

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 358.—VOL. VII.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1889.

ONE PENNY.

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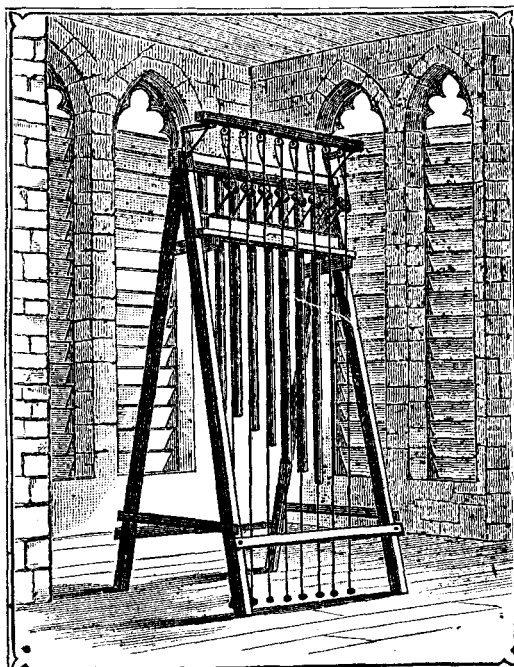
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THE PEAL OF MAXIMUS AT NORWICH IN 1817,
WAS IT DOUBLE NORWICH OR NOT?

By A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

III.

Having shewn, I hope conclusively, that there is positively no evidence whatever that any Court methods have received attention on eight bells except London and Norwich in their double forms, I will now pass on to the consideration of the statement that of "Court" methods on ten bells Norwich Court in its double form is the only one known to have been practised.

In the *Clavis* (pp. 222, 223) will be found a lead and description of a method there termed "Court Bob Ten In," which on inspection is recognisable as the Double Norwich Royal of today. The author takes up some space in attempting to prove that, when extended to ten bells, the methods of London and Norwich (double) Court Bob merge into one, and he consequently entitles the method simply "Court Bob." The argument is entirely fallacious, but it all events goes to prove that only one "Court" Method on ten bells was known. On p. 225 we find that "the first and only peal rung hitherto in the above method was by the St. Peter's Company, in the City of Norwich, on the old peal of ten bells, which formerly occupied that steeple." Snowden (p. 46) gives it as his opinion that there is no reason to suppose this peal was not actually rung, because in the "Osborne Manuscript" (British Museum) it is stated that the Double Norwich Royal method was invented by Thomas Porter, a trunk maker, residing in the Market Place, Norwich, and that the first performance was a peal of Ten In, rung in Norwich in 1769. The evidence of the *Clavis* is ample to shew that the peal in question was one of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal.

Shipway (part 3, pp. 198, 199) after mentioning that of Court methods on ten bells Double Norwich was the only one that had ever been rung, states in reference to two peals of it that were achieved in London in 1801, in the second of which he himself took part, that they were the first in the method. He was thus evidently unacquainted with the Norwich peal of 1769. This however may be accounted for by the fact that the performance was one of which no definite record had been preserved. I have lately heard that some information with regard to this peal has been discovered. Be that however as it may, it hardly affects the present argument, as all that I am concerned to shew is that the "Court Ten In" which was practised at Norwich was Double Norwich. Snowden (p. 47) mentions that Hubbard told him that he had heard old ringers say that Chesnutt (who called the peal of Maximus) was able when a schoolboy to ring St. Peter's tenth to Court Ten In, and that between 1817 and 1821 the company used to practise this method on Sunday mornings during the summer season. Seeing that there is no doubt that Double Norwich Royal was practised at Norwich about 1770 under the title of "Court Ten In" there is little doubt that the "Court Ten In" of 1820 was the same method. Doubtless the full title at that time was "Norwich Court Bob Ten In," and "Norwich" was omitted in common parlance, not necessarily for the reasons stated in the *Clavis*, but for brevity, just as nowadays we drop the "Court" and speak simply of "Double Norwich."

Further corroboration of "Court Ten In" being Norwich in its double form may be found in the same fact as that noticed in regard to Double Norwich Major, namely that Hubbard (p. 34) gives as Single Norwich Royal an entirely different method to the one arranged by Shipway, this single method being, strictly speaking, no method at all.

Enough has now been advanced to prove the accuracy of the third statement that Double Norwich is the only Court method known to have been practised on ten bells. I proceed, therefore, to the final statement that if no single Court methods have been practised on eight or ten bells, nor Double London Court on eight bells at Norwich or on ten anywhere, it is impossible (seeing that it is stated on the peal tablet that the method on twelve "very much resembles" the method on ten) to resist the conclusion that the method rung on twelve at Norwich was Double Norwich Court.

The *Clavis* throws no light on Maximus Court methods

beyond the remark (p. 254) that Court Bob is not a method adapted for twelve bells. Shipway, though unaware of any Court method being practised on twelve bells (part iii., page 198) gives (part i. p. 72) a lead of Double Norwich Maximus. He inserts peals of Maximus (of his own composition) in the various Court methods, but except in regard to Double Norwich, leaves his readers to evolve for themselves the methods on twelve bells from those on ten. Hubbard, however, gives four twelve bell Court methods in full, the consideration of which I will defer to the next paper.

(To be continued.)

ALL SAINTS' COMPANY, MAIDSTONE.

On Monday evening, January 21st, the members and friends of this company dined together at "The Globe" inn, when host Potter catered in excellent style. The chair was taken (in the absence of the Vicar through indisposition) by the Rev. Dr. Spear (senior curate), the vice-chair by the conductor, Mr. A. Moorcraft. The cloth being removed,

The Chairman gave the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family," accompanied by appropriate remarks. This was received with enthusiasm, and

The Vice-Chairman gave "The Archbishop and Clergy of the Diocese," which was duly responded to by the rev. Chairman, who afterwards proposed "Success to the All Saints' company." He was pleased to be with them that evening, and he was sure the Vicar would also have been had his health permitted. He was aware that the company's practices had been much interfered with during the past two years on account of illness near the church in the first place, and now on account of a cracked fifth bell, which however he hoped would soon be replaced by a new one.

Mr. G. Pawley responded. He thanked the rev. gentleman for his kindness in taking the chair that evening, and hoped he would do all in his power to get the new tenor bell.

Other toasts were drank, and some excellent selections of music were given by a few military friends, handbell performances, and vocal harmony. Altogether a most pleasant evening passed too quickly.

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held at Gainsborough on Saturday, the 26th ult., the Rev. Canon Williams, Vicar of Gainsborough, presiding. There were present: Sir Charles Anderson, Bart., Rev. C. E. Cockin, and other honorary members, also ringing members from Lincoln, Grimsby, Stow, and Retford.

The Chairman expressed his regret at being about to leave Gainsborough, and wished the Association every success in the future. He also availed himself of that opportunity to thank F. F. Linley, Esq. (who is Vice-President for the Gainsborough centre of the Association) for the very active part he has taken in the belfry of the parish church.

Sir Charles Anderson, Bart. expressed his satisfaction at the good work done by the Association, and gave some very interesting particulars of the bells of this district and other famous peals.

On the motion of the Rev. C. E. Cockin, a vote of sympathy with the Lord Bishop of the diocese in his present trials was unanimously accorded. Five honorary and eleven ringing members were elected.

After the meeting several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the bells of the parish church by mixed bands.

STAFFORDSHIRE.

A large clock has just been erected upon Farley Hall stables, by Messrs. John Smith and Sons, of the Midland Steam Clock Works, Derby. It strikes the hours and half-hours, and has two dials. The same firm are making a large Cambridge clock for Matlock, one for Bradwell, near Buxton, one for Byrkley, and others.

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

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—DISTRICT MEETING AT SEAFORD.

The first of a series of District Meetings fixed for the present year was held at the old Cinque Port town of Seaford on Saturday, January 26th, and was attended by representatives from branches at Alfriston, Angmering, Arundel, Brighton, Cuckfield, Crawley, Ringmer and Seaford. The programme comprised the usual arrangements such as luncheon, business meeting, special service with address to the ringers, tea and change-ringing between the hours of 11 o'clock and 7.30, excepting when the members were otherwise engaged. The vicar of Seaford (the Rev. H. Meed Buck), kindly acted as president for the day, and he was supported at the luncheon, business meeting and tea by the Revs. J. Puttick, vicar of Alfriston; R. F. Tompkins, vicar of Tortington; C. D. P. Davies, of Ringmer. — Robinson, of Seaford; and between twenty and thirty members. The usual formal business being passed, the following fresh active members were duly elected:—A new branch connected with the parish church of Eastbourne, seven members; five additional to the Steyning branch; four to Hénfield: four to Warnham; one to Arundel; one to Angmering; one to Alfriston; two to Seaford; and four active independent members, making a total addition of twenty-nine. Eastbourne was then selected as the town at which the next eight bell-tower meeting for East Sussex should be held, and it was decided that that six bell tower meeting at Chailey (East Sussex), should take place on Easter Monday. It was next proposed that the Hon. Secretary should write to two or three gentlemen well-known to the Exercise, asking them to kindly formulate a scale by which peals rung by branches in different methods should be scored in the yearly competition for the Sussex County Challenge bell. A hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman for kindly presiding and delivering his address, and a vote of thanks to Mr. T. Hervy Beams, the local Secretary, for kindly arranging the details, brought the meeting to a close. The following touches were brought round:—a 518 of Grandsire Triples. C. Hills, 1; G. F. Attree (conductor), 2; H. Rann, 3; E. Dewey, 4; Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 5; H. Boniface, 6; A. A. Fuller, 7; E. Butler, 8. Also 504 of Stedman Triples. J. Searle, 1; A. A. Fuller, 2; G. A. King, 3; G. Merritt, 4; H. Jones (first 504 in the method), 5; G. F. Attree, 6; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 7; T. Miller, 8. And a 720 of Bob Minor. Rev. R. F. Tompkins, 1; G. F. Attree, 2; J. Searle, 3; G. A. King, 4; J. Jay, 5; C. Hills (conductor), 6; C. Golds and T. H. Beams, covering. Also a 518 of Grandsire Triples. C. Hills, 1; C. Golds, 2; F. Hounsell, 3; J. Jay (conductor), 4; E. Dewey, 5; G. A. King, 6; J. Searle, 7; G. F. Attree, 8. And 504 of Stedman Triples. G. F. Attree, 1; G. A. King, 2; A. A. Fuller, 3; C. Painter (first 504 in the method), 4; Rev. C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 5; J. Jay, 6; J. Searle, 7; C. E. Golds, 8.

The following are the forthcoming meetings as fixed for the first half of the present year:—February 23rd—Angmering, West Sussex, six-bell tower; April 22nd—Chailey, East Sussex, six-bell tower; May (date not fixed); Bolney, West Sussex, eight-bell tower; June 10th, Brighton (Annual General Meeting), central, eight-bell tower, date not yet fixed; Eastbourne, East Sussex, eight-bell tower.

GEO. F. ATTREE, } Hon. Sec.
JAS. E. WORSSELL, } Ass. Hon. Sec.

ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY, FULHAM.

The annual general meeting of the above will take place on this day, Saturday, February 9th, 1889. Tower open at 3 p.m. Special Service at 5.30 p.m. Address by Rev. F. H. Fisher, President of the Society. Tea at Church Room 6.30 p.m. Business and Social gathering afterwards. Tickets 9d. each. All ringers welcome.

C. E. KELLEY, Hon. Sec.
104, High Street, Fulham.

NOTICE OF PEAL.—By the kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens of Rowley Regis, eight members of the Birmingham Amalgamated Society will make an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Major, containing 10,176 changes, on Monday, February 25th. The same peal was rung in 1883, on hand-bells retained in hand by four members of the above society.

HAMBLEDON, HAMPSHIRE.

By the kind invitation of the rector, the Rev. Dr. White, the Midhurst branch of the Sussex County Association visited the above place on Sunday, January 27th. They left Midhurst by the 7.15 train for Petersfield, and there chartered a wagonette and had a beautiful drive of ten miles through some of the most lovely scenery in Hampshire, arriving at Hambledon about 9.30, the sun shining brightly all day, which was greatly appreciated after so much dark and dull weather. Being met here by Mr. J. Whiting, of Fareham, and the local ringers, they proceeded to the church, and having raised the bells, rang a 120 of Bob Doubles, 120 of Grandsire Doubles, and touches of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob for Morning Service, some of the local ringers standing in.

Having partaken of an excellent dinner kindly provided for them by Mr. J. Batts, one of the local men, they again proceeded to the church, and at half-past one started for a peal of 5040 in four different methods, which as seen in last week's peal column, was successfully brought round at six minutes past four. On leaving the tower the rector met them, and having heartily congratulated them on their success, kindly invited them to the rectory to tea, the rector's wife herself kindly doing the honours of the tea table. After thanking the rector and his wife for their kindness in inviting them and providing tea, and also Mr. J. Batts for his kindness, they left for Midhurst at half-past five, which place they safely reached at half-past eight, all having spent a most enjoyable day. This is the first 5040 ever rung on these bells, which are a good peal of six, and were rehung by Mears and Stainbank about two years ago.

Hambledon is noted as being the place where cricket was first played in England, and a Hambledon eleven used formerly to play and beat an All England eleven. And here also is Berry House, where King Charles hid when fleeing from his pursuers and trying to escape to France.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BLACKBURN BRANCH.—On Saturday, January 26th, a ringing meeting of the above branch was held at Hoghton. There were thirty members present from the following places: Blackburn, Church, Hoghton, Oswaldtwistle and Preston. Touches of Grandsire Minor, Grandsire Triples, and a 720 of Plain Bob Minor were rung during the afternoon. A meeting was held in the belfry, over which Mr. Walker, of Blackburn, presided. Nine new members were elected, one of which is under thirteen years of age, namely, John Vogwill, jun., of Hoghton. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the Vicar and Wardens for the use of the belfry, and likewise to the Chairman.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—On Saturday, January 26th, a meeting of the above branch was held at All Saints' church, Whitefield. About forty members attended from the following places: Ramsbottom, Heywood, Bury, Radcliffe, Manchester, Eccles, and Bolton. The bells were started shortly after four o'clock, and touches of Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, Bob Major, and Treble Bob Major, were rung during the evening. A meeting was held at the "Church" inn, the chair being occupied by the Rev. H. J. Elsee, of Manchester. Three new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Pendlebury and Swinton on Saturday, February 23rd, at four o'clock. The evening closed with handbell ringing and singing, which was enjoyed by all present. Votes of thanks for the use of the bells, and to the Chairman for presiding, were then passed.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A District Meeting will be held at Hertford on Saturday, February 23rd. The towers of St. Andrew's and All Saints' churches will be open for ringing during the afternoon and evening. Tea at 5.0 p.m. at the coffee tavern, followed by the business meeting. Arrangements will be made with the Great Northern Railway company for the issue of cheap tickets to members attending the meeting, if they will inform me not later than Wednesday, the 20th instant, of the stations from which they intend to travel. The railway authorities will require members to produce their receipts for the current year's subscription at the booking offices at the time of applying for the tickets.

E. P. DEBENHAM, Hon. Sec.

ST. JOHN AT HACKNEY (MIDDLESEX) SOCIETY.

The Annual Dinner took place on Wednesday, January 30th, at 44 Spurstowe Road, Hackney, when the President, the Rev. F. Evelyn Gardiner, rector, presided, and W. J. Woods, Esq., senior churchwarden and vice-president, occupied the vice-chair. A more successful gathering in every way could not be wished for.

After the removal of the cloth, the toast of "The Queen and Royal Family" was given by the Rector in very appropriate terms, and responded to by the company singing a verse of the National Anthem.

The next toast was that of the "President and Vice-President," proposed by the Secretary. Mr. W. D. Smith. In responding to which,

The Rector thanked them for his reception that evening. He could not let the opportunity pass without expressing his gratification for the very hearty welcome the ringers gave him when he came to Hackney a few months ago. He was pleased to find such a society of ringers in the parish, and not only hoped that their efforts would be crowned with success, but that they would continue in the same state of unity as at present for many years to come.

In responding for the Vice-President, Mr. Woods said the Rector had so clearly defined all that he (Mr. Woods) thought and felt, that nothing was left for him to say, and he thanked the company for their good wishes.

"The St. John at Hackney Society" was then given by the Chairman in eulogistic terms. He drew attention to the responsible and almost unique position of a ringer's calling: at one time the bells being used for rejoicing, at another for sorrowing; and even to a ringer recalling scenes of long ago, and buried animosities, reminding each and everyone that time was still rapid in its flight, and in due course would number the present with the byegones.

The Secretary, in responding, pointed out the difference of the standard of present bell-ringing societies with some of their predecessors, and of the decided improvement from stoney to half-pull ringing that had taken place in the parish of Hackney. He thanked the senior churchwarden for the kind manner in which he had listened to his appeal *re* the bad go of the tenor, which had now happily been rectified. The Society now numbered thirty-two actual ringing members and it was upon a sound basis of co-operation and unity.

Among other toasts which followed was the "Host and Hostess" (Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Smith) given by Mr. J. Page, with musical honours, who commented upon the excellent and capital which the dinner was served, and for which great credit was due.

Mr. Smith, in response, remarked that the pleasant faces and satisfaction which seemed so general among those present was sufficient to guarantee to him that he had succeeded in doing what he considered a very pleasing duty.

Several toasts followed, interspersed with some capital harmony, and midnight was nearly reached before the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" brought one of the most enjoyable and ever to be remembered evenings to a close. It should be stated that the rector and churchwardens have promised to become subscribers to "THE BELL NEWS." D.

BETCHWORTH, SURREY.—MARRIAGE FESTIVITIES.

On Saturday, January 26th, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Randall to Miss Wilkins, the ringers assembled in the belfry and rang 720 and 360 Bob Minor, 720 and 360 Oxford Single Bob Minor, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor. The ringers that took part in the above were: F. and R. Arnold, F. Bridger, E. Moses, W. Sadler, F. Saunders, and J. Robinson. The foregoing are all members of the Surrey Association. In the evening, the ringers, choir, sexton, and postman, were entertained by the bride's mother to an excellent supper, to which ample justice was done, each course coming up true.

After the cloth was removed, singing was the order of the day, in which some excellent songs were sung, when about 11.30 p.m. the conductor called the familiar call "that's all" and "stand," then each guest went his way home much pleased with the evening's festivities.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—DISTRICT MEETING AT SAFFRON WALDEN.

A District Meeting of the Essex Association was held on Saturday, February 2nd, at Saffron Walden, the tower of the parish church, with the fine peal of eight bells, being placed at the disposal of the Association by the Vicar, the Rev. T. Stevens. Some of the visitors arrived early, and during a great part of the day touches in various methods were being rung. The business meeting had been fixed for 4.30 p.m., to be followed by tea, but as the Hon. Secretary, owing to railway delays, was unable to reach Saffron Walden till after 5.0., it was decided to hold the meeting after tea, which was served at the "King's Arms" hotel immediately after his arrival. Thirty-seven sat down, the vicar being in the chair, supported by the Hon. Secretary to the Association (Rev. T. L. Papillon). Tea being disposed of, the minutes of the last meeting (held at Loughton in October) were read, and the following provisional elections were then confirmed; Messrs J. Barry, Walthamstow; W. Allen and F. Furr, Hatfield; A. C. Fussell, Slough; G. Garnett, Romford; E. F. Strange, Tottenham; H. Smith and A. Symonds, Lavenham; F. W. Thornton, Greenwich. The following were also proposed and elected as members of the Association: Honorary: Rev. Canon Cromwell, Stisted; Ringing members: Messrs T. Crozier, Broomfield; A. G. Coe, W. Marshall, and A. Pitstow (Probationer), Saffron Walden; C. French, H. Jermy, F. Perrin, H. Perrin, sen., and H. Perrin, jun., Harlow; H. Baldwin and W. T. Smith, Holy Trinity, Barking Road. The Hon. Sec. gave notice that at the annual meeting he should move that part of the cost of entering peals in the peal-book be paid by the bands who ring them, the number of peals now rung by the Association being so large as to make the full cost of entry an undue strain upon the funds. The meeting closed with a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Ringers were present during the day from Saffron Walden, Elmdon, Cambridge, Sudbury, Bishops Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, Stanstead, Harlow, West Ham, and London; among them being Messrs. J. M. Hayes, C. F. Winny, and R. T. Woodley, of the College Youths; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury); N. and J. Tarling (Sawbridgeworth); H. Randall (West Ham); J. F. Penning, N. J. Pitstow, F. Pitstow (Saffron Walden); to the last named of whom the thanks of all present are due for his care to make the meeting as pleasant and satisfactory as possible. Saffron Walden possesses one of the grandest churches and one of the finest peals in Essex, and has long been a noted home of ringing; and though in so remote a corner of the county as to be from many parts of it almost inaccessible for a day's visit, it can generally attract, upon such occasions, a fair gathering of ringers.

The next meeting will be held on the Saturday after Easter—probably at Harlow.

THE BOLSTERSTONE SOCIETY, YORKSHIRE.

On Thursday, January 24th, this society, at the kind invitation of the Earl and Countess of Wharnclyffe, paid their second annual visit to Wortley Hall. The party, after a pleasant walk of about an hour under a beautiful starlight sky, arrived at the Hall at 8.30 p.m., to find a substantial supper ready for them, in which they were joined by the servants. After they had kept remarkably good time (as all musicians should do) with the viands, and had a short rest, they were summoned to appear before the Earl and Countess, and a distinguished company of guests who were assembled in the stately large billiard-room. There the company then played a selection of tunes upon the handbells, comprising "Men of Harlech," with variations; "Home, Sweet Home," with variations; "The Queen's Jubilee;" and by desire of his lordship, "Here's a health to all good lasses." The Earl and Countess and company expressed themselves greatly pleased with the performance, and his lordship congratulated their conductor, Mr. D. Brearley, on the improvement they had made during the past year, and expressed a wish that he might see them all again next year. After the Earl had given them practical sympathy in the shape of a liberal subscription to their funds, the ringers adjourned to the servants' hall, where the "light fantastic toe" was tripped to the strains of the "Holly Schottische," played upon the bells. The visitors then bade adieu to their friends and departed for home.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"Let us take counsel together."

I very cordially reciprocate your remarks, Mr. Editor, respecting the proposed gathering at Birmingham. There can be no doubt about it that Mr. Heywood's generous invite will be largely taken advantage of, and thus the assembly which meets together on Thursday, the 28th instant, be one not only creditable, but of great importance to the Exercise.

Of course the great and primary object of this meeting is to celebrate the birthday of our venerable and esteemed friend, Mr. Johnson. That this pleasant duty will be carried out in a manner pleasing and creditable to the Exercise we cannot doubt; we may therefore for the present leave it without further comment. But, as the Editor well puts it, the proposed celebration may have its utilitarian side. No doubt about it. And it will be the very reverse of disrespectful to Mr. Johnson, if the representatives present "make the most of their opportunities" while together, and discuss some at least of the many questions now before us. It may be many years before such an equally representative meeting is held again; and I think I shall not be overstepping the bounds of a fair and candid reviewer, if I press this matter most earnestly before those who will have the great privilege of being present on that occasion.

What then, are these subjects which I consider ripe for discussion? Well, it is an old maxim that "Charity begins at home," and on this principle I cordially re-echo our Editor's concluding words of last Saturday's "leader." There is in Birmingham most abundant scope for labours of love in the direction of acquiring that great element of success—unity. If all the societies in that town and neighbourhood were brought together into one organisation, and became a large and powerful branch of what may become "The Worcester Diocesan Guild!" It is well known, I believe, that our Editor is a native of the above-named city, and I for one know that he possesses a fond regard for the place of his birth, and would fain see the Exercise in his native city shine as in days of yore. If the large-hearted men of Birmingham were to throw in their lot and combine with their friends of the present Worcester Association, 'twould I believe prove to the full to both parties that "unity is strength." The Midland metropolis is in the diocese of Worcester, as I believe is the whole county of Warwick—there's a splendid opportunity therefore, now, for revising and improving the present Association by the junction of Birmingham spirit and enterprise. Men of Birmingham: see ye to it. If all private and personal jealousies, squabbles, or illfeeling (should such exist) were put on one side, and a combined effort made for such an advancement of the Exercise—both in its scientific and social aspects—would that not be a commemoration of Mr. Johnson's "fourscore" more enduring than marble, brass, or painted oak, and infinitely more gratifying to him in whose honour it is done.

Then leaving these "home affairs," and looking round, one is almost bewildered by the number of "burning questions" which are disturbing the atmosphere of the Exercise, and which, sooner or later, will have to be dealt with. Subjects which—although we may, ostrich-like, "bury our heads in the sand," and put off the evil day of having to deal with them, will force themselves upon us in course of time in a manner which will brook no further procrastination. There is the question of some tangible bond of union between our County Associations,

whether in the form of a national union or any other shape. There is the problem, how to keep these organisations in pace with the times; how to still further develop those which have outgrown the original designs of the founders; how to effectually render help to those which may unfortunately suffer reverses, and thus prevent their possible annihilation. There is the question as to the advisability of forming two departments within these Associations; one for the special business of organisation; the other for dealing with the scientific part of our work. Then also we have the subject so recently discussed in these pages—the formation of a Benefit Society amongst us.

And so I could go on, almost *ad libitum*, but time presses, and the folio on the top of the page warns me that I am getting well on to the "end of my tether;" so I must call stand before completing the touch, and leave it in the hands of our friends for their consideration.

On glancing through the lengthy list of peals, I am much pleased to see the performances of more of our young ones. At Lyminge, Sidney Finn rings the treble for seven 720s of Minor, conducted by John H. Cheesman, both of whom are but 17 years old. At Perry Barr another youth of the same age, William E. Smith, conducts a 5040 of Grandsire Triples, in which George Mitchison, William Carte, and Charles Williams also take part, the oldest of whom has only passed his 18th birthday. Well done, lads. I would like right well to shake hands with you, and speak to you personally words of praise and encouragement. You have won your spurs young—so much the better. I was older than you when I first learned how to handle a bell-ropes, and my first few years of ringing were passed amid a cloud of difficulties that prevented me from so early accomplishing my first peal. But let me earnestly press upon you to study well the words of Mr. Ryde, which appeared last week; and if you act upon them you will find, should you—like Mr. Johnson—attain the ripe old age of four-score, that the remembrance of your ringing days will be pleasant, and you will have that proud satisfaction which none can feel but those who have nobly done their duty.

FREE LANCE.

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 dinner, 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, } Hon. Secs.
JOSEPH RADCLIFFE, }

NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

The next meeting of the above Association will be held at St. Swithin's church, East Retford, on Saturday, March 2nd, at 4 p.m., by kind permission of the vicar, the Rev. A. F. Elsworth.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

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

11, Tennant Street.

W. BROOK, Sec.

Obituary.

ROBERT TUKE.

It is with feelings of the deepest sorrow that we announce the decease of this gentleman, which sad event occurred at the city of Philadelphia (U.S.), on Wednesday, January 30th, after a very short illness, caused by an accident to his foot, through which blood poisoning supervened, and medical skill was powerless to save him. Mr. Tuke commenced to ring at Ilkley along with the late Mr. Jasper Snowden, between whom the most devoted attachment existed, ending only in death. When the scheme for establishing the Yorkshire Association was brought forward, he entered into it with great earnestness, being elected Hon. Treasurer at its foundation. This post he held for a few years until the Association had got firmly established, when owing to the failing health of his father he removed to Bradford and joined the firm, which necessitated his relinquishing the duties of the treasurership for a time. His successor however, finding himself unable to carry on the work, the office became vacant, and Mr. Tuke resumed it. He also acted as chairman of the Committee in the matter of the presentation which was made to the late president, and after the lamentable death of his old friend, undertook the duties of secretary along with Mr. Whitaker to the memorial fund which culminated in the stained window being placed in Ilkley parish church. This window, however, he was not spared to see, for in the early part of 1887 he sustained severe injuries through being thrown from his trap, his coachman also being badly bruised. Becoming convalescent, in accordance with medical advice he decided to travel for a while. He accordingly left in May for America, visiting some of his relatives near the Niagara Falls, and friends in various other parts. Arriving at Philadelphia, he found the climate so exhilarating that he resolved to settle there for a time. In that city he found a peal of eight bells at Christ Church, the ringers of which never attempted anything more intricate than rounds and call-changes. This state of things he set about to improve, being supported by the Rector, the Rev. Dr. Foggo. In a recent letter to a friend he wrote: "Thank you very much for 'THE BELL NEWS,' which I continue to receive regularly. We do not make much progress with ringing at Christ Church, as the men are continually leaving, and there is an old set at the church who are opposed to scientific ringing. We practise on Thursdays *loud*, and I have another class with tied bells on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The latter are progressing favorably, but we can only ring Bob Doubles yet. I think I shall get permission at St. Peter's here (a nice ring of eight, tenor 17 cwt.), and I send 'THE BELL NEWS' regularly to the Rector's wife, who is doing her best to help us on, but the Churchwardens think the tower unsafe."

It will be seen from this extract how heartily he was endeavouring to improve ringing matters during his stay the town of Philadelphia. We cannot tell what results may accrue from his efforts to establish the practice of scientific ringing in the western world, but it is to be hoped that the seed sown by him will in due season bear fruit, and an abundant harvest reaped. Whoever lives to see or hear of the Exercise flourishing upon American soil, may with reason declare that its pioneer thereon was ROBERT TUKE.

His last letters home being couched in such sanguine terms, and his health having become entirely restored, it will be readily imagined with what dismay the tidings were received on Wednesday, the 30th ult., by cablegram, of his accident, accompanied by the alarming intelligence that he was "only just alive." But still there was hope—perhaps he was not so bad as was feared. This hope, unhappily, was dispelled the following day by another message which flashed across the Atlantic—"Robert died last evening." Thus at the comparatively early age of forty-four has passed away one who by his zeal, his unflagging perseverance, and kindness of heart and manner, endeared himself to all who knew him.

Another and abler pen will in the next number do justice to his memory. We who had the pleasure of his acquaintance, and had been his guest when visiting Bradford, record our high opinion of him as a true ringer and hospitable gentleman, quiet, affable, and courteous to all. There is truly one melancholy resemblance in his death and that of his friend the late Jasper

Snowdon. It was Mr. Tuke who advised us from time to time of the progress of the disease to which his friend succumbed, and the fatal telegram from him announcing that all was over was in phraseology almost identical with the one announcing his own demise. The circumstances of his death excites some sad reflections. No doubt he had previous to his last accident looked forward to many years of life, and very many seasons of pleasant intercourse with his brethren of the Yorkshire Association. We can well imagine what direction his meditations would have taken lately as he journeyed homewards after giving ringing lessons to the "youths" of Philadelphia. Visions of the belfry of old St. Peter's, Bradford; of the welcome which would be accorded him when he returned, his health restored, to dwell at home; of a loving friendship, alas! split asunder by death; of a pilgrimage he would devoutly pay to a quiet grave in Ilkley churchyard. These and other kindred subjects we may well imagine he would ponder over, and look forward to the realisation of those which were capable of attainment. It was, however, not to be. His sun went down ere it was yet noon. The bells of Yorkshire will now "ring out in muffled power, their plaintive requiem for untimely death;" for Robert Tuke is no more. *Requiescat in pace.*

SAMUEL JONES.

It is also our painful duty to record the death of Mr. Samuel Jones, of Swindon, who died on Tuesday, January 22nd, at the age of seventy-six, and was buried on Saturday, January 26th. Till recently he spent most of his time in Bristol, where he was known and very much respected amid ringing circles. He had taken part in peals of Grandsire, Stedman, and Treble Bob, at most of the Bristol churches. On Thursday, January 24th, the bells of St. Thomas' church, Bristol, were rung muffled, and also at St. Philip's on Saturday, January 20th, when touches of Grandsire were rung by the Ancient Society of St. James's.

BRANCEPETH, DURHAM.—INAUGURATION OF A NEW RING OF EIGHT BELLS.

A new ring of eight bells, tenor 13 cwt., has recently been erected in this church by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, at the cost of Viscount Boyne, of Brancepeth Castle. After some little difficulty as to the date for opening the bells, and an interview between Lord Boyne and Mr. Clarkson, the Hon. Secretary of the Diocesan Association for Durham and Newcastle, the inauguration was finally fixed for Monday, January 21st, Lord and Lady Boyne having consented to postpone their arrangements to visit the South in order to secure a good attendance of ringers, who turned up from Bishop Auckland, Darlington, Durham, Newcastle, North Shields, Ripon, South Shields, Staindrop, and Stockton, between twenty and thirty of whom, including the local band, were hospitably entertained at the Castle.

The bells were tested with a course or two of Kent Treble Bob in the morning, and then remained silent until the short special service at two o'clock, which was attended by the party from the Castle and many parishioners. At the conclusion of the prayers, the bells were rung in rounds for a short time, followed by a hymn and the Benediction. At the close of the service the bells were at once taken possession of by the assembled ringers, and several well-struck touches were brought home. The bells are a very handy and pleasing peal of eight, and gave great satisfaction, in fact they are a great acquisition to the list of ringable peals in the county of Durham. During the day ringers visited the Castle and rang in the great hall a course of Grandsire Caters, followed by one of Grandsire Triples.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above will be held at Birmingham to-day, Saturday, Feb 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 BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD" will be forwarded, post free, on the following terms:—

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

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher E. W. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication arriving later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE.—Not received.

P. SADLER (Norwich).—We are sorry we cannot give you the information.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1889

"Always keep right with the parson." This has been, as long as we can recollect, a favorite axiom of ringers. Churchwardens come and go; but the incumbent remains, therefore it is excellent policy for ringers to keep on the right side of him. This we say has been the teaching of old-seasoned ringers, strategic time-honored veterans, during the whole of our experience. And very good logic it is.

On reading the above the question would naturally arise—"What is the best mode to always have on the side of the ringer the influence of the clergyman?" The best way certainly would be to try and conform to his ideas in every possible way, though it may not always be palatable. There are cases to be found, no doubt, where even a clergyman has acted in a very inconsistent manner towards the ringers, his conduct to them even bordering an tyranny, but such cases are few, we verily believe. Our object is to point out as forcibly as we are able that in order to enjoy the free and uncontrolled practice of our art it is absolutely necessary that we should be constantly in the good graces of those who have the power to prevent this enjoyment. Because whatever position we may take up; whatever claim we may imagine we have upon incumbents and churchwardens by reason of our ability as ringers—the only competent persons to ring bells when they are required to be rung—the fact remains that where proper regulations exist we have the full entry to the steeple of the church, to enjoy ourselves in the practice of our art, in most cases not only free and uninterrupted, but protected by the incumbent himself from any fussy interference.

Then it is hardly necessary to ask: "What shall we do to secure the continued enjoyment of such a privilege?" And here we may draw attention to the very temperate letter which appears in this number from the REV. T. L. PAPILLON. This gentleman—a practical ringer by the

way—labours unceasingly to promote good ringing. Both in the pulpit and out of it his utterances breathe a most kindly spirit to his ringing brethren when impressing upon them their duties as ringers. The letter to which attention is now drawn is one of the very same character; temperate, but to the point. He speaks of facts within his own knowledge; of circumstances which have been vividly brought to his notice while performing the duties of Secretary to an important County Association. We beg our readers to weigh well his remarks, and apply them with profit where necessary. If we keep right with the clergy, of whom shall we be afraid?

We have alluded to the safety of that policy of merely refraining from running counter to the known wishes of the clergyman, but it is not to be gathered that we advocate anything improper where he is supine or indifferent to what goes on in the belfry. Let us all try to attain as high a standard of excellence as possible in every conceivable shape. We can then laugh to scorn the libels of those who labour under a vulgar error of our work and procedure; and court that strict enquiry and examination which those set over us in the Church may at any time consider it expedient to institute.

The Metropolis.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 19½ cwt.

JAMES PETTIT Treble.	THOMAS MAYNARD 5.
WILLIAM B. MANNING .. 2.	HENRY SPRINGALL 6.
GEORGE GRIMWADE* .. 3.	SAMUEL E. JOYCE 7.
MATTHEW A. WOOD 4.	WILLIAM CROCKFORD .. Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

*First peal of Stedman. This was the first peal in the method on the bells.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN, WATERLOO ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 20 cwt.

WILLIAM BARON, JUN. .. Treble.	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL .. 5.
WILLIAM W. THORNE .. 2.	WILLIAM L. CHAMBERLAIN .. 6.
ALBERT E. CHURCH .. 3.	GEORGE WILD 7.
GEORGE C. HAMMOND .. 4.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER of Birmingham, and Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

ST. JAMES' SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Tuesday, February 5, 1889, in Three Hours and Thirty-Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

J. R. HAWORTH Treble.	F. DAVEY 6.
H. LANGDON 2.	W. WEATHERSTONE .. 7.
F. G. NEWMAN 3.	W. DAVIES 8.
A. E. CHURCH 4.	R. FRENCH 9.
W. JONES 5.	J. BARRY Tenor.

Composed by JOHN ROGERS, and Conducted by RICHARD FRENCH.

The above was rang with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. James Hodges, many years a much respected vestryman of St. Clement's, who was buried that day. F. Davey hails from Exeter; and W. Davies from Liverpool.

The Provinces.

REIGATE, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION AND THE REIGATE SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, January 30, 1889, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. C. D. P. DAVIES'S FIVE-PART (No. 2). Tenor 21 cwt in Eb.

WILLIAM BONE Treble.	EDWARD MOSES 5.
FRANCIS T. HOAD 2.	WILLIAM ARGENT 6.
GEORGE H. CROUCHER .. 3.	EDGAR KENWARD 7.
WILLIAM WEBB 4.	JAMES ROBINSON Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS T. HOAD.

This peal was rung to commemorate the birthday of Thomas Brown, member of the Reigate Society and the Surrey Association.

HERTFORD.—THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 31, 1889, in Three Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16 cwt.

HARRY BOTTRILL Treble.	MATTHEW ELLSMORE .. 5.
WILLIAM A. RICHARDSON* 2.	HERBERT BAKER 6.
JOHN KENTISH† 3.	JOSEPH CULL 7.
JAMES JAUNCEY 4.	WILLIAM GOODCHILD .. Tenor.

Conducted by HERBERT BAKER.

*First peal. †First peal inside. Messrs Richardson and Kentish hail from Hatfield, Herts.

SALISBURY, WILTS.

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

On Thursday, January 31, 1889, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

WALTER S. WISE 1-2.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. 5 6.
THOMAS BLACKBOURN .. 3-4.	HENRY D. ADAMS 7 8.

Conducted by THOMAS BLACKBOURN.

Umpires—Mr. A. P. Goddard, Messrs Lush, Lawrence and Clements.

DERBY.—THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION (DERBY BRANCH), AND THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY.

On Thursday, January 31, 1889, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW LITCHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E flat.

WILLIAM SHARDLOW .. Treble.	JOHN W. THOMPSON .. 5.
CHARLES DRAPER 2.	ALBERT E. THOMPSON .. 6.
HARRY C. WOODWARD .. 3.	CHARLES HART 7.
THOMAS ALTON 4.	†GEORGE MOTTASHAW .. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD, and Conducted by GEORGE MOTTASHAW.

*First peal with a bob bell. †First peal as conductor. Rung on the occasion of Mr. H. C. Woodward's birthday, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

HANBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889 in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE VIRGIN MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 17 cwt.

SAMUEL COTTON Treble.	*H. BRUCE KINGSFORD .. 5.
WILLIAM POWELL 2.	ALFRED MOORE 6.
GEORGE HOBBS 3.	†WILLIAM PAGE 7.
LIONEL LONGNEY 4.	THOMAS MALIN Tenor.

Conducted by LIONEL LONGNEY.

*First peal. †First peal of Triples. ‡First peal of Triples as conductor, and hails from Croomie; A. Moore is a local man; and the rest are of the St. Helen's Society, Worcester.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE STEYNING BRANCH.)

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

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT MINOR METHODS UPON SIX BEDLS;

Being 720 each of the following:

WOODBINE, KENT TREBLE BOB, OXFORD TREBLE BOB, YORKSHIRE COURT, COLLEGE SINGLE, OXFORD SINGLE BOB AND PLAIN BOB.

Tenor 12 cwt.

J. MATTHEWS Treble.	C. CHAMBERS 4.
T. SEARLE 2.	J. WOOLGAR 5.
G. GATLAND 3.	G. SMART Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE SMART.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE STEYNING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT MINOR METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 each of the following:

DUKE OF YORK, WOODBINE, KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB, YORKSHIRE COURT, COLLEGE SINGLE AND CANTERBURY PLEASURE.

Tenor 12 cwt.

G. GATLAND Treble.	F. MORRIS 4.
T. SEARLE 2.	J. WOOLGAR 5.
C. CHAMBERS 3.	G. SMART Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE SMART.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART.

E. WILLOUGHBY Treble.	W. ALLFREY 5.
P. ALLFREY* 2.	T. LEWIS 6.
H. RANN* 3.	†A. BENNETT 7.
T. HART 4.	*C. BRABAN Tenor.

Conducted by A. BENNETT.

*First peal. *First peal as conductor. Messrs P. and W. Allfrey, H. Rann and Bennett hail from St. Paul's Society, Brighton, the rest belong to the St. Mary's, Eastbourne Branch. The above is taken from the Clavis and has the seventh for observation.

RADCLIFFE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(MANCHESTER AND ROCHDALE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

FRANK BIRTWISTLE .. Treble.	ABRAHAM HARDMAN .. 5.
JOHN MORRIS 2.	A. EDWARD WREAKS .. 6.
ERNEST BISHOP 3.	WILLIAM FIELDING .. 7.
ARTHUR BARRETT 4.	JAMES SCHOLEY Tenor.

Composed by A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, Esq., and Conducted by A. EDWARD WREAKS.

This peal was rung on the occasion of Mr. Bishop's birthday.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

The next Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held, by the kind permission of the vicar, on Saturday, February 16th at St. Mark's, Preston. The tower will be open for ringing at two o'clock, after which a meeting will be held in the school-room at five o'clock.
JAMES HIGSON, Sec.

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

THOMAS WILDE	Treble.	CHARLES HAGUE	5.
RALPH PRICHARD	2.	JOSEPH MALONEY	6.
WILLIAM HARROP	3.	SAMUEL WOOD	7.
JESSE B. HIBBERT	4.	JOHN PYE, JUN... .. .	Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

KELSALE, SUFFOLK.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 16½ cwt.

EDWARD PAGE	Treble.	*GEORGE NOYE	5.
WILLIAM DREW*	2.	ISAAC COLEMAN	6.
GEORGE HARDY*	3.	WILLIAM FISHER	7.
FREDERICK PAGE*	4.	FENTON THOMPSON	Tenor.

Composed by E. FRANCIS of Norwich, and Conducted by WILLIAM FISHER.

In this peal the 2nd and 3rd are never in 6th's place at a course-end, and it was rung at the first attempt. *First peal.

WOOD GREEN, WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BIDDLESTONE'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

W. GRIFFIN*	Treble.	WM. JOHNSON	5.
W. H. HORTON*	2.	GEO. HUGHES	6.
JNO. ASTBURY, SEN.	3.	BENJ. GOUGH	7.
WM. CHESHIRE	4.	D. CHAPMAN	Tenor.

Conducted by WM. JOHNSON.

*First peal. Messrs. Griffin, Chapman, and Astbury hail from Walsall; Gough, Horton, and Cheshire, from Coseley; Hughes from Tipton; and Johnson from Darlaston. Mr. J. Astbury is in his 69th year.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Twenty-Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH, STAFFORD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5130 CHANGES.

Tenor 20 cwt.

THOMAS HORTON	Treble.	WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT	6.
WILLIAM R. SMALL	2.	CHARLES TIMMS	7.
SAMUEL REEVES	3.	REUBEN HALL	8.
JOHN R. FRISBY	4.	CHARLES PRICE	9.
ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT*	5.	*WILLIAM C. HALL	Tenor.

Composed by the late HENRY BOOTH of London, and Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

*First peal on ten bells. This is the first peal rung on these bells, which were augmented from eight to ten in the Jubilee Year by Messrs Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon. R. Cartwright hails from Wombourne; W. Micklewright from Dudley; W. C. Hall from Stafford, and the rest of the band from West Bromwich.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—THE HATFIELD COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, February 4, 1889, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ETHELDREDA,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION.

Tenor 28 cwt.

JAMES G. RUMNEY	Treble.	WALTER POWERS	5.
JOHN SHEPHERD	2.	HENRY J. ROWE	6.
JOHN KENTISH	3.	THOMAS GATHARD	7.
JOSEPH HOLLINGSWORTH	4.	RICHARD STOCKS	Tenor.

Conducted by H. J. ROWE.

First peal by the conductor, and first by Messrs Rumney, Shepherd, Hollingsworth, Powers and Stocks. This is the first peal by a local band since 1790.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

THE ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE SOCIETY.

Recently, in Two Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE HOUSE OF MR. THOMAS, "CROWN" INN, STAMFORD STREET,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

WILLIAM JAKEMAN	1-2.	HARRY HEAP	5-6.
GEORGE LONGDEN	3-4.	SAMUEL TAYLOR	7-8.

Composed by GEORGE LONGDEN, and Conducted by WILLIAM JAKEMAN.

Date Touches.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

STAPLEHURST (Kent).—On Monday, January 28th, at All Saints' church, a date touch of 1889 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 5 mins. J. Woolgar, 1; J. G. Tillmon, 2; W. Pope, 3; W. E. Pope, 4; H. G. Pope, 5; A. Palmer, 6; E. Pops (conductor), 7; T. Colvin, 8.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL (Yorkshire).—On Wednesday, January 23rd, at St. James' church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1889 changes), in 1 hr. 4 mins., on the occasion of the marriage of Henry Smith, Esq., with Miss Alice Robbins. G. M. Brownrigg, 1; T. Stockdale, 2; J. F. Maliaby, 3; J. Pollard, 4; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 5; W. Southwick, 6; R. Chaffer, 7; J. Dixey, 8.

Huddersfield (Yorks).—On Saturday, February 2nd, at the parish church of St. Peter, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Royal, in the tittum position. J. Stead, 1; J. Barrowclough, 2; H. Ellis, 3; G. Clay, 4; T. Stead, 5; R. Hill, 6; J. W. Cudworth, 7; F. Schofield, 8; T. Haigh (composer and conductor), 9; W. Brogden, 10. Tenor 18 cwt. Time 1 hr. 17½ mins.

SHIPLEY (Yorkshire).—On Sunday, February 3rd, for evening service at St. Paul's church, a date touch (1889 changes) of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 10 mins. Thos. Lilley, 1; G. A. O. Nettleton, 2; J. S. Clark, 3; W. Wilks, 4; J. Lilley, 5; J. A. Ross, 6; G. Bolland (conductor), 7; J. Haley, 8. Messrs. Bolland and Haley hail from Tong; the rest are members of the local company. Tenor 15 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LIVERPOOL.—On Thursday, January 31st, at the church of St. Luke, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1889 changes), in 1 hr. 12 mins. R. S. Mann (conductor), 1; F. W. Moore, 2; P. Barton, 3; W. G. Mann, 4; J. Aspinwall, 5; W. James, 6; J. R. Pritchard (composer), 7; Robert Gowans, 8.

Miscellaneous.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

CROYDON.—On Tuesday, January 29th, for practice at St. John the Baptist church, 546 of Plain Bob Triples. R. E. Pearson, 1; G. Russell, 2; W. J. Chambers, 3; H. Brooker, 4; Dr. A. B. Carpenter (conductor), 5; A. Bruce, 6; T. Verrall, 7; F. G. Hermon, 8.

WORCESTER AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

WORCESTER.—On Tuesday, January 22nd, at St. Helen's church, 1344 of Grandsire Triples, in 47 mins. H. T. Knowles, 1; W. Powell, 2; H. B. Kingsford, 3; S. Cotton, 4; R. G. Knowles, 5; L. Longney (conductor), 6; W. Page, 7; T. Malin, 8. Messrs. Knowles hail from Malvern; L. Longney from Croome.

BROMSGROVE (Worcestershire).—On Sunday evening, January 13th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 29 mins. *W. James, 1; T. Allbutt, 2; G. Bourne, 3; O. James, 4; G. Hayward (conductor), 5; W. Rea, 6. Also on Sunday evening, January 27th, for Divine Service, 1150 Grandsire Triples in 48 mins. G. Moore, 1; T. Allbutt, 2; O. James, 3; G. Hayward (conductor), 4; W. James, 5; A. Moore, 6; G. Bourne, 7; W. Rea, 8. And a touch of Bob Major, standing as before. Messrs. Moore hail from Hanbury.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Tuesday, January 29th, on the occasion of the marriage of Captain F. Mathews and Miss Price, 336 of Grandsire Triples was rung for early celebration of the Holy Communion. In

the afternoon, after some excellent firing, 1036 and 644 Grandsire Triples, taken from the Original. Afterwards, by invitation of R. G. Price, Esq., J.P., the band partook of an excellent dinner at the "Golden Lion" Hotel. In the evening, after an attempt for Holt's Original, which came to grief through a change-course, A. J. Perkins' quarter-pearl of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 42 mins. L. W. Copsey, 1; W. Pegrum, 2; G. Roughton, 3; A. J. Perkins, 4; B. Keeble, 5; M. L. Myhill, 6; W. Nash, 7; S. James, 8. Conducted by A. J. Perkins.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Monday, January 33rd, at the parish church for practice, 720 Plain Bob. H. Digby (first 720), 1; G. Hayes, 2; W. Martin, 3; F. Ring, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. And 720 Plain Bob, with M. Digby, 1; the rest as before. And a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Broom, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. Ring, 3; F. Hayes, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

BURTON-ON-TRENT (Staffordshire).—On Friday, February 1st, at Mr. Austin's house, 230 Goodman Street, on handbells, retained in hand, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1889 changes), in 54 mins. W. J. Smith, 1-2; J. Jagger, 3-4; L. Bullock, 5-6; J. Austin, 7-8. Composed by A. Percival Heywood, Esq., and conducted by John Jagger.

MELBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, January 27th, for Divine Service in the morning, the local company rang 336 of Grandsire Triples, and in the evening 504 in the same method, in 18 mins. J. R. Wood, 1; F. W. Cook, 2; J. W. Warren, 3; H. Hollingsworth, 4; G. C. Tunnicliffe, 5; J. Vickers (conductor), 6; G. A. Fish, 7; M. E. Fryer, 8. Also a course of Oxford Bob Triples, the ringers standing as above. The annual collections were made on the above date for the ringers' fund.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

WIRRAL (Cheshire).—On Tuesday, January 28th, the Bromborough company rang 720 Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. *J. Pickin, 1; J. Dillon, 2; *F. Jones, 3; T. Hughes, 4; C. Gittens, 5; E. Griffiths (first 720 as conductor), 6. *First 720.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

SLOUGH.—On Tuesday, January 29th, for practice at the parish church, a quarter-pearl of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. W. Leader, 1; A. Andrews, 2; R. Flaxman, 3; W. Wilder, 4; A. Garraway, 5; F. Sinkins, 6; A. Fussell (conductor), 7; T. Leader, 8. Also 252 Bob Triples. W. Leader, 1; F. Sinkins, 2; R. Flaxman, 3; A. Andrews, 4; W. Wilder, 5; A. Garraway, 6; A. Fussell (conductor), 7; T. Leader, 8.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

LEISTON (Suffolk).—On Saturday, January 19th, eight members of the above Association attempted a 5024 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 4608 changes, in 2 hrs. 53 mins. it unfortunately came to grief. H. Button, 1; F. Wilson, 2; R. Stannard, 3; R. Wells, 4; A. Lincoln, 5; T. Shearing, 6; T. Staulkey, 7; G. Lindoff (conductor), 8. Tenor 20½ cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

READING (Berks).—On Monday, February 4th, at St. Mary's church for practice, 518 Grandsire Triples, in 20 mins. A. Whatmore (first 500), 1; E. Reeves (conductor), 2; I. Swain (first 500), 3; C. Chapman, 4; F. Hopgood, 5; H. Blisset, 6; W. Newell, 7; W. Higgs, 8. Tenor 28 cwt.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

MATHON (Herefordshire).—On Sunday evening, December 16th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor in 26 mins. J. Alford, 1; J. Thomas, 2; W. H. Fussell, 3; H. Jeanes, 4; W. Powell, 5; C. Layton (first 720 as conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt. Also several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, with Messrs. Kings and Hadley, of Cradley, and C. Greening and R. Thomas, of Coddington.

CRADLEY (Herefordshire).—On Saturday, December 19th, some ringers from Coddington and Mathon paid a visit to St. James's church, and various 120's were rung. Also 720 Grandsire Minor in 27 mins. J. Alford, 1; C. Layton, 2; J. Thomas, 3; H. Jeanes, 4; W. Taylor, 5; W. H. Fussell (conductor), 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

CODDINGTON (Herefordshire).—On Monday, January 21st, at the church of All Saints, the first 720 was rung on the bells by H. Jeans (first 720 as conductor), 1; J. Thomas, 2; C. Greening, 3; C. Layton, 4; W. H. Fussell, 5; A. Layton, 6. Time 26 mins. Also another 720 in 25 mins. R. Thomas (first 720), 1; W. H. Fussell, 2; J. Thomas, 3; H. Jeans, 4; A. Layton, 5; C. Layton (conductor), 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

BOSBURY (Herefordshire).—On Saturday evening, January 26th, at the church of the Holy Trinity, a numerous meeting of neighbouring and local ringers took place, and several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles by various bands were rung. Also a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 28 mins. C. Greening, 1; J. Thomas, 2; C. Layton, 3; H. Jeanes, 4; A. Layton, 5; W. H. Fussell (conductor), 6. Tenor 17 cwt. This is the first 720 of Minor on these bells, which are very difficult to manage. Credit is due to the first five ringers for their striking, their ropes falling in a straight line, causing them some trouble.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BAGSHOT (Surrey).—On Thursday evening, January 31st, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs), in 27 mins. W. Stevens, 1; H. Stapleton, 2; F. Francis, 3; C. Harding, 4; T. Gould, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also 240 Stedman Doubles. F. Francis, 1; T. Gould, 2; W. Stevens, 3; H. Stapleton, 4; E. Spooner (conductor), 5; W. Varodell, 6. On Monday evening, February 4th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. W. Stevens, 1; T. Gould, 2; F. Francis, 3; C. Harding, 4; H. Stapleton, 5; E. Spooner (conductor), 6. Also 360 Bob Minor (nine bobs). C. Harding, 3; F. Francis, 4; the rest standing as before.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

Bow (Middlesex).—On Sunday, February 3rd, for morning service at St. Mary's church, 960 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 34 mins. H. Springall (conductor), 1; L. Green, 2; A. Cutmore, 3; *E. Hall, 4; S. Joyce, 5; Y. Green, 6; R. Turner, 7; S. Hayes, 8. And at the church of St. Dunstan, Stepney, for evening service, 1330 Stedman Caters, in 54 mins. H. Springall (conductor), 1; J. Pettit, 2; W. Tanner, 3; W. Cecil, 4; S. Joyce, 5; C. Lee, 6; *Y. Green, 7; *R. Turner, 8; *S. Hayes, 9; *T. Baker, 10. *Longest touch in the methods.

AUGHTON (Lancashire).—At Christ Church, on Friday, January 25th, for practice, a touch of 216 Stedman Triples. *Rev. D. Jones (conductor), 1; *C. Sharples, 2; J. Taylor, 3; *W. Benthall, 4; H. Eastham, 5; R. Foster, 6; N. Spencer, 7; H. Cave, 8. Also at the same time and place a touch of 504 in the same method, conducted by N. Spencer, *J. Benson ringing the tenor; the others standing as before. The above are all members of the local company, and these two touches are the longest yet rung in the method by all except H. Eastham and N. Spencer, who had previously rung a touch of 504. *Members of the Liverpool Diocesan branch of the Lancashire Association.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, January 27th, for evening service, by the St. Stephen's Juniors, 504 Stedman Triples. H. Pring, 1; C. Trevett, 2; C. Burden, 3; G. Colston, 4; T. Elles, 5; S. Phillips, 6; J. Hinton (conductor), 7; W. Colston, 8. First 504 by H. Pring and C. Burden.

CHEPSTOW (Monmouthshire).—On Sunday morning, February 3rd, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, the local company succeeded in ringing their first 6-score of Grandsire Doubles on the back six. T. Collinson, 1; J. Prickett, 2; G. Watkins, 3; J. Powell, 4; J. Morley (conductor), 5; C. Davies, 6. Tenor 21 cwt. in E. This is the first six-score by all except the conductor, and the first on the bells since they were rehung by in December last by Warner and Sons, London, and the go of them are very satisfactory.

COLN ST. ALDWYN (Gloucestershire).—On Monday evening, January 28th, at the parish church, for practice, 512 Bob Major. T. Barnett, 1; J. Kitchener (conductor), 2; R. Jefferies, 3; G. Smith, 4; C. Bate, 5; H. Griffin, 6; T. Mitchell, 7; T. Smith, 8. First touch of Bob Major by all.

COTGRAVE (Notts).—On Friday, January 18th, previous to a concert for the benefit of the ringers, a quarter-pearl of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes), in 49 mins. W. White, 1; F. J. Mensing, 2; W. E. White, 3; F. R. White (conductor), 4; T. Squires, 5. This is the first quarter-pearl by all except the ringer of the 3rd, and the first on the bells of which any record can be found.

FRAMLINGHAM (Suffolk).—On Saturday, January 26th, Messrs. W. Florry, J. Tarrant, J. Heffer, sen., J. Heffer, jun., A. Moore, and R. H. Hayward met at the house of Mr. H. Davey, Double Street, for handbell practice, and rang several courses of Bob Major, Grandsire Caters, and Bob Royal.

HOLME PIERREPOINT (Notts).—On Saturday, January 26th, 659 Grandsire Doubles, in 22 mins. W. White, 1; F. J. Mensing, 2; W. E. White, 3; F. R. White (conductor), 4; T. Squires, 6. This is the longest touch on the bells since they were re-cast in 1875 by Messrs. Taylor and Co.

NUNEATON (Warwickshire).—On Sunday, January 16th, for evening service at the parish church, 672 Grandsire Triples. W. Adler, 1; G. Winter, 2; T. Lingard, 3; T. W. Chapman (conductor), 4; J. Clarke, 5; T. Bates, 6; H. Horwood, 7; A. Palmer, 8. This is the longest touch by the local band.

PINCHBECK (Lincolnshire).—On Wednesday, Jan. 23rd, for practice at the parish church, four 6-scores of Bob Doubles and two of Grandsire Doubles. On Sunday, January 27th, two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles and a 6-score of Bob Doubles. W. Doubleday, 1; T. Ladd, 2; T. Laxton, 3; T. Fisher, 4; G. Ladd (conductor), 5.

POSILINGFORD (Suffolk).—On Monday, February 4th, for practice at the parish church, a 6-score each of Stedman Doubles, Gog Magog St. Simon's, Bob Doubles, Grandsire, April Day, and Old Doubles. W. Atkinson, 1; D. Gridley (conductor), 2; C. Rawlinson, 3; H. Burling, 4; C. Howe, 5. It is the first 120 of Stedman by all, and the first 120 of St. Simon's by C. Rawlinson.

SADDLEWORTH (Yorkshire).—On Wednesday, January 23rd, at the house of Mr. J. J. Brierley, Wool Road, on handbells, retained in hand, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. A. Buckley, 1; J. Pilling, 2; K. Brierley (aged 13 years), 3; S. Brierley (aged 16 years), 4; J. A. Lawton, 5; J. Hinchliffe, 6. This was the first attempt by the two youths at a 720 of Oxford. The other four are members of the United Counties' Association.

SALTAIRE (Yorks).—On Tuesday evening, February 5th, during practice, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). T. B. Kendall (first 720), 1; R. Eccles, 2; G. Whitaker, 3; B. T. Copley, 4; F. London, 5; A. Riley (conductor), 6.

STAFFORD.—On Tuesday, January 29th, at St. Mary's church for practice, a half-peal of Grandsire Triples (2520 changes), in 1 hr. 30 mins. T. Cartwright, 1; W. Micklewright, 2; W. Fellows, 3; R. Perry, 4; T. Guest, 5; T. Perry (conductor), 6; J. Fellows, 7; W. C. Hall, 8.

TOTTENHAM (Middlesex).—On Sunday, February 3rd, for service at the parish church, 1360 Plain Bob Major, in 48 mins. J. Adams, 1; H. A. Barnett, 2; T. C. Grove, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; G. B. Lucas, 5; J. Barber, 6; J. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 7; W. Pye-English, 8. Also 490 Oxford Bob Triples. J. Adams, 1; J. Waghorn, jun. (conductor), 2; T. C. Grove, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. Pye-English, 6; G. B. Lucas, 7; W. Martin, 8. On Tuesday, February 5th, for practice, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Waghorn, jun., 1; G. Griffin, 2; T. C. Grove, 3; J. Waghorn, 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; J. Barber, 6; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 7; W. Pye-English, 8.

WAKEFIELD (Yorkshire).—On Tuesday, January 29th, at the Cathedral Church, 1040 Kent Treble Bob Royal. W. Mills, 1; J. Moorhouse, 2; R. Wrigley, 3; C. H. Hattersley (conductor), 4; W. Scott, 5; J. T. Hollis, 6; W. Firth, 7; T. H. Ormond, 8; W. Davies (Liverpool), 9; T. Moorhouse, 10. Also 395 Grandsire Caters, with G. Firth, 2; J. Styles, 10; the others standing as above.

WREXHAM (North Wales).—On Monday evening, January 28th, eight members of the local company rang with the bells half-muffled the usual whole pull and stand, followed by a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), as a tribute of respect to the late Bishop of St. Asaph. T. Catherall, 1; R. W. Evans, 2; R. Jones, 3; J. Williams, 4; J. Ellis, 5; T. Newell, 6; E. Rowland, 7; T. Roberts, 8. Conducted by J. Ellis. Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

WHITCHURCH (Oxon).—On Sunday, January 27th, at the parish church for morning service, 240 of Grandsire and 120 of Bob Doubles. For evening service, 360 Bob Minor, and 120 Grandsire Doubles. T. Pocock, 1; W. Pocock, 2; W. Lawrence (conductor), 3; C. Pocock, 4; A. C. West, 5; E. Bushnell, 6. H. Bushnell rang the tenor in the Doubles. This was rung as farewell touch to A. C. West, who leaves for an engagement in Kent, and his brother-ringers wish him every success. This was rung on the 30th birthday of C. Pocock who was complimented by the band.

WINTERTON (Norfolk).—On Tuesday evening, January 29th, at the parish church for practice, 720 Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins. W. J. Empson, 1; W. G. Empson, 2; J. King (conductor), 3; R. Brown, 4; B. Popay, 5; W. P. Molyneux, 6. This is the first 720 by the treble and 5th ringers, the former being only eleven years and four months old.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.—Mr. George Mash has removed to 30, Newcomen Street, Borough, Southwark, S.E.; and Mr. A. Edward Wreakes desires that all future correspondence to him should be sent to 14, Miller Street, Newbold, Rochdale.

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

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

By the Angmering Branch at Angmering.—On Thursday, January 31st, 720 of Yorkshire Court, in 25 mins. E. Parsons, 1; J. Hills, 2; T. Linfield, 3; C. Clear, 4; F. Finch, 5; C. Hills (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by all. Also on Saturday, February 2nd, 720 of College Single, in 26 mins. C. Clear, 1; F. Finch, 2; J. Hills, 3; T. Linfield, 4; †T. Parsons, 5; C. Hills (conductor), 6. †First 720 in the method.

By the Brighton Branch at St. Paul's.—On Sunday, January 13th, 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. P. Allfrey, 1; H. Rann, 2; G. Hill, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; F. Hill, 5; T. Stepney, 6; W. Allfrey (conductor), 7; J. Salmon, 8. Also for evening service, 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. H. Eves, 1; H. Rann, 2; P. Allfrey, 3; G. Hill, 4; J. Salmon, 5; G. Biggerstaff, 6; A. Bennett (conductor), 7; W. Allfrey, 8. And on Thursday, January 17th, 504 of Grandsire Triples. P. Allfrey, 1; H. Rann, 2; J. Salmon, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; W. Allfrey, 5; T. Stepney, 6; A. Bennett (conductor), 7; E. Parsons, 8. E. Parsons hails from Bolney. Also on Sunday, January 20th, a quarter-peal (1260) of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins. H. Eves, 1; H. Rann, 2; G. Hill, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; P. Allfrey, 5; J. Salmon, 6; A. Bennett (conductor), 7; W. Allfrey, 8. And on Thursday, January 24th, for practice, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 17½ mins. P. Allfrey, 1; H. Rann, 2; G. Hill, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; T. Stepney, 5; J. Salmon, 6; A. Bennett (conductor), 7; W. Allfrey, 8. Also on Sunday, January 27th, 1050 of Grandsire Triples, in 35 mins. H. Eves, 1; H. Rann, 2; G. Hill, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; P. Allfrey, 5; T. Stepney, 6; A. Bennett, 7; *W. Allfrey (conductor), 8. *Longest touch called on the tenor. And at St. Peter's on Monday, February 4th, 360 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. A. A. Fuller, 1; *E. C. Merritt, 2; J. Reilly, 3; G. A. King, 4; G. Thwaites, 5; G. F. Attree (conductor), 6. *First touch in the method.

By the St. Mary's Branch at St. Mary's, Eastbourne.—On Monday, January 21st, 504 of Union Triples, in 17½ mins. L. Huggett, 1; T. Willoughby, 2; E. Willoughby, 3; C. Harfeay, 4; N. Avann, 5; T. Lewis, 6; T. Hart (conductor), 7; J. Lewis, 8. Also on Thursday, January 24th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1889 changes, in 1 hr. and 7 mins. T. Hart, 1; J. Davey, 2; H. P. Bennett (conductor), 3; L. Huggett, 4; N. Avann, 5; E. Willoughby, 6; T. Lewis, 7; J. Lewis, 8. J. Davey hails from All Saints, Eastbourne. And on Tuesday, January 29th, a quarter-peal of Union Triples, in 43 mins. J. Rollinson, 1; T. Willoughby, 2; C. Harfeay, 3; L. Huggett, 4; E. Willoughby, 5; T. Lewis, 6; T. Hart (conductor), 7; J. Lewis, 8. Also by a mixed band on Saturday, February 2nd, a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes (for particulars see peal column).

By the Henfield Branch at Henfield.—On Thursday, January 31st, 720 of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins. J. West, 1; T. Stringer, 2; W. Stringer, 3; W. Peirce, 4; H. Freeman (conductor), 5; T. West, 6. Also on Sunday, February 3rd, for evening service, 720 of Grandsire Doubles, in 25 mins. J. Boniface, 1; W. Pierce, 2; W. Stringer, 3; T. Stringer, 4; H. Freeman (conductor), 5; T. West, 6.

By the Steyning Branch at Steyning.—On Saturday, January 26th, 5040 changes in seven different Minor methods. (For particulars see peal column). Also on Saturday, February 2nd, 5040 changes in seven different Minor methods. (For particulars see peal column).

THE DUCKLINGTON BELL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Amount Advertised	10	14	9
St. Nicholas Society, per Mr. Boniface	0	5	0
Miss Dunham, Bournemouth	0	1	0
Mr. T. Belben	0	1	0
Mr. Grist	0	1	0
Miss McLelland .. (extra)	0	1	0
Proceeds of Entertainment at Ducklington	1	10	0
Miss Macray	0	10	0
Total	£13	3	9

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED FOR MR. F. BATE.

	£	s.	d.
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. MARY'S SOCIETY, BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

On Saturday, January 19th, through the kind indulgence of the Rector, the Rev. Canon Bridges, the members of the above society, with friends, numbering in all about twenty, sat down to the annual supper at "The Plough" inn, Dr. A. B. Carpenter presiding, Mr. Plowman acting as vice-chairman. In the afternoon ten of the company met at the church to attempt a peal of Caters, their efforts being crowned with success, as will be seen from the report of the performance published at the time. The company afterwards met at the above-named hostelry, where they sat down to an excellent repast provided by host Wilkinson. On the removal of the cloth the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given from the chair.

In proposing the toast of "The Rector," the Chairman said that he was deputed by the rev. gentleman to inform them that though he (the Rector) was forbidden by his medical adviser to be with them that evening, his thoughts and best wishes were with them, and he hoped they would thoroughly enjoy themselves. The toast was drank from flowing glasses with musical honours.

The next toast was "The St. Mary's Society," to which was coupled the name of Mr. Edgar Bennett. Without doubt the success that has attended this company during the past ten years is chiefly due to the indefatigable exertions of this gentleman, who is the conductor of the society.

Other toasts were given, and some capital songs were sung, the company breaking up about 11 o'clock, after having enjoyed a very pleasant evening.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—LIVERPOOL
DIOCESAN BRANCH.

The next monthly meeting of this branch will be held at Huyton on Saturday, February 16th. The bells (six) will be open to visitors from 2 p.m. Meeting in the schools at 5 p.m. By kind permission the bells of St. Mary's church, Prescott (eight) will be open for ringing after the meeting at Huyton. It is particularly requested that all change-ringers in the diocese will avail themselves of this meeting and be present.

JOHN R. PRITCHARD, Branch Secretary.

40 Lowther Street, Liverpool.

P.S.—A meat tea will be provided at 1s. per head; all who wish to avail themselves of this will please communicate with the secretary not later than Tuesday, February 12th.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A District Meeting will be held at Swanscombe on Monday, February 25th. Committee Meeting at the National School at 12.15. The churches of Dartford, Gravesend, and Milton may be visited. Those who wish to attend should acquaint the Secretary. At the committee meeting at Ashford on the 26th ult., it was decided to divide the county into five different districts, with local committees, who are to elect their own secretaries. Representatives from each district to sit on central committee. The proposal to raise the standard was not accepted. The amended rules will be in the hands of members shortly, and will be proposed for adoption at the Annual General meeting, which is to be held this year at Canterbury.

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., to-day, Saturday, February 9th.

WM. SNOWDON, President.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

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

FRANK BIRTWISTLE, Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 2nd, 1889, a band of ringers in connection with the above Society met at Dudley Port Railway Station, and journeyed by the 2.16 fast train to Stafford, arriving there at about 3 o'clock, and at once made their way to St. Mary's Church, the bells of which were already ringing to the tune of Grandsire Triples by the home band, as a kind of welcome to the visitors, but on reaching the belfry, the bells at once stopped, and after the usual greeting, a plain course of Grandsire Caters was rung, after which some adjourned for a few minutes, when, on their return, the first peal of Grandsire Caters ever rung in Stafford was finished at the first attempt, a report of which will be found in the proper place. The band then made their way as quickly as possible to the nearest refreshment house, and paid due attention to the inner man, after which they met the local band (among them being Mr. William Micklewright), when some courses on the handbells brought up the time for getting to the station to make the return journey, which was completed by 10.35, all being very much pleased with the afternoon's outing. In conclusion they wish to thank the Vicar of St. Mary's for the use of the bells, and also the local band for the trouble they took in getting all things in readiness, so that they had no loss of time. Through the kindness of the Stafford band a tablet is to be erected in the belfry to record the performance.

S. R.

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."

A DISASTER.

SIR,—I am sorry to inform you that last night the sixth bell at Tottenham parish church fell from its bearings, and now lies on the floor of the bell-chamber. It will, no doubt, soon be again in position, but meanwhile, by inserting this notice in "THE BELL NEWS," you may save intending visitors a fruitless journey.

T. C. GROVE, Sec. of All Hallows' Society, Tottenham.
February 6th, 1889.

A RINGERS' BENEFIT SOCIETY v. A RINGERS' DISTRESS FUND.

SIR,—There cannot be a shadow of doubt in the minds of those in the habit of keeping their "weather eye" open, and know a little of the working of friendly societies, but to the scheme suggested by Mr. Holden and supported by "Free Lance," with a few minor alterations, is the only feasible one that can possibly prove of advantage to the ringing community. I do not assert this because I have any desire to throw the slightest drop of cold water upon any proposal which might prove of any real benefit to my fellow working man, but simply because I see, in my humble opinion, the utter impracticability of attempting to bring about the formation of what some of your correspondents have termed a "Ringers' Benefit Society." My reasons for supporting Mr. Holden are, first: that because of great inconvenience in working such the advantages would be nil. Second: that inasmuch as it could not prove of any material benefit to the Exercise (except to the unthrifty and unthoughtful) there is no special need for such. Third: that the amount of contributions required to be paid in order to make the Society rank as a Benefit Society would be too heavy to many of the present generation of ringers who contribute to other societies. Fourth: that the amount of sick pay would prove of so small advantage to those belonging to modern or reformed societies that it would fail to be a real benefit except to those who do not provide for a rainy day. Fifth: apathy of the Exercise at large. The inconvenience of working has already been fully dwelt with by "Free Lance" and others, there is no need for me to raise a single point to support that part of the question. As to the need, where is there a fair-sized village that has not a lodge of one of the orders of Odd Fellows, some Court of Foresters, or some well-known society which is within easy distance of a town which, having a population of say eight or nine thousand, has three or four, and even in some seven or eight good sound enrolled societies with local or district secretaries, from whom a member draws upon declaring on the funds his weekly sick pay. Hence there is plenty of choice for all thoughtful working men who desire to provide for the time of sickness, and little if any need of a ringers' society. With respect to the sick pay question doubtless some of the ancient fossils will be desirous of knowing how I make good my case, for there are still some, happily only a few, that

allow "spongers" to have a turn pretty frequently at the funds, and we sometimes hear of a man receiving more in sickness than when at work. In modern societies and in those reformed, there is however a limitation upon a member's sick pay which is not allowed to exceed his weekly, or to cover more than in some cases five-sixths of his earnings. Thus those belonging to a society would have their sick pay reduced, consequently would not reap any substantial benefit, while the scale of contributions in order to meet the demands of those not belonging to any other society would have to be drawn too high for a majority of the Exercise to support. My last point will no doubt be considered a sweeping accusation, made by a novice, but it is true to the core. Probably I need only refer to the National Association question, the failure to establish due first to apathy, secondly, because it was misunderstood. I admit the Masons to be a body a little before my time, but the scheme suggested by "Free Lance," which in some respects is similar to a newspaper press fund, appears workable, and might, if carried out, prove a benefit to ringers when in distress, or to their widows and orphans. In a newspaper press fund with which I am connected, our annual subscription is 10s. 6d., supplemented by life and honorary donations. Loans or gifts can be applied for and granted according to circumstances of the applicant by a very small committee, or the whole amount is repayable at a certain age, or in case of death upon application from relatives with such sum added as the Committee are enabled and consider meets the justice of the case. Surely some similar scheme is practicable among ringers. All friendly societies have a limit to the period of their sick allowance, and in cases of disease of long standing there would be something to fall back upon just as the shoe began to pinch, and thus prove a real benefit. The amount of annual subscription suggested by "Free Lance" is within the powers of one and all, and the amount would doubtless be increased by some if it was made from 1s. and upwards. That is however a matter of detail, just as the means of obtaining assistance, which appears rather a roundabout system. I would suggest that a member desiring assistance should obtain a form from the district secretary to be filled in by the clergyman of his parish, one member of his company and the district secretary, the official secretary to put the case before say about eight or nine members of the Committee, and grant the average amount voted. I hope to see that some of our prominent ringers will take the matter in hand with the determination to carry it out with success.

B. KEEBLE, Sec. Romford Branch United Patriots.

THE CLERGY AND CHANGE-RINGING.

SIR,—We sometimes lament that change-ringing is not more encouraged by the clergy. May I point out one cause that occasionally alienates them, viz., the tendency to think little of, or neglect, what is after all the first duty of ringers and the very reason for the existence of church bells, viz.: the ringing for Divine Service? If a clergyman finds that his ringers are careless in their Sunday duties, but eager about meetings for practice and peal-ringing, no wonder if he begins to think that change-ringing is not worth encouraging. I am not speaking without book in this matter. Within the last month I have been consulted by at least two parish clergymen with respect to their ringers. One says: "I cannot help feeling that here the ringers do not attach anything like due importance to ringing in connection with Church services or Church seasons." Another—a clergyman who really wishes to encourage change-ringing—says, "Bells are not essential to a church; and I sometime feel inclined to close the belfry entirely." In this latter case, it is fair to add, there was a more serious trouble than irregularity of attendance, viz., the support accorded by the ringers to one of their number whom the clergyman had dismissed for immorality; a cause which, in a third case that has come under my notice, led to the break-up of a band, the withdrawal of their clergyman from the Association to which he and they belonged, and the complete extinction for the time (perhaps for many years) of change-ringing in that parish. My position as Secretary to a County Association gives me some opportunity of learning the feelings of the clergy about change-ringing, and their reasons for encouraging or discouraging it; and it is certainly not always they who are to blame for its discouragement. Few of them—thanks to the revival that has taken place in the art itself and in the status of ringers, and to the efforts of the various ringing Associations—are now actively opposed to it; but the majority are still indifferent; and indifference may easily be converted into hostility by mistakes or misconduct on the part of ringers. Some clergymen do not see how change-ringing can be worked "on Church lines;" some think that, so long as the bells are rung, and the ringers are respectable, it is quite immaterial whether rounds or call-changes or changes proper are heard; some prefer chiming for service, and rather than be bothered with the trouble that ringers often give, would go in once for all for a chiming apparatus and desire nothing more. We have to make head against all this dead-weight of indifference; and the only way is for all ringers to feel and show that they feel, their duty to the Church. If they want the

parson to support them and their art, they must support him; and above all they must bear in mind the feeling expressed by one of my correspondents above-mentioned—a feeling which I know to be almost universal among the clergy—"If ringers are not men of sound character, they are really a hindrance to Church work in a parish; and we should be better without them." I need hardly point out that policy, if no higher motive, should make ringers desire and deserve the co-operation of the clergy. We cannot ring without bells; with very few exceptions bells hang in church towers; and over the church tower and the bells in it the clergyman is by law supreme. No one, not even the churchwardens, can ring, or cause the bells to be rung without his sanction, and conversely, no one but himself can stop the ringing for which he has given permission. As between ringers and clergy, each has something to gain from friendly co-operation and mutual respect; both have much to lose from anything that keeps them apart.

T. L. PAPILLON,

Hon. Sec. Essex Association.

Writtle Vicarage, Chelmsford, Feb. 1st, 1889.

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

SIR,—You will perhaps find space again to insert this letter which is of the nature of a formal notice. 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 officers 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 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, February 4th, 1889.

Johnson Celebration.

PROGRAMME.

Thursday, February 28th.—St. Martin's (12 bells) and other towers will be open for touch ringing from 2.30 till 4.30. Dinner at 5 o'clock, followed by speeches, after which arrangements will be made for peals at various towers on the following day.

Friday, March 1st.—A number of towers will be open for peal and touch ringing in Birmingham and the neighbourhood. A social gathering will be held at the St. Martin's Hotel in the evening, commencing with a meat tea (1/6) at 7 o'clock. Arrangements will then be made for any peals that may be desired on the following day.

A reception room, where any enquiries may be made, will, for the convenience of visitors, be open at the St. Martin's Hotel from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. on Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Friday. In order to facilitate the meeting of friends it is particularly requested that visitors, on arriving in Birmingham, will at once proceed to the reception room and enter their names in the book provided for the purpose.

The stewards of the meeting (who will wear a red rosette) will be ready to give to visitors any information or assistance in their power.

The invited representatives of the various Associations will be presented with a ticket for the dinner on intimating their intention to be present to A. Percival Heywood, Esq., Duffield Bank, nr. Derby. Other ringers wishing to join the party are requested to apply for tickets (price 2/6 including wine) to the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. H. Godden, Finch Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, to whom also any enquiries may be addressed. All applications for dinner tickets (except from invited guests) must be accompanied by a remittance, and must be made between February 11th and February 25th.

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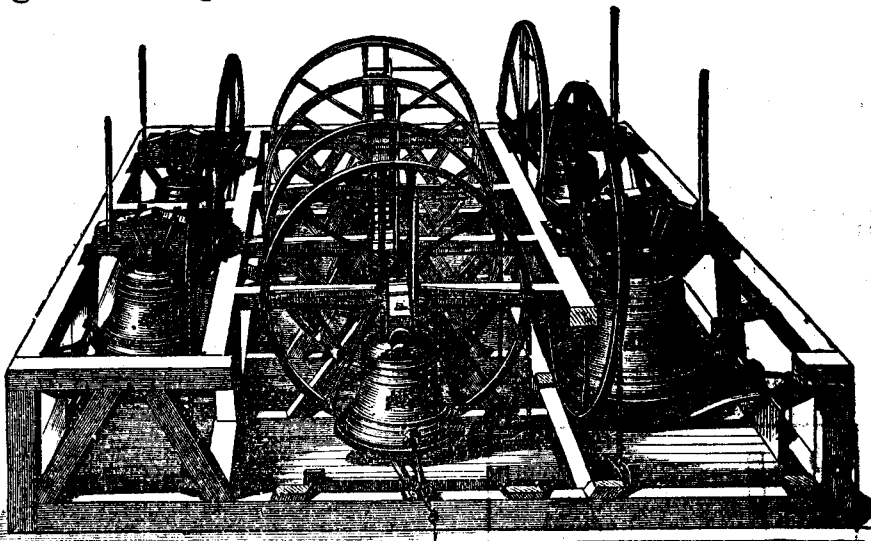
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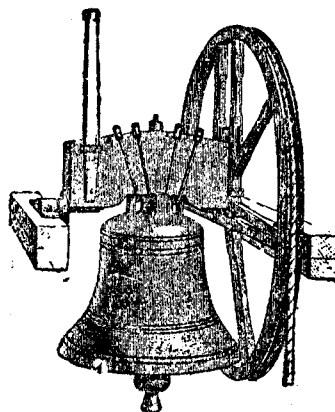
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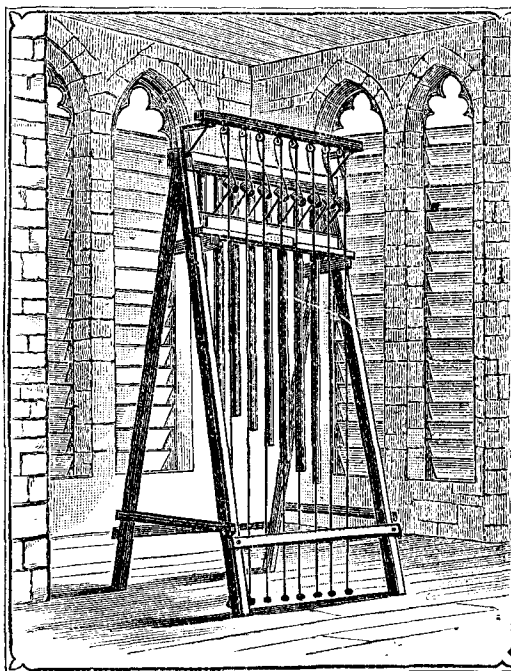
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