THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 458.—*VOL.* IX. SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891. PRICE ONE PENNY.

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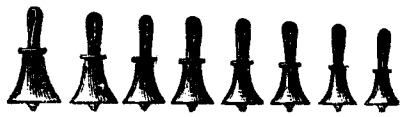

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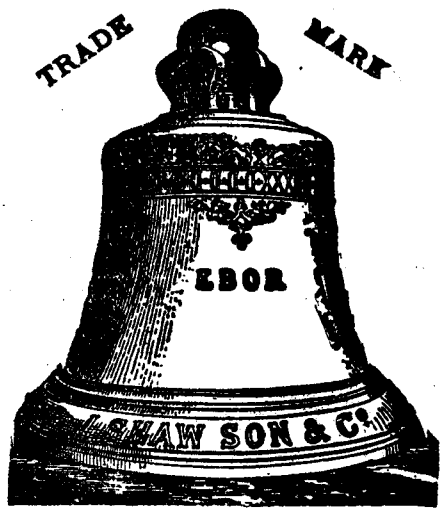

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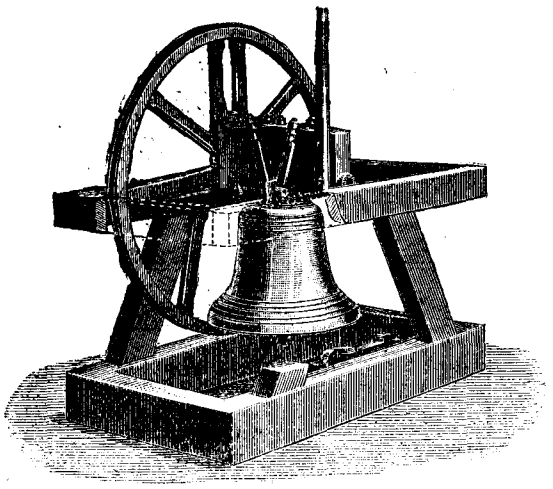

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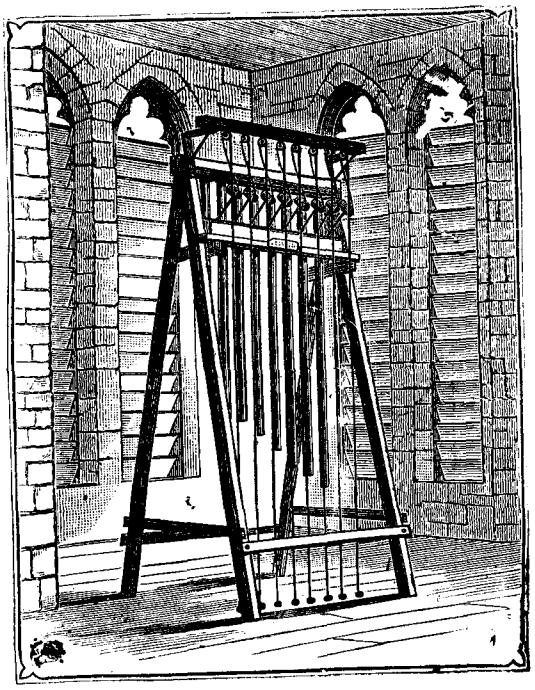

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To be published November 15th, 1890. No. 238.—"The Marv'lous Work," from Haydn's "Creation," for 8 ringers, large peal 3 6

To be published December 1st, 1890. No. 239.—"Auld Lang Syne," with variations for 6 ringers, medium peal, price 3s. od., or large peal 7 ringers at 3 6

To be published December 15th, 1890. No. 240.—Christmas Music containing four Sacred pieces, for 6 ringers, with two octaves in G., price 2 0

N.B.—If any of the above are ordered in advance, a reduction of 2d. in the shilling will be conceded, afterwards full price will be charged.

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31st March, 1880

DEDICATION OF TWO NEW BELLS AT OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.

The ceremony of the dedication of two new bells at St. Peter's church, Old Windsor, took place on Monday, December 22nd. Owing to the severity of the weather the congregation was not large. The new bells, making a complete peal of eight, have been cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel, who have also recast the 5th and tuned and put in thorough repair the remaining five. The old bells having been for some time in an unsafe condition, a fund for a new bell-frame and for rehanging them was opened about Easter, a bazaar being held at the Royal Tapestry Hall (by kind consent of H. Henry, Esq.) on the 1st and 2nd of August, which was opened by H.R.H. Princess Christian. The total amount raised was over £300. Of the six old bells, the treble was cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, in 1872, to commemorate the recovery of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales; the remaining five having been cast by Thomas Swaine, of Reading, in 1775. The weight of the tenor is 11¾ cwt.

Evensong on December 22nd began at 2.45 p.m., with special lessons, psalms, and hymns. The clergy present were the Bishop of Reading (Right Rev. J. Leslie Randall), the Rev. T. E. Harwood (Vicar of Old Windsor), the Rev. Canon Gee (Vicar of Winslow), and the Rev. J. H. Hindson (Vicar of Wraysbury). An admirable sermon was preached by the Bishop of Reading, who then proceeded, with the clergy and choir, to the belfry, where he performed the office of Dedication. After the Dedication, Lady Julia Tollett untied the ribbon which fastened the ropes of the two new bells and the 5th, and pronounced them ready for use. A few rounds were then rung by the local band, while the clergy and others returned to their seats. The hymn "Now at length our bells are lifted" was then sung, during which a collection in aid of the bell fund. After the service 5040 Stedman Triples were rung by the following members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, in 3 hrs. and 1 min., conducted by J. W. Washbrook, chief instructor to the Guild: W. Lawrence (Whitchurch), 1; T. E. Hern (Reading), 2; A. Andrews (Windsor), 3; J. W. Washbrook (Oxford), 4; Rev. F. E. Robinson (Drayton), 5; W. Napper (Didcot), 6; R. Flaxman (Slough), 7; Rev. G. F. Coleridge (Caversham), 8. After the peal 839 Grandsire Triples were rang by E. Whatmore (Wraysbury), 1; Rev. J. H. Hindson (Wraysbury), 2; T. E. Hern (Reading), 3; G. Stanbrook (Windsor), 4; H. Shanks (Wraysbury), 5; G. Whatmore (Wraysbury), 6; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 7; J. Guttridge (Old Windsor), 8. Other short touches were also rung. The Bishop, clergy, and a number of the congregation partook of tea at the Vicarage after the service, and the whole of the ringers were entertamed there at supper in the evening.

On Friday, December 26th, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. F. Tindal (first 720), 1: Rev. J. H. Hindson, 2; G. Stanbrook, 3; S. Quinton, 4; J. Guttridge, 5; R. Flaxman (conductor), 6. Also 360 Grandsire Minor. F. Tindall, 1; G. Stanbrook, 2; G. Williams, 3; S. Quintin, 4: J. Guttridge, 5; R. Flaxman (conductor), 6. Also several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles and several courses of Grandsire Triples.

BARNET, HERTS.

On Friday, December 26th, eight members of the Hatfield College Youths paid a visit to the parish church of High Barnet, and there made their first attempt for Holt's Original. After ringing 2700 changes it unfortunately came to grief, owing to a change-course. An adjournment was then made for luncheon, after which the tower was again visited, and 360 Grandsire rung under the conductorship of J. Kentish, J. Sumpter (Hadley) ringing the treble. And a 167, with A. Townsend (Barnet) on the tenor. Also 360 of Minor (with 6-8 covering). F. Skinner, 6; A. Townsend, 8. The bells were then lowered and a move made to Hadley church, distant only half a mile. Here Minor and Doubles were rung with the local company, and this brought to a close a very enjoyable although unsuccessful holiday. The visitors wish, through the medium of this paper, to thank the Rector of Barnet for his kindness in giving them the use of the bells; also Mr. Dalton for having all things in order. The following were the Hatfield party: W. J. Rumney, H. Shepherd, J. Shepherd, J. Kentish, G. Smith, W. J. Richardson, J. Hollingsworth, A. Shepherd.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The Winter General Quarterly Meeting of this Association was held at Gainsborough, on Friday, December 26th. Although the attendance was smaller than at the corresponding meeting of last year, it was not the less enjoyable to those who attended. During the morning a company from Lincoln, with the help of Mr. W. D. Tinker (conductor of the local company), and under the conductorship of N. E. Snow, Esq., of Sleaford, started for a peal of Grandsire Triples, which unfortunately collapsed after ringing two hours. In the afternoon a company was made up for Lea, a village about two miles distant, which possesses a good peal of six bells; the impression given to the visitors was that the local ringers must be nothing less than giants, from the height at which the sallies were fixed; however, with the assistance of a form, box, chairs, and hassocks, this difficulty was overcome, and a 720 successfully brought round. About five o'clock twenty-one sat down to tea at the Gainsborough Coffee Tavern, Canon Warner, Vicar of Gainsborough, presiding, supported by F. F. Linley, Esq., Rev. C. E. Cockin, Rector of Lea, occupying the vice chair. Directly after tea the business meeting was held. Letters were read from the Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln, and other honorary members unable to attend. After the minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, the Rev. C. E. Cockin stated that Sir Chas. Anderson, Bart., wished him to express his inability to attend, owing to the severity of the weather. A message was sent to him by the Rector of Lea, regretting the fact, and hoping that at some future time he would be able to address the Association. One efficient and seven probationary members were elected. Mr. Linley, on behalf of the Committe, gave a very graphic account of the certificate of membership now in the hands of a London firm of engravers. Votes of thanks were accorded to J. W. Taylor, Esq., junr., of Loughborough, for kindly photographing bells for reproduction on the certificate, to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, to the local ringers for the day's arrangements, and to the Chairman for presiding.

Touches on the fine peal at the parish church brought to a close a very pleasant meeting.

THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 3rd, this Association held a District Meeting at Stoke Newington, the first of a series for which it is hoped arrangements may be made on the first Saturday in each month during the current year. The weather was bad, and on that account, perhaps, the meeting was not attended as well as might have been expected. However, there were quite enough present for a six-bell tower. The belfry of St. Mary, the old parish church of Stoke Newington, is probably the smallest in the Kingdom, although that of St. Laurence, at Seal Chart, in Kent, runs it very close. At least one half of the available floor space is taken up by the staircase, and the remaining moiety is so narrow that the ringers are obliged to stand almost in a straight line. To add to their difficulties the bells do not follow each other in regular sequence, the tenor falling in third's place, the fifth in fourth's, the fourth in fifth's, and the third in tenor's place, the order of the four last bells being thus reversed. Notwithstanding these drawbacks, however, a 720 and 360 of Bob Minor were successfully brought round, and several touches of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor were also rung. At the close of the meeting eleven new members were enrolled, and a satisfactory day's work was thus brought to a conclusion. The 720 Bob Minor was rung by the following: T. Morton, 1; R. Skeef, 2; G. Skeef, 3; E. Edridge, 4; F. Nunn, 5; H. T. Scarlett (conductor), 6. And the 360 Bob Minor by H. T. Scarlett (conductor), 1; F. A. Milne, 2: J. Waghorn, jun., 3; T. C. Grove, 4; F. Nunn, 5; G. B. Lucas, 6.

The Secretary would like to take this opportunity of reminding the members of the Association and especially the local collectors, that the subscriptions for 1891 are now due, and should be remitted without delay to the Treasurer, Mr. J. Waghorn, jun., Tottenham, and that a considerable number of the subscriptions for 1890 are in arrear.

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NOTES BY THE WAY.

"Time may come, and time may go,
But the work goes on for ever."

Forty-four peals! No wonder that some of us have to wait for a time before we see our communications in print. Others beside myself have had to take a "back-seat" this week, evidently. We must all grin and endure, however. Performances of 5000 and upwards should certainly be the first consideration. I can very well picture (from a long experience) the mass of correspondence which the Editor has to wade through before he makes up his mind which shall appear and which shall be postponed. And upon this point I would remark that many circumstances, not known to readers generally, often determine such matters. Various agencies are frequently at work in connection with a newspaper, which actually prevents the chief of the editorial staff getting in just what he wishes, and at the actual time. This leads to some worry even in connection with an ordinary news-sheet, how much more in a class paper which deals with such a matter as bell-ringing some of us cannot imagine. We should always feel, when we are disappointed in not seeing our communications published, that the best thing is being done under very extraordinary circumstances, and wait patiently for another week. Now let me to my remarks on men and things.

* * * * *

It was with much pleasure that I read the first page of Mr. Beechey's report of "the Australian peal and its results." Unfortunately, however, that pleasure was marred by the concluding account of the "results" which followed this highly creditable performance. We shall all of us regret that so much unpleasantness should have followed the accomplishment of this first peal in our great Australian colony; and although there are proverbially two sides to every question, the statement made by Mr. Beechey seems so fair and straightforward that one cannot help feeling sorry for the very unfraternal manner in which the other members of the society dealt with it. One can quite understand the feelings of disappointment which may have animated Mr. Guest, when after nineteen unsuccessful attempts on his part, the peal should have been scored without him; but considering how many times failure was owing to himself, it does appear (to say the least of it) somewhat mean on his part to have revenged himself by causing such a split amongst their members. Let us hope, however, that before this time the unpleasantness may have passed away, and our brethren across the water be more closely united than before.

* * * * *

Among the many letters which I have received during the past week or so—most of them breathing kindliest wishes on my behalf, which I most heartily reciprocate—is one from a dear old friend who, among other things, wants me to relate how we spend Christmas at our church and in my own district. Well, I don't suppose our habits are much different to other people's; but anyhow, I don't mind telling you. In the first place, Christmas Eve in our belfry is an annual reunion of all past and present members of our band. Those who have in times past been compelled to leave for other places where their daily employment has led them, make a point of being with us, if at all possible, on that occasion. So you may be sure the eve of Christmas Day is a time looked for by us with considerable interest. Early in the evening willing hands have seen to the ropes and "fixings," raised the bells, tidied the belfry, fixed sprigs of holly on the walls, lit all the gas jets, and done innumerable little things in the way of making the room as comfortable as possible. Then later on, as one by one we get together, and particularly as the long-absent ones begin to arrive, the amount of hand-shaking, kindly enquiries, and expressions of good wishes are enough to make one's heart warm, and be thankful for the possession of this great festival of our church which brings old friends face to face for once in the twelve months. We sit and talk of our experiences since last we met. Those who cannot be with us are by no means forgotten; and if an eye should be dim or a voice husky, when reference is made to some brother who is now resting in the silent grave, it serves but to cement the friendship between those of us who are spared thus to meet together. We seem to feel as if we all—with those who have gone before—are together in spirit; thus, in spite of regrets for our losses, we are happy in company again.

* * * * *

Twelve o'clock approaches; and we prepare for our first Christmas duty, that of proclaiming to the outside world the welcome tidings—as the angels did on the first Christmas morn—"the Saviour is come to dwell among men." Will Bartle, our old tenor man, who has never failed since he went away to be present annually for the purpose, but who is now not so young as he used to be, mounts the tenor box; your humble servant takes his place at the treble; the others get to their old familiar positions in the circle. Bowe (our G.P.O.) comes next to me; Johnny Sowden is at his side: George Tatham has possession of his favourite fourth; Jim Mason stands in the corner with the fifth rope in his hand, where he has assisted in pulling many a peal off; Will Tatham, the football captain, has left his goals, tries, and minor events to take care of themselves for the nonce while he helps once more to welcome Christmas in; and bluff and sturdy Sam Pateman handles his seventh rope as if he were shaking hands with an old friend. Seated around, are Jack Junce, our jovial steeplekeeper, whose temper it is almost impossible to ruffle, and who has expressed his settled determination to see that we do our duties properly; young Goodman, who has not yet aspired to take part in this important ceremony; as well as Joe Pateman, whose achievements have not yet risen to change-ringing; and (though last, not least) Charlie Barkus, who is happiest when he gets the chance of drumming the tenor behind a touch of Triples. So you will see we are both a numerous and happy assembly. It is midnight at length; then carefully Will pulls off the tenor. The blows are struck slowly and regularly, till the twelfth is reached, when I call "go," and we are swinging the octave merrily once more, ushering in the festival. Spells of rounds and firing alternate for a while, during which, were you outside the church, you would hear from all quarters the sound of the Christmas hymn given lustily both vocally and instrumentally—from the modest little urchins and tin whistlers, to the trained choir of singers and the powerful brass band. The bells have commenced—therefore Christmas has come, and soon one after another, mansion and cottage doors are opened, and the carollers welcomed inside. Having thus greeted Christmas with our heartiest, we next welcome it with our best, in the shape of a few courses of Triples or Major; this completed, we leave the bells upturned ready for the morning service; and finish with another all-round greeting before we separate for home.

* * * * *

Half-past nine finds us again in the belfry, and after an hour's good ring, we join in those old familiar hymns which make so hearty our Christmas morning service. Then when later on, we join our families at dinner, or later still, when we pay our friendly calls to each other, we feel that we have all of us done our share in proclaiming and welcoming this festal season.

* * * * *

I don't know that I can give you any further description of our habits and customs at this particular time of year; perhaps even what I have already given may be considered uninteresting

or superfluous. But there it is; and my commentary on it all is that if every brother-string has spent as happy a Christmas time as I and our band have, they will have plenty of food for pleasant reflections in the future.

* * * * *

Just one more word. I cannot conclude without adding that I have been much pleased with the Editor's last Christmas number, and do not doubt my opinion will be shared by every reader. From the pleasant face of friend Dorrington to the imprint it is throughout a most satisfactory production. Last week's picture of Captain Moore is also eminently satisfactory, while the memoir of the gallant gentleman is interesting and instructive. More power to him, and may he ring the tenor in many more peals before he gets "unpealable."

* * * * *

Accept my warmest greetings, all of you; as well as the heartfelt wish (if old and well-worn in its expression) that we may all of us be granted "A Happy New Year." FREE LANCE.

BUSHLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

RINGERS' ENTERTAINMENT AND PRESENTATION.

ON Monday evening, December 29th, the ringers of this parish with other friends were hospitably entertained at supper by the churchwardens, Mr. J. Creese and Mr. W. Vaughan, at the residence of the latter gentleman. These two gentlemen have shown great interest in the bell-ringing, and it was chiefly through their exertions that a new treble bell has been added to make the peal in the church tower a ring of six. The supper on Monday night was made the occasion of presenting to Mr. Josiah Wathen, of Tewkesbury, a handsome marble timepiece, as a token of gratitude and esteem from the Bushley bell-ringers for the able way in which he has taught, and the progress which has been made in the art of change-ringing among them.

The presentation of the clock was made by the Rev. E. R. Dowdeswell, on behalf of the subscribers, with a few kind and appropriate words.

Mr. Wathen, in thanking the subscribers for their very handsome present, said it gave him great pleasure to be with them that evening, as it had on previous occasions. He thanked them heartily for their kindness, and should always look upon it with pride and pleasure, and think of the many pleasant hours he had spent with ringers and ringing.

After supper the loyal toasts were given by Mr. Vaughan, and ably responded to by Mr. J. Creese. The health of the churchwardens was received with enthusiasm.

Mr. Vaughan proposed in suitable terms the health of the bell-ringers, which was responded to by Mr. D. Wilkes. Hearty thanks were given to Mrs. Vaughan and Mrs. Creese for their kindness in catering for the guests. Some six-scores were rung upon the handbells, consisting of Grandsire Extremes and Stedman. Also some Plain Bob Minor was brought round. The ringing was interspersed with songs, and after a very enjoyable evening the party broke up just before midnight.

RINGERS' SUPPER.

At the kind invitation of Mr. Wm. Pixton, the Bidston handbell ringers were entertained to supper at the Bidston Hill hotel on New Year's morning. After ringing on the church bells, they started for the hotel, arriving about 1 p.m. The first thing was a grand supper partaken of by about thirty persons. After supper a few tunes were played on the handbells, after which the tables were cleared for dancing, the pianist being Mrs. Blair, assisted by Mr. Griffiths. Card playing and other games were indulged in, then more tunes on the handbells and songs—"Ring the bell, watchman," and "Auld Lang Syne" being among them. The health of the host (Mr. Pixton) and hostess was given with musical honours. The host replied, thanking all present, and hoping that all would meet again next year, which was re-echoed by all. At 5 a.m. "God save the Queen" was sung. The company wish through the medium of this paper to thank Mr. Pixton for his kindness and liberality.

Miscellaneous Touches.

(Continued from page 506.)

CAPEL (Surrey).—On Saturday, December 27th, at the parish church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, in 22½ mins. J. Akehurst, 1; R. Jordan, 2; C. Weeden, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; E. Jordan (conductor), 5; E. Horrex, 6. Also 360 Kent. D. Jordan, 1; R. Jordan, 2; C. Weeden, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; E. Jordan (conductor), 5; E. Horrex, 6. On Sunday, December 28th, after the afternoon service, 360 Bob Minor. A. Weeden, 1; E. Jordan (conductor), 2; A. Mills, 3; M. Jenkins, 4; J. Akehurst, 5; C. F. Winny, 6. And 240 Oxford Treble Bob. D. Jordan (conductor), 1; R. Jordan, 2; A. Mills, 3; M. Jenkins, 4; J. Akehurst, 5; E. Horrex, 6. Horrex and Winny hail from London; the rest are local men.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Wednesday, December 24th, at St. Edmund's church, 1008 Grandsire Triples. H. Smith, 1; A. Stewart (conductor), 2; T. Ealey, 3; F. Harris, 4; J. Mackay, 5; E. Haxley, 6; G. Eads, 7; H. Digby, 8. On Thursday, December 25th, 630 Grandsire Triples. W. Dewey, 1; F. Harris, 2; T. Ealey, 3; A. Stewart (conductor), 4; J. Mackay, 5; J. White, 6; G. Eads, 7; H. Digby, 8. On Friday, December 26th, 840 Bob Triples. E. Haxley, 1; W. Pettet, 2; W. Hall, 3; A. E. Chapman, 4; J. B. Martin, 5; A. H. Martin (conductor), 6; R. Dunkley, 7; C. Swan, 8. On Saturday, December 27th, 504 Grandsire Triples. A. H. Martin, 1; A. Stewart (conductor), 2; A. E. Chapman, 3; E. Haxley, 4; F. Harris, 5; J. Mackay, 6; J. B. Martin, 7; G. Eads, 8.

PANGBOURNE (Berks).—On Thursday evening, December 25th, at St. James' church, 720 Grandsire Minor. E. Bushnell, 1; A. C. West (Maidstone), 2; W. Lawrence, 3; J. Day, 4; C. Chapman, 5; H. Goodyer, 6. And 720 Plain Bob, the treble and fourth changing ropes. Also on Friday, December 25th, 720 Plain Bob Minor. J. E. Hern (Reading), 1; F. Hopgood (Reading), 2; W. Lawrence, 3; C. Pocock, 4; H. Goodyer, 5; C. Chapman, 6. And 720 of Grandsire, with J. Nicholls, 1. Conducted by W. Lawrence.

RAWMARSH (Yorks).—On Saturday, December 27th, at the parish church, seven members of the St. Marie's company, Sheffield, with the assistance of Mr. Thos. Whitworth, of Rawmarsh, attempted Harrison's 8896 of Kent Treble Bob Major, but it came to grief after ringing 5200 changes in 3 hrs. 20 mins. through one of the men missing his sally. T. Dixon (conductor), 1; T. Whitworth, 2; G. O. Dixon, 3; R. Harrison, 4; T. G. Sarel, 5; C. A. Fox, 6; J. A. Dixon, 7; W. Biggin, 8. Tenor 10 cwt.

STANSTEAD (Suffolk).—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Tuesday, December 2nd, at the residence of Mr. R. Gowers, 720 Plain Bob Minor (twenty-one bobs and twelve singles). A. Papworth, 1; R. Brett, 2; A. Clark, 3; C. Clark (first 720), 4; G. Smith, 5; R. Gowers (conductor), 6. Also on Thursday, December 4th, at the parish church, 720 in the same method. R. Gowers, 1; G. Smith, 2; A. Papworth, 3; C. Clark (first 720 on tower bells), 4; R. Theobald, 5; R. Brett (conductor), 6.

TILEHURST (Berks).—On Saturday, December 27th, at the parish church, by kind permission of the Rev. J. W. Routh, the following started for Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but a change-course in the fourth part terminated the attempt. T. Hattrill, 1; T. Pocock, 2; W. Lawrence (conductor), 3; C. Pocock, 4; J. Day, 5; A. C. West (Maidstone), 6; J. M. Routh, Esq., 7; C. Chapman, 8. A touch of Bob Major by way of consolation was afterwards rung, being the first in a Major method by several of the band.

WENHASTON (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, December 30th, at the parish church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob (nine bobs). G. Eastaugh, 8; G. Page, 2; J. Larter (conductor), 3; T. King, 4; R. Spalding, 5; C. Bance, 6. Also a touch of Kent Treble Bob, standing as before. C. Bance hails from Croydon; T. King from Southwold, Suffolk; the rest belong to the local company.

Obituary.

JOHN STIMPSON.

We have to record the death of this ringer, which took place on the 14th ult., in the 82nd year of his age. He belonged to the Beccles (Suffolk) society, and was well known through the entire neighbourhood. In the tower of St. Michael's church, Beccles, there is a tablet recording a 5220 of Treble Bob Royal, in honor of the birthday of Princess Victoria, and in which he rung the 6th. He also rung at the Coronation of Her Majesty, and at the Jubilee of her reign. On the 10th of November last, when the bells were rung on the occasion of the election of Mayor, Mr. Stimpson was one of the ringers. He was the oldest tradesman in the town, and was very highly respected by all who knew him.

THE OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 27th, 1890, the above Association held their quarterly meeting at Staveley. Upwards of forty ringers attended from the following towers: Bradfield, Chesterfield, North Wingfield, Sandiacre, Dronfield, Killamarsh, Eckington, and Staveley. It had been arranged to ring a 5040 of Kent Treble Bob, but two of the company failed to turn up, so a start was made for a 5040 in seven different methods, but it also came to grief after ringing 1 hr. 15mins. The ringers were: H. Mottershall, and H. Maiden (Staveley), E. James and W. Price (Eckington), A. and D. Brearley (Bradfield). Others then kept the bells going until 3 o'clock, when a move was made to the rectory barn (which has been made into a comfortable mission-room) at 3.20. The Rev. H. E. Ferry, of Eckington, took the chair, and with a few well-chosen words declared the meeting open. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, when it was resolved to hold the annual meeting and dinner on Easter Monday at North Wingfield.

The Rev. C. H. Molineux addressed the meeting at some length, and in reference to belfry reform, quoted the following from Canon Massey at the Southwell Diocesan conference at Derby in 1890.

"In very many cases I believe that belfry reform must, even now, begin with the belfry itself. If we were introduced suddenly into some of our ringing-chambers and asked to what building they belonged, I think we should hardly say at once that they were a part of the House of God. Too frequently they remain pretty much as when they first left the builder's hands, without one sign of the attention or care which is so conspicuous in other parts of the sacred edifice. And where there is this carelessness, where they are remarkable chiefly for dust and discomfort, is it very wonderful if there is in them an absence of that reverence which should be everywhere in God's House? I think not. Before we complain too loudly, let us put the tower in as seemly a state as a consecrated place should be. Let the floor be carpeted, let proper seats and hat pegs be provided. Let the walls be at least clean, if not panelled, and a reminder that this is the House of God, Let sacred pictures suggest holy thoughts, and let the sign of our redemption keep the mind from worldliness, and we shall have done more than rules will ever accomplish for the production of a reverent behaviour among those who assemble there."

The rev. gentleman was loudly cheered on resuming his seat.

The Rev. W. L. Coleman also addressed the members.

Mr. H. Madin spoke very strongly about two new trebles to replace the present ones, the rector comparing them to tin kettles. He thought that in a parish like Staveley the money could soon be raised.

A hearty vote of thanks to the chairman brought the meeting to a close.

At 4.30 about forty sat down to a meat tea given by the rector. Mr. E. Platt proposed, and Mr. A. Brearley seconded, a vote of thanks to the rector for the kind manner in which he had welcomed the association to Staveley. The Staveley band gave some tunes on the handbells, and mixed bands kept the tower bells going during the day. A mixed company from Staveley, Bradfield, Chesterfield, and Eckington finished up with some good striking of Major.

The Staveley ringers have at their club house a very ancient jug, with the following peal tablets engraved on it:

"Tenor—Staveley. Given by the Rev. Fras. Gisborne in 1782, weight 18 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs. T. Leivesley, *Treble*; J. Frith, 2; T. Martin, 3; J. Whitaker, 4; J. Widdinson, 5; R. Cadman, 6; W. Allcroft, 7; J. Frith, *Tenor*. Whilst thus we join in cheerful sound, may love and loyalty abound.

"1882.—H. Mottershall, *Treble*; J. Broadhead, 2; W. Harris, 3; J. Harris, 4; W. Worthington, 5; W. Young, 6; J. Hunt, 7; H. Madin. *Tenor*."

Also a gallon pitcher bearing the following inscription in large letters:

"Eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang at Chesterfield, a true peal of 5040 Grandsire Trebles in 3 hours and 9 minutes. W. Worthington, 1; D. Farthing, 2; G. Toplis, 3; H. Madin, 4; J. Harris, 5; A. Knights, 6; J. Hunt, 7; H. Mottershall, 8. Composed by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies, conducted by Arthur Knights. Weight of tenor 24½ cwt."

CHANGE-RINGING IN CORNWALL.

On Friday, December 26th, some change-ringing was performed by a scratch band, consisting mostly of members of the Devonshire Guild practising at Stoke Plymouth, who started from Mill Bay station at 9.20 a.m. They reached St. Germans about 10 o'clock, where one of the band was staying for a holiday. He having made all arrangements, they raised the peal of six (tenor 17 cwt)., in peal, and rung some half dozen six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, also some Stedman Doubles. There was a service at 11 o'clock, when they lowered the bells and then adjourned to the nearest hostelry to refresh the inner man. Several of the local band went with them, and being an exceptionally clean and comfortable house, they soon felt at home. Here the handbells were brought out, and they rang some courses of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Minor. Great was the surprise of the local men at change-ringing. They had never heard such a thing before, and expressed their pleasure with the sally rest, and said it was the first time change-ringing had been performed in St. Germans within the memory of any one now living. One old man who had rang the tenor for fifty years at St. Germans was greatly surprised to see the small tenor man ring up the tenor in peal. How heavy might 'e be, sir, he asked (meaning the man's weight), and when told 145 lbs, he said "dang the pounds, how many score," thinking perhaps of his pigs. When they got back to the tower again, great consternation was caused, because the treble ringer, a youth of eighteen or nineteen took the tenor. "What, you b'aint going to let that boy ring the tenor, be he?" but they soon found their mistake. The visitors never recollect any local band taking so kindly to change-ringing: they even asked for the address of a bookseller to buy Troyte's work, which was recommended. The bells go splendidly, and the sound in the belfry is grand: not the least noise. A word or two about the church. It has two towers at the west end, and the bells are in the south tower. The towers have just been restored at a cost of £2000. They are built of a local stone and are colossal. The arch over the western door is simply appalling in its massiveness. A board in the church tells that St. Germans was a see or bishopric in itself before William the Conqueror, when it was removed to Exeter. There is also an old relic in the shape of a chair, which, should one go to sleep whilst they are occupying it, they would fall forwards when not balanced. In the restoration of the towers, an old stone coffin has been dug out, which looks very ancient.

The party left St. Germans at 1.30 by train for Saltash, where they rang some Grandsire and Stedman Doubles. After tea at the Star Coffee Tavern, they walked a mile to St. Stephen's by Saltash. Here they found a perfect slaughter-house; no stays, ropes stout enough to fasten an Atlantic liner, and hard enough to please the most fastidious mason. After raising and falling the bells three times in peal, they made for home, having spent a very happy day. Whilst waiting in the waiting-room for the train, they delighted about thirty or forty people with the handbells. They recommend St. Germans to any six-bell band for an excursion. The "go" of the bells and the pleasant men leave nothing to be desired.

A RING OF RODENS.

On Friday, December 26th, 1890, at St. Bartholomew's church, Penn, near Wolverhampton, a ring of all Rodens, took place, consisting of three sons two grandsons, and one nephew of the old parish clerk, Mr. Joseph Roden, he having held the appointment for upwards of fifty-three years, and is now in his eighty-first year. The ring consisted of a rise and fall in peal, a course of Plain Bob and some call changes, which was fairly done, as not all were in practice. It is said that there was a peal much the same some thirteen years ago by the same family, and that we are not much of change-ringers here yet, but hope to send something ere long. E. Roden (nephew), 1; J. Roden, jun. (son), 2; H. Roden, jun. (grandson), 3; W. Roden (grandson), 4; G. Roden (son), 5; H. Roden, sen. (son), 6.

H. Roden.

THE SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS.

PRESENTATION TO THE LATE TREASURER.

A very interesting social gathering took place in the hall of the Ladywell baths on Saturday, January 3rd, for the purpose of bidding farewell to the Rev. C. J. Palmer, one of the assistant clergy of St. Mary's, Lewisham, and until recently Treasurer of the Society of Trinity Youths, who has been appointed to a chaplaincy in the Bengal Presidency.

A large number of members of the congregation and choir, together with a full muster of the Lewisham branch of this society, assembled shortly after seven o'clock, and the proceedings were opened with a touch upon the handbells. After the singing of glees, etc., by some of the members of the choir, the churchwardens, on behalf of the congregation presented Mr. Palmer with a very handsome gold watch and chain, together with a set of gold sleeve links and a purse of money, which the rev. gentleman acknowledged in a very feeling manner. The handbells having again been brought into requisition, and Mr. Palmer having sung "Oft in the stilly night," the senior members of the choir handed to the rev. gentleman a valuable carriage clock. Following closely upon this, Mr. W. Bedwell, in a suitable speech, presented Mr. Palmer with a very beautiful Rhine castle album on behalf of the members and friends of the Lewisham branch.

Mr. Palmer, in responding, alluded to the satisfaction which had always attended his dealings with the ringers, and detailed his experiences in learning to handle a bell, and concluded his very interesting remarks by referring in terms of high praise to the manner in which the ringers carried out their duties in the tower, and asked his audience to occasionally go up and look round.

At the conclusion of the proceedings, the ringers were entertained by Canon and Mrs. Legge to a substantial cold collation, which was much appreciated. Before this part of the entertaiment closed, Mr. Palmer came and bade the party, individually, good-bye. The parish loses in the rev. gentleman an earnest and hard-working clergyman, and his absence will be very keenly felt by the Lewisham ringers, who will remember with gratitude his successful efforts for their comforts in the tower.

EYNESBURY, HUNTS.

On Friday, December 26th, six members of the Eynesbury Society had a day's ringing on the bells of Houghton and Hemingford Grey. These villages are situated some few miles from the town of Huntingdon. A start was made from St. Neots station at 9.30, Huntingdon being reached about 10 o'clock. From here, a walk of about an hour brought them to Houghton. On finding the sexton a move was made for the church, and having raised the five bells in peal, four 6-scores of Bob Doubles and several 120's were rung. After falling the bells, a start was made for Hemingford, which is about a mile south east of Houghton. This journey was taken on the frozen surface of the Ouse, not without mishap, however, for on reaching Hemingford, two of the members in trying to cross the river had the ill luck to fall through the ice, which caused them to beat a hasty retreat to the nearest inn, where, through the kindness of the hostess, their garments were soon drying before a good fire. In the meantime the other members had proceeded to the church and with the help of the Vicar had raised the bells, which are a light ring of six, and go first-rate. On the two "unfortunates" reaching the tower the bells were soon set going for four 6-scores of Doubles, with the Rev. P. E. Curtois, covering. These were soon accomplished, after which several touches of Minor were rung, conducted by H. Sutton. The following are the names of the ringers: G. Coleman, C. Chasty, S. Hawksford, G. Irons, E. Jones, and H. Sutton. After leaving the church the company proceeded to the "Anchor" Inn, where tea was provided for them by the Vicar. This being over, "go" was called for home, which was reached at 8 p.m., all having thoroughly enjoyed their day's outing. The ringers wish to express their thanks to the Rev. P. E. Curtois, Vicar of Hemingford Grey, for his great kindness in providing them with refreshments, also to the sextons of both parishes for having everything in readiness.

THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 27th, the monthly meeting of the Guild was held at Bootle, and there was a fair attendance of ringers from Aughton, Crosby, Crossens, Sefton, Southport, and the local company. The bells were open for ringing from 3 p.m. to 4.30, when service was held in the church, and a spirited address delivered to the ringers by the Rev. W. T. Bulpit, who took for his text "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will towards men," and was listened to with rapt attention. After service a meat tea was provided by a few kind friends, to which ample justice was done. The business meeting was afterwards held, at which Mr. W. Short presided, being supported by the Rev. W. T. Bulpit and Mr. J. Martin. The Chairman gave the Guild a hearty welcome to Bootle, and apologised for the absence of the Rector, who had been called away to attend a sick person, and called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting. The Secretary having done so the Rev. W. L. Bulpit addressed the members at some length, and called upon Mr. Martin to explain the concessions granted to the Guild by the railway companies to members attending meetings of the Guild. Mr. Martin then pointed out the concessions granted by the railway companies, as it would be a little cheaper to the members attending the meetings, although it was not exactly as he wished, still it was better than before. Several practical suggestions were afterwards discussed, as to a membership card for the Guild. Seven new members were made, and the usual vote of thanks brought a very pleasant meeting to a close. Touches of Grandsire, Bob, Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob Minor were rung.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

The quarterly meeting of this Association was held on Saturday, December 20th, at Penwortham, the following places being represented: Blackrod, St. Andrew's and St. James's Leyland, Standish, St. Mark's, Preston, and Penwortham. The methods rung were London Single Bob, Victoria and Plain Bob. At half-past six the members sat down to an excellent supper at the "Fleece" Inn, and the usual business meeting was held immediately afterwards, the chair being occupied by the President of the Association. The business was of the usual routine character, twelve performing members being elected, and after a hearty vote of thanks to the President for presiding, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells, a very pleasant meeting was brought to a close.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH.

On Tuesday, December 23rd, a set of eight musical tubes (supplied by Harrington and Co., Coventry), erected in memory of the late Samuel Ratcliff, Esq., of Highfields, Ashby-de-la-Zouch, and presented by his children, were dedicated by Bishop Mitchinson, in Holy Trinity church, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The service took place at three o'clock in the afternoon, and among those present and taking part in the service were the Rev. H. B. St. John, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Canon Denton, Vicar of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Rev. A. S. Mammatt, Vicar of Packington, and the Rev. L. W. Lloyd, Head Master of Ashby-de-la-Zouch Grammar School.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The usual monthly ringing meeting of the above Society was held at Bramley, on Saturday, December 27th. Members attended from Leeds, Holbeck, Huddersfield, Headingley, Pudsey, Rothwell and Bramley, and touches of Oxford, Kent, and Violet Treble Bob Minor were rung on the bells. A resolution to hold the annual general meeting for the election of officers at Leeds on the last Saturday in March was passed. A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and to the Bramley company for their arrangements, brought the meeting to a close.

THE UNEMPLOYED IN EAST LONDON.—At a time when much thought is being given to this matter, a practical suggestion may be of service. Last year more than £300,000 worth of foreign matches were purchased by inconsiderate consumers in this country, to the great injury of our own working people, so true is it that "evil is wrought by want of thought, as well as want of heart." If all consumers would purchase Bryant and May's matches, that firm would be enabled to pay £1000 a week more in wages.

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1891.

THE patience and perseverance of the MASTER of the Ancient Society of College Youths has at length been rewarded. For some years one of his pet objects has been to ring a peal at every English Cathedral and Abbey—at any rate those which possessed bells—but we believe he was more than anxious to do so at the ancient Abbey of Pershore, in Worcestershire. After many trials, this object has been accomplished, and the usual report will be found in its proper place. Our chief object in alluding to this is to point out what can be done by unflinching perseverance. MR. DAWE, in the pursuit of the object he had at heart, met with many rebuffs, and no small amount of what is known as "bad luck." Yet he has overcome them in some way or other, and has generally succeeded after more than once applying to himself the old adage of "Try again." One failure would have been sufficient to disgust most people at some of these towers, notably at Evesham Abbey some months ago, where three men were required at the tenor before the 5040 could be secured. We think no one can begrudge those who ring peals at such places the honour due to them. Let us hope these displays may lead the various authorities to think more about the bells entrusted to their care, and beget also a determination to have them fully restored.

The Metropolis.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY.

On Thursday, January 1, 1891, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WALTHAMSTOW,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 19¾ cwt. in E♭.

ROBERT J. MAYNARD	*Treble.*	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN	5.
THOMAS MAYNARD	2.	JAMES CULLEN	6.
GEORGE GRIMWADE	3.	ABRAHAM G. FREEMAN	7.
JOHN NUNN	4.	WILLIAM H. FREEMAN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

Mr. J. Cullen was elected a member of the St. James's Society previous to starting for the peal.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 3, 1891, *in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES, CAMBERWELL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5186 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

GEORGE NEWSON ..	..*Treble.*	HENRY A. HOPKINS.. ..	6.
HENRY SWAIN	.. 2.	EDWARD F. COLE	7.
CHARLES E. MALIM	3.	†WILLIAM JONES	8.
BENJAMIN FOSKETT	4.	ARTHUR JACOB	9.
ALBERT PITTAM	5.	*WILLIAM G. BULL ..	..*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal on ten bells. †First peal in the method. This peal, now rung for the first time, has 5 6 exclusively behind the 9th, with all the 9-7-8's and 8-9's with the bells in the tittum position. The above ringers take this opportunity of tendering their most sincere thanks to the Vicar for allowing them the use of the bells on this occasion.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 3, 1891, *in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

JOHN BONNEY	..*Treble.*	STEPHEN BINFIELD	5.
MATTHEW A. WOOD	2.	WALTER PRIME..	6.
JAMES PETTIT	3.	JOSEPH WEST	7.
EDWARD WALLAGE	4.	ARTHUR HUGHES ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

This peal had been arranged for the previous Saturday, the 36th birthday of Mr. W. Prime. Owing to meeting short it had been postponed until the above date. Mr. M. A. Wood has been Steeplekeeper at this church for 48 years, and great credit is due to him for the good going order of the bells, the clean and comfortable ringing room, &c. The band wish to thank him for obtaining the use of the tower on this occasion.

TOTTENHAM, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION AND THE ALL HALLOWS' (TOTTENHAM) SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, December 31, 1890, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

JESSIE PUPLETT	..*Treble.*	JOSEPH WAGHORN, JUN...	5.
GEORGE B. LUCAS	2.	JOSEPH WAGHORN	6.
THOMAS C. GROVE	3.	WILLIAM PYE ENGLISH..	7.
HENRY A. BARNETT	4.	WILLIAM MARTIN ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by J. WAGHORN, JUN.

The above was rung with the bells half-muffled for the midnight service.

The Provinces.

PERSHORE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 27, 1890, *in Three Hours and One Minute,*

AT THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY OF ST. MARY HOLY CROSS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' VARIATION. Tenor 29 cwt. in D♭.

ADOLPHUS ROBERTS ..	..*Treble.*	RICHARD T. HIBBERT ..	5.
WILLIAM C. BASTON.. ..	2.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD ..	6.
HENRY G. DRUIN	3.	REV. FRANCIS E. ROBINSON	7.
FRANCIS E. DAWE	4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by FRANCIS EDWARD DAWE.

J. W. Washbrook and Baston hail from Oxford, Rev. F. E. Robinson from Drayton, W. W. Gifford from Salisbury, R. T. Hibbert from Reading, A. Roberts from Birmingham, and Messrs. Fruin and Dawe from London. This is the first peal on the bells. A detailed account will be found on another page.

THE RINGERS' GUIDE TO THE CHURCH BELLS OF DEVON. By C. PEARSON, M.A. Price One Shilling, or bound in cloth, 1s. 6d. Postage Threepence.

HOW TO LEARN CHANGE-RINGING WITHOUT AN INSTRUCTOR—By the same Author. Price Threepence: by post Fourpence, or six copies for 1s. 3d.—WILLIAM POLLARD AND CO., Printers, Exeter.

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.—OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 22, 1890, *in Three Hours.*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM LAWRENCE..	..*Treble.*	REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	5.
J. E. HERN	2.	WILLIAM NAPPER	6.
C. ANDREWS*	3.	*REUBEN FLAXMAN	7.
J. W. WASHBROOK	4.	REV. G. F. COLERIDGE	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by J. WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

*First peal of Stedman.

OXFORD.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 24, 1890, *in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,*

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES:

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION, Tenor 40 cwt. in C♯.

WILLIAM GREENLEAF	..*Treble.*	EDWARD HIND	5.
PERCY A. HIND	2.	JAS. W. WASHBROOK ..	6.
THOMAS BLACKBOURN ..	3.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD ..	7.
WILLIAM BASTON	4.	ALFRED BARNEY ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, December 26, 1890, *in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 9½ cwt.

HARRY PAYNE	..*Treble.*	THOMAS BLACKBOURN ..	5.
WILLIAM BASTON	2.	JAS. W. WASHBROOK ..	6.
REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	3.	WILLIAM GREENLEAF ..	7.
WILLIAM W. GIFFORD ..	4.	HARRY FRUIN	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

BRIGHTON—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE PARISH CHURCH BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, December 31, 1890, *in Three Hours and One Minute,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt.

JOHN JAY, SEN.	..*Treble.*	GEORGE F. ATTREE.. ..	5.
HARRY WESTON	2.	EDWARD C. MERRITT ..	6.
GEORGE WILLIAMS	3.	ARTHUR A. FULLER.. ..	7.
GEORGE A. KING	4.	*JOHN R. REILLY ..	..*Tenor.*

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY and Conducted by JOHN R. REILLY.

Rung with the bells half-muffled previous to the midnight service on New Year's Eve. The above composition is a two part peal, having the 4th, 5th and 6th successively in sixths place. *First peal as conductor in the method.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

On Wednesday, December 31, 1890, *in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 25 cwt.

W. TICEHURST	..*Treble.*	†J. BILLINGS	5.
E. WILLOUGHBY*	2.	†J. HATTEN	6.
W. SIGGS	3.	T. WILLOUGHBY	7.
E. BABER	4.	J. PARKS	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by E. WILLOUGHBY.

*First peal as conductor. †First peal. W. Siggs from All Saints, T. Willoughby from St. Mary's, the rest belong to St. Saviour's.

EPSOM.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 31, 1890, *in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE PEDERICK* ..	..*Treble.*	JAMES EASTON	5.
THOMAS MILES	2.	WILLIAM SANDERS	6.
ALFRED E. BASSETT† ..	3.	JESSE HAWKINS	7.
HENRY PEDERICK	4.	‡WALTER WOOD	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by THOMAS MILES.

* First peal in the method. † First peal with a bob bell. ‡ First peal.

CUCKFIELD.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 20, 1890, *in Three Hours and Five Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS'S FIVE-PART.

A NASH	*Treble.*	*W. WALDER	5.
W. GIBSON†	2.	F. HOUNSELL	6.
W. FOX	3.	G. WALDER	7.
J. SEARLE	4.	*F. PARSONS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by W. GIBSON.

*First peal. †First peal as conductor. Messrs. Walder hail from Bolney, J. Searle from Brighton.

ANGMERING.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(THE ANGMERING BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, December 31, 1890, *in Two Hours and Forty-one Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT TREBLE BOB METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being a 720 *each of the following:*

College Pleasure, College Exercise, Duke of York, Woodbine, Violet, Oxford and Kent. Tenor 12 cwt.

FREDERICK FINCH	*Treble.*	THOMAS PARSONS	4.
THOMAS LINFIELD	2.	CHRISTOPHER CLEAR	5.
JAMES HILLS	3.	CHARLES HILLS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by CHARLES HILLS.

HYDE, CHESHIRE.

On Friday, January 2, 1891, *in Three Hours and Six Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15½ cwt.

JOHN SIDEBOTTOM	*Treble.*	BENJAMIN BROADBENT	5.
JOHN HOPWOOD	2.	SAMUEL BRADLEY	6.
JAMES S. WILDE	3.	THOMAS WILDE	7.
JOSEPH MELLOR	4.	SAMUEL WOOD	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

J. Sidebottom hails from Mottram, Wilde Brothers and Bradley from Hyde, the rest from Ashton-nnder-Lyne.

SEVENOAKS, KENT.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 3, 1891, *in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 22 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK G. NEWMAN	*Treble.*	FREDERICK J. FRENCH	5.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM	2.	ARTHUR C. WEST	6.
ALCHIN MOORCRAFT	3.	ALFRED PALMER	7.
ROBERT EDWARDS	4.	GEORGE J. MOORCRAFT	*Tenor.*

Conducted by FREDERICK G. NEWMAN.

After the ringing the ringers were entertained to supper by the Rector, the Rev. T. S. Curteis, who had listened to the whole of the peal, and complimented them upon the good striking, This ts the first peal of Stedman on the bells, and the first true peal of any kind since 1841. The ringers wish through the medium of this paper to thank the rector for his kindness, and for allowing them the use of the bells. This is Mr. French's first peal of Stedman.

NEWCHURCH.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 5, 1891, *in Three Hours and One Minute,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES' VARIATION REVERSED.

JAMES TAYLOR	*Treble.*	WALTER TAYLOR	5.
JOHN SHEPHERD	2.	*ARTHUR DIVER	6.
JAMES ASHWORTH	3.	J. T. STOTT	7.
H. H. NUTTER	4.	JAMES DIVER	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOHN SHEPHERD.

*First peal.

WYTHAM-ON-THE-HILL, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 6, 1891, *in Three Hours and Three Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

5040 CHANGES UPON SIX BELLS;

Being Seven 720's of Bob Minor, each called Differently.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

CHARLES NEWHAM	*Treble.*	ALBERT T. ALLEN	4.
THOMAS ALLAM	2.	JOHN THOS. WOOLLEY	5.
NATHANIEL MOXON	3.	THOS. SEWELL SMITH	*Tenor.*

Conducted by THOMAS SEWELL SMITH.

Date Touches.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BALDOCK (Herts).—On Thursday, January 1st, at the parish church, a date touch of 1891 Stedman Triples, in 1 hr. 15 mins. J. Phillips, 1; E. Bray, 2; J. Cawdell, 3; J. Craft, 4; G. T. Spicer, 5; A. Thurgood, 6; R. Jackson, 7; G. Gentle, 8. Composed by A. P. Heywood, Esq., and conducted by R. Jackson. This is the longest touch of Stedman by all except the 5th man. Tenor 28 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BOLTON.—On Monday, December 29th, eight members of this Association rang at St. Saviour's church, a date touch of 1890 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 11 mins. R. Fiddes (conductor), 1; Joel Redford, 2; E. Hewitt, 3; W. Hulme, 4; A. E. Wreaks, 5; J. Calderbank, 6; W. Hamer, 7; H. Lord, 8. Tenor 20½ cwt. in E. The touch is the composition of J. Shepherd, of Bacup. This is the longest length by Hewitt and Hulme.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CANTERBURY (Kent).—On December 31st, at the Cathedral, the following members of the Cathedral society rang a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1890 changes) in 1 hr. 12 mins. A. Foreman, 1; A. Andrews, 2; W. Andrews, 3; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore (conductor), 4; C. Luery, 5; H. G. Fairbrass, 6; A. Allen, 7; R. Goodbourn and F. Davison, 8. Tenor 32 cwt.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

LEATHERHEAD.—On Wednesday evening, December 24th, for Divine Service at the church of SS. Mary and Nicholas, a date touch of 1890 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 8 mins. F. Kemp, 1; H. Wood, 2; H. Brown, 3; *H. Stapleton, 4; H. Newnham, 5; E. Hull, 6; S. Brooker (conductor), 7; J. Lisuey, 8. *Longest touch, and hails from Bagshot.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

READING (Berks).—On Tuesday, December 30th, at St. Laurence's church, a date touch of 1890 Bob Major, in 1 hr. 17 mins. W. H. Holloway, 1; C. E. Foxell, 2; J. F. Tarrant, 3; J. E. Hern, 4; W. J. Williams, 5; W. Goseltine, 6; W. Newell, 7; A. E. Reeves (conductor), 8. Composed by John Aspinwall, of Liverpool. Tenor 24 cwt.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

CROYDON (Surrey).—On Thursday, December 18th, at St. Peter's church, a date touch of Oxford Bob Triples (1890 changes), in 1 hr. 10 mins. A. E. Collins, 1; A. Arnold, 2; *W. C. Palmer, 3; R. Richards, 4; W. Sadler, 5; *G. Burt, 6; H. Brooker (conductor), 7; F. G. Hermon, 8. Tenor 27 cwt. Composed by Edgar Bennett, of Beddington. Tenor 27 cwt. *Longest touch in the method.

EPSOM (Surrey).—On Monday, December 29th, at the parish church, a date touch of Union Triples (1890 changes), in 1 hr. 1 min. J. Beams, 1; H. Pederick, 2; A. E. Bassett, 3; T. Miles (conductor), 4; J. Easton, 5; W. Sanders, 6; J. Hawkins, 7; W. Wood, 8. Composed by H. W. Wilde, of Sandiacre. The above contains Queens, Tittums, the twelve 6-7's, twelve 7-4's, and the twelve 4-6's, and is the only date touch of Union Triples for the year having these qualities; the only other date touch of Triples with such properties being one of Grandsire, composed by the Editor, and rang at Worcester and Walthamstow.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MIDDLESBROUGH (Yorks),—On Wednesday, December 31st, for the watch-night service at St. Hilda's church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1890 changes), in 1 hr. 7 mins. J. Passman, 1; A. McFarlane, 2; J. H. Jones, 3; R. Borrows, 4; E. Edwardson, 5; A. Mellanby, 6; J. H. Blakiston (conductor), 7; S. Walker, 8. Composed by E. Anscombe, of Cuckfield, Surrey.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

LEICESTER.—On Saturday, December 20th, at St. Saviour's church, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1890 changes). (No time taken). J. O. Lancashire, 1; G. Cleal (conductor), 2; S. Cotton, 3; G. Walton, 4; J. S. Needham, 5; A. Millis, 6; J. Marlow, 7; W. Challenor, 8. Also on Saturday, January 3rd, 1891, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1891 changes), by the same band in 1 hr. 16 mins., conducted by G. Cleal. These date touches were composed by A. P. Heywood, Esq. Tenor 27 cwt.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

HANLEY CASTLE (Worcestershire).—On Wednesday, December 31st, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Doubles (1890 changes) in 1 hr. 8 mins., each 6-score called differently. T. Hill, 1; A. Allen, 2; F. Lane, 3: A. Pitt, 4; *W. Tarling (conductor), 5; W. Worthington, 6. *Longest length as conductor.

BIRSTALL (Yorkshire).—On Wednesday evening, December 31st, the St. Peter's Society met to ring the old year out and new one in, and rung a date touch of 1891 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 15 mins. G. Thornton, 1; W. Banham, 2; D. Wilson, 3; J. Clayton, 4; W. Stainthorpe (conductor), 5; John West (composer), 6; H. Dodson, 7; W. W. Holmes, 8.

EYE (Suffolk).—On Monday, December 29th, at the parish church, a date touch of Oxford Treble Bob Major (1890 changes), in 1 hr. 11 mins. F. Day (conductor), 1; Rev. C. F. Blyth, 2; C. Palmer, 3; W. Gooderham, 4; G. Bird, 5; G. Ford, 6; J. Bumpstead, 7; H. Torble, 8. Composed by S. Marsh, of West Bromwich. The Rev. C. F. Blyth hails from Wetheringsett; H. Torble from London: the rest belong to Eye.

HULL.—Recently, at St. James's church, with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Archbishop of York, 360 of Grandsire Minor, and a date touch of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 10 mins. G. T. Miller, 1; R. Chaffer, 2; G. M. Brownrigg, 4; F. Merrison, 5; H. Jenkins, 5; W. Southwick, 6; J. W. Stickney (conductor), 7; W. Wilson (longest touch), 8. Tenor 15 cwt. Composed by W. H. Howard, York.

MALDON (Essex).—On Sunday morning, December 28th, for Divine Service, a date touch of 1890 changes in the following methods, in 1 hr. 5 mins.: 360 Cambridge Surprise, 360 Double Court, 360 College Single, 360 Kent Treble Bob, 360 Oxford Treble Bob, 60 Bob Minor, 30 Grandsire Doubles. C. Taber, 1; R. Hutson, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; G. Mansfield, 4; W. Chalk (conductor), 5; W. Mansfield, 6 Tenor about 13 cwt.

REIGATE (Surrey).—On Wednesday, December 31st, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples in 1 hr. 11 mins. J. Howard, 1; F. Hoad, 2; W. Webb, 3; E. Dewey, 4; E. Kenward, 5; E. Moses (conductor), 6; W. Argent, 7; A. Mosley (longest length), 8. Composed by A. P. Heywood, Esq.

WALTHAMSTOW (Essex).—On Saturday, December 27th, at St. Mary's church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples in 1 hr, 12 mins. W. Pinsent, 1; T. Maynard (conductor), 2; G. Grimwade, 3; H. Nunn, 4; R. J. Maynard, 5; J. Cullen, 6, W. H. Freeman, 7; A. G. Freeman, 8. Composed by C. Staden, of Bournemouth.

Miscellaneous.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

TILEHURST (Berks).—On Wednesday, December 17th, eight members of the above Guild attempted Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but just three leads from home two bells changed course, after ringing three hours. F. Hopgood (first attempt at conducting), 1; E. C. Foxell, 2; W. Lawrence, 3; C. Smith, 4; J. E. Hern, 5; H. Goodier, 6; C. Chapman, 7; R. Haines, 8.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WALTON-ON-THE-HILL (Lancashire).—On Friday, December 12th, at St. Mary's parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor and 720 Plain Bob Minor in 50 mins. Also on Friday, December 19th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure Minor, 720 Plain Bob Minor, and 720 Grandsire Minor, in 1 hr. 14 mins. And on Monday, December 22nd, 720 Yorkshire Court Bob Minor in 26 mins. This 720 was rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Rev. Thomas Hornby, for forty-two years vicar of the above church, who died on the 22nd inst. T. Johnson, 1; H. Kelly, 2; R. Hurst, 5; T. R. Somerville, 4; W. Bramley, 5; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 6. Tenor 9 cwt.

CHURCH (Lancashire).—On Thursday morning, December 25th, at the parish church, 720 Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles) in 28 mins. F. Calvert, 1; C. J. Rigby, 2; J. Horrocks, 3; H. Hayes (conductor), 4; W. Pattinson, 5; J. Bentley, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS (Lancashire).—On Wednesday, December 24th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor in 27 mins. T. Suart, 1; T. Townson, 2; T. Watson (conductor), 3; M. Caddy, 4; T. R. Jackson, 5; J. Burrows, 6. Also on Thursday, December 25th, for early service, 720 Plain Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and four singles) in 24 mins. T. Watson, 1; T. Townson, 2; J. Spencer, 3; T. Suart, 4; T. R. Jackson (conductor), 5; J. Burrows, 6. And 720 Grandsire Minor (forty-four bobs and four singles) in 25 mins. Composed by J. J. Parker and conducted by J. Burrows. Also on Sunday evening, December 28th, for Divine Service, 720 Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and fourteen singles) in 27 mins., with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Archbishop of York. T. P. Jackson, 1; T. Watson, 2; T. Suart, 3; M. Caddy, 4; T. R. Jackson (conductor), 5; J. Burrows, 6. And on Wednesday, December 31st, 720 Grandsire Minor (twenty-eight bobs and thirty-two singles) in 26 mins. T. Watson (conductor), 1; T. P. Jackson, 2; T. Suart, 3; M. Caddy, 4; T. R. Jackson, 5; J. Burrows, 6. Also 720 Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles) in 24 mins., standing as above.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BIDSTON (Cheshire).—On Sunday, December 7th, at the parish church, 720 Kent Treble Bob. And on Wednesday, December 10th, 120 Oxford Treble Bob. T. Povall, G. Royden, G. Kendrick, J. Griffiths, W. Wilcox (conductor), S. Strong. Also on Sunday, December 14th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure (nine bobs and six singles). J. Wood, 1; S. Strong, 2; G. Kendrick, 3; J. Griffiths, 4; W. Wilcox (conductor), 5; G. Rogers (first 720 in the method), 6.

WALLASEY (Cheshire).—On Thursdsy, December 18th, at the parish church, 720 Canterbury Pleasure (forty bobs and two singles). Composed by the Rev. C. W. Bassano. S. Wood, 1; C. E. Wilson, 2; G. Kendrick, 3; G. Rogers, 4; W. Wilcox (conductor), 5; S. Strong, 6. C. E. Wilson hails from Walton-on-the-Hill. First 720 of Canterbury on the bells.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

NETHERTON (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday, December 30th, at St. Andrew's church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 28 mins. E. Hampton, 1; W. Micklewright. sen., 2; J. Townsend, 3; W. Prestidge, 4; W. Micklewright, jun., 5; J. Smith (conductor), 6. The above was rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Mrs. Blanche Skidmore, the donor of the bells, it being the eighteenth anniversary of her death.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SITTINGBOURNE.—On Sunday, December 21st, for Divine Service in the evening, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 29 mins. J. Mann, 1; C. Willshire (conductor), 2; J. G. Elliott, 3; J. M. Cooper, 4; E. Price, 5; S. Snelling, 6.

DEAL (Kent).—On Tuesday, December 23rd, at Leonard's church, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. *S. Mockett (conductor), 1; H. Denne, 2; G. Denne, 3; W. Ongley (first 720), 4; F. Capp, 5; H. Castle, 6. *First 720 as conductor. And on Christmas morning, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 23 mins. S. Mockett, 1; H. Denne, 2; H. Castle, 3; G. Denne (conductor), 4; F. Capp, 5; S. Parker, 6. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G. On Sunday, December 14th, at St. Leonard's church, for Divine Service in the morning, 720 Bob Minor (eight bobs and six singles), in 25½ mins. S. Mockett, 1; H. Denne, 2; H. Castle, 3; G. Denne (conductor), 4; F. Capp, 5; S. Parker, 6. And on Tuesday, December 16th, 720 Bob Minor (twenty-two singles), in 26 mins. S. Mockett, 1; H. Denne, 2; H. Castle, 3; G. Denne (conductor), 4; F. Capp, 5; S. Parker, 6. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G. This was rung on the conductor's 36th birthday, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

SANDIACRE (Derbyshire).—On Thursday, December 25th, at 6 a.m. at the parish church, the local company rang a 720 Bob Minor. R. T. Parkins, 1; A. Rigby (first 720), 2; J. Hall, 3; T. D. Thompson (first 720 with a bob bell), 4; W. T. Burton, 5; H. W. Wilde (conductor), 6. Also on Wednesday, December 31st, at midnight, 360 Canterbury Pleasure Minor (twelve bobs and six singles). T. D. Thompson, 1; J. Bonsal, 2; J. Hall, 3; H. W. Wilde (conductor), 4; R. T. Parkins, 5; W. T. Burton, 6. Tenor 16½ cwt. in F.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Thursday evening, December 25th, at the parish church, the first 1008 of Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples. S. James, 1; L. Copsey, 2; B. Keeble, 3; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 4; G. Roughton, 5; W. Nash, 6; A. Porter, 7; J. Watson, 8. Rung on the occasion of the return of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews from India, who were here on a visit to R. Price, Esq., Marshalls Park.

ASHTEAD (Surrey).—On Friday, December 26th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples, the first quarter of Johnson's peal of Oxford Bob Triples. W. Cook, 1; S. Brooker (conductor), 2; T. Gaiger, 3; E. Moses, 4; H. Newnham, 5; W. Marks, 6; W. Burkin, 7; J. Lisney, 8.

BUNWELL (Norfolk).—On Friday, December 19th, for practice at St. Michael's church, 360 Double Court. J. Fox, 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; J. Hilling, 3; J. Hinchley, 4; G. Smith, jun., 5; R. Hutton (conductor), 6. And on Sunday afternoon, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor. J. Fox, 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; R. Hutton, 3; J. Hilling, 4; G. Smith, jun., 5; J. Hinchley (conductor), 6. After Divine Service 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Hilling, 1; G. Smith, sen., 2; J. Cooke, 3; J. Hinchley, 4; A. Hammond, 5; R. Hutton (conductor), 6. J. Cooke and Hammond hail from Dickleboro. And on Monday, December 22nd, for practice, 720 Double Court. J. Fox, 1; G. Smith, sen. (first in the method with a bob bell), 2; J. Hilling, 3; J. Hinchley, 4; G. Smith, jun. (first in the method), 5; R. Hutton (conductor), 6.

PENARTH.—On Friday, December 26th, at the parish church, six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, each called differently. J. Clutterbuck, 1; D. Thomas, 2; C. Lloyd, 3; W. Biss, 4: W. Coombes (conductor), 5; H. White, 6. J. Clutterbuck belongs to Llandaff; D. Thomas to Penarth; first six-score by both. The rest belong to Cardiff.

(The remainder of miscellaneous touches will be found on page 499.)

Correspondence.

While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must neverbe considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

SIR,—I notice in your issue of the 20th ult. two peals of Grandsire Triples, one by Mr. F. Hopgood of Reading, and the other by Mr. E. E. Richards of Woolwich. I myself fail to see how either of these peals can be called "Grandsire." Mr. Hopgood's peal is composed of Holt's ten-part singles, which I don't consider Grandsire at all, but a made-up single of Holt's; and Mr. Richards introduces three leads of Union Triples. What would ringers generally think of peals in other methods composed of made-up bobs or singles to suit the composer's taste? Or say, a few peals of Stedman Triples, with a few sixes of some other method introduced? At any rate, I myself should be much obliged if any brother-string can explain how either of the peals mentioned can be purely called "Grandsire."

Eastbourne. WILLIAM J. FISHER.

P.S.—Mr. Hopgood's peal is certainly a novelty.

ST. NICHOLAS (CATHEDRAL) BELLS, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

SIR,—Referring to paragraph from the *Newcastle Daily Journal* quoted in a recent issue, is it a positive fact that the noble peal of eight in St. Nicholas' Cathedral tower are to be demolished and replaced by a modern peal? Surely there must be some mistake somewhere. Perhaps the *Newcastle Daily Journal* merely means that the peal is to be restored and rehung, which ought to have been done years ago. If so, all well and good. But to replace this noble peal by a set of modern bells (which are often made much too thick and heavy for the note intended to be produced) would be a most unpardonable atrocity. For the benefit of those of your readers who do not know St. Nicholas' bells, I may add that the 4th, 6th, and 7th are 15th century bells, with "black letter" inscriptions, dedicated respectively to St. Michael, St. Nicholas, and St. Mary the Virgin, as the inscriptions show. The tenor is a grand bell of 36 cwt., by Lester and Pack, of the Whitechapel foundry, cast in 1754. The treble, 2nd, and 5th are also very good bells from the same foundry, and the 3rd (with a most incomprehensible inscription, although plain enough to read) was cast in 1658, probably by John Hodson. I do hope and trust that these noble bells are not to be replaced by some modern thick bells, "cast on scientific principles," though as I remarked before, the restoration and rehanging of the same is a thing much to be desired. The three 15th century bells are especially good. There is an odd bell (not one of the peal) called "the Major," upon which the clock strikes, which might be well parted with. This is a miserable production weighing about three tons, cast in 1833, and was about one of the last bells cast at the Barton-on-Humber foundry. Although not a Novocastrarian by birth, I spent several years of my youth in Newcastle, and I hope that St. Nicholas' bells may not be tampered with. Perhaps there is some mistake after all. J. R. JERRAM.

SEVEN-BELL PEALS.

SIR,—I regret to see that two seven-bell peals have been rung by members of the Kent County Association: one at Gillingham on the 6th, the other on the 16th ult. respectively; and at a Central Committee Meeting of the same Association, the day before the second peal was rung, it was actually proposed, as an amendment to a certain proposition—"That all peals of Triples rung by members of the Association without a covering bell be entered in the peal-book." What do you think of that, ye Kentish tenor-men? I don't wish to allude any more to such a proposition, but it seems somewhat ludicrous, and not worth troubling the Central Council about. With respect to the seven-bell peals, were I but a member of the Association I would endeavour to stop the booking of same, as they are no credit to any peal-book, and trust that when the matter is brought before the Central Council, and their fiat obtained, we shall hear no more about such worthless performances. What would be thought of a band of ringers in our great metropolis ringing a peal of Caters or Cinques on nine or eleven bells respectively? Our motto on meeting short is—"Go home." RICHARD T. WOODLEY.

MR. STEAD'S REPLY.

SIR,—I should not have troubled you with any remarks on the last letter from Mr. Stead had it not been that erroneous impressions might have arisen from my silence. This letter substantiates his former one in no way whatever, and proves nothing so conclusively as that what I contended in my previous communication is actual fact. There is, therefore, nothing for me to reply to. He himself shows clearly how it was through himself (and thus no fault of the officers) that "it took him twelve months to get his motion before a meeting;" I am therefore obliged to him for the candid admission; my only wonder is now why he made a charge against us at all in the matter. As to the precise time when he spoke to me at the Hull meeting, it is such a small matter that I do not feel disposed to spend time in disputing it; his memory has evidently failed him for once, for I am perfectly able to substantiate every one of my previous statements. The only other part of his letter which I would refer to is his charge of ill-temper on my part. In this I can assure him he was never more mistaken in his life; in fact, the charge is really too amusing to be taken seriously, and I am quite willing to leave the alleged ill-tempered tone of my previous letter to the arbitrament of all who read it.

B. T. COPLEY,
Hon. Sec., Yorkshire Association.

APPEALS.

SIR,—I shall be glad if you will allow me through the medium of your paper to bring to the notice of all brother-ringers the case of Robert Stackwood, of Aylsham, a well-known ringer, who is suffering from rheumatism, and unable to work. He has a wife and large family dependent upon him, and I am sorry to say he is not in any benefit society. He is a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths and the Norwich Diocesan Association. Should any of our friends feel disposed to help it will be gratefully acknowledged in this paper. Mr. Stackwood's address is Hungate Street, Aylsham, Norfolk. I shall also be glad to acknowledge any sums sent to me.

Pound Road, Aylsham. A. J. NEALE.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert a few lines on behalf of Jesse Avery, who has unfortunately been ill the last six months, and in great need of help, having no support of any kind. Contributions will be most thankfully received, and acknowledged in this paper by

G. HOLIFIELD,
Parish Clerk, Appleton.

P.S.—Mr. Avery is a member of the Appleton company, and has rung in all the long peals rung at Appleton.

GRATITUDE.

SIR,—I am asked to convey Mr. Doran's thanks, through the medium of this paper, to those kind friends who this Christmas so kindly remembered him in his illness, especially those at St. Sepulchre's. By their so doing he will be able to get several necessaries which he would not have had, had it not been for their kind sympathy.

West Ham. H. RANDALL.

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of notices in this page is One Penny per line (six words may be reckoned to a line). Repetitions at half that rate. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

Surrey Association.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Kingston-on-Thames (by the kind permission of the Vicar), on Monday, Jan. 19th. Tower open at 2.30 p.m.; tea at 6 p.m. at the Albany Hall. All those members who wish to be present at the tea must please send notice to Mr. J. Wright, Arthur-road, Kingston-hill, before Friday, Jan. 16th.

ARTHUR B. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*

Essex Association.—There will be a District Meeting at Barking to-day, Saturday, Jan. 10th. The tower of St. Margaret's (eight bells) will be open all day. A short service will be held in the church, with brief address by the Vicar at 5 p.m. Tea at Working Men's Institute at 5.45. Business meeting at 6.15.

HENRY T. W. EYRE, *Prov. Sec.*

Society of Trinity Youths.—The Annual Dinner will take place at the "Prince Albert," Royal Hill, Greenwich, to-day, Saturday, Jan. 10th, at 6.30 p.m. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, may be obtained of the Dinner Committee as under:—W. G. Davis, 35 London Street, Greenwich; W. Tyack, 1 Nutbrook Street, Peckham; J. Rose, 23 Bolden Street, St. John's, Deptford; J. Crowder, St. Margaret's rectory, Lee F. Palmer, 40 Friendly Street, Deptford; W. Weatherstone, 27 Cranham Road, Rotherhithe; F. W. Thornton, 109 King George Street, Greenwich; W. Bedwell, 9 Harvard Road, Lewisham; or of the Secretary, E. E. RICHARDS.

12 *Glenalvon Street, Woolwich.*

Birmingham and District Amalgamated Society.—The Second Quarterly Meeting of this Society will be held at Moseley, on Saturday, January 17th. Ringing to commence at 4.0 p.m. Meeting will be held in the School-room at 6.0. All members are earnestly requested to attend. GEO. WALKER,

1, *South Range, Mole Street,* *Hon. Sec.*
Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

Midland Counties' Association. — The Third Quarterly Meeting of the year will be held at Nuneaton, on Saturday, January 17th, 1891. The bells of the parish church (eight) will be open for ringing from 1.0 p.m. Committee meeting in class-room of parish church Schools at 5.30 p.m. Tea in Schoolroom (close to church) at 6.0 p.m. General Meeting immediately afterwards.

JOSEPH GRIFFIN, *Hon. Sec.*
5 *St. Paul's Street East, Burton-on-Trent.*

The Lancashire Association (Manchester Branch).—The next ringing meeting will be held at St. Matthew's church, Stretford, to-day, Saturday, Jan. 10th. Ringing from 4.0 p.m. Meeting at 7.0 p.m.

WALTER BROWN, *Branch Sec.*

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford. The next Quarterly Meeting of the Society will be held to-day, Saturday, Jan. 10th, at Darlaston. Members assemble at the parish church at 2.30 p.m. J. R. KEBLE, *Hon. Sec.*

Norwich Diocesan Association. — Quarterly General Meeting at East Dereham on Monday, February 2nd. Members requiring travelling cards should send notice to Hon. Sec. or District Secs. six days previously, with station of departure. Dinner at 1.30. Short business meeting after. H. EARLE BULWER,

Stanhoe, Lynn. *Hon. Sec.*

Birmingham St. Martin's Guild. — The usual Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, January 21st, at the Guild's meeting-house, "Tamworth Arms," Moor-street. Chair to be taken at 8 o'clock. All members are earnestly requested to attend.

W. H. GODDEN, *Hon. Sec.*
Finch Road, Handsworth.

Worcestershire and Adjoining Districts Association.—The next Committee and Quarterly meeting of the above will be held in St. Mary's Schoolroom, Cradley, on Saturday, January 24th, 1891, at 5.30 p.m. prompt. The Rev. A. B. Timbrell, Vicar, will preside. The tower will be open for ringing during the afternoon.

Note.—All subscriptions are due at this meeting, according to rule. JOHN SMITH,

Hon. Sec.

United Counties' Association.—The Annual Meeting will be held at Leesfield, near Oldham, on Saturday, January 24th. Meeting in the schoolroom at 4.0 p.m., tickets 1s.6d. each. Members intending being present at dinner must send in their names to Mr. Edwin B. Shaw, 13, Catherine-street, Lees, near Oldham, on or before January 19th. Bells ready at 2.0 p.m. JOSEPH RADCLIFFE, } *Hon.*
JOHN SIDEBOTHAM, } *Secs.*

St. Mary's (Stratford, Bow) Society.—The Annual Dinner of this Society will take place on Tuesday, January 20th, at the "Three Cups," Bow-road, E., at 7.30 p.m.

Compositions.

All compositions sent for insertion must be accompanied by a fee of Sixpence. If proof of a touch or peal is desired One Shilling additional must accompany such request.

CANTERURY PLEASURE MAJOR.

By E. BARNETT, *Crayford.*

6016.

2 3 4 5 6	W	I	M	H
3 6 2 4 5		–		
3 6 5 2 4		–		–
5 3 6 2 4				–
6 5 3 2 4				–
2 3 5 6 4	–			–
5 2 3 6 4				–
3 5 2 6 4				–
2 5 4 6 3	–	–		–
4 5 3 6 2	–	–		–
3 4 5 6 2				–
5 3 4 6 2				–
4 3 2 6 5	–	–		–
2 4 3 6 5				–
3 2 4 6 5				–
4 2 5 6 3	–	–		–
5 4 2 6 3				–
5 4 3 2 6		–		–
3 5 4 2 6				–
4 3 5 2 6				–
4 2 3 5 6		–	–	–
5 3 2 4 6	–			–
2 5 3 4 6				–
3 2 5 4 6				–
4 5 2 3 6	–			–
2 4 5 3 6				–
5 2 4 3 6				–
3 4 2 5 6	–			–
3 2 4 5 6				s

Repeated.

This peal may be reduced to an exact 6000 by adding bobs at W I M in the third course of first part, and omitting them in the second part.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

By BENJAMIN FRANCIS, *Bressingham.*

5040.

2 3 4 5 6	W	M	H
4 2 3 5 6			–
6 3 4 2 5	–	–	–
4 6 3 2 5			–
3 4 6 2 5			–
6 2 3 4 5	–		–
3 6 2 4 5			–
2 3 6 4 5			–
5 6 2 3 4	–	–	–
2 5 6 3 4			–
6 2 5 3 4			–
4 5 2 3 6		–	–
2 4 5 3 6			–
5 2 4 3 6			–
6 4 2 3 5		–	–
2 6 4 3 5			–

Twice repeated.

In this peal the 2nd is never in sixths place at a course-end. The 3rd, 5th, and 6th are twelve times in sixths place.

A 720 OF CANTERBURY PLEASURE MINOR.

By H. W. WILDE, *Sandiacre.*

2 3 4 5 6
4 2 5 6 3
– 6 5 4 3 2
– 3 4 6 2 5
6 3 2 5 4
– 5 2 6 4 3
– 4 6 5 3 2
5 4 3 2 6
3 5 2 6 4
s 2 6 3 4 5
s 3 4 2 5 6

Five times repeated; a bob to be substituted for the single midway and end.

A 720 OF DOUBLE OXFORD BOB MINOR.

By H. W. WILDE, *Sandiacre.*

2 3 4 5 6
s 4 6 2 3 5
2 4 5 6 3
5 2 3 4 6
– 6 3 5 2 4
– 4 5 6 3 2
6 4 2 5 3
– 3 2 6 4 5
– 5 6 3 2 4
3 5 4 6 2
s 4 2 3 5 6

Five times repeated; a bob to be substituted for the single midway and end.

A QUARTER-PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.

By F. HOPGOOD, *Reading.*

2 3 4 5 6 7	
4 6 2 3 7 5	3
6 2 4 3 7 5	4
5 3 6 7 2 4	1
3 6 5 7 2 4	4
4 7 3 2 6 5	1
3 6 4 7 5 2	3
2 7 3 5 6 4	1
2 5 7 4 3 6	

Four times repeated.

PERSHORE ABBEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

In its proper place will be found the official record of the first peal ever accomplished on these grand and melodious bells, which are universally pronounced by the most competent judges to be truly magnificent. They were cast by Abraham Rudhall (of Gloucester) in the year 1729.

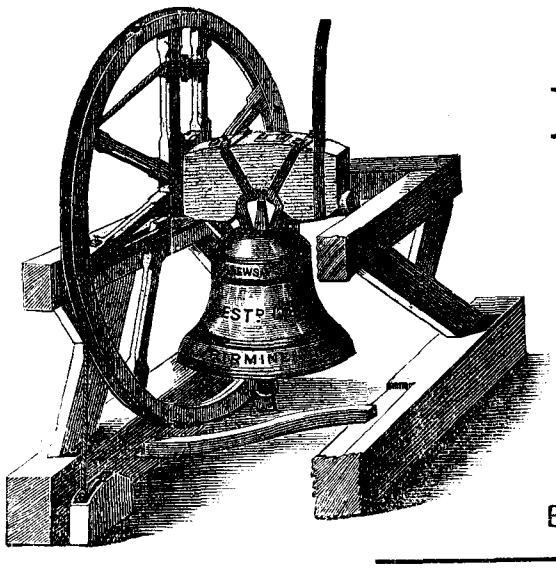
The grand lantern tower (the architect of which is unknown, but is believed to be the same that built Salisbury Cathedral) is richly panelled and traceried, and has been frequently mentioned by Sir Gilbert Scott since his restoration of the fabric in the following terms: "Not only is it a remarkably noble specimen of the architecture of the 14th century, but internally so much beauty is displayed that I scarcely know of one so rich and beautiful as that of Pershore, and it stands, so far as I know, quite alone in its design." It was commenced in the year 1330, and reaches to a height of 125 feet to the top of the four modern pinnacles, and is 42 ft. square externally, and 29 ft. 2 ins. internally. Daylight is admirably arranged by means of eight windows, 4 ft. 4 ins. wide.

The "ringing-room," which is a curiosity in itself, stands upon a stout oaken beam, projecting from the centre of each wall, joined together in the middle, and upon this is supported a wrought-iron cage, 11½ ft. square inside, and placed with its corners to the four beams, thus giving it a diamond appearance with regard to the tower, from the fact that its four corners are opposite the centre of each wall. The floor of the church, which can be seen on all sides by looking through the bars, is 72 ft. 2 ins. below, and the bells are on the next floor, only 15 ft. 9 ins. above, but nevertheless sound pleasant and distinct. This interesting place is approached from an openwork gallery in the thickness of the wall only 16 ins. in width, and 4 ft. 9 ins. in height, up through a circular skeleton iron staircase overhanging the church, and only 21 ins. in width, and one of the beams above alluded to forms a sort of bridge carefully railed up each side. In addition to the iron bars which constitute the ringing-chamber, the upper portion is augmented by very stout iron netting, to keep the ropes from flying through, and is familiarly known as the "birds' cage," very much resembling on a larger scale the kind used for keeping parrots and cockatoos. Later on, when the party were returning in the train, amid the conversation relating to the peculiar belfry they had visited, the Master of the College Youths caused some considerable amount of laughter by declaring that he had now called a peal in a "monkey-house." The place is the exact reverse of the famous belfry at Merton College, Oxford, which is a "lake," while this is an "island." The structure and magnificent bells, together with the chimes, which are among the best and most accurate in existence, are alone well worthy of a visit, especially from those of an antiquarian turn of mind. Some excellent drawings of the tower appeared in *The Builder* of February 19th, 1877.

The conductor embraces this opportunity of thanking the Vicar of Pershore (Ven. Archdeacon Walters) for his attention and kindness in giving permission; also Mr. John Workman, for having everything in excellent order.

The band made an unsuccessful attempt in the morning, only ringing 3000 changes; and great credit is due to those who manfully stuck to their position at the heavy end. The whole peal occupied in execution 3 hrs. 1 min., and was characterised by very fine and regular striking from first to last. F. E. D.

LONDON.—On Wednesday, December 24th, at St. John's church, Waterloo Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 47 mins. F. L. Davies, 1; C. Chaplin, 2; S. G. Davies, 3; J. H. Cassidy, 4; W. Partington (conductor), 5; Rev. A. W. Jephson, 6; H. L. Partington, 7; J. Paler, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. And on Tuesday, December 9th, at St. Stephen's church, Westminster, the usual whole pull and stand with the bells muffled, as a tribute of respect to the mother of the vicar of St. Stephen's, who died on Friday, December 5th, at the advanced age of seventy-four. J. Reed, 1; J. Willshire, 2; A. G. Ellis, 3; T. R. Bell, 4; W. Carter, 5; H. S. Ellis, 6; H. R. Newton, 7; W. Cropley, 8.



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MY DEAR DOCTOR,—Allow me to express my thanks for the skill and attention displayed in the construction of my Artificial Teeth, which render my mastication and articulation excellent. I am glad to hear that you have obtained Her Majesty's Royal Letters Patent to protect what I consider the perfection of Painless Dentistry. In recognition of your valuable services you are at liberty to use my name.
S. G. HUTCHINS. By appointment Surgeon-Dentist to HerMajesty the Queen.
To GEO. H. JONES, ESQ., D.D.S.

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(Signed) EDW. V. GARDNER, F.H.S., M.S.A.
Professor of Chemistry, and of Berners College, W.
To GEO. H. JONES, ESQ., Surgeon-Dentist, 57, Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury Square, London.

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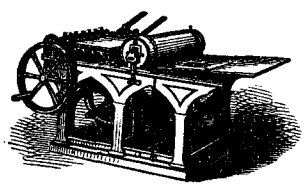

AT THE OFFICE OF THIS PAPER.

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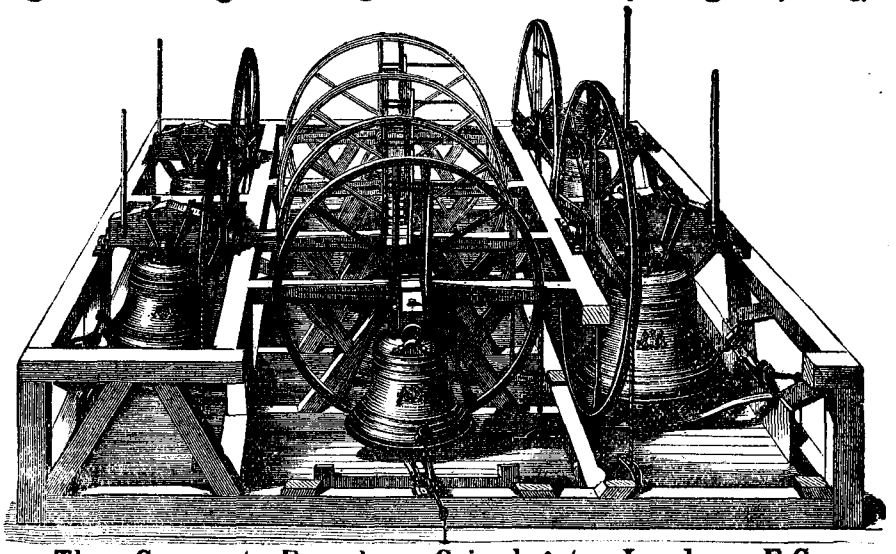

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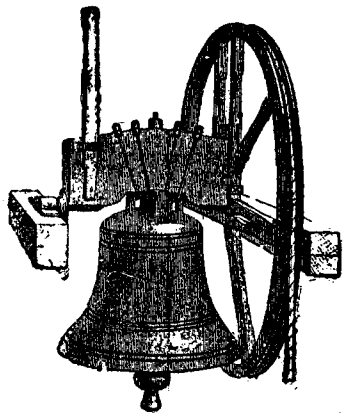

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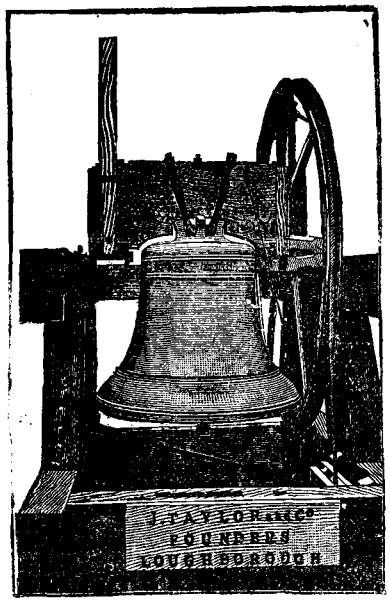

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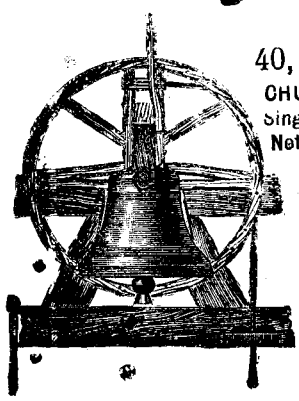

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