

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 371—VOL. VIII.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1889.

ONE PENNY.

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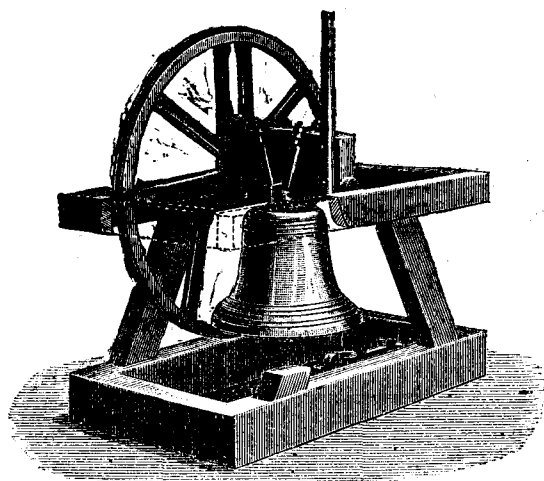
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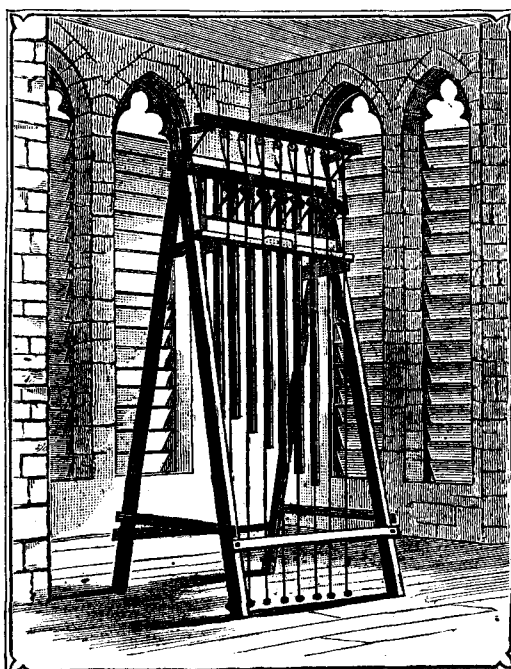
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RE-OPENING OF THE FLIXTON BELLS.

ON Monday, April 29th, the above pretty Lancashire village was all astir, the occasion being the consecration of an addition to the graveyard, by the Lord Bishop of Manchester, and also the re-opening of the bells in the new tower. The bells have been standing over a quarter of a century, owing to the unsafe condition of the tower, but on its being rebuilt, they have been quarter-turned, 1, 2, and 3 recast, and all new fittings to the whole of the ring, the work having been carried out in a very satisfactory manner by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, who have made a splendid splice of the peal. The proceedings commenced at one o'clock, by the remnants of the old Flixton ringers, assisted by a few of the Ashton men, ringing a few call changes, after which a complete band of the Ashton society succeeded in ringing a peal of Treble Bob Major, particulars of which appeared in last week's issue. Afterwards while the Ashton men were having tea, the learners had a pull with the bells for the first time, they having been practising with the clappers lashed. For service, at which the Bishop preached, the same band which rung the peal standing in the same position, except Messrs. Wood and Longden, who changed places, rang a touch of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Wood. Ringers were present from Manchester, Eccles, Swinton, and other places, and rang touches during the evening after service. The Ashton-under-Lyne society wish to return their thanks to the churchwardens for their kind invitation to ring the first peal on the bells of their church, and also for the kind and hospitable manner in which they were entertained, and they may rest assured that the day will be long remembered by them.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. LEISTON, SUFFOLK.

ON Easter Monday, a very handsome tablet (which has been executed by Mr. T. Dale, of Saxmundham, Suffolk, on stone, in red and black letters, at a cost of £6), was presented to the above company, recording four of their best performances, viz., 5040 Grandsire Triples (Holt's Original), 5376 Bob Major, 5024 Oxford Treble Bob Major, and the premier peal of the Eastern Counties—10,304 Bob Major which was rung on April 21st, 1888, by five of the Leiston company, and three of the St. Mary-le-Tower company, Ipswich. Following are the names of those whose names appear on it, and the peals in which they rang. H. Button—all four peals; F. Wilson—all four; R. W. Stannard—all four; O. J. Lincoln—2, 3, 4; G. Lindoff—1, 2, 3 (being conductor of all); E. T. Shearing—2, 3; T. G. Staulkey—1, 3; J. Button—2, 3; and J. Motts, W. Motts, F. Tillett, and W. Button, in the long peal; and W. Taylor, J. Flegg, F. Argent, and R. Wells—one each. Amongst those present besides the local company were—W. Ward (Woodbridge); E. Sherwood (Wickham Market); E. Gobbett (Stradbroke); F. Lambert (Halesworth); F. Cooper, C. Smith, E. Churchyard (Aldeburgh), W. Rouse, W. Rowe, W. Lambert (Rendham); W. and F. Watling, R. Wells, J. Edmunds (Saxmundham). Some capital ringing was done during the day. All were well pleased with the tablet, but, if anything, more pleased with the go of the bells, which is excellent. Besides the tower ringing, some creditable handbell ringing was done, viz.—two courses of Bob Royal. F. Lambert, 1-2; E. Gobbett, 3-4; W. Ward, 5-6; R. W. Stannard, 7-8; A. Lincoln, 9-10. And another course with E. Sherwood and E. T. Shearing in the place of 5-6 and 9-10. Also some Grandsire Caters. Unfortunately only five responded to the invitation to be at the tea, so it was unable to be arranged with so small a muster, but nearly all the above arrived with expectation that there would be plenty for just one more, but they of course were disappointed.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

A District Meeting will be held at Fareham, Hants, on Thursday, May 16th. Belfry of parish church will be open for practice from 3 to 5.30, and from 7 to 9. Service for ringers at 5.30; tea at 6 at Mr. Pyle's Refreshment Rooms, West Street; Committee Meeting at 6.30, after tea, to elect new members and fix the time and place of Annual Festival, and other business.

H. A. SPYERS, Hon. Sec.

A VISIT TO EASTBOURNE.

Readers of "THE BELL NEWS" who may have occasion to visit Eastbourne on business or pleasure will perhaps be interested to hear that during a recent visit of three days a stranger was favoured with a pull on four rings of eight bells, and most cordially welcomed by the local change-ringers. On Saturday evening the ringers of the old parish church (St. Mary's) met me in their belfry, and after a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples had unfortunately broken down when near the end, we had time to bring round a touch of 500. The bells are a fine ring of eight, hung in a massive square tower with room enough for twelve, and the circle of eight ropes seems only to take up a part of the spacious ringing chamber. On Sunday I had a short touch before evening service at All Saints, where there is a good peal of eight, tenor 18½ cwt., but a small and cramped ringing chamber, which soon becomes uncomfortably hot. Here I learnt that a band for Bob Major had been arranged to meet me before evening service at Christ Church, but unfortunately no one let me know of the arrangement. On Monday evening, the practice night at St. Saviour's church, leave was obtained to ring the bells open, instead of practising as usual on the gongs, and I had two or three touches upon a very fine peal of eight, tenor 22 cwt. St. Saviour's stands in the most fashionable part of Eastbourne, unfortunately too near the houses for the bells to be often rung; and for service on Sunday they only have monotonous rounds on a chiming apparatus, but in spite of drawbacks, change-ringing is persevered with. I then adjourned to Christ Church, where there is a handy light peal of eight, tenor 9 cwt., and found the ringers practising Stedman Doubles on the back six; but on my arrival we had a good touch of Union Triples to finish off with. Should any ringer want a pull at Eastbourne, he cannot do better than apply to the courteous secretaries of the various societies—Mr. Rollison of St. Mary's, Mr. Ticehurst of St. Saviour's, and Mr. T. M. Smith of Christ Church, to whom I hereby tender my thanks for their reception.

T. L. PAPILLON,
Hon. Sec. Essex Association.

VISITATION OF THE ARCHDEACON OF OAKHAM.

The Ven. Archdeacon Lightfoot concluded his visitation in the Archdeaconry of Oakham at Kettering on Monday. The Archdeacon said a greatly-increased interest in bell-ringing seemed to have been aroused in various parts, and he trusted the Churchwardens would do all they could to encourage it. The belfries of their parish churches were now not the places for drinking and idle loungers, as, alas, was too often the case of old. In some cases they were kept as neatly as any other part of the church, but he believed they were not, in most cases, as often visited or cared for by the Churchwardens as was desirable. He should be glad to find that Churchwardens did not overlook the belfries in their supervision of the Church's property placed under their care. Churchwardens should, he thought, encourage the ringers by their presence in the belfry on suitable occasions, and should recommend them also to join one of the Bell Ringers' Associations which now happily existed amongst them.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ROCHDALE BRANCH.—On Saturday, May 4th, the members of this branch held a meeting at All Saints' church, Hamer, Rochdale, at the invitation of the ringers. Members were present from Roclidale, Bacup, Newchurch, and Moorside. The bells, six in number, were rung in Bob Minor, Grandsire Minor and Doubles, College Single, and Kent Treble Bob Minor. Mr. A. E. Wreaks presided, and gave some interesting statistics on the prosperity of the Association, and said 130 new members had been enrolled already this year. The Vicar gave the members a hearty welcome to his church, and said if his ringers joined the Association he should only be too glad to follow their example, as they were all regular attendants at church, and communicants as well. It is their intention to join in a body. Two new members were elected from Moorside, Oldham. The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas's church, Newhey, on Saturday, June 1st. A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mr. Wreaks brought the meeting to a close.

THE NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

ON Easter Monday, April 22nd, a meeting of the above Association was held at Everton, and was attended by the following performing members: J. Briggs, W. Drake, R. Potter, N. Hunt, H. Haigh, J. W. Clark, W. Skelton, J. F. Haigh, H. Warburton, J. Pierrepont (Retford); R. Beeston, G. Barrowcliffe, J. Marshall (Workshop); W. Hargreaves, D. Russen, E. Russen, S. Tomlinson (Shireoaks); C. Lindley, R. Brown, F. Durdie, Jos. Swinden, John Swinden, R. Lindley, G. Pearson, G. Stevenson, and J. Holgate (Everton). The Retford company were the first to arrive, and they at once went to the tower, and set the bells going to the tune of Grandsire Minor, the first 720 being rung in 26 mins. H. Warburton, 1; W. Skelton (conductor), 2; W. Drake, 3; N. Hunt, 4; J. W. Clark, 5; R. Potter, 6. This 720 was rung for Divine Service. After the service was over, the bells were again set going in the Grandsire method by the Retford members, and a good struck 720 (thirty bobs and thirty singles), was rung in 27 mins. J. Pierrepont, 1; J. Briggs, 2; W. Drake, 3; N. Hunt, 4; J. W. Clark, 5; R. Potter (conductor), 6. After a few minutes' rest, a 720 of Oxford was performed in 25 mins. by a mixed company. J. Holgate, 1; F. Durdie, 2; J. Marshall, 3; Jos. Swinden, 4; G. Barrowcliffe, 5; R. Beeston (conductor), 6. The Violet method was next attempted, and good struck 720 was rung in 25 mins. S. Tomlinson, 1; D. Russen, 2; E. Russen, 3; W. Hargreaves, 4; G. Barrowcliffe, 5; R. Beeston (conductor), 6. Still keeping the bells going, the same company rang a 720 of Oxford in 25 mins., which was conducted by W. Hargreaves. Tea was now ready at the Vicarage, where a capital spread was provided by the vicar of the parish, the Rev. R. C. Ramsey. After tea was over, the vicar said it gave him very great pleasure to see so many ringers present, and he hoped it would not be the last time that the company would meet at Everton. He thought that meetings of this kind kept the ringers well together, and infused concord and a friendly spirit amongst them.

Mr. H. HAIGH said it gave him very great pleasure to propose a hearty vote of thanks to the vicar for providing such an excellent spread, and how pleased he was to think that he (the rev. gentleman), welcomed such a numerous company to Everton, and he hoped the next time they would meet with a similar reception.

This was duly seconded, and unanimously carried. Before separating, it was thought advisable to arrange where the next meeting was to be held.

Mr. H. HAIGH proposed that the next meeting be held at Workshop on Whit-Monday.

This was seconded by Mr. SKILTON, and carried by fourteen votes against ten.

The ringers now went to the belfry, and rang a 720 Oxford Treble Bob in 25 mins. S. Tomlinson, 1; D. Russen, 2; J. Marshall, 3; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 4; G. Barrowcliffe, 5; R. Beeston, 6. The Workshop and Shireoaks members had now to go home, so the Retford men started for another 720 of Grandsire Minor, but before they had got half way, the tenor rope broke. It was soon spliced, and another start was made, this time coming to the end in 26 mins. H. Warburton, 1; J. F. Haigh, 2; H. Haigh, 3; N. Hunt, 4; J. W. Clark (conductor), 5; R. Potter, 6. The last 360 of Oxford was now attempted, and got through in 12½ mins. R. Lindley, 1; F. Durdie, 2; G. Pearson, 3; G. Stevenson, 4; *H. Haigh, 5; R. Brown (conductor), 6. *First in the method.

CHUMLEIGH, DEVON.

The six bells in the church of St. Mary Magdalene, tenor 26 cwt., has been rehung by Mr. Harry Stokes, church bell hanger, of Woodbury, Exeter, in a new massive English oak frame, and with all new fittings, and he has also fixed the Ellacombe chiming apparatus, all at the cost of the Church Land Feoffees of the parish, and were rung on Wednesday, April 24th, for the first time. Invitations were sent to a large number of parishes, and accepted by Northtawton, Chawleigh, Worlington, Kingsnympton, and by bands from other parishes. The ringing throughout the day was very good, and the work of rehanging the bells has given every satisfaction.

THE RINGERS' HATTER.—For Hats of every description, send to JAMES WILDE, Great Norbury Street, Hyde, near Manchester. See large advt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE QUARTERLY MEETING was held on Saturday, April 27th, at St. Peter's church, Swinton, which was attended by upwards of fifty ringers from Manchester, Liverpool, Bolton, Rochdale, Heywood, Moorside, Southport, Worsley, Walkden, Pendlebury, Whitefield, Eccles, etc. Several touches in various methods were rung during the afternoon. The meeting was held in the schools.

Mr. A. E. HOLME, M.A., Vice-President, occupied the chair, and was supported by Messrs. Redford, Wreaks, H. W. Jackson, and the Rev. H. J. Elsee. Messrs. Aspinwall, Hill, and Barratt (Committee men), were also present.

In opening the proceedings, the Chairman stated that he was glad to be able to congratulate the Association on the progress made during the year. He also gave a good report of the proceedings at the Johnson Birthday Celebration at Birmingham, and expressed his thanks for the honour conferred upon him by his appointment as representative of the Association.

Mr. REDFORD, having apologised for the absence of Canon Heywood, Vicar of Swinton, said he had communicated with the Secretaries of the Essex, Sussex, and Yorkshire Associations, respecting the question of reduced fares being granted to members attending Association meetings, and which would be brought before the next Committee Meeting for further consideration.

The proposed central Ringing Council was next introduced to the meeting, the Chairman expressing himself in favour of such a Council.

Mr. J. R. PRITCHARD proposed, and Mr. ASPINWALL seconded, that the resolution unanimously adopted at the Birmingham gathering be accepted by this meeting, subject to the approval of the Annual Meeting, which was supported by Messrs. Wreaks, R. Ridyard, Hoyle, H. W. Jackson, and the Rev. H. J. Elsee. A vote was taken, with the result that thirty-one voted for the resolution; the remainder abstained from voting.

Mr. H. W. JACKSON proposed, and Mr. HILL seconded, a vote of thanks to Canon Heywood for the use of the bells.

Mr. REDFORD proposed, and Mr. WREAKS seconded, a vote of thanks to Mr. Holme for having represented the Association at Birmingham.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.—The Fourth Quarterly Meeting of this branch was held at Alderly, on Saturday, May 4th, when thirty-two members attended from Macclesfield, Alderly, Bollington, Poynton, Gawsworth, Prestbury, and Wilmslow. During the afternoon touches of Plain Bob and Grandsire were rung on the peal of six (tenor about 16 cwt.) in the old church tower, and a walk was indulged in round the beautiful and ancient parish, the weather being all that could be desired. At 5.30 about thirty-six members and friends sat down to a good tea in a house close to the church, and a very good touch was brought round to the entire satisfaction of all. Afterwards the usual meeting was held, under the chairmanship of the Rev. E. J. Bell, rural dean. The annual meeting was heartily discussed, and a committee formed to make arrangements for the dinner, etc. Poynton was carried for the next place of meeting, on October 12th. The business terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to the Dean for the use of the bells and for presiding.

THE DUCKLINGTON BELL FUND.

	£	s.	d.
Amount advertised	15	6	3
The Rev. W. D. Macray	1	1	0
Miss M. Holtom (card)	1	1	0
Miss Southby	0	10	0
Miss Mallam	0	8	0
W. R. Macray, Esq.	0	5	0
H. Thomas, Esq.	0	1	0
Mrs. Kipps	0	1	0
Miss Kelsey	0	1	0
Miss Bakewell	0	1	0
Total	£18	15	3

Further subscriptions will be thankfully received and acknowledged by
W. J. FISHER, 24, Hyde Park Square, W.

TWYFORD, HANTS.

On Thursday evening, May 2nd, nine ringers of the above parish church, accompanied by the Rev. C. Buston, of Deane, took a short trip to Winchester, for the purpose of having a pull at the college bells, which are a nice ring of six, tenor about 15 cwt. Having previously obtained the kind permission of the Warden, the Rev. G. B. Lee, the bells were raised in peal soon after 5.30, and were kept going merrily until 7.30 (the limited time) with several 120's of Grandsire and Bob Doubles, and a 360 of Grandsire Minor. Afterwards several attempts were made for a 720, but somehow it seemed determined to end in a failure, and was finally lost after ringing 500 changes. It then being too late to make another start, a few Bob Doubles were rung and the bells lowered. The following were those who took part in the ringing; Rev. C. Buston, Messrs. A. Ashford, G. Brown, sen., G. Brown, jun., G. Derrick, C. Hawkins, F. Hewlett (conductor), W. Neville, G. Smith, and W. West. The bells appeared to be in good order and went well, considering they have not been moved since the commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, the chiming apparatus always being used, which although an excellent invention in itself, is, when used in a belfry, a thing very detrimental to the progress of change-ringing. Our correspondent adds: It seems a great pity, and hardly credible, that in the grand old cathedral city of Winchester, from which the Guild (of which the above ringers are members) takes its name, so little change-ringing is done, when there are, not only the bells themselves, but plenty of local talent only requiring to be brought out.

On Tuesday, May 7th, at St. Mary's, Twyford, success this time crowned the efforts of the ringers by bringing round a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26½ mins. W. Neville, 1; G. Smith, 2; G. Derrick, 3; G. Brown, jun., 4; A. Ashford, 5; F. Hewlett (conductor), 6. Also a few short touches of Bob Minor and Doubles.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.—The next monthly meeting of this branch will be held at St. Michael's parish church, Flixton, to-day, Saturday, May 11th. Ringing to begin at 4 o'clock, meeting at 7 o'clock.

JOHN EACHUS, Branch Sec.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the above Association will be held at Soham, Cambridgeshire, on Monday, June 10th (Whit Monday), when the favour of the attendance of all members and persons interested in the Association is requested. N.B.—Ten bells.

K. H. SMITH, Hon. Sec.

The Cambridge Road, Ely.

EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The second Annual Meeting of the above was held on Easter Monday, and an enjoyable day was spent. Ringing commenced from nine o'clock in the morning, until seven at night, the only interval being a short service with sermon by the vicar of Tibshelf, on bells and bell-ringing, and their meaning. A splendid tea was provided at five o'clock, when between forty and fifty members sat down and did ample justice to the good things provided. After tea, the reports and accounts were gone through, which proved to be satisfactory.

THE LONG PEAL AT CHELTENHAM.

A correspondent who signs himself "Seventh" writes the following:—"I see in the footnote of the long peal at Cheltenham it is stated that 'it is the longest time that any set of ringers have stood to ring.' There seems to be some error there, as the 16,608 at Mottram occupied five minutes longer, viz., nine hours and forty-eight minutes. I am sure some account of the performance of the 15,227 would be interesting if one of the band who took part in it would be so good as to give us them in these columns."

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

By the Brighton Branch at St. Paul's.—On Easter Sunday, April 21st, 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. H. Eves, 1; W. Allfrey, 2; G. Hill, 3; G. Biggerstaff, 4; P. Allfrey, 5; T. Stepney, 6; J. Reiley (conductor), 7; J. Salmon, 8. On Tuesday, April 25th, 966 of Grandsire Triples, in 34 mins. H. Eves, 1; P. Allfrey, 2; G. Hill, 3; Biggerstaff, 4; H. Rann, 5; T. Stepney, 6; W. Allfrey (conductor), 7; J. Salmon, 8. Also on Sunday, April 28th, for morning service, 966 of Grandsire Triples, in 34½ mins. H. Eves, 1; P. Allfrey, 2; H. Rann, 3; —. Biggerstaff, 4; F. Hill, 5; T. Stepney, 6; W. Allfrey (conductor), 7; J. Salmon, 8. And for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 42½ mins. —. Eves, 1; P. Allfrey, 2; G. Hill, 3; H. Rann, 4; T. Stepney, 5; —. Biggerstaff, 6; W. Allfrey (conductor), 7; —. Salmon, 8.

By the Crawley Branch at Crawley.—On Sunday, April 21st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins. G. Pace, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Wadey, 3; W. Ward, 4; W. Collinson, 5; J. Taylor, 6; A. F. Hillier (conductor), 7; G. Apps, 8. Messrs. Apps and Taylor hail from Horley. Also on Easter Monday, April 22nd, 1764 Canterbury Pleasure Triples, in 1 hr. E. Dewey, 1; G. Wickens, 2; W. Wadey, 3; B. King, 4; A. F. Hillier (conductor), 5; F. Wickens, 6; F. Rice, 7; H. Burstow, 8. This was an attempt for a peal, but it came to grief through the breaking of the 3rd rope. A second attempt was afterwards made, but in consequence of a rope slipping wheel, it came to grief after ringing 3,304 changes.

By the Horley Branch at Horley.—On Sunday, April 7th, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 16 mins. W. Wallis, 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; *A. Comber, 4; J. Kenward, 5; †T. Sparks (conductor), 6; J. Taylor, 7; J. Hedgecock, 8. *First 504. †First 504 as conductor. Also on Thursday evening, April 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 42 mins. E. Taylor, 1; W. Edwards, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; J. Taylor, 4; E. Dewey, 5; S. Kenward, 6; *T. Sparks (conductor), 7; A. Sparks, 8. *First quarter-peal as conductor. And on Sunday, April 21st, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, in 18 mins. W. Wallis, 1; J. Taylor, 2; T. Whitmore, 3; A. Comber, 4; W. Collinson, 5; T. Sparks (conductor), 6; *G. Apps, 7; A. Sparks, 8. *First 504.

By a Mixed Band at Tarring.—On Sunday, April 14th, being the thirty-fifth anniversary of the re-opening of the church, a band met and rang the following 720's of Bob Minor, each called differently. First 720 in 23 mins. T. Bushby, 1; B. Bassett (first 720 on a bob bell), 2; G. Batts, 3; T. Linfield, 4; J. Hill, 5; C. Hill (conductor), 6. Second 720 in 22½ mins. E. Lindup (first 720), 1; J. Hill, 2; T. Linfield, 3; G. Batts, 4; B. Bassett, 5; C. Hill (conductor), 6. Third 720 in 22 mins. T. Bushby, 1; T. Linfield, 2; C. Hill, 3; B. Bassett, 4; J. Hill, 5; G. Batts (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by B. Bassett.

THE BELFRY.

Great oaken doors with iron bosses set,
In their stern front like some huge massive shield
By ancient warrior borne upon the field
The entrance guards: as slowly on their hinges
To the old hoary sexton's touch they yield;
Seen by the rays through slanting loopholes let,
The dangling bell ropes with their coloured fringes;
There a quaint tablet rich with grotesque fret,
Records the names and tells in homely rhyme,
Of sturdy ringers who in olden time,
Stood tireless at their posts hour after hour;
And with a nod rang through the famous peal
Of "Grandsire Bob," until the ancient tower
Did to its summit with the clamour reel.

THE SAME.

Behind the belfry door another door
Low-browed and arched, with bolts and bars made strong,
Leads to the chambers where the bells are hung.
Through the wide fissures of the yawning floor
You may discern them looming overhead,
Each with its lips of brass and iron tongue;
And a strange feeling near akin to dread
Quickens the pulse as the huge things are swung,
Backwards and forwards by their mighty wheels;
Unto the gentlest touch obedient.
Along the wall the restless pendulum steals
For evermore; its ticking strangely blent
With the sweet echoes of each passing chime,
That marks the restless onward march of time.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—DISTRICT MEETING AT CHAILEY.

On Easter Monday, as announced in these columns, this Association held its third District Meeting for the present year at Chailey, a village in the Eastern division of the County, possessing an old parish church with a ring of six bells, tenor 8½ cwt. in the key of A. At the business meeting, which followed the luncheon at the "Five Bells" inn, and which was presided over by the Rector of Chailey (Rev. F. R. Hepburn) the following business was transacted. The Rev. G. A. Rideout, Rector of Rusper, was elected an Hon. Member, while the ringers connected with Rusper Church, twelve in number, were elected as a new branch of the association, and one new additional member was also elected to the Balcombe branch. On the proposition of Mr. J. Searle, seconded by Mr. F. Morris it was decided that "A committee consisting of one delegate from each peal ringing branch be appointed to consider and report to the Annual General meeting how many points shall in future bescored for peals in different methods in the challenge bell competition, and other matters connected therewith." Proposed by Mr. Pelling and seconded by Mr. Tyler "That the meeting of the above-mentioned committee be held at Brighton on Saturday, May 11th, at 4 p.m., and that the travelling expenses of the delegates be paid out of the Association funds." It was then decided that the next six bell tower meeting for East Sussex should be held at Balcombe, and the Annual General Meeting was fixed for Brighton on Whit-Monday. Mr. A. P. Heywood's suggestion to establish a central council was next brought forward by the Hon. Sec., when it was decided to postpone the consideration of so important a matter till the Annual General Meeting. The Hon. Sec. was requested to prepare the Annual report upon the same lines as those previously issued, and votes of thanks to the Rev. Chairman concluded the meeting. The bells were kept in motion the greater part of the day, and the following 720's were brought round in addition to numerous touches. 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob. J. Searle, 1; J. Cheeseman, 2; H. Meads, 3; J. Gasson, 4; G. Gatland, 5; C. Tyler (conductor), 6. Also 720 of Kent Treble Bob. W. Pelling (first of Kent Treble Bob), 1; J. Cheeseman, 2; G. Gatland, 3; G. F. Attree, 4; H. Meads, 5; J. Gasson (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. A. A. Fuller, 1; G. A. King, 2; C. Tyler, 3; G. F. Attree, 4; F. Morris, 5; J. Searle (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of of Canterbury Pleasure. J. Gasson, 1; W. Pelling, 2; J. Cheeseman, 3; H. Cornwall, 4; W. Turner, 5; G. Gatland (conductor), 6. The following are the association fixtures so far as fixed for the remainder of 1889: June 10th, Brighton, Annual General Meeting; July 6th, Bolney, 8-bell tower, West Sussex; August 5th, Eastbourne, 8-bell tower, East Sussex; September 5th, Midhurst, 6-bell tower, West Sussex; October 5th, Balcombe, 6-bell tower, East Sussex.

GEO. F. ATTREE, *Hon. Sec.*

JAS. E. WORSSELL, *Assist. Hon. Sec.*

THE DEDICATION OF A NEW TREBLE BELL AT BUSHLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Easter Monday, a special service was held in the parish church to dedicate a new treble bell which has lately been hung in the tower, and which was supplied by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of London. The Tewkesbury Abbey society was invited to ring upon the bells at intervals during the afternoon. Several six-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung, also a 720 Bob Minor. W. Hampton, 1; S. Cleal, 2; T. Devereux, 3; J. Hale, 4; J. Wathen, 5; Jos. Wathen (conductor), 6. Some members of the Bushley and Forthampton societies took part in the Grandsire Doubles. A capital tea and supper was provided in the schoolroom, to which a large number sat down, presided over by the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell. Toasts and songs were given, interspersed with courses of Caters and Triples, and tunes upon the handbells by members of the Tewkesbury Abbey society. The six bells in the steeple are now a very fair peal.

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

ST. GEORGE'S GUILD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

On Easter Monday, seven members of the above, viz., Messrs. Howell, Turner, Lansdowne, A. and H. Knight, A., E., and H. Thomas, responded to an invitation to meet other ringers at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, for a pull on the bells, which have been thoroughly overhauled. Taking advantage of an excursion to Sharpness by rail, the party reached Berkeley just before noon. After exchanging greetings with friends from Thornbury, Newnham, Westbury-on-Severn, etc., a move was made to the tower, which contains a good ringing-chamber, the ropes falling in a capital circle from a handy peal of six, tenor about 22 cwt., to all appearance leaving nothing to be desired. A start was soon made to rise, then the tug of war began. Once upside down, a few Grandsire Doubles was tried as a preliminary, then a few short touches of Minor. After a few futile attempts, the ropes were flung down in despair of doing anything, the go of the bells commencing with the third to the tenor being bad in the extreme. A cursory glance at the fittings in the bell-chamber revealed some very good work in the shape of wheels, stocks, bearings, etc., and no doubt some little alterations in the bearings will make everything satisfactory. Having procured a brake, the party, numbering about twenty, was driven to Stinchcombe, a pretty little church with a tower containing a nice little ring of six. After several touches by different members, a 720 Grandsire Minor was brought round in 25 mins., by Messrs. Howell, A. E. and H. Thomas, A. Turner (Bristol), F. K. Howell (Thornbury), J. E. Hern (conductor, Newnham). It now being time to see about returning, they wished their friends good-bye, and reached Bristol just upon ten o'clock, after a pleasant and enjoyable day's outing, and they wish through the medium of this paper to thank the respective vicars of Berkeley and Stinchcombe for the use of the bells.

On Easter Sunday, after evening service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 25 mins. A. E. Thomas, 1; A. E. Turner, 2; H. Howell, 3; W. Lansdowne, 4; H. Thomas (conductor), 5; A. Knight, 6. Tenor 17 cwt.

VISIT TO CHESTER.

On Monday, April 22nd, three members of the St. Michael's company, Gloucester, visited the above place, and was welcomed by some members of the St. Michael's company, Chester, and having been shown some of the principal places of interest, they visited the tower of the above company and rang 360 Plain Bob and a course each of Kent Treble Bob and Stedman Doubles, by the following: W. Povey, W. Cross, S. E. Romans, H. Gibson, R. J. Wilkins, and A. Cross. Afterwards a course of Grandsire Caters. W. Cross, 1-2; S. E. Romans, 3-4; R. J. Wilkins, 5-6; A. Cross, 7-8; W. Povey, 9-10. And 336 Grandsire Triples. S. E. Romans, 1-2; R. J. Wilkins, 3-4; A. Cross, 5-6; W. Povey, 7-8. A visit was then made to the Cathedral, where 350 Grandsire Triples was rung, they not having time enough for a longer touch. W. Povey, 1; E. Bewick, 2; H. Gibson, 3; W. Cross, 4; A. Cross, 5; S. E. Romans, 6; R. J. Wilkins (conductor), 7; F. Jarvis, 8. Messrs. Romans, Wilkins, and Bewick, belong to Gloucester, and they wish to thank the Chester men for the kind way in which they received them, and hope they will pay them a return visit.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday evening, May 4th, some of the members of the East Grinstead branch of the above Association visited Hammerwood, Sussex, and rang during the evening on the bells of St. Stephen (a light but musical ring of five) several 120's of Grandsire Doubles. J. Wren, C. Wren, A. R. Evershed, W. H. Wood, R. Billingham, A. Huggett, S. J. Huggett, A. Huggett (conductor). This is the first scientific ringing on the bells, and the first time any of the ringers have rang changes out of their own tower, having only received their first lesson in the art in January last.

WOKING (Surrey).—At the parish church on Sunday, April 21st, for Divine Service in the morning, ten 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, each called differently, in 50 mins. G. W. Furlonger, 1; J. W. Purdue, 2; C. B. Ryde, 3; W. C. Ryde, 4; F. C. Ryde, 5; A. Saunders, 6.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

"In the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom."

Reports of Easter meetings continue to flow in, as might be expected. Some of our friends have been "on pleasure bent," while others have "to business been more inclined." No doubt the former will have thoroughly enjoyed their outings, seeing the fine spring weather which appears to have pervaded the country throughout the Easter holidays. But I am most particularly pleased to note that at the business meetings of our various Associations, the Birmingham proposal regarding a National Council has not been lost sight of; and more, that it has met with the general approval which it deserves. A very short time will, I think, now settle the adoption of the proposal in the abstract, and then, under the able pilotage of Mr. Heywood, the necessary details will soon be worked out. We may therefore confidently anticipate that this year will be signalised by the formation of a representative body which can safely be calculated to be of great good to the Exercise in the future.

* * * * *

As the Editor well observes in his leading article of Saturday, "the harvest of long peals will be reaped within the next few years, and our successors of the next century will have little or nothing left them to surpass in the direction of lengthy peal-ringing." Such being the case, would it not be well for us to turn our attention now to other questions in connection with the Exercise more earnestly than before? The perfecting of our organisations; the replacement of round-ringers by men of science; the knitting together of ourselves and our Art with other branches of Church work, and that recognition of our labours and position which they deserve and ought to have. In fact, I might go on almost *ad libitum*, but it is quite unnecessary, as I believe we are nearly all of us alive to the many weak spots which require strengthening, and which will have to be strengthened before we obtain for ourselves universally that standing in the Church and society which we must have, and shall have eventually, if only every one of us strives his utmost in all things to manfully do his duty. Then, although I might perhaps be laying myself to the charge of iteration, I would urge, seeing that we are in all probability getting near "the end of our tether" on the matter of this long length ringing, that we should earnestly turn our attention to these other points which are so essentially necessary for the good and welfare of our honourable profession as ringers of the Church's bells.

* * * * *

Mr. Robinson's account of their latest tour in the "Black Country" is very interesting reading. They seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed this outing, although more failures than is usual with them have attended it. But if their experiences in this respect were somewhat novel, what must have been their ideas when down in Mr. Bassano's coal pit? Just fancy our friend the Vicar of Drayton with his clerical habiliments covered by an overall and other unmentionable articles, along with his talented lieutenant clad likewise, threading their way, candle in hand, through the labyrinths of the subterranean black diamond quarry! Quite a subject for an historical picture. But even there, it appears, the evil genius attended them, and they had to beat a precipitate retreat so that escaping noxious and poisonous fumes might not cause an incalculable loss to the Oxford Guild and the Exercise generally. After all, the excellent peal of Stedman Cinques which they pulled off at St. Martin's, Birmingham, will amply recompense them for minor failures and disappointments in other directions.

Speaking of peals, we are getting pretty well accustomed to peculiar characteristics in connection with them, but really last week's list is more than ever notable in this respect. There is a 5021 of Grandsire Caters by the College Youths at Fulham, a 5134 of Stedman Cinques by the Cumberlands at St. Bride's, an 8896 of Treble Bob Major in honour of the Baroness Burdett Coutts' birthday at Westminster; a 5040 of Bob Triples, the first in the method on the bells of Privett; the first peal of Double Norwich on the bells of Rowley Regis, of Stedman Triples at Old Hill, of Stedman Caters by the Stafford society at West Bromwich, the first peal of Grandsire Triples by the band (save one) at Ryde, the first of Stedman at Woolton, the first 5040 of Treble Bob Maximus on handbells at Diss, the first of Kent Treble Bob Major at Flixton, and the 5019 of Stedman Cinques at Birmingham. Who will dare to assert after all this, that we are not getting along wonderfully?

* * * * *

Besides all this, I cannot help remarking upon the short paragraphs which have been constantly appearing for weeks back, recording the first 720's of young ringers at Huddersfield, Yorkshire. They appear to be doing good work in training ringers in that quarter; and although they do not score much in the way of peals, there can be no question that our friends in that district are using their energies and abilities in another and even more useful direction. That every success may attend their efforts is the warmest wish of their friend

FREE LANCE.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

A well attended meeting of the Bristol members of this Association was held in the Crypt of St. Mary Redcliff church, under the presidency of the Vicar (Rev. C. E. Cornish), on Tuesday evening, May 7th. The Rev. H. A. Cockey (the Master) explained that the object of the meeting was to make arrangements for fortnightly meetings of the members for practice in Bristol without prejudice to any existing bands of ringers, and expressed the hope that it might be the means of improving the art of change-ringing in Bristol. It was after some discussion unanimously resolved that practices of the Association be held in Bristol on alternate Tuesdays, and that Mr. A. Anderson, Mr. J. Hinton, and Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower (the local secretary of the Association) be appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements, the tower in which the practice is to take place to be published in the preceding Saturday's "BELL NEWS."

Obituary.

ANTHONY DRUCE.

We regret to announce the death of the above-named ringer, which took place at his residence after a short illness, aged 61 years. Deceased was a Sunday service ringer at St. Chad's (R.C.) cathedral, Birmingham, for upwards of twenty-one years, and although not so much connected with peal-ringing on account of his station in life, he took part in three peals of Grandsire Triples. He was also a very punctual man in his attendances at all ringing meetings. The funeral took place on Easter Monday at the Witton cemetery, when he was borne to the grave by four of his oldest acquainted ringing friends. After the coffin was lowered, a plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung. W. Sanigar, 1-2; B. Stevens, 3-4; T. Miller, 5-6; W. E. King, 7-8. After which, the Victoria Handbell ringers rendered a hymn—"In the sweet by and by"; Ringers—T. Miller, R. Stevens, and B. Hodson.

JOHN HOUGHTON.

It is our painful duty to announce the death of the above-named ringer, of Witton, Northwich, Cheshire, which took place on Sunday, April 14th, aged thirty-six years. Deceased had been in failing health for over twelve months. He worked in the rock-salt mine, and met with an accident, which probably caused his death. Deceased was borne from his residence to the grave by eight of his brother-ringers, who afterwards rang a muffled peal. He was a member of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

JASPER W. SNOWDON'S WORKS.

ROPE-SIGHT: 1s. 6d. THIRD EDITION. Commences by explaining how to manage a bell; deals with Change-Ringing on three, four, five, six, seven, and eight Bells in the PLAIN BOB METHOD, giving touches and peals in each case; and closes with instructions for Conducting, &c., &c. (143 pages).

STANDARD METHODS: 2s. 6d. SECOND EDITION. Contains full explanations and rules for ringing all the best methods, from five to eight bells, with plain-course diagrams of each printed in full, with coloured lines. (40 pages of diagrams and 87 of descriptive letterpress).

GRANDSIRE; 2s. 0d. THE METHOD, ITS PEALS, AND HISTORY. WITH PORTRAIT AND MEMOIR. EDITED BY HIS BROTHER, WM. SNOWDON. COMPLETE WITH AN APPENDIX BY THE REV. CHARLES D. P. DAVIES, M.A., OXON. Commences with ringing on five, six, and seven bells, for the benefit of a learner; gives instructions on composing, proving, varying, and reversing conducting and calling round; and ends with a general survey of the practical and scientific aspect of the composition of triples—thus forming a complete reference book for all Grandsire ringers. (210 pages).

TREBLE BOB. 3s. 2½d. PARTS I. AND II. COMPLETE. Part I. contains instructions for pricking, transposing, proving, composing, and conducting peals; an essay on the *In and Out-of-course* of the changes; and a history of the various compositions and performances. Part II. contains classified peals of Minor, Major, Royal, and Maximus, with their reverse variations; remarks on the different qualities; particulars of first performances, composers' names, &c., &c. (236 closely printed pages). Part II. (136 closely printed pages) may be had separately, 2s. 1½d.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 1s. 0d. Contains rules and instructions for pricking and ringing the method; a linear diagram of the plain course; a collection of touches and peals; instructions for proving; and a history of the earlier performances, with a list of peals down to 1884. (78 pages).

A few copies are still left of "An Account of the Society of Union Scholars." (49 pages). Post free, 8½d.

Forwarded, Post Free, on receipt of remittance, by WM. SNOWDON, Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

MR. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD'S WORK.

"DUFFIELD:" A MUSICAL METHOD FOR 8, 10, AND 12 BELLS, containing full directions for ringing, pricking, and proving the method; together with a collection of Peals of Major, Royal, and Maximus. also an Explanatory Appendix. By ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, M.A. Post free on receipt of 1s., from BENROSE & SONS, 23, OLD BAILEY, LONDON, AND IRONGATE, DERBY. Also, gratis on application, from A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, DUFFIELD BANK, near Derby, a Broadsheet, containing diagrams and directions for ringing the method.

PORTRAIT NUMBER.

With next week's number of this paper will be issued a Portrait, with Memoir, of

MR. HERBERT BAKER,
OF HERTFORD.

The price of publication will be twopence as usual.

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

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 1889.

A condemnation has more than once been bestowed in this journal upon the vagaries of a class of persons who in many instances still unfortunately have the power to hinder the progress of a company of ringers, and to paralyse their attempts at belfry reform and improvement. We of course allude to that ignorant and tyrannical

church official who is met with sometimes, though he is by degrees becoming scarce. Sometimes he may be seen in the shape of a sexton or ancient parish-clerk, at other times only a remove from the grave-digger—holding that and the important office of organ-blower in combination. In whatever position he may be found he is always objectionable, a clog upon all progress, a constant source of irritation, the cause of much ill-feeling, and demeanour the reverse of brotherly.

It is feared that the comments we have made before regarding this incubus have been to some extent misunderstood. Though generally it would be well for us to disregard the interpretation which may be wrongly put upon the comments we from time to time make, yet in this case we should prefer to state in the most emphatic manner possible that when allusions have been made to those "jacks-in-office" who now and then act contemptibly, no single individual is referred to. Former references or allusions have been always made in a general sense, and we would ask all those who fancied when reading our former strictures upon this subject that the cap fitted them, to banish from their minds the idea that they were pointed at, or that they were individually implicated by our observations. But in the present instance we confess that the freaks of one individual are especially fresh in our memory; our observations which follow apply to him alone, and though he may not be able to gauge the reasonableness of this article should he have it read to him, those who are sorely let and hindered in their efforts for improvement in the art and science of change-ringing may see that their own organ in the press has the will if not the power to bring about a better state of things, by suggesting an wholesome application of the curb.

Let us imagine a fair city in one of the fairest districts of England, where for one hundred and fifty years at least change-ringing has through evil and good report, and under every conceivable vicissitude of fortune, bravely held its ground. The local records, though far from complete, show that eminent composers and ringers have been at various times found there. Several excellent peals have been rung intermittently by the local bands, some long lengths being among them, and the superior social position of the ringers was at one time proverbial. In fact, excepting trivial matters of difference, ringing concerns at one time flourished. A period of time elapses, and though circumstances would lead a visitor to hope that after an absence of years some progress has been made all round, a state of disunion is found. It is believed that this will shortly be remedied, in which belief we share; but to effect a proper adjustment of conflicting inclinations it will be necessary to tone down liberally the antics of the individual "jack" of the principal tower in the place, before the consummation devoutly to be wished for is attained. This individual, hailing from the rural districts, betrays his origin in speech and manner. Possessing not the slightest knowledge of the art, he presumes to rule the interior economy of the tower, and whatever he says appears to be law. An

instance has been mentioned—though we cannot vouch for its accuracy—when on meeting for practice he told the company they could not ring that evening, as he had some jackdaws hatching in the bell-chamber! The risible faculties of our readers will be greatly aroused, no doubt, by this statement. And should a visitor arrive in whose presence the local societies drop their differences and unite to please and, in fact, honour him, they cannot reckon upon complimenting an old brother-string till the opposition of the “man in possession” is exorcised. In fine, here is the unedifying spectacle of a company of ringers, exhibiting great talents both upon handbells and at the rope’s-end, being at the mercy of one who cannot be called a ringer in the accepted definition of the term, and who is gifted in a far less degree with the refinements of intelligence and civilization than those over whom he presumes to rule.

This is another of those drawbacks upon our progress under which we labour. But is there no remedy? Are the authorities of the church in question—the Rector and Churchwardens—fully aware of this state of things? We think not. We appeal to them to remedy it, and that without delay. If they desire a representative who shall be responsible to them for the proper observance of the bells, the ringing society should submit one of their accredited officers, upon whom the church authorities might rely. We commend this suggestion to their consideration. The picture of an incompetent person ruling in their belfry is not overdrawn. There is an evil, a great evil indeed at present existing. We urge its immediate removal. The actual church, and name of the town in which it is situate where this evil exists, we do not make known. This is owing to a feeling of something stronger than bare respect for the historic spot, and from a fear that the irregularity we have pointed out should jeopardise even for one single moment the prestige the church and its bells enjoy among the Exercise.

BELLS IN MADRID.

“MADRID, April 1st.—I have been this morning to see a light peal of eight bells, cast by Messrs. Warner and Sons, in 1882, and hung in the English fashion. They are in the beautiful modern church of San Francisco in this city. There are some more bells hung in the native way, but also cast by Messrs. Warner, in the other tower of the church. These I did not see or hear. It seems a pity that whoever got these bells from England did not provide an instructor as well. They have no idea of ringing them properly. For service yesterday some of them were jangled in a sort of chime, swinging about one-third up. The ringers said they had no one here to shew them how to ring. I had one of the clappers lashed, and gave them a specimen of English ringing. One of the men wanted to try his hand at it, but I was afraid of an accident through my imperfect Spanish, or rather, because he seemed to think there was nothing to learn in handling a bell.

By the way, if any of your readers found it difficult to believe my story of the marvellous fall of a Seville ringer, it may help their credulity to know that the word *tambor*, which I understood rightly to mean a drum, was probably used by my informants for a canopy of some kind. In England we naturally connect a big drum with a procession, but the other kind of *tambor* would be more likely to occur in a religious procession at Seville, and more likely perhaps to save the life of a ringer falling from a lofty tower.”

C. P.

The Provinces.

DARLASTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, April 29, 1889, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

JOHN CARTER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 19 cwt. 3 qrs.

E. UNITT	Treble.	J. GOUGH	5.
H. MALBORN	2.	S. ATKINS	6.
J. FULLWOOD	3.	W. SMITH	7.
J. HALL	4.	T. LOWE	Tenor.

Conducted by JOSEPH FULLWOOD.

Messrs. Fullwood and Hall hail from West Bromwich; Malborn from Wednesbury; Atkins from Willenhall; the rest belong to Darlaston. The same peal was started for on Easter Monday, April 22nd, by the same band, but after ringing 500 changes it came to grief, owing to a change-course.

WARNHAM.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE WARNHAM BRANCH.)

On Thursday, May 2, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART.

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

Conducted by WALTER CHARMAN.

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

ABINGDON, BERKS. *6 D G*

On Thursday, May 2, 1889, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5040 CHANGES.

THOMAS SHORT	Treble.	CHARLES HOUNSLOW	6.
HAROLD HUMPHREY	2.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON	7.
JAMES W. WASHBROOK	3.	EDGAR HUMFREY	8.
ALBERT KIMBREY	4.	JOHN BROWN	9.
EDWARD ALDWORTH	5.	ARTHUR BURGESS	Tenor.

Conducted by EDGAR HUMFREY.

The above was rung upon the anniversary of the re-opening of the bells.

DISS, NORFOLK.—THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 6, 1889, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt.

WILLIAM IRELAND	Treble.	ELLIS HAYWARD	5.
ALFRED JOLLY*	2.	EDWARD BATRAM	6.
JAMES BATRAM*	3.	ABEL HART	7.
BENJAMIN FRANCIS	4.	JOHN SOUTER	Tenor.

Composed by the late JOHN COX and Conducted by JOHN SOUTER.

*First peal. Rang as a compliment to W. Ireland and A. Hart, who attained their 36th and 37th birthdays on that day.

HATFIELD, HERTS.—THE HERTS. ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 7, 1889, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ETHELDREDA,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FIVE-PART. Tenor 28 cwt.

JAMES RUMNEY	Treble.	MATTHEW ELLSMORE	5.
JOHN SHEPHERD	2.	*ARTHUR SHEPHERD	6.
W. JOHN RICHARDSON	3.	HERBERT BAKER	7.
E. PERCY DEBENHAM	4.	GEORGE SMITH	Tenor.

Conducted by A. SHEPHERD.

Messrs. Rumney and Smith were proposed members of the Herts. Association before starting. Mr. Debenham hails from St. Albans; Messrs. Baker and Ellsmore from Hertford. *First peal.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 7, 1889, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

JOHN NICHOLLS*.. .. Treble.	*WILLIAM POCOCK 5.
CHARLES J. POCOCK* 2.	†CHARLES CHAPMAN 6.
THOMAS E. POCOCK*.. .. 3.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK 7.
WILLIAM LAWRENCE.. .. 4.	*JOHN BOWER Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. The ringers of the first five bells belong to St. Mary's band, Whitchurch (Oxon). C. Chapman hails from Tilehurst; and J. Bower from Goring.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, May 7, 1889, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REV. C. D. P. DAVIES'S VARIATION OF HOLT'S TEN-PART.

JOHN NICHOLLS Treble.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK 5.
CHARLES J. POCOCK 2.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON 6.
THOMAS E. POCOCK 3.	CHARLES CHAPMAN 7.
WILLIAM LAWRENCE.. .. 4.	WILLIAM POCOCK Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES W. WASHBROOK.

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

In Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes (no date mentioned),

AT THE "HALBERD" INN, NORTHGATE STREET,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION.

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

Composed by H. HALEY, and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

Umpire—Mr. H. Howell.

Date Touches.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

DUFFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday, April 30th, the following members of the Duffield Society rang a date touch of Stedman Triples (1889 changes), in 1 hr. 9 mins., in honour of the marriage of Bertram Heywood, Esq., which took place on that day. A. P. Heywood (conductor), 1; G. Dawson, 2; B. Sugden, 3; H. Midgley, 4; G. Hingley, 5; S. Johnson, 6; W. Hickling, 7; W. Midgley, 8.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Tewkesbury Abbey.—On Thursday, May 2nd, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1889 changes), in 1 hr. 8 mins. C. W. Dyson, 1; R. H. Witherington, 2; J. F. Moore, 3; J. Hale, 4; J. Wathen, 5; T. Devereux, 6; Jos. Wathen (conductor), 7; S. Cleal, 8.

CRAY (Kent).—On Tuesday evening, April 30th, for practice at St. Mary's church, a date touch consisting of 480 of St. Simon's, 480 of Plain Bob, and 929 of Grandsire Doubles, was rung in 1 hr. and 13 mins., by the following members of the local company. R. Wise, 1; A. E. Wise, 2; I. Emery, 3; W. J. Smith, 4; H. J. Blackwell (conductor), 5.

DUNSTER (Somerset).—On Tuesday evening, April 30th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 11 mins. E. Hole, 1; T. Elliott, 2; R. Hole, 3; Rev. J. U. Todd, 4; J. Grabham, 5; W. W. Thrush, 6; C. B. Craze (conductor), 7; J. Payne, 8.

GREAT YARMOUTH (Norfolk).—On Monday, April 29th, for practice at St. Nicholas' church, a date touch of Grandsire Caters (1889 changes), in 1 hr. 17 mins. H. Ireland, 1; R. Christian, 2; W. T. Blyth, 3; M. Long (conductor), 4; A. Webber, 5; W. Secrett, 6; T. Tooley, 7; Rev. J. F. Hastings, 8; W. Fletcher, 9; D. Hayward, 10. Tenor 30 cwt. in D. This is the first date touch on these bells for eighteen years.

Miscellaneous.

THE EASTERN COUNTIES' GUILD.

TERRINGTON (Norfolk).—On Monday evening, April 29th, at St. Clement's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 28 mins. W. G. Cross (captain of the Lynn company), 1; Dr. Seccombe (conductor), 2; J. Green, 3; W. Carston, 4; W. Brooke, 5; G. Holland, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. Dr. Seccombe and J. Green belong to the local company; the rest to the Lynn company. Afterwards touches of Bob Major and Treble Bob Major were rung on the handbells, in which the other members of the Terrington company took part.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

SWANMORE (Hants).—On Sunday, April 21st, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 24 mins. J. Osman, 1; C. Apps (first 720), 2; J. Threlfall, 3; H. Griffin (first 720), 4; R. Linter, 5; W. Linter (first 720 as conductor), 6. This is the first 720 of Minor ever rung on the bells by the local company.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

WINSHILL (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, April 21st, at St. Mark's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 27 mins. J. Rice, 1; W. Wylde, 2; J. Morley, 3; F. Shepherd, 4; L. Bullock (conductor), 5; C. Golder, 6. On Saturday, May 4th, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. J. Rice, 1; F. Shepherd, 2; W. Wylde, 3; W. Smith, 4; L. Bullock (conductor), 5; C. Golder, 6. And a 720 Bob Minor, in 27 mins. J. Rice, 1; J. Woodward, 2; F. Shepherd, 3; L. Bullock, 4; W. Smith, 5; C. Golder, 6.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SHARNBROOK (Beds).—On Sunday, April 21st, at 6 a.m. for Service, 120 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles). J. Dickens, 7; C. Allen, 2; L. Bell, 3; E. Coleman, 4; A. J. Barcock, 5; W. Page (conductor), 6. Also 360 of Oxford Bob Minor. J. Dickens, 1; W. Page, 2; C. Allen, 3; E. Coleman, 4; L. Bell, 5; A. J. Barcock (conductor), 6. And 120 of Stedman Doubles. A. J. Barcock (conductor), 1; C. Allen, 2; L. Bell, 3; W. Page, 4; E. Coleman, 5; A. Farrar, 6. Also on Saturday, April 27th, for practice, 720 of Double Court Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). C. Allen, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; A. J. Barcock, 3; L. Bell, 4; E. Coleman, 5; W. Page, 6. First 720 in the method by all except the conductor. And a 720 of Yorkshire Court Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). J. Dickens, 1; C. Allen, 2; L. Bell, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; E. Coleman (first 720 as conductor), 5; A. J. Barcock, 6. Also 120 of Stedman Doubles on handbells. E. Coleman, 1; A. J. Barcock, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3-4; W. Page, 5-6.

BEDFORD.—On Sunday, April 21st, at the church of St. Mary, at 6 a.m. for Service, 720 of Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles). H. Sharp, 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; F. Sharp, 3; J. N. Frossell, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; C. Pass, 6. Also 120 of Grandsire Doubles. F. Sharp (conductor), 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; H. Sharp, 3; J. N. Frossell, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; C. Pass, 6. And at 10 a.m. 720 of Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles). C. Pass, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Hall, 3; I. Hills, 4; S. J. Cullip, 5; C. Line (Sherrington, Bucks), 6. Also 120 of Grandsire Doubles. C. W. Clarke, 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; W. Hall, 3; I. Hills, 4; C. Line (conductor), 5; C. Pass, 6. And at St. Paul's church, at 5 a.m., 518 of Grandsire Triples, the twelve 4-6's. H. Sharp (first 500 Triples), 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; F. Sharp, 3; C. W. Clarke (composer and conductor), 4; I. Hills, 5; C. Pass, 6; J. N. Frossell, 7; F. Keech, 8. Also at 5 p.m., 672 of Grandsire Triples with all the 5-7-6s and 5-6-7s. W. Hall, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; F. Keech, 3; S. J. Cullip, 4; F. Smith, 5; C. Pass, 6; I. Hills, 7; J. Spencer, 8. And a 224 of Kent Treble Bob Major, 168 of Grandsire Triples, and 120 Grandsire Doubles, with J. Dickens (Sharnbrook), 1. Also on Monday, April 22nd, 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. C. Herbert, 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; F. Smith (first 500 in the method), 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; W. G. Biggs, 6; I. Hills, 7; J. N. Frossell, 8.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

CROYDON (Surrey).—On Tuesday, April 23rd, at the church of St. John the Baptist, a half-peal of Oxford Bob Triples (2520 changes). G. Burt, 1; A. Arnold, 2; H. Brooker, 3; R. E. Pearson, 4; W. States (conductor), 5; Dr. A. B. Carpenter, 6; T. Verrall, 7; F. G. Hermon, 8. This was an attempt for a peal, but the bells were brought round half-way, owing to the lateness of the start.

THE RAUNDS, WELLINGBOROUGH, AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

WELLINGBOROUGH (Northants).—On Easter Monday, April 23rd, at the parish church, a mixed band of the above Association made an attempt for a peal of Bob Triples, but after ringing to the half-way in 1 hr.

40 mins., the bells were brought round on account of the two heavy bells not going well. H. W. Stubbs, 1; W. J. Gilbert, 2; J. B. Martin, 3; A. H. Martin, 4; E. Chapman, 5; F. Gilbert (composer and conductor), 6; R. Dunkley, 7; E. F. Slade and W. Pettit, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. The ringers wish to return their thanks to the Ven. Archdeacon for the use of the bells; also to Mr. E. J. Dennes, and the steeple-keeper for having everything in readiness for them. The brothers Martin and W. Pettit hail from Higham Ferrers; E. Chapman from Rushden; R. Dunkley from Lowick; the rest from Raunds.

RAUNDS (Northants).—On Easter Sunday, for early service at St. Peter's church, 720 Oxford Bob (thirty-four bobs and twenty-six singles). A. Coles, 1; H. Stubbs, 2; R. Pendered, 3; G. Kirk, 4; J. Willmott, 5; F. Gilbert (conductor), 6. And for evening service, 720 Court Single (eighteen bobs and two singles). A. Coles, 1; H. Stubbs, 2; R. Pendered, 3; G. Kirk, 4; W. J. Gilbert, 5; F. Gilbert (conductor), 6.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, April 27th, at Bishop Ryder's church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 27 mins. H. Bastable (conductor), 1; T. Reynolds, 2; W. E. Smith, 3; B. Witchell, 4; T. Russam, 5; C. Stanbridge, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. in G. Handbell Ringing.—And on Wednesday, May 1st, at the house of Mr. Russam, Tower Road, Aston, 1179 of Stedman Cinques, in 46 mins. T. Russam, 1-2; W. Keut, 3-4; T. Miller, 5-6; H. Bastable (conductor), 7-8; B. Witchell, 9-10; H. Johnson, jun., 11-12. And on Tuesday, May 7th, twelve members met at St. Martin's and started for a 5125 of Stedman Cinques, when after ringing 19 courses in 1 hr. and 45 mins.; stand was called owing to illness near the church. T. Reynolds, 1; J. W. Cartwright, 2; H. Johnson, jun., 3; H. Bastable (conductor), 4; W. E. Smith, 5; W. R. Small, 6; B. Witchell, 7; S. Reeves, 8; J. Plant, 9; W. Kent, 10; C. Stanbridge, 11; J. Buffery, 12.

THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

GLDOWICK, OLDHAM (Lancashire).—On Sunday morning, April 21st, for Divine Service at St. Mark's church, eight members of the above Association attempted a peal of Bob Major (6144 changes), but after 2018 changes in 1 hr. 15 mins., it came to grief. R. Guest, 1; F. Crossland (conductor), 2; J. Gratrix, 3; E. B. Shaw, 4; F. Cocks, 5; G. H. Beaver, 6; J. Priestley, 7; A. Clegg, 8. Messrs. Crossland, Shaw, and Priestley, hail from Lees; J. Gratrix from Manchester. Also for evening service 720 Bob Minor in 26 mins. R. Guest, 1; G. Dunkerly, 2; J. Gratrix, 3; C. Dronsfield, 4; A. Clegg, 5; G. H. Beaver (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, April 28th, 546 Grandsire Triples. R. Guest, 1; F. Cocks, 2; G. Dunkerly, 3; W. Ward, 4; C. Dronsfield, 5; G. H. Beaver, 6; A. Clegg (conductor), 7; W. Rhodes, 8. Tenor 8½ cwt.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SCOTHERNE (Lincolnshire).—On Easter Sunday, for Divine Service in the afternoon, 720 Yorkshire Court, in 26 mins. C. Wells, 1; H. Hayes, 2; H. Maidens, 3; J. W. Watson, 4; D. W. Brown, 5; I. Vickers (conductor), 6. And 336 of College Single. Tenor 11 cwt. First 720 in the method by all, and the first on the bells. It was the intention of the band to ring 720s of College Single, Oxford Bob, and Kent Treble Bob Minor, but owing to a serious illness in the village the bells were lowered in consequence. This was the formal opening of a new treble bell. The work has been executed by Taylor and Co., and gives entire satisfaction. The party were hospitably entertained at the Vicarage, and a very happy afternoon was passed at that place. The Vicar knows how to treat a ringer, and thoroughly appreciates his services. The whole of the company hail from Lincoln.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

RAMSBOTTOM.—On Friday, May 3rd, the first 1512 of Holt's ten-part peal, in 50 mins. J. Dawson, 2; H. H. Nutter (conductor), 2; J. Wolstenholme, 3; *A. Clegg, 4; *J. H. Haydock, 5; J. T. Rostron, 6; J. W. Laycock, 7; J. Tattersall, 8. *Longest touch.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

WHITCHURCH (Oxon).—On Wednesday, May 1st, at the parish church, the local company rang their first 720 Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. J. Nicholls, 1; W. Pocock, 2; W. Lawrence (conductor), 3; C. Pocock, 4; T. Pocock, 5; E. Bushnell, 6. Tenor 10½ cwt. in A. The calling was taken from *Rope-Sight*, page 73, composed by B. Annable. On Sunday evening, April 28th, for Divine Service, 360 in the same method (nine bobs), with A. C. West, 5; the rest as before. And on Sunday morning, May 5th, for Divine Service, some Grandsire Doubles, and 180 Bob Minor; and for evening service, 300 in the same method.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHARLWOOD (Surrey).—On Sunday, May 5th, for morning service, 120 of Oxford Bob Minor, also 720 in the same method. G. Wickens,

1; F. Wickens, 2; J. Parker, 3; M. Heffer, 4; B. King, 5; A. Ellis (conductor), 6. And after service, 720 of College Single. *J. Taylor, 1; *J. Parker, 2; F. Wickens (conductor), 3; M. Heffer, 4; B. King, 5; G. Wickens, 6. Also 720 of Oxford Bob Minor. J. Parker, 1; F. Wickens, 2; *J. Taylor, 3; G. Wickens, 4; A. Ellis, 5; M. Heffer (conductor), 6. And an attempt for a peal of Kent Treble Bob, but after ringing 672 changes, it came to grief through the treble rope breaking. J. Parker, 1; G. Wickens, 2; A. Ellis, 3; B. King, 4; D. Jordan, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. Also for evening service, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. *J. Parker, 1; G. Wickens, 2; A. Ellis, 3; M. Heffer, 4; D. Jordan, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6. *First peal in the method. J. Parker hails from Storrington; J. Taylor from Horley; and D. Jordan from Capel.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Sunday evening, April 28th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 720 Kent Treble Bob. W. Jackson, 1; J. Broom, 2; G. Hayes (conductor), 3; F. Ring, 4; B. Spinner, 5; W. Martin, 6. First 720 in the method by W. Jackson.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—WIRRAL BRANCH.

BIDSTON (Cheshire).—On Sunday, April 21st, for morning service, 720 Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), in 23½ mins. T. Povall (first 720), 1; G. Royden, 2; G. Kendrick, 3; J. Griffiths, 4; W. Wilcox, 5; H. Povall (conductor), 6. On Sunday evening, April 28th, 720 Grandsire Minor (thirty-four bobs and two singles), in 24½ mins., the ringers standing as before.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BRAINTREE.—On Sunday, May 5th, for Divine Service in the morning, at the church of St. Michael and All Angels, 720 of Cambridge Surprise, and 240 New London Pleasure. S. Hammond, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; F. Bumpstead, 3; W. Lincoln, 4; F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; H. Hammond, 6. And for evening service, 720 of Double Court. T. Watson, 1; W. Moore, 2; H. Hammond, 3; S. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; W. Lincoln, 6.

BOCKING.—On Sunday, May 5th, at St. Mary's church, for afternoon service, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 26½ mins. A. Spurge, 1; W. Moore, 2; W. Bearman, 3; C. Bearman, 4; H. Hammond (conductor), 5; W. Lincoln, 6. Tenor 19 cwt. W. Lincoln hails from Writtle; the rest are of Braintree and Bocking.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Monday, April 29th, a company of ringers met at Bishop Ryder's church and rang a half-peal of Bob Triples, in 1 hr. 31 mins. W. Saniger, 1; J. Carter (conductor), 2; W. Brook, 3; J. Jones, 4; J. T. Perry, 5; C. Carmell, 6; A. Hackley, 7; J. King, 8. Rung with the bells muffled as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Mr. Anthony Druce, who was a ringer at St. Chad's (A.C.) Cathedral for many years.

CHEPSTOW (Monmouthshire).—On Good Friday, April 19th, the local company of St. Mary's rang with the bells half-muffled, for Divine Service in the morning, 360 Grandsire Doubles, with 7-6-8 covering. T. Collinson, 1; J. Prickett, 2; G. Watkins, 3; J. Powell, 4; J. Morley (conductor), 5; J. Simmons, 6; C. Davis, 7; W. Freestone, 8. Tenor 21 cwt. in E. In the evening 720 in the same method, on the back six. T. Collinson, 1; J. Prickett, 2; G. Watkins, 3; J. Powell, 4; J. Morley (conductor), 5; C. Davis, 6.

HALEWOOD (Lancashire).—On Saturday, May 4th, at the parish church, an attempt to ring Thurstans' five-part peal of Stedman Triples proved a failure owing to darkness intervening, after ringing upwards of 4,500 changes in 2 hrs. 27 mins. J. R. Pritchard, 1; T. Hammond (conductor), 2; W. Booth, 3; J. Aspinwall, 4; H. Coley, 5; W. James, 6; W. Davies, 7; J. Martin, 8.

HALSTEAD (Essex).—On Sunday, April 28th, at St. Andrew's church, for afternoon service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob and 720 Kent Treble Bob. D. Clayden, 1; W. Grimwade, 2; W. Rogers, 3; G. Galley, 4; W. Ward, 5; E. Ladham (conductor), 6. For evening service, 720 Court Bob, standing as before. Messrs. Ladham, Galley, and Grimwade hail from Great Tey; Rogers and Claydon from Colne; Ward from Halstead.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Monday, May 6th, at St. John's church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins. Jno. Simm, 1; F. Lees, 2; C. L. Routledge, 3; S. Power, 4; W. Story, 5; T. Denton (conductor), 6.

POTNEY.—On Tuesday, May 7th, at the church of St. Mary-the-Virgin, by the All Saints Society, Fulham, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal, rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 39 mins. A. S. Ough, 1; J. W. Kelley, 2; T. E. Hughes, 3; N. E. Snow, 4; A. Hubbard (conductor), 5; J. G. Green, 6; J. Nicholls, jun., 7; S. How, 8. Composed by W. A. Alps.

LENTON (NOTTS).—On Monday evening, April 29th, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins., at Holy Trinity church, to celebrate the return to office as parish churchwarden of Mr. Frederick Ball, whose kindness and interest has always been exerted on behalf of the ringers of this church. J. Laykin, 1; S. Wesley, 2; S. Mellors, 3; J. Spray, 4; R. Mellors, 5; *J. Vickers (conductor), 6. Tenor 8½ cwt. in A. *First 720 as conductor. J. Vickers is a member of the Melbourne Society, Derbyshire.

READING (Berks).—On Monday, April 22nd, at the parish church of St. Laurence, on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Bertha Bawden, sister of Mr. E. Bawden, one of the ringers, a 518 of Grandsire Triples. C. Foxel, 1; W. Newell, 2; J. Richardson, 3; J. T. Tarrant, 4; W. Holloway, 5; W. J. Williams, 6; E. Bishop (conductor), 7; W. Higgs, 8.

RADCLIFFE-ON-TRENT.—On Saturday, April 27th, 120 Plain Bob Doubles. R. T. Parkins, 1; W. White (conductor), 2; J. Hall, 3; H. W. Wilde, 4; T. Squires, 5; J. Sweet, 6. First in the method on the bells. And 120 Stedman Doubles. R. T. Parkins (conductor), 1; W. White, 2; J. Hall, 3; W. E. White, 4; H. W. Wilde, 5; T. Squires, 6. The first in the method by all, and also the first on the bells. And 720 Plain Bob Minor, in 30 mins. T. Squires, 1; W. White, 2; J. Hall, 3; R. T. Parkins, 4; H. W. Wilde (conductor), 5; W. E. White, 6. The first 720 in the method by the ringers of the 1st, 2nd, and 6th bells, and the first 720 in any Minor method on the bells. Also several 120's of Grandsire Doubles. R. T. Parkins, J. Hall and H. W. Wilde hail from Sandiacre, Derbyshire; W. White, W. E. White, and T. Squires from Cotgrave, Notts; J. Sweet from Radcliffe.

SEFTON (Lancashire).—On Saturday evening, April 27th, at St. Helen's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles), in 27 mins. T. Johnson, 1; H. Kelly, 2; R. H. Hurst, 3; H. N. Spinks, 4; J. Nightingale, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. Tenor about 17 cwt. All the above hail from Walton-on-the-Hill, Lancashire.

STANSTEAD (Suffolk).—On Monday, April 29th, at St. John's church, the local company rang for practice 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). A. E. Smith, 1; K. S. Theobald, 2; A. J. Clarke, 3; R. B. Smith, 4; J. Wheeler, 5; R. Gowers (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 ever rung on tower bells by a local company. Also 360 Bob Minor. A. Papworth, 3; S. Slater (conductor, Glemsford), 6; the rest standing as before.

SUCKLEY (Worcestershire).—On Saturday evening, April 27th, for practice at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor in 28 mins. T. Tyler, 1; W. Watkins, 2; W. Ranford, 3; H. Ballard, 4; E. Watkins, 5; J. Howells (conductor), 6. Also 720 Grandsire Doubles, being six 6-scores, each called differently, in 28 mins. H. Ballard, 1; W. Ranford, 2; J. Hubaud, 3; T. Tyler, 4; J. Howells (conductor), 5; E. Wainwright, 6.

SHREWSBURY.—On Monday night, April 29th, for practice, at the church of St. Alkmund, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples 1260 changes, in 48 mins. A. Griffiths, 1; T. Price, 2; G. Boylin, 3; T. Groves, 4; J. E. Groves, 5; T. Burd (conductor), 6; A. Jarvis, 7; S. Plimmer, 8. Tenor 13½ cwt. in G. This is the longest touch by the Shrewsbury men for a number of years.

TIDENHAM (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday evening, April 28th, the St. Mary's Society, Chepstow, paid a visit to the above village, and rang 480 Grandsire Doubles. T. Collinson, 1; J. Prickett, 2; G. Watkins, 3; J. Powell, 4; J. Morley (conductor), 5; C. Davis, 6. Tenor 16 cwt. in A, which has been cracked for many years past. The whole peal sadly wants rehanging.

TOTTENHAM (Middlesex).—At the parish church on Sunday, April 28th, for Divine Service in the evening, 720 Plain Bob Minor, in 24 mins. J. T. Adams, 1; T. C. Grove, 2; E. F. Strange, 3; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. Pye-English, 6. And on Tuesday, April 30th, for practice, 360 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 12 mins. T. C. Grove, 1; G. Griffin, 2; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 3; J. Waghorn, jun., 4; H. A. Barnett, 5; W. Pye-English, 6.

WHITCHURCH (Salop).—On Saturday, April 27th, three members of the Shrewsbury company visited this place to attempt a peal of Grandsire Triples with the local company. A 1008 was rung before tea, in 40 mins., by the following: A. Griffiths, 1; A. Right, 2; W. Hutchinson, 3; T. Groves, 4; J. E. Groves, 5; G. Woodhall (conductor), 6; T. Barron, 7; J. Gibson, 8. After tea a start was made for Holt's ten-part peal, but after ringing three parts in 1 hr. the conductor called stand, owing to a change-course. A. Griffiths, 1; H. Gibson, 2; W. Hutchinson, 3; T. Groves, 4; J. E. Groves, 5; G. Woodhall (conductor), 6; J. Gibson, 7; T. Barron, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. in Eb. A. Griffiths and Groves brothers hail from Shrewsbury; H. Gibson from Chester; the rest are local men.

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 DISCLAIMER.

SIR,—In the account of the Annual Meeting of the Bedfordshire Association recorded in your last issue, I see a statement made by the Rev. W. W. C. Baker to this effect, viz.: that "the Oxford Diocesan Guild had found it a great nuisance to have a majority of members who were not change-ringers." Kindly allow me as Secretary of that Guild to say that the speaker must have been wholly mis-informed as to this: the fact is entirely the opposite. Our change-ringing members, as stated in the last report, numbers 564, while the probationary members stand at 200.

DOLBEN PAUL, Sec. of O. D. G.

SELY OAK, WORCESTERSHIRE.

SIR,—The peal of Grandsire Triples rung at the above church on April 27th is represented as the first peal of Triples ever rung on the bells. This is incorrect, as the first peal of Triples was Stedman Triples, rung by the St. Martin's Society, Birmingham, on October 29th, 1887, which was also the first peal on them.

HY. BASTABLE.

THE STANSTEAD METHOD.

SIR,—My letter of April 20th explained why this is not a double method. With regard to it not being a new one I may say that I produced (not invented) this from Double Oxford by simply making a bob with the treble behind, and a plain lead in front. The only difference is Double Oxford with the treble behind is 243651, Stanstead 246531, caused by thirds place being made in the latter, and fifths in the former. The question as to what the method really is depends what affinity a Double Oxford bob with the treble behind bears to the Stanstead third's place when the treble is in that position. A double method may be rung with the bobs behind as well as in front, at the option of the company practising them. If this mode of producing methods is proceeded with, we shall have Double Norwich and Superlative and many others mutilated (I am afraid to try and find the tenors) and handed out to us as quite new. I do not doubt but what Stanstead was produced many years ago, and, like others, will be reproduced again. I would advise our friend to read up, and try again.

R. CARTWRIGHT.

QUICK PEALS.

SIR,—As a ringer and at the same time a lover of music, it has sometimes occurred to me that too much stress is laid upon the speed with which a peal is rung. If the bells are of a fair weight, to ring beyond a certain speed is, to mind, spoiling the music and getting through the work (that is the physical part of it) in very easy fashion. For instance, the peal of Triples at Tenterden, on Monday, April 29th, was rung in three hours and three minutes. Now I know those bells well, as I was at school in the neighbourhood some twenty years ago. They are a fine ring, but to "send them along" at that rate is a decided mistake from a musical point of view.

GRANDSIRE BOB.

THE TENOR AT EAST GRINSTEAD.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that the tenor bell at East Grinstead is 25 cwt., not 13½ cwt., as given in the report of the peal rung on the 22nd at East Grinstead in last week's peal column. It was also the tenor-man's first peal.

ARTHUR HUGGETT.

THE TOUR IN THE BLACK COUNTY.

SIR,—On reading the interesting account under the above heading, in last Saturday's "BELL NEWS," I felt that some little explanation was necessary regarding the disappointment expressed at not having a touch on the St. Martin's bells by the Bradford men. It appears that while I was away with our Birmingham friends at the station awaiting the arrival of the two distinguished visitors from Oxford, some misunderstanding arose in the tower as to the time of their coming; this was accentuated by the late arrival of the train. When the Bradford men had finished their touch of Treble Ten, and a short spin of twelve, they left the tower, and not observing any one about, concluded that the visitors had either not come as expected, or else had not been able to remain, so they, accepting the cordial invitation of the steeple-keeper of St. John's Deritend, wandered in the direction of that church for a touch of Major. So that when we arrived at the Bull Ring they had just left. I would also add that the disappointment felt in not having the touch at St. Martin's could not have been exceeded by that experienced by our Bradford men in thus being deprived of the pleasure which they had joyfully anticipated of having a "shake of the paw" with Mr. Robinson and Mr. Washbrook. It appears to have been a disappointment on both sides, but "better luck next time."

BEN. T. COPLEY.

"FORWARD."

A New method for an even number of bells.

By JOHN CARTER.

PEALS OF ROYAL.

5000.

1 2 3 4 5 6	I	B	O	F
4 3 5 2 1 6	-	-	-	-
2 1 3 5 4 6	-	-	-	-
5 4 1 3 2 6	-	-	-	-
3 2 4 1 5 6	-	-	-	-
1 6 2 5 3 4	-	-	-	-

5 2 3 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
6 1 2 3 5 4	-	-	-	-
3 5 1 2 6 4	-	-	-	-
2 6 5 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 5 3 6 2 4	-	-	-	-

6 3 2 5 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 1 3 2 6 4	-	-	-	-
2 6 1 3 5 4	-	-	-	-
3 5 6 1 2 4	-	-	-	-
1 2 5 6 3 4	-	-	-	-

6 5 3 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
2 1 5 3 6 4	-	-	-	-
3 6 1 5 2 4	-	-	-	-
5 2 6 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 3 2 6 5 4	-	-	-	-

6 2 5 3 1 4	-	-	-	-
3 1 2 5 6 4	-	-	-	-
5 6 1 2 3 4	-	-	-	-
2 3 6 1 5 4	-	-	-	-
1 6 5 3 2 4	-	-	-	-

Four times repeated.

8000.

Adding from above peal.

1 6 5 3 2 4	-	-	-	-
3 5 2 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
6 1 5 2 3 4	-	-	-	-
2 3 1 5 6 4	-	-	-	-
5 6 3 1 2 4	-	-	-	-
1 2 6 3 5 4	-	-	-	-

3 6 5 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
2 1 6 5 3 4	-	-	-	-
5 3 1 2 6 4	-	-	-	-
6 2 3 1 5 4	-	-	-	-
1 5 2 3 6 4	-	-	-	-

3 2 6 5 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 1 2 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 3 1 2 5 4	-	-	-	-
2 5 3 1 6 4	-	-	-	-
1 3 6 5 2 4	-	-	-	-

The whole four times repeated.

5200.

Adding from the above peals.

1 3 6 5 2 4	-	-	-	-
5 6 2 3 1 4	-	-	-	-
3 1 6 2 5 4	-	-	-	-
2 5 1 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 3 5 1 2 4	-	-	-	-
1 2 3 5 6 4	-	-	-	-

The whole twice repeated. This peal has only 4th, 5th, and 6th in 6th's place at a course-end.

10,000.

Adding from the above peals.

1 2 3 5 6 4	I	B	O	F
5 3 6 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
2 1 3 6 5 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 1 3 2 4	-	-	-	-
3 2 5 1 6 4	-	-	-	-
1 5 6 2 3 4	-	-	-	-

The whole four times repeated.

11,000.

Adding from the above peals.

1 5 6 2 3 4	I	B	O	F
2 6 3 5 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 1 6 3 2 4	-	-	-	-
3 2 1 6 5 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 2 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 3 5 2 6 4	-	-	-	-

The whole four times repeated.

PEALS OF MAXIMUS.

5040.

1 2 3 4 5 6	I	B	O	F
5 3 2 4 1 6	-	-	-	-
2 6 3 5 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 3 6 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 3 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
2 3 5 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 2 3 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
3 5 2 6 1 4	-	-	-	-

1 2 5 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
5 1 2 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 2 1 5 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 6 2 5 3 4	-	-	-	-
5 2 6 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 2 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
2 6 5 1 3 4	-	-	-	-

The last 7 courses three times repeated produce 1 2 3 5 6 4, the whole twice repeated. Only the 4th, 5th, and 6th in 6th's place at a course-end.

5040.

1 2 3 4 5 6	I	B	O	F
4 3 5 2 1 6	-	-	-	-
2 6 3 5 1 4	-	-	-	-
5 2 3 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 3 2 1 4	-	-	-	-
2 3 5 6 1 4	-	-	-	-
6 2 5 3 1 4	-	-	-	-
3 6 5 2 1 4	-	-	-	-

2 5 1 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 1 5 2 3 4	-	-	-	-
2 6 5 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 2 5 6 3 4	-	-	-	-
6 5 2 1 3 4	-	-	-	-
1 6 2 5 3 4	-	-	-	-
5 1 2 6 3 4	-	-	-	-

The last 7 courses three times repeated produce 1 2 3 5 6 4. The whole twice repeated. Only 4th, 5th, and 6th in 6th's place at a course-end.

As I have occupied a fair amount of space in this valuable journal, I will conclude in giving what I consider 2 divisions

of "Double Forward," as there is double dodging above 4th's place, and also double 3rds and 4ths in each division. The Exercise say that Double method means work the same from behind as in front, therefore I will name it Darlaston, after my native place.

DARLASTON MAJOR.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 3 4 6 5 8 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 4 3 5 6 7 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 2 4 3 6 5 8 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 3 4 5 6 7 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 2 3 4 6 5 8 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 2 4 3 5 6 7 8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 4 3 6 5 8 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2 4 1 6 3 8 5 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 1 6 8 3 7 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 6 1 3 8 5 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 6 1 8 3 7 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 1 6 3 8 5 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 1 6 8 3 7 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 6 1 3 8 5 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 6 1 8 3 7 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

4 6 2 8 1 7 3 5

Bobs are made as in Forward.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES.

By GEORGE NEWSON, London.

2 3 1 4 5 6	I	5	6	7	19
3 2 1 6 5 4	-	s	-	-	-
2 1 3 4 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 6 3 5 4	-	-	-	-	-
2 1 4 6 5 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 2 3 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 6 2 5 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 3 6 5 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 1 4 2 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 1 6 4 5 2	-	-	-	-	-
6 1 3 2 5 4	-	-	-	-	-
6 1 4 3 5 2	-	-	-	-	-
6 1 2 4 5 3	-	-	-	-	-
5 1 3 2 6 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 1 4 2 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 5 3 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 2 5 6 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 1 3 2 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 1 4 5 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
3 1 2 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-

The whole repeated, excepting the bobs at 1, 6, 7 in first course, produce 3 1 2 4 5 6, when bobs at 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 in next course, bring rounds at 2nd change in 21st six. First rang at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, London, April 27th, 1889, by the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths; Conducted by its Composer.

The Marchioness of Salisbury has consented to visit Ilford, Essex, on the 5th of June, to lay the memorial stone of the new church of St. Clement's, now being built.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN BRANCH.—The next meeting of the above will be held at the parish church, Wigan, on Saturday, May 18th. Bells ready at 2 p.m.; short service in the church at 4.30 p.m.; tea at 1s. per head in the Coffee House, Market Street, at 5 p.m., followed by the general meeting, after which the bells will be again available. The London and North Western Railway Company having kindly consented to grant return tickets to members at a single fare and a quarter from any station on their line for this meeting, I request each Society in the branch to inform me not later than Tuesday, the 14th inst., which station they wish to book from, and also how many intend attending, so as to enable me to give the necessary notice.

JOHN R. PRITCHARD, *Branch Sec.*

40, Lowther Street, Liverpool.

ROSSENDALE BRANCH.—The next ringing meeting of the above branch will be held on Saturday, April 18th, at St. James' church, Waterfoot. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting at 6.30.

J. T. STOTT, *Branch Sec.*

SHOBROOKE, DEVON.

The Rev. G. I. Wallas, rector of the above place, returned home on Thursday evening, May 2nd, after an absence of about three months on a visit to friends in Madeira. In honour of his return, the church bells, which have recently been rehung in the newly-restored tower, were rung for the first time since the alterations were effected. The rehanging of the bells has been carried out by Mr. Harry Stokes, of Woodbury, Exeter. The work has been executed in a manner highly satisfactory to the ringers.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

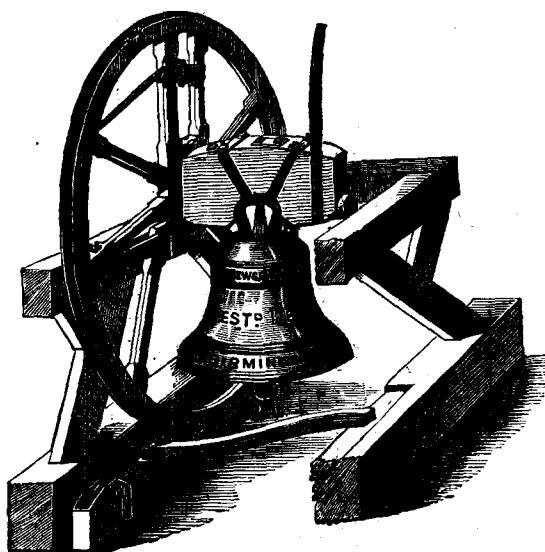
A District Meeting of this Association will be held at Bisley, near Stroud, on Monday, May 13th. Short service at All Saints' parish church, at 10.45, with address by the Rev. G. C. Keble, assistant curate. Dinner at 1 o'clock, at 2s. 6d. per head; 1s. 6d. allowed to all members who have given proper notice to the local Hon. Sub. Secretary, W. C. Long, Esq., 25 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester. A break will meet the 9.5 Midland arrival at Stroud, and the 9.36 Great Western.

REV. PITT EYKYN, *Hon. Sec.*

THE UNITED COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

A trial of skill in the art of change-ringing on eight bells will take place at All Saints' church, Glossop, on Saturday, May 18th, when the Association Cup will be competed for (according to the rules and circular), and three other prizes given, namely—First prize: the Association's Silver Cup, and eight silver scarf pins (with the Glossop Coat of Arms engraved on), and eight felt hats. Second prize: eight silk pocket handkerchiefs, with figured bells and ringing mottoes woven in by Edward Matthews, of Macclesfield. Third prize: eight silk neckties. The prizes are the gift of the Glossop ringers and friends. The draw for priority of ringing will take place at the house of Mr. James Sellars, "Bull's Head" Inn, at one o'clock. This competition is for members only. The officers and committee will sit at the above house to enrol new members and receive subscriptions.

JOSEPH RADCLIFFE, } *Hon. Secs.*
JOHN SIDEBOTHAM, }



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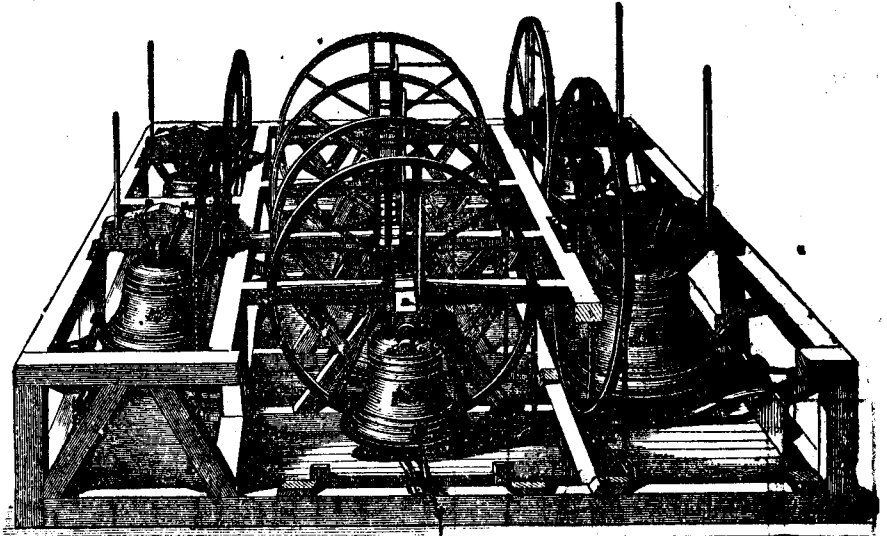
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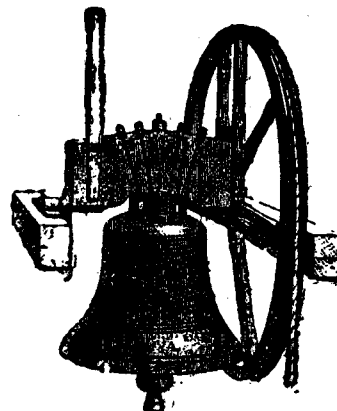
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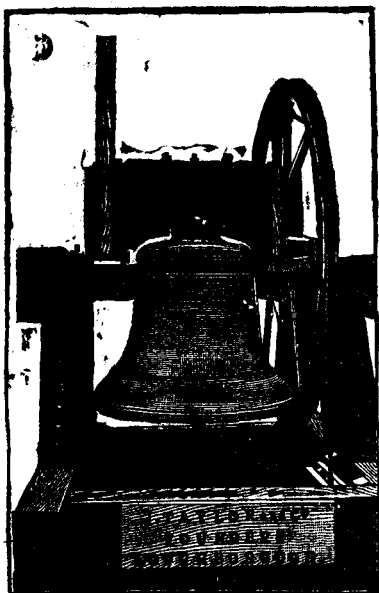
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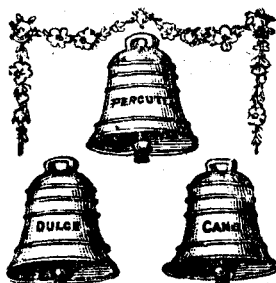
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