 22nd, at St. Thomas's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. F. Fellows, 1; J. Henton, 2; J. Mills, 3; J. Fellows, sen, 4; W. Micklewright, 5; J. Fellows, jun, 6; S. Spittle (conductor), 7; J. Bayliss, 8. J. Henton hails from Coventry, and a member of the Bath and Keynsham United Deaneries Association.

GRASSENDALE (Lancashire).—On Sunday, January 27th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church in the evening, 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 27 mins. J. Turner, 1; C. Newton, 2; J. Alexander, 3; W. Weaver, 4; T. Morris, 5; *J. Allen (conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method as conductor.

HOGHTON.—On Saturday, January 26th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles), in 28¼ mins. J. Horrocks (conductor), 1; J. T. Dodd, 2; J. Bentley, 3; W. Hoghton, 4; W. Pattison, 5; T. Horrocks, 6. Tenor 14 cwt.

PRESTWICH (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, January 22nd, at the parish church, 720 of Bob Minor in 27½ mins. J. Hardman, 1; R. Fitton, 2; W. Warburton, 3; J. Brooks, 4; H. Percival, 5; J. Heywood, 6. Tenor 15¾ cwt. The above was rung on the occasion of the birthday of R. Fitton, the ringers wishing him many happy returns. Warburton hails from Whitefield, the rest belong to the local company.

SALISBURY (Wilts).—On Saturday, January 26th, a 5120 of Kent Treble Bob Major was attempted, but it was unfortunately lost after ringing 4160 changes, in 2 hrs. and 35 mins. A. W. Barkus, 1; S. Lawrence, 2; W. S. Wise, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; T. Blackbourn, 5; A. P. Goddard, 6; H. D. Adams, 7; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 8. And on Wednesday, January 23rd, at St. Martin's church, 1536 of Kent Treble Bob Major. A. W. Barkus, 1; S. Lawrence, 2; H. D. Adams, 3; C. A. Clements, 4; T. Blackbourn, 5; A. P. Goddard, 6; J. R. Jerram, 7; W. W. Gifford (conductor), 8.

STANSTEAD (Essex).—On Thursday, January 17th, for practice at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles. T. J. Watts, 1; I. Hammond, 2; I. Cavill, 3; W. Watts, 4; G. Gray, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And a plain course each of the following methods: Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, Oxford Bob, College Single, and Plain Bob Minor. J. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; I. Hammond, 5; I. Cavill, 6. And on Thursday, January 24th, 720 of Plain Bob Minor. T. J. Watts, 1; *W. Watts (conductor), 2; I. Hammond, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; I. Cavill, 6. And on Sunday, January 27th, for afternoon service, 360 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Cavill, 1; I. Cavill, 2; W. Watts, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Hammond, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. *First 720 as conductor. Tenor 13 cwt.

TOTTENHAM (Middlesex).—On Sunday, January 20th, at the parish church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins. J. T. Adams (first quarter peal), 1; E. F. Strange, 2; T. C. Grove, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; H. A. Barnett (conductor), 5; J. Barber (first quarter-peal), 6; G. B. Lucas, 7; W. Martin (first quarter-peal), 8. Mr. Barber is from Clent, Worcestershire, and Mr. Martin was formerly of Erith, Kent. Also on Sunday, January 27th, for Divine Service in the evening, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. J. Waghorn, jun (conductor), 1; R. Elliott, 2; T. C. Grove, 3; G. B. Lucas, 4; W. P. English, 5; J. Barber, 6; J. Waghorn 7; W. Martin, 8.

WORCESTER.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Saturday, January 26th, at St. Helen's Church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 18 mins. H. B. Kingsford (first 720 on handbells), 1-2; S. Cotton (conductor), 3-4; W. Powell, 5-6. Also a 120 of Stedman Doubles. S. Cotton, 1-2; W. Powell, 3-4; H. B. Kingsford, 5-6. And a 300 of Plain Bob Minor. H. B. Kingsford, 1-2; W. Powell, 3-4; S. Cotton (conductor), 5-6.

WOLLASTON (Staffordshire).—On Tuesday, January 15th, for practice at St. James' church, 720 of Bob Minor, in 24 mins. W. Stinton, 1; J. H. Parsons, 2; W. Fryer, 3; Hy. Hartshorne, 4; J. Lewis, 5; H. Dakin (conductor), 6. Hy. Hartshorne hails from Brierley Hill, the others are local men.

WRAYSBURY (Bucks).—On Tuesday evening, January 22nd, for practice, the local company succeeded in ringing their first 720 of Grandsire Minor unaided, in 29 mins. E. Whatmore, 1; R. Shanks, 2; H. Shanks, 3; J. Mills, 4; R. Parker, 5; G. Whatmore, 6. Also another 720 their Vicar the Rev. J. H. Hindson, ringing the 5th, the rest standing as before. And on Sunday evening, January 29th, for Divine Service, another 720 in the same method in 28 mins., with J. J. Parker, of Farnham Royal, ringing the 4th, and the rest as before. The whole conducted by E. Whatmore, to whom some credit is due he being the youngest in the band. Tenor about 12 cwt.

WARWICK.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Thursday, January 17th, a 216 of Bob Minor. B. Jealous, 1-2; J. Hardy, 3-4-5-6. Also some plain courses of Grandsire Triples. G. K. Walker, 1-2; B. Jealous, 3-4; J. Hardy, 5-6; W. J. Gee, 7-8. Also some 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles by the last three.

WREXHAM (North Wales).—On Monday, January 21st, 2520 of Stedman Triples, in 1 hr. and forty mins (Brook's Variation). R. Jones, 1; R. W. Evans, 2; J. Williams, 3; A. Lee, 4; J. Ellis, 5; T. Newall, 6; E. Rowland, 7; J. Kendrick, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. Longest length in the method by all the band.

THE STOCKTON-ON-TEES SOCIETY.

During the year 1888 61 peals of Minor have been rung on the bells of Stockton parish church, comprising: 15 of Kent Treble Bob; 12 of York Surprise; 7 of Oxford Treble Bob; 6 each of Durham, Worcester and London Surprise; 4 of Chichester Surprise; 2 each of Wells Surprise and Woodbine Treble Bob; and 1 of Grandsire Minor. The above list includes 3 peals rung on the occasion of the visit to Stockton of the association on Whitmonday, two of which were conducted by F. Harrison of Jarrow, and one by J. H. Whitfield, of Darlington; of the rest 2 were conducted by T. Burdon; 25 by G. J. Clarkson; and 31 by T. Stephenson. The members of the Stockton Society have noted with satisfaction that the strictures of "Free Lance" have not deterred other six bell companies from turning their attention to 5040s of Surprise Variations, and may fairly claim the credit of having been the first to draw attention to these intricate and musical methods after a lapse of nearly a century.

HANDBELLS WANTED,—The Vicar of Leafield, Witney, wishes for eight handbells for the bell-ringers.—second-hand.

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."

CELEBRATION OF MR. HENRY JOHNSON'S 80th BIRTHDAY.

SIR,—Thursday, February 28th, is the 80th birthday of Mr. Henry Johnson. There are doubtless many who like myself would be loth to let the occasion pass without special notice. The great esteem in which this celebrated ringer is so widely held, not only on account of his remarkable talent but also for his unvarying courtesy to all, led, three years ago, to the establishment by the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, of an annual dinner in his honour. It seems to me, however, that Mr. Johnson's attainment of the age of 80 should receive a recognition of a more national character, and for this reason I, as president of the Midland Counties' Change-Ringers' Association, of which he is an honoured member, desire to ask my brother presidents of other Associations to join with me in forming a gathering at Birmingham representative of the chief ringing Societies throughout the country. With this object I purpose to give, on the date in question, a dinner to which I wish to invite the chief ringing officer of each County or Diocesan Association, or, where this gentleman may be precluded from accepting, such delegate as he may appoint. I should gladly write personally to the president of every society, but unfortunately I have no means of promptly obtaining the addresses. Will you, Sir, therefore allow me to send my invitation through your columns and to request an answer directed to the subjoined address. The outline of the programme which has been adopted is appended, this having been drawn up in consultation with friends from Birmingham and other parts. It is so seldom that an opportunity occurs of bringing together for a common object ringers from all directions, and the social intercourse of such meetings is so agreeable as well as so beneficial, that I trust a widespread endeavour will be made to make Mr. Johnson's 80th birthday the occasion of the most truly national gathering of ringers that has yet been assembled.

A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

Duffield Bank, near Derby, January 20th, 1889.

Johnson Celebration.

A full programme will in due course be published, in the meantime the following will give a general idea of what is proposed.

Thursday, February 28th, touch-ringing in the afternoon—Dinner at 5 o'clock, followed by speeches, after which arrangements will be made for peals at various towers on the following day.

Friday, February 29th, a number of towers will be open for peal or touch ringing in Birmingham and the neighbourhood. A social gathering will be held in the evening, preceded at 7 o'clock by a meat tea at 1/6 a head, after which arrangements will be made for any peals that may be desired on the following day.

The invited representatives of the various Associations will be presented with a ticket for the dinner on intimating to Mr. Heywood, (at his home address) their intention to be present.

Other ringers wishing to join the party are requested to apply for tickets (price 2/6 including wine) to W. H. Godden, Hon. Sec., St. Martin's Guild of Change-Ringers, Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, to whom also any inquiries may be addressed.

All applications for dinner tickets (except from the invited guests) must be accompanied by a remittance and must be made between February 11th and February 23rd.

A REQUEST.

SIR,—Allow me through your columns to ask Mr. J. Wright, of Kingston-on-Thames, to kindly publish his date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1889 changes, for the benefit of A YOUNG CONDUCTOR.

THE WELLS STREET PEAL.

SIR,—The reason for not answering your correspondents *re* the above peal, none of them had courage to attach their names. I think anyone asking questions through print ought to shew that respect. Referring to the advice "W. S." has given the Cumberland Society to enquire into the matter before entering in peal book, I beg to inform "W. S." that I can answer the enquiry with truth and satisfaction. Many thanks to "W. S." or "S. W." (this must be a change-course) for his kind advice. He seems to speak very feelingly, and must have had some experience of being held up to doubt and ridicule.

Hornsey. A. JACOB.

THE ST. MARTIN'S SOCIETY, BIRMINGHAM.

SIR,—I am reminded by several brother-ringers that I made at least three rather important omissions in the paper read by me at the meeting of the Birmingham St. Martin's Guild, held on January 8th, and published in your current number of "THE BELL NEWS." I very much regret that I made them, and ask for a little space in your next issue to correct the same. They are as follows:—March 8th, 1859, a mixed band of the St. Philip's and St. Martin's Societies, Birmingham, rang at Aston, 10047 of Stedman Caters, in 6 hrs. and 16 mins. This peal held the first position in Stedman Caters for about twenty-five years, and was the crowning effort of the late Mr. W. Chattell, who did so much for the revival of the art in Birmingham forty-five years ago, and was conducted by one of his pupils viz.: Mr. J. Perks. In February, 1856, members of the St. Martin's Society rang at Aston, 5037 Stedman Major, and in October, 1876, 5184 Stedman Royal, these two latter peals conducted by Mr. H. Johnson, sen. and all composed by him; the only peals of Major and Royal ever rung in the method. J. DAY.

A DISCLAIMER.

I beg to state that the 5075 of Grandsire Caters rung at Beddington on January 19th, was rung for the first time at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, on March 6th, 1880. H. C. HALEY.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

By the Brighton Branch at St. Peter's.—On Sunday, January 27th, a 504 of Stedman Triples. G. F. Attree (conductor), 1; J. Reilly, 2; E. C. Merritt, 3; A. A. Fuller, 4; J. Jay, 5; H. Weston, 6; G. A. King, 7; H. Tugwell, 8. Also 504 of Grandsire Triples. D. Ross, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; G. A. King, 4; G. Thwaites (conductor), 5; E. C. Merritt, 6; J. Jay, 7; W. F. Vernon, 8. And at St. Nicholas church, 504 of Grandsire Triples. G. Bleach, 1; J. Searle (conductor), 2; C. Painter, 3; A. Arnold, 4; J. Fox, 5; J. Boniface, 6; J. Reilly, 7; W. Davey, 8. C. Painter hails from Ringmer, and A. Arnold from Croydon.

By the Balcombe Branch at Balcombe.—On Thursday, January 17th, 720 of Duke of York. E. Streeter, jun, 1; R. Streeter, 2; H. Meads, 3; T. Streeter, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, January 24th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Bourn, 2; E. Streeter, sen., 3; R. Streeter, 4; T. Streeter, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Violet Treble Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Bourn, 2; E. Streeter, sen., 3; R. Streeter, 4; G. Streeter, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, January 27th, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Streeter, 2; J. Gasson, 3; T. Streeter, 4; H. Meads, 5; J. Cheeseman (conductor), 6. Also 360 of Violet Treble Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Streeter, 2; J. Gasson, 3; T. Streeter, 4; J. Cheeseman, 5; H. Meads (conductor), 6. And 360 of Plain Bob. E. Streeter, jun., 1; R. Bourn, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; R. Streeter, 4; G. Streeter, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6.

By the Crawley Branch at Crawley.—On Monday, January 14th, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. G. Wickens, 1; J. Newnham, 2; J. Reilly, 3; F. Rice, 4; A. F. Hillier, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. Also 720 of Canterbury Pleasure Minor. G. Wickens, 1; *J. Reilly, 2; J. Newnham, 3; W. Collinson, 4; F. Rice, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. *First 720 in the method and hails from Brighton. Also on Saturday, January 26th, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 2 hrs. and 3 mins. (For particulars see peal columns).

By the Chailey Branch at Chailey.—On Saturday, January 26th, a 720 of Plain Bob (nine bobs and six singles), in 26 mins. J. Reynolds, 1; J. Langridge, 2; A. Gorringe, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; W. Turner, 5; W. Pelling (conductor), 6.

By the Eastbourne Branch at Eastbourne.—On Sunday evening, January 27th, 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. W. Ticehurst, 1; H. P. Bennett, 2; E. Baber, 3; J. Davey, 4; F. Fisher, 5; E. Willoughby, 6; F. Hounsell (conductor), 7; J. Parks, 8.

By the Steyning Branch at Steyning.—On Sunday, January 6th, 720 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; S. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; J. Woolgar, 4; F. Morris, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Matthews, 1; F. Morris, 2; S. Searle, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Gatland, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, January 8th, 720 of Plain Bob, G. Gatland, 1; C. Chambers, 2; J. Smart, 3; J. Matthews, 4; S. Searle, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, January 10th, 720 of Woodbine. J. Smart, 1; S. Searle, 2; G. Gatland, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Smart, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, January 20th, 720 of Woodbine. J. Matthews, 1; S. Searle, 2; J. Woolgar, 3; C. Chamcers, 4; F. Morris, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob. J. Smart, 1; F Morris, 2; S. Searle, 3; C. Chambers, 4; G. Gatland, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, January 8th, 720 of Plain Bob. J. Smart, 1; F. Brooks, 2; C. Chambers, 3; J. Matthews, 4; S. Searle, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6. Also 720 of Woodbine. J. Smart, 1; S. Searle, 2; G. Smart, 3; C. Chambers, 4; J. Woolgar, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, January 10th, 720 of Canterbury Pleasure. F. Brooks, 1; C. Chambers, 2; J. Smart, 3; G. Gatland, 4; S. Searle, 5; G. Smart (conductor), 6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"Steadily marching on."

You spoke correctly, Mr. Editor, when you observed that last Saturday's number contained "a varied amount of most interesting intelligence." From first page to last there is scarcely a break in it, and most certainly there is much food for thought in their contents.

* * * * *

The principal item is, of course, the outcome of Mr. Attree's yearly labour of love, in the shape of his analysis for the past twelve months' peal ringing. I would not run the risk of giving offence to that gentleman by attempting to pass any compliments on the valuable page which he gives us. He will, I doubt not, comprehend to some extent the estimation in which we hold his work in this matter, and which has now become a recognised and thoroughly-appreciated "institution" among us. We can, at any rate, without fear of laying ourselves open to the charge of fulsome flattery, heartily thank him once more for his statistics.

* * * * *

It would be superfluous for me to enter into any lengthy examination of the details of this analysis; I imagine it will have been very carefully "conned" in many places ere this. But I would just refer to two or three points which it reveals. The first thing one notices is the relative positions of the various Associations as compared with the two previous years. It will thus be seen that while last year the Sussex men held the premier position, they have this time taken second place, beating the Midland Counties' by six in the last month of the year. The Essex men have also "pulled up" well, rising from the 19th in 1886 to the 10th in 1887, and still further up to the 5th of last year. The Yorkshire Association, which two years ago stood 5th, and last year 3rd, has now dropped to the 8th on the list. The St. James' Society, which for two years past has held 7ths place, has this time dropped into the 18th. With these exceptions, the totals appear pretty near similar to previous ones, or rather, I should say, there is no notable difference in them; and it therefore appears that if there has been no "flush" in the work of peal-ringing, at the least, it is a decided advance. The gross totals for the past eight years form also a very satisfactory portion of this return. They shew a steady and unbroken increase year by year, from 156 in 1881 to 759 in 1888, the greatest increase upon the previous return appearing last year. Not to speak of the "long lengths" and record-beating which 1888 furnishes us, the simple fact of the increase shewn is very pleasing.

* * * * *

"With these few remarks" (to quote an oft-repeated phrase) I will leave the consideration of this analysis, and don't think I need commend it to the careful consideration of the Exercise, as doubtless it will have received that already.

* * * * *

Pressure of time, and the fear of encroaching too much on the space at our Editor's disposal, prevented me last week from referring to "Tenor Ringer's" letter of the previous Saturday. I would only say that I quite agree with his remarks. When I come acros a band in my travels, my first enquiry is "Do you get 'THE BELL NEWS'?" I am hardly ever answered in the negative; but when I ask how many copies they subscribe for, the replies are, of course, very varied. From personal observation I find "Tenor Ringer's" remarks quite correct, that the greater the amount of support given to our paper, the more flourishing are ringing matters. In fact, I have begun to take that as a sort of barometer, which has never deceived me yet: and I am pleased to know that my ideas on the subject are so amply corroborated by your correspondent.

* * * * *

By the way, "A Free Lancette," writing on this subject, seems to have a lurking desire to alter the name of our paper. But if he thinks the title is not distinct enough why does he not suggest a better? Of course we might find many other names equally—or perhaps even more—appropriate. I don't say that had I been entrusted with the duty of finding a name for our paper at its commencement, I should have decided upon its present title. Perhaps "Free Lancette" will favour us with a further expression of his ideas and suggestions on the subject.

* * * * *

Mr. Jennings, in referring to my remarks anent the proposed Cumberland Association, has committed a rather serious oversight: he has neglected to furnish us with his postal address. If he will supply that, I do not doubt that he will be furnished direct with all information from those able to give it. He and the St. Stephen's band may rely upon our heartiest sympathies and help.

* * * * *

Two "Ancient" Societies have been celebrating their anniversaries this month. I don't know exactly how far back in remote antiquity it was that the Croydon Society was established, but the Redenhall band has certainly proved its title by its 153rd celebration. Both events appear to have passed off in a very enjoyable manner. That is one good thing, for whatever occurs in the meantime, our anniversaries should be occasions of unalloyed pleasure, accompanied with renewed expressions of goodwill one towards another.

* * * * *

It was a happy thought on the part of the President of the Yorkshire Association to entertain his Vicar (the Bishop-designate of Chester) along with the ringers of his parish church, to dinner together. It is most earnestly to be hoped that Dr. Jayne will carry with him to his new diocese pleasant recollections of this gathering, and that when he has got settled down to his work, the Chester Diocesan Guild will find in him a powerful help, as well as a warm-hearted, energetic spiritual father. We shall all be glad to see during Dr. Jayne's episcopate the Chester Guild growing stronger, healthier, and as an increasing power both from a scientific point of view and an organisation for the good of the Church to which it belongs.

* * * * *

Our Birmingham friends seem fairly on the way of amalgamation. Although they are doing now what I think they ought to have done years ago, yet, somewhat tardy, their efforts in this direction are no less praiseworthy. Unfortunately my personal acquaintance with Birmingham ringing affairs is much too limited, but I certainly do think they might accomplish much more even yet in that desirable direction of unity. They appear to have plenty of scope in this, seeing the many different societies and organisations which exist amongst them. Anyhow, I hope this fusion of the St. Martin's Guild and the Holt Society is but the forerunner of further schemes for united action, so that in the near future, as this embryo city is well named the capital of the Midlands, it may be in reality the headquarters of the Exercise in that important part of the country.

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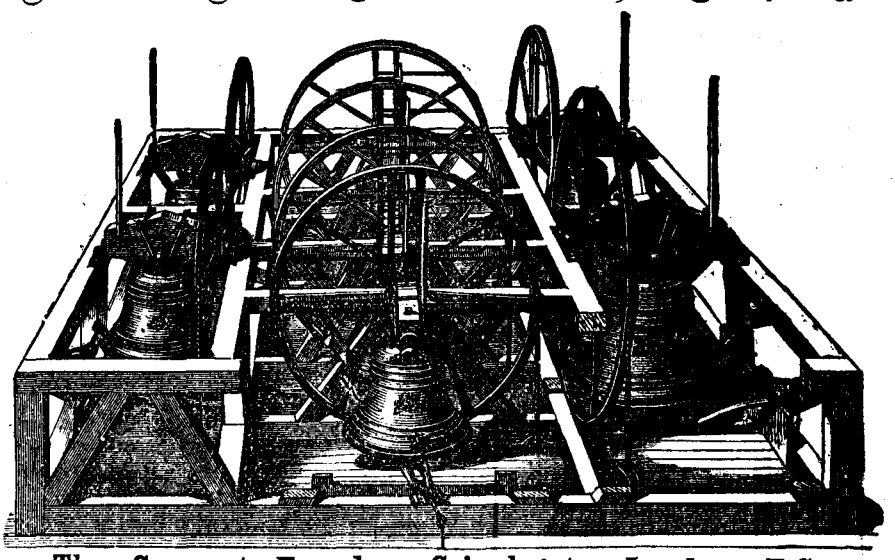

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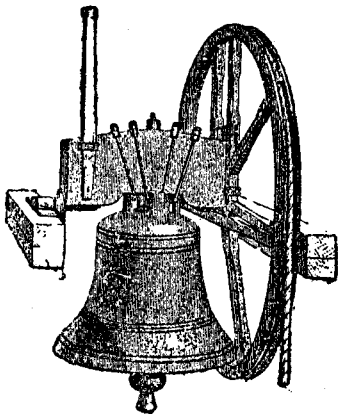

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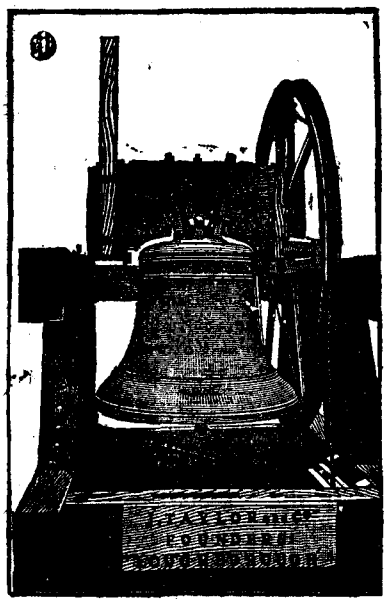

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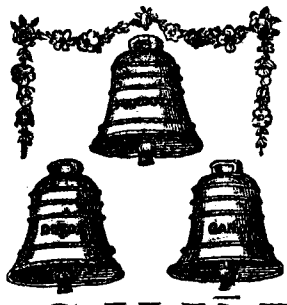

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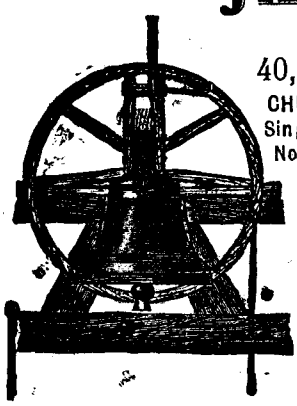

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