

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 482.—VOL. X.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1891.

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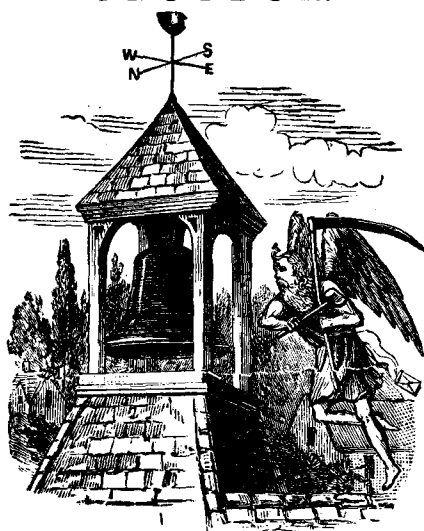
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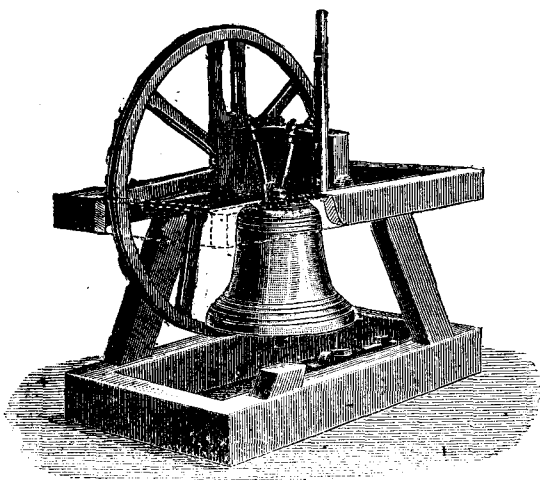
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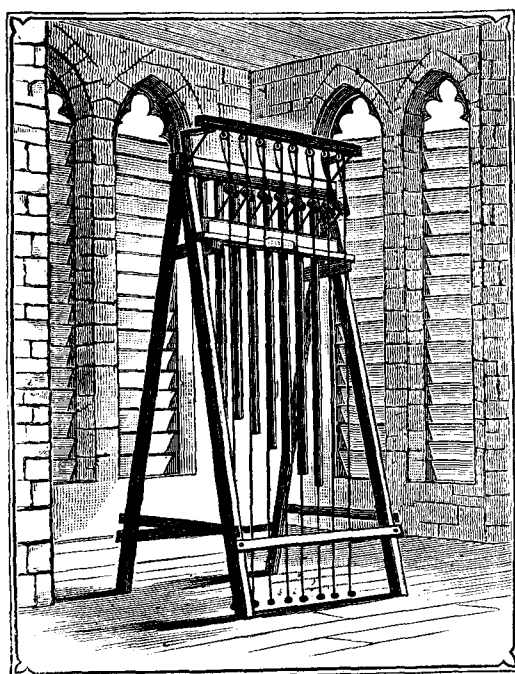
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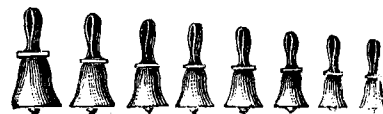
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MR. FREDERICK WILLIAM THORNTON, OF
GREENWICH, KENT.*(Vide Portrait.)*

The subject of our memoir was born at Greenwich on November 13th, 1862, and is therefore in his 29th year. The family is one of the best known in Greenwich, and their residence in the borough, can, we understand, be traced back upwards of a century and a half. A relative of MR. THORNTON—Mr. Thomas Thornton, aged 91—still resides in the parish.

FREDERICK WILLIAM THORNTON was educated at the school founded by the late Mr. John Roan, and his successes in the various examinations on different subjects elicited great praise from the late Canon Miller, and many others connected with the institution. It is worthy of note, that soon after the school was placed under the control of the London School Board, MR. THORNTON, in conjunction with many others, drawn from all the schools in Greenwich, entered into a competitive examination, lasting over three days. When the result was announced, it appeared that our young friend, then only in his twelfth year, was at the head of the list of successful candidates, and several points in front of the second.

Although MR. THORNTON was for seven years connected with the choir of St. Mary's church, Greenwich, as leading treble, it was not until 1878, that his entry into a belfry was made. Hearing the usual ringing at the parish church of St. Alphege (ten bells) in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, he went into the tower, caught the "bell fever," and never afterwards lost an opportunity for increasing his knowledge of the interesting exercise. In this, however, he was not assisted by the ringers employed there, who were of the old school, and took no interest whatever in endeavouring to instruct a beginner, fearing, perhaps that should he make too much progress, he might eventually oust some of them from their very lucrative positions in "the scruffe." It is but just, however, to state, that two of these gentlemen, who are well-known in the ringing-world, certainly did their utmost to help their young and enthusiastic friend, but their proceedings in this direction were always hampered by, and brought down upon them the wrath of their elder colleagues.

So soon therefore, as he could handle a bell, MR. THORNTON journeyed to St. Nicholas, Deptford, at one time the headquarters of the Society over which he now presides. Here he was soon enabled to take his place with others in "set changes," but although a good half-pull party met weekly for practice, no opportunity whatever was given MR. THORNTON to make his debut as a Grandsire ringer. At length however, he found sympathisers in the persons of Messrs. A. G. Freeman and W. Weatherstone at St. Mary's, Lewisham, and under their care and attention his progress in Grandsire was rapid. After ringing the tenor to a peal at Woolwich, his name soon appeared in these columns as having successfully piloted the treble and a bob bell through peals of Triples. MR. THORNTON has rung altogether forty peals, viz.: Grandsire Triples, 36; Caters, 2; Bob Major, 1; Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1; of which number he has conducted eight. Perhaps the work which entitles him to most distinction in the ringing world is that in connection with the Society of Trinity Youths, which in conjunction with the Rev. H. A. Cockey and others, MR. THORNTON was in 1888, instrumental in rescuing from almost total oblivion, and placing it upon a sound basis. Recognising his abilities as a business man, the members unanimously elected him Hon. Secretary, with what success is well-known. This position he retained until 1890, when being unable to devote the necessary time and attention he felt he ought to the duties, he relinquished it, amid many expressions of regret from his friends and colleagues. He was however nominated for the post of

Master, and elected by a majority of two to one over his solitary opponent. In this position he carries out his duties with dignity to himself, and honour to the Society for which he has laboured so continuously. Of a genial disposition and extremely good-natured, "Fred," as he is familiarly known, is exceedingly popular among his brethren, and having a keen remembrance of the difficulties he experienced in endeavouring to learn change-ringing, it goes without saying that to novices he has proved himself a staunch friend and good counsellor.

Although MR. THORNTON had repeatedly signified his intention of retiring definitely at the close of his year of office, at the earnest request of his friends, he allowed himself to be nominated, and was subsequently re-elected to the post of Master by an overwhelming majority.

In addition to representing his society on the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers, our friend is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Waterloo and St. James' Societies, and the Kent County and Essex Associations. As is well-known he was nominated as a candidate for the office of Secretary to the Council, but withdrew just before the time of election. It is no disparagement of the present holder of that office to say that had MR. THORNTON been elected he would have proved a most able and efficient officer.

CATTERICK, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, June 13th, the ringers of St. John's, Darlington, paid a visit to the above-named place, to have a ring on the new peal of bells recently put in by the firm of Mears & Stainbank, making the journey by brake, so as to call on the Master of the Catterick band, who was to accompany them to the Church. Arriving at 3.30 p.m. they at once made for the tower, and raising the bells in peal, a start was made for Kent Treble Bob, which was brought round in 24½ mins. by the following: F. A. Teasdale, 1; J. Baxter, 2; H. J. Taylor, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; W. D. Lister, 5; J. H. Whitfield (conductor), 6. Afterwards a 720 of Oxford Plain Bob by J. Bolton, 1; W. Bell, 2; W. G. Lister, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; H. J. Taylor, 5; J. Baxter, 6. And 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. F. A. Teasdale, 1; W. D. Lister, 2; H. S. Taylor, 3; J. Baxter, 4; J. K. Whitfield, 5; J. H. Whitfield, 6. Afterwards a move was made for the Angel Inn, where an excellent meat tea was ordered, to which all did ample justice. This over they once more made their way to the Church, and a start made for Double Oxford Bob, which was well struck off in 24½ mins. by the following: J. Bolton, J. Baxter, H. S. Taylor, R. Moncaster, W. D. Lister, J. H. Whitfield (conductor). Tenor 12 cwt. After finishing their task of 720s, they turned attention to Bob Doubles for the benefit of the Cathedral men, and by a little help got three of them through their first 6-score, which was repeated five times. And now for the bell chamber. It is a model one, the walls are panelled in deal, two thirds up, above is papered, and all the wood is stained and varnished and furnished with all that a ringer requires. They wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, and Mr. Mack for his kind attention. He is master of the Catterick Company as well as organist and churchwarden. After drinking success to the Catterick Company they turned home again, arriving at 10.30, after a most enjoyable outing.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ROCHDALE BRANCH.—A Meeting of this branch was held at St. Thomas's Church, Moorside, on Saturday, June 20th. Members attended from Rochdale, Heywood, Oldham, Leesfield, Saddleworth, Flixton, and the local members, and was a fairly successful meeting, but owing to the bad go of the tenor, it became unmanageable, and stand was called after two attempts at Grandsire Triples, and touches of Grandsire and Treble Bob Minor were rung on the front six. Mr. Samuel Stott presided at the meeting, when two new ringing members were made, and the place selected for the next meeting was Leesfield, on July 25th. The meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks to the Chairman, Vicar, Wardens and ringers for the use of the bells and school.



MR FREDERICK W. THORNTON.
(OF GREENWICH)

SUPPLEMENT TO "THE BELL NEWS."

ST. LAURENCE'S SOCIETY, READING.

On Wednesday, June 17th, the above Society had their annual ringing excursion. Leaving Reading at 6.30 a.m., they journeyed to Cheltenham, which was reached by 9.45, after a most enjoyable ride through a magnificent country, and which tended to sharpen the appetite. One of the St. Mary's ringers awaited the arrival of the party at the station and acted as guide to a Coffee Tavern, where light refreshment was partaken of. The day's ringing was commenced at St. Mary's Church at 10.30, when a 575 of Grandsire Caters was tapped off in 24 minutes. Mr. Phillott here joined the ringers and stated that he had made arrangements for St. Laurence's men to have a pull at Prestbury, a pretty little village about two miles distant; consequently the worthy captain (Mr. W. Newell) engaged three carriages, and the campanologists were driven there. After raising the bells, two touches were rung, one of Bob Major and one of Grandsire Triples. The Vicar visited the belfry and gave the ringers a hearty welcome, and said he was pleased to hear the bells that day as it was his birthday. Having lowered the bells the party left for Cheltenham, which was reached by 1 o'clock, after a drive round the principal part of the town. Another short touch of Grandsire Caters was then indulged in, on the fine-toned bells of St. Mary's, after which the visitors walked to the station and took train for Gloucester. Here a dinner was awaiting them, which was done ample justice to, after the exertions of the morning. Having satisfied the cravings of the inner man, a quiet stroll round the town brought the party to the church of St. Mary-de-Crypt, which boasts of a peal of eight. Here several touches were rung in the following methods:—Grandsire, Treble Bob, Bob Major. Being 6 o'clock, the time arranged for tea, the ringers returned to their dining-rooms, and partook of "the cup that cheers, &c., &c.," where they were joined by several Gloucester ringers. During the afternoon the cathedral was visited, the architecture of which was much admired, particularly by those who had not seen it before, the only drawback being the bells, which are not ringable. After tea a visit was paid to St. Martin's church, and here Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, and whilst the excursionists were on their way to the station, the home ringers rung some Double Norwich. At 8.10 p.m. the train steamed out of the station, and St. Laurence's ringers were on their way to Reading, after wishing their brother-strings farewell. The journey home was delightful, in the cool of the evening, and Reading was safely reached by 10.45 p.m., the party having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. St. Laurence's ringers wish, through the medium of this paper, to thank those gentlemen who so kindly assisted Mr. Newell, their captain, in making this outing a complete success. The ringing excursion of 1891 will long be remembered by the members of this society.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 20th, several members of the above from Leeds and Harrietham paid a visit to Headcorn. On arriving they were met by the ringers, and after some refreshments a move was made to the church. The bells were then raised in peal and a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs, two singles), was brought round in 28 mins. T. Earll (conductor), 1; A. Knight, 2; H. Hollands, 3; F. Hollands, 4; W. Cheeseman, 5; T. Russell, 6; W. Hadlow, 7; G. H. Fermor, 8. Then a 360 in the same method. G. Tassell, 1; A. Knight, 2; H. Hollands (conductor), 3; F. Hollands, 4; W. Cheeseman, 5; T. Russell, 6; W. Hadlow, 7; J. H. Fermor, 8. The bells have been rehung, and the 3rd, 5th and 6th recast, by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of Cripplegate, London, and great credit is due to that firm, as the bells go splendidly. Tenor 26 cwt. in E Flat. A move was then made to the "King's Arms," where an enjoyable evening was spent with hand-bell ringing and songs, and at the close of the evening the "Ringers' March" was rung on the hand-bells. The visitors wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, and the Headcorn ringers for assisting them to spend such an enjoyable evening.

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 3,000,000 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.

NORTHOP, NORTH WALES.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., a dedication service was held in Northop Church to celebrate the opening of the handsome peal of bells, the gift of the widow of the late Col. Wills, of Plas Bellin. The Vicar (the Rev. Canon Richardson), preached a short but very eloquent sermon from the first verse of the 122nd Psalm. After the service the Wrexham Bell Ringers ascended the tower, and for upwards of an hour executed a most admirable series of change-ringing, which could be heard as far as Kelsterton, a distance of three miles. It is to be sincerely hoped that the newly awakened interest in the bells will not be allowed to die away, but that the young men of Northop will show their appreciation of the munificent gift by coming forward and offering their services as ringers, and utilising a few of their long evenings by practising change-ringing. The following information may be of interest to our readers. Bell No. 1, weighing about 15 cwt. has the following inscription—"Tho. Evans, Esq., Isaf Jones, Rob. Humphries, Ken Jones, Wardens, 1680." Bell II, 9 cwt.—"Henry Jones, vicar; Edward Bate and Thomas Hughes, Churchwardens; T. Miers, Fec't, re-cast 1840." Bell III, 7 cwt. (Diamond marked with x in it), Cantate Domino Canticum, Novum (W. G., on a pentagon shield with an arrow), 1647. The motto means "Sing to the Lord a new song." In addition to the above, which have been recast, there are three more bells provided, making a peal of six. The whole of the expense, amounting to £350, has been defrayed by Mrs. Wills. The church tower, which was built in the year 1537, and is the second highest church tower in North Wales, being only exceeded by Wrexham, has been re-roofed and thoroughly repaired throughout. Northop can now boast of having one of the handsomest Parish Churches in Wales.—*Flintshire Observer*.

NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 6th, a social gathering of this Association with a few friends, took place at Harthill. After refreshing the inner man, a move was made to the tower, a peal of six, tenor 19 cwt. A 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor was rung in 30 mins. in good style, but which would have sounded much better had the bells been in tune. Then a 720 of College Pleasure was started for, but came to grief after ringing about 20 minutes. Touches of Oxford and Violet, and a 504 of Oxford (twelve bobs) were also rung, conducted by C. Severn. The ringers were J. Foulds, H. Stenton, F. Drabble, S. Smith, C. Foulles (Anston), D. Russon (Shireoaks), C. Severn, H. Taylor, T. Tustin (Killa-marsh). Severn, Tustin, Taylor and Foulles, are also members of the Old East Derbyshire Association.

A very interesting account of Waterford Cathedral appears in this week's *Guardian*. It is a very long time since we heard of any ringing being done in this Irish city, or in fact in any part of the isle.

THE Hon. and Rev. Canon Legge, who has been Vicar of Lewisham since 1879, has been offered and has accepted the Bishopric of Lichfield. The revd. gentleman, who has been a member of the Society of Trinity Youths since its revival in 1888, takes great interest in change-ringing matters, and has done a great deal for the comfort of the ringers at St. Mary's, Lewisham, by whom, in common with his parishioners, he will be greatly missed. Hundreds of telegrams have been received at the Vicarage, congratulating the Canon upon his elevation to the episcopate.

THE MIDLAND RAILWAY.—Commencing Wednesday next, July 1st, an additional Day Express Train will be run from Glasgow to London, Leeds, Manchester, and Liverpool. A Dining Saloon Car will run by this train from Leeds to London, into which 1st class passengers from Glasgow may change at Leeds. Table d'hôte, 3s. 6d. each person. On Sunday, July 5th, and each succeeding Sunday until further notice, an Express Train will be run each way between London (St. Pancras) and Sheffield, Leeds, and Bradford. Particulars as to times, etc., of these additional trains may be had at the various booking offices of the Midland Company.

THE CUMBERLANDS IN KENT.

On Saturday, the 20th June, six Royal Cumberlands from London paid a visit to Tunbridge, where they were met by two brother-members from Speldhurst, Messrs. T. and G. Card; and needless to say, not long after their arrival, the bells of the parish church were swinging over their heads. In due course a peal of Kent Treble Bob was accomplished, being the first peal of Major and it is believed only the second peal in any method on the bells. Eight o'clock on the following morning found the band assembled in the belfry of Speldhurst Church, where another peal of Kent Treble Bob, also the first in the method on the bells, was rung for morning service, and in celebration of the anniversary of the Queen's proclamation the same afternoon, the Cumberlands sacrificed their ease to their loyalty by ringing a third first peal of Treble Bob upon the bells at Hadlow, which was concluded in time for evening service. The bells struck into changes at Tunbridge on the Saturday at 6.20 p.m., and they came into rounds at Hadlow on the Sunday, at 6.15.; consequently the three peals were rung within the compass of 24 hours.

Very much pleased with the friendly reception with which they met with at the three places they visited, and hoping that the time might come for another handful of changes in a different method, the Londoners returned home before night fell.

THE PRIZE-RINGING IN CORNWALL.

In connection with what we published last week, a writer, who signs himself "Joe Broad," writes:

"I see in last week's 'BELL NEWS' the copy of the 'red bordered, well printed bill' of the Roche prize-ringing. How on earth that came into the hands of civilized change-ringers I cannot imagine, however, why I am writing is simply for your readers not only to be amused but for them to pity (some at least), of the youngsters in Cornwall.

"Imagine a young set who have just had a new ring of six (by Messrs. Taylor) placed in the tower of their pretty little Parish Church. They have never known what it is to handle a bell before. They get an old ringer to teach them to raise the bells in peal, ring rounds, and fall again.

"Three years have elapsed. They have read the 'BELL NEWS' regularly and seen the records of the peals accomplished by the great 'strings' (excuse the phrase) 'up country,' and wonder how it is all managed. But what can young fellows do who never hear, except in their own tower, an attempt at Compass (or Treble Rest as it is called here) ringing in rounds, and as for Changes (any other than 'Church-yard Bob') is never thought of in Cornwall, except at Penzance, where, I believe, there are some few who have joined the Devon Guild; but their performances are mostly confined to their own tower. It has been the desire of us youngsters to hear a peal where the changes came at every round, and the tower not always covering. I suppose in Cornwall there are some of the prettiest rings of 6 and 8 bells to be found anywhere, but imagine these to be never rung to any other tune than that of Rounds or call changes. Now if our performances are of a very inferior character, your readers must not put us too far down (I'd rather they would help us out of it) for our belfries are conducted as part of the Church, and due reverence is paid to God's acre, where no smoking, &c., is allowed, and perhaps you may have noticed that in the Roche ringing no practice was allowed on the Sabbath. We one and all do our best at what we are good for (and that is not much I acknowledge), and if a man who has worked all day (as only Cornish men can) comes to the tower to practice rounds, don't please laugh at him, for even Jasper Snowdon speaks of the music of bells being raised and fallen in peal, and old Cornwall will hold her own against any for that performance.

"Should this bill have caused any amusement at all, I can supply you with more later on in the year, I dare say; or, leaving jokes aside, if any of the Plymouth Stoke band—who wandered so far as Menhemot the other day—were to pay a visit around our country, they would have ample scope at either 8 or 6 bell towers in a few miles radius, amid Cornish hills and valleys, and a goodly number of listeners.

"If anything is said amis, Sir, please pardon me, but seeing you received this bill I wondered why there couldn't be some true scientific changes rung in Cornwall (where there are so many peals of bells), as well as other Counties."

HOME CURE FOR DEAFNESS.—A book by a noted Aural Surgeon, describing a system of curing Deafness and Noises in the Head, by which a self-cure is effected at home. The Rev. D. H. W. Harlock, of the Parsonage, Milton-under-Wyckwood, writes: "Try the System by all means: it is first rate, and has been of the wisest service to me." Post free 4d. De Vere and Co., Publishers, 22, Warwick Lane, London, E.C.

Obituary.

JAMES STOTT.

We are sorry to have to record the death of the above-named ringer, of Newchurch-in-Rossendale, which occurred at his residence 4, Old-street, Newchurch, on Thursday morning, June 18th, at the prime age of forty-three. He was attacked with influenza about three weeks ago, and grew gradually worse until his death. His services will be greatly missed in the parish, but above all in the tower where he had been a regular attendant for over twenty years. At the time he learnt to ring, there were only six bells, but a band of as clever ringers as could be found. They were like many more at that time—fond of prize-ringing. By his and others' efforts, the six were augmented and made into eight. However, sad as the story is, it is not the less true that Newchurch, like others who entered these prize contests, was troubled by having a band of careless men who rang for prizes and made it their sole aim. Their sabbath vocation was often varied by an adjournment to the "Bell" during service. This state of things was not satisfactory, though then quite common. The Lancashire Association, which was then so weak, sent a report of its work to Newchurch. The ringers did not care for it generally, but it found one supporter in Mr. Stott. He was the only member in Rossendale from 1876 to 1881. He pushed the Association work on, but until 1886 with no effect, save that in that year there were five members. However in 1887 his labours were successful, no less than forty-three members joining in that year. This caused a branch to be formed, and Mr. Stott was made the secretary, which position he held till 1890, when he resigned on account of his time being too much occupied. This branch now has no less than 88 Ringing members, 2 Honorary members, and 5 Life members, and its extent covers but ten miles from extreme to extreme. The Association must of necessity feel the loss of such a worker. He had rung thirteen peals of 5000, and a greater number on six bells. The local company rang muffled touches on Thursday and Friday evening, and on Saturday afternoon a muffled peal was rung, a report of which will be found below. His body was carried from the house to the church amidst crowds of bystanders, on Monday afternoon by fourteen members of the Rossendale branch. There were a goodly number of wreaths sent as tokens of esteem. The usual whole pull and stand was rung on the tower bells, and after the interment 504 of Grandsire Triples was rung. J. Taylor, 1; J. Shepherd, 2; J. Ashworth, 3; H. H. Nutter, 4; W. Taylor, 5; W. Smith, 6; J. T. Wright, 7; W. Whitaker, 8. J. Shepherd hails from St. Saviour's, Bacup; Nutter from Ramsbottom; Smith from Christ Church, Bacup; Whitaker from Waterfoot; the rest are of the local company.

Thus he was laid to rest in a vault within the sound of those bells he truly loved in his life-time, and his place will be empty for some time yet. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours." J. S.

[The following is the record of the muffled peal rung to the memory of the late Mr. Stott. We are compelled to place it out of its proper place, owing to its late arrival.]

NEWCHURCH.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE AND ROCHDALE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, June 20, 1891, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION REVERSED.

JAS. TAYLOR Treble.	W. TAYLOR 5.
JOHN SHEPHERD 2.	JNO. HARRISON 6.
F. BIRTWISTLE 3.	J. T. WRIGHT 7.
L. TAYLOR 4.	JAS. DIVER Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN SHEPHERD.

The above was rung with the bells deeply muffled in memory of the late Mr. Jas. T. Stott. Messrs. Birtwistle and Harrison hail from Rochdale; Shepherd from Bacup; the rest belong to the local company.

FIRE AT MESSRS. TAYLOR'S BELL FOUNDRY, LOUGHBOROUGH.

A destructive fire occurred here early on Tuesday, June 23rd, whereby the stores, offices, and tuning shops for small bells, and a tower containing eight bells were destroyed. The damage is estimated at over £3,000.

FOR SALE.—A Splendid peal of 42 Handbells, Chromatic, from G 26 to C 1; by J. Warner and Sons, London; together with tables, box, music, and all fittings. Will sell at a sacrifice; reason ill-health. Apply—William Kenney, 5, Townley Street, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 13th, a committee and quarterly meeting was held under the presidency of the Venerable the Archdeacon of Worcester, in the National School-room, Pershore. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Several new members, honorary and performing, were added to the list, and Clent was the place appointed for the next meeting, to be held in September. The Master, Mr. Spittle, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Chairman for the complimentary terms in which he spoke in his visitation charge of the different ringing Associations, the great change they had brought about in the conduct of ringers generally, and particularly in the renovation of the belfries, called attention to one passage which said: "A clergyman was no more out of place in a belfry than in a vestry, or at a choir practice;" and remarked that where the clergy made a practice of visiting the belfries, the bells were generally in better going condition and the ringers more attentive to their duties. In a humorous manner he remarked that the difficulty experienced in getting into the belfry at Holy Cross Church, no doubt was the reason the Archdeacon did not visit the belfry much. The members present would be pleased to see him up there this afternoon, when he would see that it was anything but a pleasure to ring the bells there. The proposition was seconded by Mr. W. R. Small, and supported by the Hon. Sec., and G. H. Pagett, and carried unanimously. The rev. Chairman, in responding, gave an interesting description of the different belfries he had already visited in his Archdeaconry, and hoped to have the pleasure of visiting them all. In reference to the remarks respecting his bells, he said it was an old saying that the children of a cobbler were worse shod, and the children of a tailor worse clothed than any other, so it appeared that his bells, which should be in a good going condition, were not so. If the Association could offer any suggestion whereby they could be improved, he was sure it would be listened to, and if possible acted upon. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for the use of the School-room, tower and bells, proposed by the Rev. H. Kingsford (Stoulton), seconded by Mr. R. E. Grove, and ably responded to by the rev. gentleman, brought the business meeting to a close. During the afternoon and evening, several attempts to ring touches of Stedman and Grandsire Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major (on the bells at Holy Cross), came to grief owing to the go of the bells. A 720 of Grandsire Minor was accomplished on the six bells at St. Andrew's.

A fair number of the members stayed over the Sunday, and soon after breakfast (a brake and pair being in readiness), a visit was made to Croome d'Abitot, a distance of five miles from Pershore, and the seat of the Earl of Coventry. The bells were set going about ten o'clock for morning service with an attempt for 720 Kent Treble Bob, which was lost owing to the fifth wheel casting rope; the bells were again soon at work for a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, and after ringing about 600 changes came to grief. In the afternoon a visit was again made to Little Comberton, but owing to service here a move was made to Great Comberton, and an attempt for a 720 of Plain Bob soon came to a climax owing to the breaking of the tenor rope. The Rev. N. Shelmerdine, M.A., who accompanied the visitors to the belfry, an interesting description of the bells and their dates, the church and its register, which goes back several centuries. At the rev. gentleman's request a walk was taken through the rectory gardens and grounds, which was very much enjoyed. After thanking him most heartily, the return journey was made to Pershore, and after tea a move was made to the station for home, which was reached safely by all.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN BRANCH.—The usual monthly meeting was held recently at the Parish Church, Huyton, near Liverpool. Ringers attended from Liverpool, Garston, Prescott, Grassendale, &c., besides the local company. The Vicar presided at the meeting, and after passing the minutes of last meeting he addressed those present, giving all a hearty welcome, and expressed a wish to become a life member of the Association, he himself being a ringer, and he was then duly elected unanimously. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Halewood (eight-bell tower), on Saturday, July 4th.

Reviews.

BY SCRUTATOR.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE-RINGERS.—NINTH ANNUAL REPORT.—In issuing their report for the past year, the General Committee of this Association state that they "are again able to congratulate the Association on having maintained that prestige for success in the advanced methods which has almost from the first marked their achievements. Although the number of peals for the year 1890 does not come up to the records of some former years, the quality of the performances is sufficiently high to give the Association the first position among the ringing societies of the Kingdom." That opening statement will no doubt tend to flatter the members of this Association, although at the same time, I confess I hardly like the "high-faluting" tone which it assumes, in thus comparing itself with kindred Associations. The 51 peals rung during the year are thus composed: Forward Royal and Treble Bob Royal, 1 each; Stedman Caters, 3; Grandsire Caters, 4; London and Cambridge Surprise Major, 1 each; Superlative Surprise, 5; Duffield and Double Oxford Bob Major, 2 each; Double Norwich, 7; Treble Bob and Bob Major, 1 each; Stedman Triples, 8; Oxford Bob Triples, 2; Grandsire Triples, 10; and 2 in Minor methods. The number of methods rung "exceeds the record of 1889 by one method on eight bells; also in Royal ringing, a peal of Forward takes the place of a peal of Duffield." After furnishing these and other statistics, the Committee remark upon the progress of the various branches during the year. In this important portion of its duties, I may say, the Committee speaks very plainly, and if the good counsel and advice tendered be only accepted and acted upon, much good should ensue. The branches of St. Paul's (Burton-on-Trent), Loughborough, Nuneaton, and Leicester have, in the opinion of the Committee, acquitted themselves creditably, and with good to the Association; the St. Modwen's (Burton) Melbourne, Barwell and Sandiacre branches appear to have contented themselves with "marking time;" while the Ashby branch has "somewhat disappointed those who looked forward to seeing them an important addition to the peal-ringing strength of the Association." But worse than this, "the Committee notice with great regret that the St. Andrew's company, Derby, who have so long kept the head quarters of the Association from becoming a dead letter in its annals, have during the past year retired from active service. That neither Nottingham or Derby should have added a peal to the list, when so many excellent ringers are to be found in both towns, augurs ill for the advance of the Association's interest among the rising ringers of those places. A further source of disappointment lies in the fact that the clergy of Derby and Nottingham will scarcely be content to regard as satisfactory an Association for the improvement of *ringers* and *ringing*, whose influence appears powerless to check the decadence, at all events, of the latter. The Long Eaton company have also withdrawn themselves from participation in the records of the Association, a matter the more to be regretted that the town is a rapidly increasing centre of population, where there should be ample choice of young ringers." It will thus be seen that, unfortunately, the experience of the Midland Counties' Association during the past year has been by no means one of unalloyed satisfaction. Of course, it is beyond the range of human probability for unvarying success to attend our efforts. What we have to strive for is to attain as near an approach to this as possible; thus I trust these depressing features of this report will have a good result eventually by proving an incentive to the members to greater exertions on its behalf. In concluding, the Committee "very earnestly urge upon all companies belonging to the Association a keener exhibition of energy in regard to its interests, for although the present report cannot be said in any marked degree to fall short of previous ones, yet a decided lethargy in some of the most promising localities more than counteracts the improvement that is elsewhere visible. The Committee would further point out that, were ringing for the Sunday services more widely the custom in the larger towns, the interest, not only of the ringers but also of the clergy and congregations, would be stirred up, as has been evidenced very clearly in instances where the change has been made." These words will apply

with equal force to other Associations besides that of the Midland Counties, and if they should result in an ultimately better state of things, my reproduction of them here will have been by no means in vain. The Midland Counties' Association numbered at the end of its last year 418 members, as against 363 at the commencement, which is an increase of fifty-five during the twelve months, and a satisfactory one also. Turning to the balance-sheet, I find they commenced the year with £16 os. 2d. in hand. Subscriptions from honorary members amounted to £14 17s. 6d., and from ringing members, £16 7s. 0d., a total of £31 4s. 6d. The four meetings held during the year entailed a cost of £4 14s. 6d., of which £3 9s. 6d. was for teas, and £1 5s. 0d. for steeplekeepers. The annual reports cost £12 os. 6d., entering peals in peal-book, £5 16s. 0d., Hon. Secretary's expenses (stamps, etc.), £2 15s. 2d., entering compositions, £1 10s. 0d., and honorarium to the same officer, £5 5s. 0d. Altogether the total expenses amount to £34 10s. 9d., which exceeds the annual income by £3 6s. 3d., the balance in hand at the close of the year being that amount less than at the commencement. Evidently, the Midland Counties' Association has, like many of its contemporaries, experienced a quiet year in its history. While this is a matter of regret, it certainly is not one of discouragement. We all of us have our seasons of quiet and our times of activity; thus it is to be hoped that the year now on the way will prove at the finish by its results that the members have risen, recuperated, and kept their Association where it seems naturally fitted to be—in the very front rank of our great Societies.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT.—Once more I have had the privilege of perusing this publication—or rather its sixth edition—which brings the Association to the commencement of the tenth year of its existence. A quiet tone appears to have pervaded the operations of this Association also during its past official year. Although forty performing and five honorary and two life members have been added to its books, thirty-seven performing and four honorary members have failed to pay their subscriptions, leaving the total number very nearly what it was the previous year. The Committee, however, "are pleased to record a better attendance at the various meetings held during the year, shewing a greater amount of interest in the work." Its funds shew a slight increase upon the previous report, commencing with £12 2s. 2d., and finishing with £13 4s. 3d. (which, however, includes an old balance of 11s. 10d. The receipts amount to £21 15s. 0d. and the expenses £21 11s. 7d., so that practically just over paid its way. The items of expenditure include £3 14s. 3d. for Secretary's travelling and postages; £3 9s. 0d. cost of meetings; £7 10s. 6d. for engrossing 37 peals in book; and £3 18s. 0d. for annual reports. Over one third of these expenses, it will be seen, is incurred by the engrossing of peals, a disbursement which, rightly or wrongly, always appears to me a waste of money in cases where an annual report is printed giving full particulars of the peals rung. This mention of peals brings me to the record of performances by this Association. The Committee report that "the past year has been rather uneventful with regard to peal-ringing, but has shewn a marked improvement on the number of peals rung in the more intricate methods, notably Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and 720 Double Stedman Slow Course by the Kidderminster company; also 720's of Violet and Woodbine Treble Bob, New London Pleasure, Yorkshire Court, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, by mixed companies at Wellaston." The number of peals rung is 13, comprised of Grandsire Caters, 3; Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1; Grandsire Triples, 4; Stedman Triples, 3; Canterbury Pleasure Triples, 1; and Grandsire Doubles, 1. In the previous year, the total was 37, thus the falling off last year is considerable. But taking into account the universal tendency in this direction which was manifested—through some cause or other—during 1890, this diminution is perhaps not so much to be wondered at, and especially so, considering that the previous year's record was so greatly in excess of its predecessors. But what surprises me most is the fact that for two years back (at least) not one of this Association's peals on tower bells has been scored in the City of Worcester from whence it derives its title. Here is a

City with no less than seven rings (one of 12, one of 10, one of 8, and four of 6), and twenty-eight performing members of the Association; yet the reports for the past two years, with their total of fifty peals only contain a single one (and that on hand-bells) to the credit of this City. Shades of departed worthies of the "Faithful City," ye who once were famed for your performances, who could "tap off" Stedman Cinques on hand-bells even before the doughty champions of Birmingham had ventured to attempt it—What can have befallen your successors that they thus idly stand by without an effort to maintain the fair fame of your ancient stronghold? Is ambition dead amongst them—the credit of their City an unknown quantity? The largest branch of the Association, with the greatest facilities for ringing, and never a 5000 on tower bells from year's end to year's end! Bestir yourselves, ye men of Worcester, else your apathy may become a reproach against you. Look at the doings of your brethren of Dudley, of Bromsgrove, of Kidderminster, of Hagley, of Cradley, and other places near you; then ask yourselves if you are faithful in maintaining the credit of your own glorious city, in the annals of that Association which bears its name. Only one thing more would I add, and that is a word of compliment to those who have laboured during the past nine years in the building up of this Association. Upon Mr. Samuel Spittle, as Master, and Mr. John Smith, as Hon. Secretary, no doubt the brunt of this work falls. My hope is that their loyal efforts may be warmly assisted by the members, that its next report may be thoroughly satisfactory in every respect; and (not least) include the record of a well-struck peal from one at least of the Worcester towers.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE-RINGERS.—ANNUAL REPORT.—Mr. Debenham, the hon. secretary of this—one of the smallest but by no means least energetic of our county associations—in making his annual return of progress, states that he is "glad to announce that the past year has been one of prosperity, both financially, and also with regard to the growth of the association." That statement is refreshing. Proceeding, he reports that "the association now numbers 104 ringing members, of whom 81 are residents and 23 non-residents; 27 fresh names have been added to the roll, 24 of whom belong to the county, and it is very pleasing to add that during the past year 18 young ringers attained the qualifying standard for membership." Several clergymen and gentlemen have also given their support to the association in the capacity of honorary members; and although Mr. Debenham considers this a decided improvement, he is not satisfied, but thinks that in a county like theirs "it hardly represents the amount of patronage which should be forthcoming towards the promotion of change-ringing." That may be so, but I don't regard the addition of five per cent. to the membership roll as an unsatisfactory return of a year's working by any means. Referring to the progress of change-ringing in the county, he informs us that 19 peals have been rung on tower bells, comprising one of Bob Royal, four of Major, and nine of Triples, and five on handbells, of which two were Bob Triples, two Grandsire Triples, and one Bob Major. In these peals 40 members took part, which is certainly a larger percentage than we usually find. Turning to the financial portion of the report, the balance-sheet shews that this association commenced the year with £3 8s. 6d. in hand. Its income was £9 12s. 0d.; and its expenditure £7 16s. 6d.; leaving them last Easter with £5 4s. 0d. to carry forward. So that the association has increased its membership by nearly five per cent., and its funds by about fifty per cent. One difficulty which besets the Hertford association is of a geographical character. About one-fifth (or less) of the members are located in the eastern side of the county, a portion practically inaccessible to the other four-fifths, so far as meetings are concerned; the minority thus complain that the association confines its operations to the western portion, and this is evidently a "sore spot." Of the unreasonableness of this complaint I will not dilate further than to quote Mr. Debenham's own words, which to my mind meet the matter. "However much," he says, "this state of affairs may be regretted, yet unless a decided advantage can be gained by holding a meeting in a district inaccessible to four-fifths of the present members, and without a guarantee from a good proportion of the remaining fifth that a meeting would be supported by them, it is hardly feasible that such a place should be selected." If, therefore, the minority are really desirous of a more active participation in the work of the Association, the remedy for these geographical difficulties lies in their own hands. If they will but, instead of deserting the Association, endeavour to strengthen it within their own borders, so that in their own district it may become something like equal in strength to the western side of the county, there would then be provided an ample remedy which would benefit alike the Association and its members, and bring meetings in the eastern side within the bounds of practical economy. Unless they make an effort in this direction it is themselves and not the Association which is to blame for the evil complained of.

JASPER W. SNOWDON'S WORKS.

ROPE-SIGHT: 1s. 6d. FOURTH 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, etc., etc. (143 pages).

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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).

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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, JUNE 27, 1891.

THOUGH our correspondence columns are generally made good use of, it need not be understood that every letter sent to us for publication finds its way into print. Our contributor "Free Lance" seems to be of opinion that we are too indulgent, that we allow, in fact, too much freedom in this respect, but if he could view the enormous mass of this kind of matter which reaches us, he would be more than puzzled in the selection of what should and what should not appear. During the present week we have been favored with a long dissertation upon the evils of Sunday ringing when done for mere pleasure, coupled with an urgent request that we would, in season and out of season, vigorously denounce it. Our correspondent also very kindly obliges us with a lengthy homily upon the subject, which he proposes shall serve as our usual weekly comment. While we thank him for this very kind offer, he will not take it amiss perhaps if we point out that there are such things as actions-at-law for libel, and that they are luxuries which we cannot afford to enjoy.

It is entirely beyond our province to dictate to men, many of them as competent as ourselves to judge upon the matter—what they should and what they should not do on the Sabbath. Individually we prefer to spend the day in repose and quiet, and no attractions in the way of peal-ringing would be sufficient to draw us away from home on that day. And though we think every effort should be made to preserve the sanctity and repose of the Sabbath, and thus keep from us as long as we can the horrors of a Continental Sunday, we must not be expected to shower down every kind of invective upon the heads of those who think differently.

The Provinces.**ANGMERING.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.**

(THE ANGMERING BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, June 17, 1891, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT TREBLE BOB METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;*Being 720 each of the following:*

Superlative Surprise, Kent, Cambridge Surprise, College Pleasure, Violet, College Exercise, and Duke of York.

FREDERICK FINCH Treble.	THOMAS LINFIELD 4.
WILFRID H. ABBOT, ESQ. .. 2.	CHARLES HILLS 5.
JAMES HILLS 3.	CHRISTOPHER CLEAR .. Tenor.

Conducted by CHRISTOPHER CLEAR.

SALISBURY.—THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Wednesday, June 17, 1891, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

SIDNEY MACEY Treble.	ROBERTO W. J. GOLLOP .. 5.
HENRY D. ADAMS 2.	WALTER S. WISE 6.
THOMAS F. STEVENS .. 3.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. 7.
CHARLES A. CLEMENTS .. 4.	CHARLES GAISFORD .. Tenor.

Conducted by WALTER S. WISE.

T. F. Stevens hails from London.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE, LANCASHIRE.**THE UNITED COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.***On Thursday, June 18, 1891, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE VARIATION.

J. ETCHHELLS Treble.	J. CRABTREE 5.
T. HEYWOOD 2.	W. JAKEMAN 6.
J. H. BRIERLEY 3.	J. HARRISON 7.
C. WILLOCKS 4.	E. BROWN Tenor.

Conducted by W. JAKEMAN.

First peal in the method by T. Heywood, who was proposed a member of the Association before starting for the peal. The bells were rung muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. Samuel Heap, who has been connected with the above church since the opening in 1824.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.**THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.***On Saturday, June 20, 1891, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES:

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 19½ cwt.

JAMES MOTTS Treble.	WILLIAM L. CATCHPOLE .. 5.
OSWALD MOULE* 2.	EDWARD T. SHEARING .. 6.
ISAAC S. ALEXANDER .. 3.	WILLIAM MOTTS 7.
ALBERT E. DURRANT .. 4.	FREDERICK TILLET .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by J. MOTTS.

*First peal in the method.

SALISBURY.—THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.*On Saturday, June 20, 1891, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLLIS' FIVE-PART.

SIDNEY MACEY Treble.	THOMAS GROVES 5.
HENRY D. ADAMS 2.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. 6.
WALTER S. WISE 3.	WILLIAM H. GEORGE .. 7.
CHARLES A. CLEMENTS .. 4.	CHARLES GAISFORD .. Tenor.

Conducted by WALTER S. WISE.

W. H. George hails from London; T. Groves from Shrewsbury.

LONGNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.**GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER.***On Saturday, June 20, 1891, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,*

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

HENRY G. GARDINER* .. Treble.	*ERNEST E. BEWICK .. 5.
FRANCIS E. HART* 2.	*JAMES E. GROVES 6.
EDWARD B. JAMES 3.	WILLIAM J. SEVIER 7.
JOSEPH H. BAWN* 4.	HENRY L. JAMES Tenor.

Conducted by H. L. JAMES.

*First peal of Oxford. This composition is in five parts, taken from the Clavis. This is the first peal in the method by the Association and on the bells.

TONBRIDGE, KENT.**THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.***On Saturday, June 20, 1891, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 21 cwt.

HENRY HOPKINS Treble.	THOMAS CARD 5.
GEORGE A. CARD* 2.	JOHN BARBER 6.
CHARLES H. MARTIN* .. 3.	ARTHUR JACOB 7.
EDWARD F. COLE 4.	GEORGE NEWSON Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal of Treble Bob. The above is the first peal of Major on the bells, it being upwards of 200 years since the first attempt was made here for a peal of Major.

SPELDHURST, KENT.**THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.***On Sunday, June 21, 1891, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

GEORGE TURLEY* Treble.	GEORGE NEWSON 5.
CHARLES H. MARTIN .. 2.	JOHN BARBER 6.
GEORGE A. CARD 3.	HENRY HOPKINS 7.
EDWARD F. COLE 4.	ARTHUR JACOB Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal of Treble Bob. First peal in the method on the bells. The above was rung for Divine Service in the morning.

HADLOW, KENT.**THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.***On Sunday, June 21, 1891, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,*

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES MAYNARD* Treble.	EDWARD F. COLE 5.
ARTHUR JACOB 2.	THOMAS CARD 6.
HENRY HOPKINS 3.	JOHN BARBER 7.
CHARLES H. MARTIN .. 4.	GEORGE NEWSON Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by GEORGE NEWSON.

*First peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob on the bells. The above was rung for Divine Service in the evening. All the above peals were rung within twenty-four hours of the first attempt.

Date Touches.**THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.**

NOTTINGHAM.—On Tuesday, June 16th, at St. Mary's church, a date touch of Grandsire Caters, 1891 changes, in 1 hr. 22 mins. J. Woolley, 1; S. Burton, 2; S. Simpkin, 3; E. Robinson, 4; G. Middleton, 5; A. Lambert, 6; J. Hickman, 7; G. H. Johnson (composer and conductor), 8; W. Lee, 9; H. Holmes, 10.

WEDNESBURY (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, June 20th, at St. Paul's, Woodgreen, by the invitation of the Rev. Mr. Tutill, a date touch of

Grandsire Triples, 1891 changes, in 1 hr. 13 mins., being the anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. W. Johnson (composer and conductor), 1; E. Nicholls, 2; S. Pitt, 3; S. Dace, 4; J. Flower, 5; S. Allport, 6; J. Admas, 7; J. Appleby, 8. All the above belong to the St. Giles' society, Willenhall.

Miscellaneous.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcestershire).—On Sunday morning, May 31st, for Divine Service at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 mins. G. Salter, 1; J. Pagett, 2; W. H. Smith, 3; W. Wakeman, 4; J. Crane, 5; T. J. Salter (conductor), 6; T. Bennett, 7; T. Walker, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. in D. J. Pagett hails from Stourbridge, and this is his first quarter-peal in the method.

STONE (Worcestershire).—Recently at the parish church, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure. W. Smith, 1; T. Salter, 2; R. E. Grove, 3; T. Bennett, 4; W. Wakeman, 5; H. Williams, 6. Also a 720 of each of the following:—College Single, Double Stedman, Plain Bob and Canterbury. W. H. Smith, 1; J. Bennett, 2; T. Bennett, 3; R. E. Grove, 4; W. Wakeman, 5; H. Williams (conductor), 6.

WOLVERLEY (Worcestershire).—At the parish church, on Tuesday, May 5th, a 720 of each of the following:—Double Stedman, Oxford, and Kent Treble Bob, and College Single. J. Bennett, 1; W. H. Smith, 2; R. E. Grove, 3; W. Wakeman, 4; T. J. Salter, 5; H. Williams (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, May 12th, a 720 of each of the following: Canterbury Pleasure, College Single, Kent, and Oxford Treble Bob, and Double Stedman. J. Bennett, 1; W. H. Smith, 2; R. E. Grove, 3; T. J. Salter, 4; W. Wakeman, 5; H. Williams (conductor), 6. And on Monday, May 14th, for practice, a 720 of Plain Bob, and a 720 of Grandsire Minor. W. Perry, jun., 1; J. Bennett, 2; T. J. Salter, 3; W. Perry, sen., 4; W. Smith, 5; H. Williams (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, May 15th, a 720 of Double Stedman. J. Bennett, 1; R. E. Grove, 2; W. H. Smith, 3; W. Wakeman, 4; J. T. Salter, 5; H. Williams (conductor), 6. And on Friday, May 29th, a 720 of Canterbury Pleasure Minor. W. Perry, sen., 1; G. Davis, 2; W. Wakeman, 3; T. J. Salter (conductor), 4; W. Smith, 5; W. Williams, 6.

HANLEY SWAN (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, June 21st, some members of the Worcester branch of the above Association, visited this pleasant little village, and rang at St. Gabriel's church, 720 of Grandsire Minor in 23 mins. R. Knowles, 1; G. Hinton, 2; W. Page, 3; L. Longney (conductor), 4; B. Hill, 5; E. Davis, 6. Also 720 of Canterbury Pleasure in 23½ mins. B. Hill, 1; E. Davis, 2; L. Longney (conductor), 3; G. Hinton, 4; W. Page, 5; R. Knowles, 6. And 720 Plain Bob in 23 mins. B. Hill, 1; R. Knowles, 2; G. Hinton, 3; E. Davis, 4; L. Longney, 5; W. Page (conductor), 6. Also several six-scores of Stedman Doubles.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

GISLINGHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday, June 14th, for Divine Service in the afternoon, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, in 29 mins. W. Ireland (conductor, Diss), 1; W. Ruffles (Debenham), 2; W. Crickmer (Debenham), 3; — Flory (Framlingham), 4; A. Hart (Diss), 5; E. Collins (Worlingworth), 6. Also 360 Bob Minor, conducted by W. Crickmer. Tenor 18 cwt.

F. DEBENHAM (Suffolk).—On Monday evening, June 15th, for practice, six members of the local company and R. H. Hayward, and E. W. Brook, from Menewden, all being members of the above Association, rang 720 Bob Major. E. W. Brook, 1; R. H. Hayward, 2; J. Brady, 3; J. Smith, 4; E. Gooding, 5; G. Rowe, sen., 6; G. Rowe, jun., 7; W. Grimes (conductor), 8. Tenor 19 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lbs. This is E. W. Brook's first attempt at Bob Major.

KELSEALE (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, June 16th, at St. Peter's church, 642 Oxford Treble Bob Major. F. Argent, 1; W. Taylor, 2; G. Hardy, 3; F. Page, 4; I. Coleman, 5; F. Thompson, 6; H. J. Button, 7; A. J. Lincoln (conductor), 8. Also 576 in same method. E. Page, 1; W. Taylor, 2; I. Coleman, 3; W. Drew, 4; F. Page, 5; F. Thompson, 6; A. J. Lincoln (conductor), 7; H. J. Button, 8. Also a course of Kent Treble Bob Major. F. Argent, 1; W. Taylor, 2; G. Hardy, 3; W. Drew, 4; F. Page, 5; G. Thompson, 6; A. J. Lincoln, 7; F. Thompson, 8. Messrs. Argent, Taylor, Button, and Lincoln, hail from Leiston; the others belong to the local company.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

BLETCHINGLEY (Surrey).—On Saturday, June 16th, at the parish church, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples,

a quarter-peal, 1260 changes, in 46 mins. taken from Brooks' peal. T. Boniface, 1; E. Moses, 2; F. Smith, 3; W. Mayne, 4; J. Bashford, jun., 5; J. Tidey, 6; W. Hawkins (conductor), 7; L. Killick, 8.

CARSHALTON (Surrey).—Recently, at the church of All Saints, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins. Composed by E. E. Richards, of Woolwich. J. Wignell, 1; E. Walker, 2; T. King, 3; E. Matthews, 4; A. J. Plowman, 5; E. Hollands, 6; F. Holder (conductor), 7; W. Morley, 8.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CAVERSHAM (Oxon).—On Sunday, May 17, a 504 of Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. W. Menday. Also a 560 Double Norwich, conducted by T. Newman. On Tuesday, May 19, 480 Stedman Triples, T. Newman, 1; A. W. Pike, 2; J. Hands, 3; E. W. Menday, 4; Rev. G. F. Coleridge (conductor), 5; G. Essex, 6; H. Smith, 7; H. Bridgeman, 8. And on Sunday, May 24, 1008 Double Norwich. H. Simmonds, 1; E. W. Menday, 2; T. Hibbert, 3; A. W. Pike, 4; J. Hands, 5; H. Smith, 6; G. Essex, 7; T. Newman (conductor), 8. And for evening service, 518 Grandsire Triples, conducted by T. Newman. On Sunday May 31, for evening service, 560 Bob Major. H. Bridgeman, 1; E. Menday (first touch of Major), 2; J. Hands, 3; H. Simmonds, 4; E. W. Menday, 5; G. Essex, 6; A. W. Pike, 7; T. Newman (conductor), 8. And on Sunday, June 7, 518 Grandsire Triples, conducted by E. W. Menday; also a 1008 Double Norwich. H. Simmonds, 1; R. T. Hibbert, 2; E. W. Menday, 3; A. W. Pike, 4; H. Smith, 5; G. Essex, 6; J. Hands, 7; T. Newman (conductor), 8. And on Sunday, June 14, 518 Grandsire Triples, conducted by A. W. Pike. After evening service, 518 Grandsire Triples, with the bells half-muffled in memory of the late J. Carter (over 50 years parish clerk of Caversham). And on Monday the usual whole pull and stand was rung eighty-one times. Also after service, on Sunday, June 21, 504 Stedman Triples. F. Hopgood (conductor), 1; T. Newman, 2; J. F. Tarrant, 3; J. Hands, 4; G. Essex, 5; E. W. Menday, 6; A. W. Pike, 7; H. Simmonds, 8.

READING (Berks).—On Sunday, June 14th, for Divine Service in the evening at St. Mary's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. J. Maskell, 1; C. Giles, 2; J. F. Tarrant, 3; F. Hopgood (conductor), 4; A. Whatmore, 5; J. Swain, 6; R. Swain, 7; L. Rolfe, 8. On Tuesday, June 16th, after Divine Service, 504 Grandsire Triples, in 15 mins., conducted by J. Swain, the rest as before. Tenor 28 cwt.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BRIGHTON (Sussex).—On Sunday, June 21st, for Divine Service at St. Peter's church, 544 Double Norwich Court Bob Major. T. Linfield, 1; G. A. King, 2; J. R. Reilly, 3; J. Searle, 4; H. Weston, 5; F. Bennett, 6; A. A. Fuller, 7; G. Williams (conductor), 8. F. Bennett hails from Guildford, and this is his first touch in the method.

THE ST. STEPHEN'S SOCIETY, BRISTOL.

BRISTOL.—On Tuesday, June 16th, at All Saints' church, 1064 Grandsire Triples in 36 mins. E. Duckham, 1; A. Anderson, 2; G. Pearce, 3; A. Pearce, 4; F. Gooding, 5; H. Tucker, 6; G. Daltry (conductor), 7; J. Vinney, 8. The members of the above society were pleased to meet Mr. A. Anderson, who was on a visit from Plymouth.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BATH.—On Monday evening, June 22nd, for practice at St. Andrew's church, 630 Grandsire Triples. H. Wyburn, 1; E. Charles, 2; T. Gray, 3; E. Dainton, 4; A. Doble, 5; J. Higgs, 6; G. Hill (conductor), 7; A. Pearce, 8.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

STANSTED (Essex).—On Sunday, June 14th, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, for Divine Service in the morning, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob in 24 mins. W. Watts, 1; I. Hammond, 2; T. J. Watts, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; I. Cavill (conductor), 6. Also for afternoon service, 720 New London Pleasure. W. Cavill, 1; W. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; I. Cavill, 4; I. Hammond, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And on Tuesday, June 16th, for practice, 720 Imperial Treble Bob (nine bobs), in 24 mins. W. Cavill, 1; I. Hammond, 2; I. Cavill, 3; G. Gray, 4; W. Watts, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in the method by all the band, and the first on the bells. Also 720 Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs, twenty-two singles), in 24½ mins. composed by the late Mr. H. Johnson, of Birmingham. W. Cavill, 1; I. Hammond, 2; G. Gray, 3; I. Cavill, 4; T. J. Watts, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. And 720 Plain Bob Minor (forty-two singles). Composed by Mr. J. J. Penning, Saffron Walden. G. Jordan, 1; W. Cavill, 2; I. Cavill (conductor), 3; T. J. Watts, 4; W. Watts, 5; J. Luckey, 6. And on Sunday, June 21st, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob, in 24 mins. W. Cavill, 1; I. Hammond, 2; G. Gray,

3; W. Watts, 4; T. J. Watts, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. Also for afternoon service, 720 Canterbury Pleasure, in 24 mins. J. Luckey, 1; T. J. Watts, 2; I. Cavill, 3; G. Gray, 4; I. Hammond, 5; W. Hammond (conductor), 6. This makes 100 720s this company has rung this year. Tenor 13 cwt.

LEIGH (Essex).—On Friday, June 19th, the ringers of St. Mary's church, Prittlewell, paid a visit to this place, and rang a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs) in 25½ mins. W. Hunt, 1; C. E. Malin, 2; W. Dowsett, 3; W. Bedwell, 4; C. Anderson, 5; W. H. Judd (conductor), 6.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CREWE.—On Saturday, June 6th, the local band, with the assistance of Mr. Geo. Wright of Whitchurch, made their first attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples, when, after ringing 3766 changes in 2 hrs. and 20 mins., "stand" was called, the conductor having made a wrong call. J. Wright, 1; G. Wright, 2; A. Wilson, 3; R. Langford, 4; A. Jarvis, 5; R. T. Holding (conductor), 6; G. Harding, 7; J. Emery, 8. Tenor 21 cwt., in E.

THE SOCIETY OF TRINITY YOUTHS.

GREENWICH (Kent).—On Friday, June 19th, at the church of St. Alphege, 720 Grandsire Minor, with 7-8 covering, in 25 mins. W. Foreman, 1; W. Weatherstone, 2; J. J. Lamb, 3; E. E. Richards, 4; T. Taylor, 5; F. W. Thornton, 6; W. G. Davis, 7; S. Gibbs, 8. Rung to celebrate the forty-fourth birthday of W. Foreman.

LEWISHAM (Kent).—On Saturday, June 20th, being the fifty-fourth anniversary of the reign of Her Majesty, 1552 Grandsire Triples. H. Warnett, 1; F. Rumens, 2; J. Rose, 3; G. Conyard, 4; W. Bedwell (conductor), 5; F. French, 6; J. H. Cheeseman, 7; E. Barnett, 8. Also 630 Oxford Bob Triples. J. Rose, 1; F. Rumens, 2; G. Conyard, 3; W. Bedwell, 4; E. Barnett (conductor), 6; J. H. Cheeseman, 7; H. Warnett, 8.

CARSHALTON (Surrey).—On Sunday morning, June 21st, four members of the Lewisham branch of the above society visited the parish church, and with four of the local ringers, rang a quarter-peal Grandsire Triples (1260 changes). *F. Davis, 1; E. Walker, 2; T. King, 3; *W. Bedwell, 4; *F. Rumens, 5; *J. E. Davis, 6; F. Holder (composer and conductor), 7; J. Wignell, 8. *Hails from Lewisham.

BOLSOVER (Derbyshire).—On Wednesday, June 17th, during a visit to this village, the All Saints' society, Ripley, assisted by Mr. G. Brown, of Crich, rang 720 Grandsire Doubles, each 120 being called differently, in 37 mins. J. Shardlow, 1; *C. Davie (conductor), 2; W. H. Frost, 3; J. Slater, 4; G. Brown, 5; H. George, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. *First 720 as conductor.

COLCHESTER (Essex).—On Tuesday, June 16th, 720 Bob Minor. D. W. Scott, 1; W. W. Scott, 2; G. Rashbrooke, 3; E. Green, 4; R. W. Stannard (conductor), 5; W. T. Burch, 6. First 720 by 3rd and 6th. And on Saturday, the 20th inst., an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but owing to the very bad state of the bells it had to be abandoned before the first 1000 had been rung, by W. Hazell, 1; W. J. Nevard, 2; J. Smith, 3; A. Howell, 4; E. Green, 5; R. W. Stannard (conductor), 6; H. Howell, 7; A. Howell, 8. And 224 Bob Major, by W. W. Scott, 1; E. Green, 2; J. Smith, 3; H. Howell, 4; A. Howell, 5; R. W. Stannard, 6; W. Button, 7; A. Aviss, 8. Tenor 20 cwt. This is the first time for nearly 18 months that the full peal has been rung, the tenor and sixth bells being almost unmanageable. Messrs. Hazell, Nevard, and A. Fuller hail from Great Bentley; Green late of Harwich; Messrs. Howells from Ipswich; the rest belong to Colchester. Also a course of Grandsire Caters, by W. Hazell, 1-2; W. J. Nevard, 3-4; R. W. Stannard, 5-6; H. Howell, 7-8; A. Howell, 9-10. It is 51 years since a peal has been rung on these bells.

CHRISTCHURCH (Hants).—On Sunday morning, June 7th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 242 Grandsire Triples. G. Preston, 1; C. Tribe, 2; S. Best, 3; T. Best, 4; A. Pearce (conductor), 5; G. Vey, 6; A. Cox, 7; H. Preston, 8. And for afternoon service a 6-score Grandsire Doubles, and two 6-scores of Bob Doubles. F. Russen, 1; J. Elcomb, 2; G. Preston, 3; A. Pearce, 4; C. Tribe (conductor), 5; H. Bagshot, 6; B. Hinton, 7; — Waters, 8. Messrs. Tribe, Elcomb, and Russen hail from Romsey; the rest are local men.

CRAWLEY (Sussex).—On Saturday, June 13th, at the parish church, 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. F. Rice, 1; J. Newnham, 2; T. Andrews, 3; G. Pace, 4; W. Collison, 5; R. Jordan, 6; J. Parker, 7; H. H. Chandler (conductor), 8. And on Sunday, for morning service,

504 of Grandsire Triples. J. Rice, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Wadey, 3; F. Rice, 4; G. Pace, 5; H. H. Chandler (conductor), 6; J. Parker, 7; R. Jordan, 8. And after morning service 672 of Court Bob Triples. F. Rice, 1; J. Newnham, 2; W. Wadey, 3; G. Pace, 4; F. Wickens, 5; H. H. Chandler (conductor), 6; J. Parker, 7; R. Jordan, 8. And for evening service, a quarter-peal of Court Bob Triples, 1260 changes, in 42 mins. F. Rice, 1; T. Andrews, 2; W. Wadey, 3; G. Pace, 4; W. Short, 5; F. Wickens (conductor), 6; H. H. Chandler, 7; R. Jordan, 8. Chandler, Andrews, and Short hail from Warnham; Wickens from Charlwood; Wadey from Bellingshurst; the rest are local men.

GREAT WIGSTON (Leicestershire).—On Sunday, June 21st, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor in 27 mins. W. Challenor, 1; J. O. Lancashire, 2; J. S. Needham, 3; G. Walton, 4; W. Miller, 5; S. Cotton (conductor), 6. The above all hail from Leicester.

GORING (Oxon).—On Tuesday evening, June 16th, the ringers met for their final practice for the season, and rang 360 Yorkshire Court Minor. J. Emmoms, 1; C. Tidbury, 2; J. Wedge, 3; W. Aldridge, 4; G. Wilson, 5; J. Bowes (conductor), 6. And for evening service on Sunday, another 360 in the same method. J. Alexander, 1; the rest as above. First 360 in the method by all the band, and the first on the bells.

HORSMONDEN (Kent).—On Sunday, May 31st, at St. Margaret's church, 720 Bob Minor (twenty-six singles), in 25 mins. T. Lambert, 1; W. Lambert, 2; E. H. Newman, 3; F. Lambert (conductor), 4; F. Butchers, 5; J. Beach, 6. Also at St. Michael's, Peckham, Kent, on Sunday, June 21st, 720 Grandsire Minor (forty-two bobs, six singles), in 27 mins. E. Newman, 1; J. Beach, 2; F. Butchers, 3; F. Lambert, 4; W. Lambert, 5; G. Bell (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 Grandsire Minor by the Messrs. Lambert, Beach, and Butchers, who hail from Horsmonden. Also 120 of Kent Treble Minor. E. Newman, 1; F. Lambert, 2; G. Bell, 3; G. Boorman, 4; W. Eldridge, 5; W. Bell (conductor), 6. This is F. Lambert's first touch in this method.

NORTH SHIELDS (Northumberland).—At Christ church, on Tuesday, June 16th, for practice, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen singles, three bobs) in 27 mins. R. Morrison, 1; H. Dale, 2; C. E. Waugh, 3; A. Tulley, 4; J. Hern, 5; G. W. Disc (conductor), 6; G. B. Patterson, 8.

MILTON-NEXT-GRAVESEND.—On Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., for practice at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, 720 Canterbury Pleasure, in 26 mins. M. Digby (Swanscombe), 1; C. Waterman (Shorne), 2; R. Munn, 3; B. Spinner, 4; J. Smith, 5; F. Hayes (conductor), 6. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Allen (first in this method), 1; C. Waterman (conductor), 2; B. Spinner, 3; M. Digby, 4; J. Smith (first in this method), 5; F. Hayes, 6. R. Munn has just turned 15 and can ring Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and College Singles.

MITCHAM (Surrey).—On Tuesday, June 23rd, for practice at Christ Church, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles) in 24 mins. A. Lambert, 1; B. A. Heather, 2; E. Burtenshaw, 3; F. M. Butler, 4; J. Fayers (conductor), 5; D. Burtenshaw, 6. Tenor 7½ cwt.

PRESTWICH (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, June 16th, for practice at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles) in 27½ mins. F. Barlow, 1; W. Warburton (conductor), 2; W. Minnet, 3; J. Brooks, 4; H. Percival, 5; J. Heywood, 6. W. Warburton hails from Whitefield; the rest belong to the local company. Tenor 15½ cwt.

RANMOOR, SHEFFIELD (Yorks).—On Wednesday, June 17th, at the church of St. John the Evangelist, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 45 mins. C. R. Sawyer, 1; G. Hollis, 2; W. Noble, 3; F. Allen, 4; W. Mulligan (conductor), 5; W. Mellor, 6; W. Plant, 7; R. Collier, 8. Tenor 15 cwt. in C. First quarter-peal by the local society unassisted, and first by Messrs. Hollis and Noble, the latter being fifteen years of age. This quarter-peal has the twenty-four 6-7's all the right way, and was composed by the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS."

SALISBURY (Wilts).—On Wednesday, June 10th, at St. Martin's church, 1260 of Grandsire Triples. G. F. Doel, 1; S. Macey, 2; T. F. Stevens, 3; W. S. Wise (conductor), 4; R. Gollop, 5; H. D. Adams, 6; S. Ames, 8. And on Monday, June 13th, at St. Thomas's church, 1260 in the same method, by J. Judd, 1; C. A. Clements, 2; H. D. Adams, 3; T. F. Stevens, 4; R. Gollop, 5; W. S. Wise (conductor), 6; W. W. Gifford, 7; C. Gaisford, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. in C.

WOMBOURN (Staffordshire).—On Sunday evening, June 21st, for Divine Service at the parish church, 504 Bob Triples. G. Little, 1; H. Deans, 2; J. E. Claridge, 3; G. Deans, 4; A. Tipton, 5; R. Cartwright (conductor), 6; B. Gough (Coseley), 7; G. Ashley, 8. Tenor 10 cwt. 12 lbs. This is the first 504 by members of the local company.

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

SERMON,

Preached on the occasion of the death of the late C. W. Coppage, at St. John's, Waterloo Road, London,

By THE REV. ARTHUR W. JEPHSON, M.A., Vicar.

There is a sadness about us to-day which we who live round the church feel and know more keenly than other members of our congregation. William Coppage, for so many years steeple-keeper of this church, is dead, one of the many victims of this dreaded influenza. It would not be right to allow any one (of those who have been so closely connected with St. John's) to pass away from this life, without an effort on my part to show in what respects a life so lived may be useful and helpful to others. Possibly, I and his brother bell-ringers appreciate the character of our late comrade with certainly more affection and possibly more truth than the rest of those who knew him. William Coppage was a man (more of the country than of the town), there was in him a freshness, vigour, and determination—I may say a frank and rough manliness, which those who really knew him could understand and value. To some he may have seemed too bluff and outspoken, but to us who really knew him, this manner was more the transparent honesty and resolute determination of the man, who said what he meant, and meant what he said. He had a standard of life and conduct, and to that he rigidly adhered through life. Devoted to his home and family, he managed to bring up his children (with his wife) in every way a credit and worthy of all praise. It is not every parent in a crowded London street that can exercise enough decision and resolute controlling power to bring up aright the children God has given to him. His home stood first with him, and there his good qualities can be read by those of us who come after him. With his employers he was always a favourite. If he undertook to do a thing it was done, and done thoroughly, and to the best of his powers. His fellow-workmen admired his straightforwardness, and trusted to his judgment. He may not have had crowds of admirers, but those who really knew him valued him as a friend. As a church bell-ringer I was naturally brought much into contact with him: only a fortnight ago he was up in our belfry helping to teach the art he loved to some of our young men. He has had a distinguished career as a ringer, and his name is known in nearly every London steeple. Years ago he, with others, founded the Waterloo Society of church bell-ringers, one of the four Societies in London, and the distinguishing mark of that Society is, that it trains so many young ringers in what is a most difficult but engrossing art. Whenever I have asked his help it has always been readily and cheerfully given. He loved the music of the bells, and liked nothing better than to take part in a peal with his friends. He was one of those Englishmen (and all honour to him) who prefer to show by his life what was the faith that was in him. It is so easy to talk religion, it is so difficult to live it. He chose the latter way, and in his dealings with his fellow-men he was honest, trustworthy, and respected. He did not talk about his feelings or drag into his ordinary conversation matters which are best left to God and one's own soul; but for years past he has been known in this neighbourhood as a man whose word was as good as his bond, whose transparent sincerity was obvious to anyone who understood him, and as one who did what he thought to be his duty without fear or favour. Well, for my part, I would a thousand times sooner have a man to deal with whose conduct is right, rather than a man who is always talking religion; and it is the glory of the Church of England to produce such men, not talkers about religion, but doers of it.

It may be that some who hear me, will wonder at what I say, and I doubt not there may be such persons here, who only remember his bluntness and rough speaking, and forget the honest English heart that beat in his breast. I thank God for lives like this, which taken as a whole (not fastening on this or that detail) do redound to the Glory of the Common Father of All. The rough-gaunt rocks are as much a part of his creation as the loveliest flowers. And the Rock has a beauty of its own when seen from a distance. It puts strength and solidity into the view, and gives one a sense of firmness and security. So with lives like William Coppage's. All kinds of lives belong to God, and are his creation, all fit in to that world which he has made, and are part of that mankind he loved so well. In the presence of the Still Cold Messenger which fetches us away from earth to the presence of Him who puts us to School in the World, we must perform be silent. The call came suddenly to him, unforeseen and unexpected. God has his reasons which you and I know nothing about, but all of us can easily believe that the Father who made him and all the world, that the Son who redeemed him and all mankind, that the Holy Spirit who sanctified him and all God's chosen people, took him away out of this world, in order that he might learn more lessons of His will and governance in that other world, where He completes our education. You ask me what is the lesson from all this. Do your duty, be sincere; do what you believe to be right, and leave all the rest with God. And He, who loved Moses, though he spake strongly with his lips, who loved Peter, even though he was impetuous,

will love you and me if we are true to the light that is in us. God knows what is the real part, the lasting and permanent qualities of you and me, and to Him the issue may safely be left.

This above all; to thine own self be true,
And it must follow as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.

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."

WHAT IS A PEAL!

SIR,—There is some difference of opinion with respect to the true definition of a peal of 5000 changes, and the question has never, perhaps, been decided by competent authority. In the first quarter of the last century peal-boards were put up recording the performance of "true and complete peals" of 5040 changes in Triples and other methods on seven or more bells. There is a tradition of a peal of Grandsire Triples in 1690, rung by the College Youths at St. Sepulchre's-without-Newgate. The first peal recorded on a tablet is one of Bob Triples at St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, in 1715. The first peal in writing is "the true and complete peal of 5040 Hick Trebles," rung at St. Dunstan-in-the-East by the Union Scholars in 1718. The first peal of Bob Maximus was rung at St. Bride's, Fleet Street, in 1726. Afterwards, five-bell and six-bell ringers seem to have rung 5040 changes consecutively in one or many methods, and to have recorded their performances on peal-boards. Possibly the ringers of peals of Triples and Major disputed the claim of these exercises to be called "peals," but on the whole it seems to have been tolerated. In "THE BELL NEWS," Vol. II., page 159 (7 July, 1883), Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon gave a list of peals of ten thousand changes. The first six of the ninety-seven recorded are in Doubles and Minor, viz.:

- 1.—1775. Whadpole, Lincolnshire, 84 peals of Doubles.
- 2.—1815. Wath, Yorkshire, 14 peals of Minor.
- 3.—1815. Darton, Yorkshire, 15 peals of Minor.
- 4.—1817. Horbury, Yorkshire, 14 peals of Minor.
- 5.—1845. Newdigate, Surrey, 12,960 changes in 2 6-bell methods.
- 6.—1816. Wath, Yorkshire, 21 6-bell methods (15,120 changes).

In Mr. Attree's analysis of peals rung during the year 1890 (see "THE BELL NEWS," 21 February, 1891, page 573), out of 699 peals, sixteen peals are on five bells, and a large number on six bells. The practice of "THE BELL NEWS" appears to be to recognise 5000 changes on five or six bells, so far as to give them a place among the peals in large type, but to reserve the term "peal" for true and complete peals in one method on seven bells, or for similar lengths in Major, etc. Probably this is in accordance with the opinion of the London ringers at the present day. It may have been so always. As regards the difficulty of achievement, I suppose that 5040 changes of Minor in seven different methods, or even of Doubles in twenty-one methods should rank higher than a peal of Grandsire Triples. But that is not the question. What we want to know is whether the old peal-books—say up to the year 1850—recorded "peals" in Minor and Doubles, and if not why country ringers have so often performed their 5040 in these methods with the belief that they were entitled to a peal-board.

C. PEARSON.

DOUBLE NORWICH MAXIMUS.

SIR,—In "THE BELL NEWS" of February 28th, 1891, Mr. E. T. Shearing, of Ipswich, published a peal of 5280 Double Maximus, stating this is supposed to be the first 5000 published in "THE BELL NEWS," but this is not the case. If that gentleman will look in "THE BELL NEWS" of May 14th and 21st, 1887, he will find four peals; 5280 by J. R. Pritchard, Liverpool, 6336 reduced to 5280, 5048 and 5016 by W. L. Catchpole, Ipswich.

W. G. CRICKMER.

Earl Soham, Suffolk.

REPLY TO MR. C. CLEAR.

SIR,—If Mr. C. Clear, of Angmering, will refer to page 128 of "THE BELL NEWS" he will find that the 720 of Woodbine rung at Milland is simply given as the first 720 in that method by one of the band, and not as the first on the bells. With regard to the one published as the first on the bells at Midhurst, I am sorry to find it was a mistake, as we had forgotten that Woodbine was one of the methods rung on the occasion mentioned. Messrs. Tribe and Lee were members of the Midhurst branch, and not of the Milland, as stated in the letter of correction.

W. H. GEORGE.

ANSWER TO "A.B."

SIR,—In answer to "A.B." about the Middleton bells, the two trebles have been cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, London.

JOHN MILLETT.

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.

Guild of Devonshire Ringers.—The annual meeting will be held to-day, Saturday, June 27th; on the same day the two new bells recently added to the peal at St. Sidwell's Exeter, will be dedicated to the Service of Almighty God. The day's proceedings will be as follows: Dedication Service at St. Sidwell's Church, with Sermon by the Ven. Archdeacon of Barnstaple, 12 noon. Public Luncheon at the Bude Hotel (Tickets 2s. each), 1.30 p.m. Meeting of the G.D.R. at St. Sidwell's Institute, 4 p.m. Tea, free to members of the Guild, visitors and non-members, 9d. each, at St. Sidwell's Institute, 4.30 p.m. Arrangements will be made for ringing at the belfries of some of the Churches in the city and neighbourhood. The Cathedral Bells will be rung by members of the Guild on the following Monday, and so will not be rung on this day.

MAITLAND KELLY, *Hon. Sec.*

The Herts Association.—Meeting at Bennington, to-day, Saturday, June 27th. It is hoped that every member will make a special effort to attend. Members from London and intermediate stations are requested to travel by the 1.25 p.m. King's Cross G.N.R. to Knebworth, the nearest station, as a conveyance will be provided to meet that train.

E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Bedfordshire Association.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Woburn this Saturday afternoon, June 27th.

W. W. C. BAKER, *Hon. Sec.*

The Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—The monthly meeting of the Guild will be held at Sefton, to-day, Saturday, June 27th. Bells open at 3 p.m. Meeting 6 p.m.

REV. W. T. BULPIT, } *Hon. Secs.*
W. BENTHAM,

Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The monthly meeting of the above society will be held at Armley to-day, Saturday, June 27th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Meeting-house—"The Barley-Corn" inn. Committee at 4 p.m.; General Meeting at 6 p.m. All members are particularly requested to attend.

R. BINNS, *Sec.*

Lancashire Association.—A special meeting will be held at Lytham, to-day, Saturday, June 27th. The bells of the parish church (eight), and those of St. John's (six), will be available for ringing. Meeting at 5 p.m., in the parish schools. Ringers in the Fylde district are respectfully invited.

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—J. Redford has removed to 26, Old Road, Tong, Bolton.

The Raunds, Wellingborough, and District Society.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Kettering, on Saturday, July 4th. Belfry open at 2.30 p.m.

HUGH BRYAN, *Hon. Sec.*
Raunds Vicarage, Thrapstone.

FOR SALE.—Safety Bicycle; new, diamond frame; balls to all working parts; enamelled and plated. Price £9.—R. Cartwright, Wombourn, Wolverhampton.

Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Diocesan Branch.—The next meeting is postponed, on account of the death of the Rector of Halewood, at whose church the meeting was fixed for on July 4th.

RICH'D. HILL, *Branch Sec.*
21, Chesnut Street, Southport.

The Sussex County Association.—Alteration of date.—Notice is hereby given that the annual general meeting announced for Saturday, July 4th, is unavoidably postponed. A fresh date will be fixed and published as early as possible.

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

Kent County Association.—The annual meeting will be held at Folkestone, on Monday, July 13th. Special Service at 12.30; Dinner at 2 o'clock. Secretaries of bands who have not received circulars from the Hon. Sec., are requested to communicate with him at once. Those who have not yet made their returns will kindly send them here. Members wishing for dinner tickets and reduced railway fares, should communicate with the Secretary without delay.

E. W. CARPENTER, *Hon. Sec.*
6, Churchfields Place, Margate.

Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The annual meeting of this Association will be held in the Church-room, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday next, July 4th, at 4 p.m. Service in the parish church at 5 p.m. All members are earnestly requested to attend.

REV. R. B. TONGE, } *Hon. Secs.*
W. TWIGG,

North Lincolnshire Association.—The July quarterly meeting will be held at Caistor, on Saturday the 4th prox. Tea will be provided in the Assembly-room, by the kindness of the Vicar (Rev. W. F. W. Westbrooke) free of cost to members of the Association, and the business meeting will be held immediately afterwards. Will those who intend being present, please write the Vicar of Caistor by Wednesday next. Caistor (six bells) is situated about three miles from Moortown Station (M. S. and L. line, between Market-Rasen and Grimsby); conveyances meet all trains and convey passengers to Caistor at 6d. each.

JOHN W. WATSON, *Hon. Sec.*
15, Knight Street, Lincoln.

Society of Trinity Youths.—The meetings for July are as follows:—Greenwich parish church, Tuesday 6th; practice 7.30 to 9 p.m. (Business meeting in the vestry afterwards.) St. Margaret's, Lee, Wednesday 15th. 7.15 to 9 p.m.; St. Mary, Woolwich, Thursday 23rd; practice 8 to 9.30 p.m.; St. Mary, Lewisham, Monday 27th; practice 8 to 9.30 p.m. Subscriptions for the current year being now due, I shall be glad to receive same; also any subscriptions to the "Bright Memorial" Fund.

F. RUMENS, *Hon. Sec.*
40, Nutcroft Road, Peckham.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. H. ABBOT.—Thanks for your kind letter; it is of course impossible for every one, that particular writer especially, to satisfy all.

VINDEX.—Such a selection would be invidious, and expose us to the charge of partisanship, which we try our best to avoid.

J. C. MITCHELL.—Will you be kind enough to send the information again. We regret the inconvenience caused; and regard your plan with admiration.

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.

PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR.

By JOHN CARTER, *Birmingham.*

8064.

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

Eleven times repeated; bob for single at 6 in the fourth and tenth parts, also single for bob in the last course of the sixth and twelfth parts.

This peal has the extent of 4, 5, 6, in 6ths place at the course-ends.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

By JOHN CARTER, *Birmingham.*

5376.

2	3	4	5	6	W	M	H
6	4	2	3	5	-	-	-
2	6	4	3	5	-	-	-
4	2	6	3	5	-	-	-
3	2	6	4	5	s	-	-

Eleven times repeated; single for bob at m in the sixth and twelfth parts; contains the 4th, 5th, and 6th, in 6ths place at the course-ends.

A DATE TOUCH OF UNION TRIPLES.

(A variation of H. W. Wilde's, published on May 16th, 1891.)

By JAMES GEORGE, *Rugby.*

1891.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	1	3	5	4	7	6
2	3	1	4	5	6	7
etc.						
5	3	2	4	6	7	5
4	3	5	2	6	7	5
7	2	4	6	3	5	1
2	3	7	5	4	6	5
5	3	2	7	4	6	5
7	3	5	2	4	6	5
6	2	7	4	3	5	1
2	3	6	5	7	4	4
5	3	2	6	7	4	5
2	4	5	3	6	7	2
6	5	2	3	7	4	3
4	3	6	7	5	2	1
3	5	4	2	6	7	4

Twice repeated; contains Queens, Tittums, Whittingtons, the twelve 6-7s, the twelve 7-4s, and the twelve 4-6s.

This touch may be brought round by omitting the odd change in front, calling single for bob at the end of third part, and round next change at hand.

ADDRESSES WANTED.—The Editor will be pleased to receive the addresses of Head Ringers and Secretaries of Local Societies.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF ST. JAMES, BRISTOL.

The Benedictine Priory and parish church of St. James's Barton, was built 1129. The tower was erected in 1374 at the south-east corner; it contains a fine ring of ten bells in D. They are as follows:—

Treble.—Note F sharp, diam. 28½ in. "Henry Hughes, Esq., Charles Fisher, Esq., Churchwardens, 1866." And a piece of ornamental bordering.

Second.—Note E, diam. 29 ins.—"Mr. Wm. Whittingham, Churchwarden, 1771. T (a bell) R."

Third.—Note D, diam. 32½ ins.—"Sr. Iohn Phillips Bart., and Richard Beckford, Esq. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Fourth.—Note C sharp, diam. 32 ins.—"When you us ring, we'll sweetly sing. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Fifth.—Note B, diam. 35 ins.—"Fear God, honour the king. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Sixth.—Note A, diam. 38 ins.—"Prosperity to this parish. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Seventh.—Note G, diam. 39 ins.—"Hark to our melody. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Eighth.—Note F sharp, diam. 42 ins. "May the church flourish, and her enemies decrease. A (a bell) R., 1755."

Ninth.—Note E, diam. 47 ins.—"Re-cast by Thomas Rudhall, 1778."

Tenor.—Note D, diam. 54 ins., weight about 28 cwt.—"Thomas Mears, Founder, London and Gloucester, 1839."

The ring of eight were cast by A. Rudhall, at Gloucester, in 1755. In 1771, Thomas Rudhall (also of Gloucester), cast what is now the second bell for a clock bell on the tower leads; and in 1778 he re-cast the ninth. In 1839, Thomas Mears, of the Whitechapel foundry, London, re-cast the tenor.

In 1866, Llewellyns and James (of Bristol), cast the treble, and added that and the clock bell to the upper end of the ring, thus enlarging it to ten bells; and a very fine ring they are.

In the ringing-chamber are tablets recording four peals of Grandsire Triples; each performance having two men at the tenor.

The church is one of the oldest structures in Bristol, the nave being Norman. In 1698 the south aisle was re-built; in 1768 the church repaired; in 1864, new north aisle built. The west gallery contains the largest organ in Bristol, with four rows of keys. The celebrated Dr. Hodges was once organist here.

The Priory surrendered to the Commissioners, January 9th, 1540.

The Bishop of Truro's formal resignation of his see took effect on Thursday. Private letters to his lordship should in future, be addressed to the Right Rev. Bishop G. H. Wilkinson, 3, Hardwick-road, Eastbourne. Letters on diocesan matters should during the avoidance of the see, be addressed either to Archdeacon Cornish, Kenwyn, Truro, or Archdeacon Hobhouse, St. Ives, Liskeard.



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THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, MAY 1890.

NEW BUSINESS.
1,197 Policies issued for £214,853
New Premium Income 6,615

REVENUE OF THE YEAR.
Premiums £142,622
Interest, &c. 52,256
£194,878

ACCUMULATED FUND.

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Accumulated Fund on 31st January, 1890. £1,297,534
Claims and Bonuses paid under Company's Policies £1,310,920

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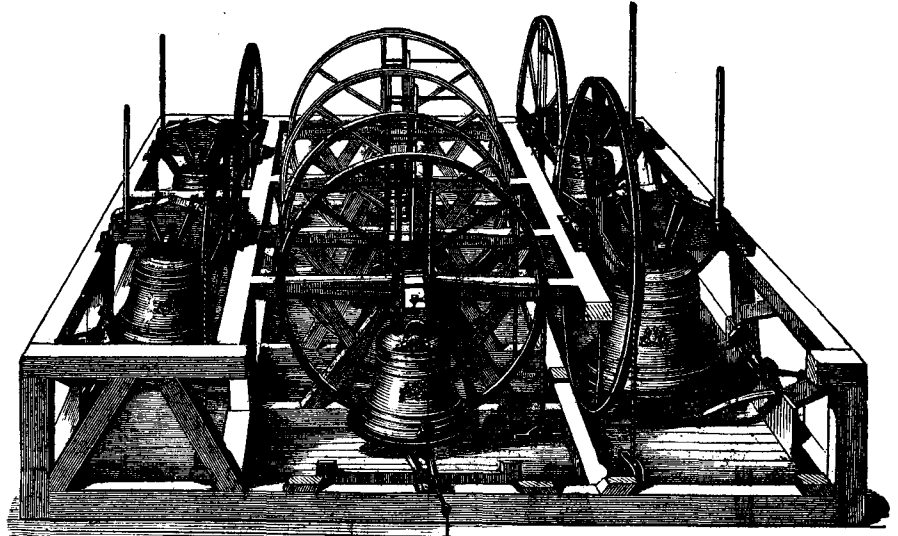
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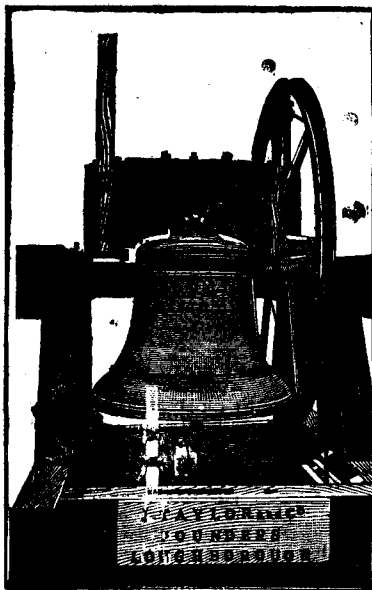
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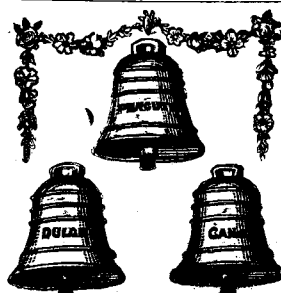
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