

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

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

No. 755.—VOL. XV.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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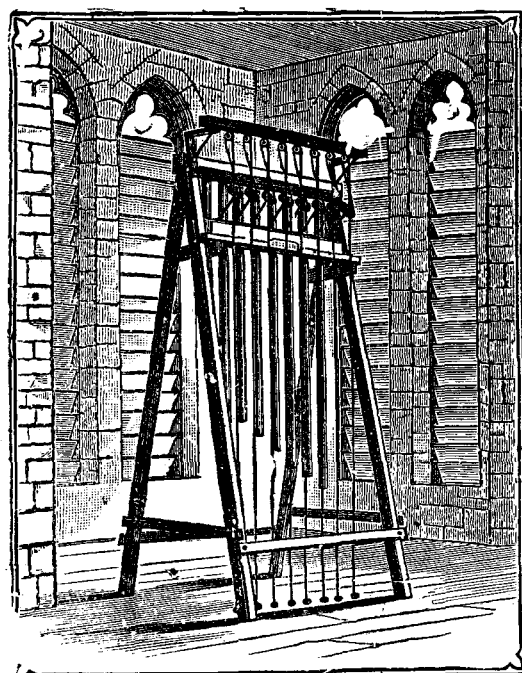
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

[Vol. XV.]

MR. THOMAS HUDSON, SEN., OF SUNDERLAND.

[Vide Portrait.]

This gentleman, a native of Bishopwearmouth, the ancient parish of Sunderland, first learnt to ring when, owing to the mistaken policy of the old-fashioned class of ringers, learners were kept in the dark as much as possible, with regard to the art, and Mr. HUDSON had to learn first to handle a bell by stealing into the church at nights and tying the clapper. No books or literature of any kind were available, and the only advantage to be had, if it can be called an advantage, was the permission of the sexton allowing him with some other youths to chime for some of the minor services. On leaving the town all connection with the bells ceased, but on returning to settle in Sunderland, he became again connected with the church as sidesman and churchwarden. Things were getting to a very low ebb in the belfry, and in the Jubilee year the authorities found themselves without ringers. Mr. HUDSON volunteered to assist in forming a new band, all of whom had to be taught, and the assistance of the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association was asked for, in response to which Mr. Story took up the instruction of the party. Mr. HUDSON proved an apt pupil, and in addition to learning readily himself, was of immense benefit in keeping the band together during the trying period of tutelage. The authorities of the church owe him a great debt for all he has done in the belfry, and his services are duly appreciated by the ringers and others. In a comparatively short space of time, the six bells which the church then possessed, were mastered, and several different methods of Minor were commonly rung on them. The bells being in a very bad condition, it was found absolutely necessary to have them rehung, and Mr. HUDSON very wisely took this opportunity to set about having them made into a peal of eight. In this, owing to his determination, and the kind and generous assistance of others, notably Mr. J. L. Browne, he was successful, and two trebles were added to the old peal of six. His band are now familiar with Major ringing, and may be expected to become one of the staunchest bands in the Association. Mr. HUDSON's chief performances consist of the following:

Bob Triples	1
Grandsire Triples	1
Stedman Triples	2
Kent Treble Bob Major	3
Double Norwich Court Bob Major	2

When the Rev. C. Buston was obliged to vacate the office of Secretary to the Durham and Newcastle Diocesan which he had so ably filled, it was difficult to induce any one to follow him, and it was only under the greatest pressure that Mr. HUDSON allowed himself to be installed in the position until the Annual Meeting. By that time he had got a fair grasp of the business of the Association, and fortunately for the Association, he was prevailed upon to continue to act. His exactness and rectitude in everything relating to the dealings of the Association reflect upon him the greatest credit as a man of business, and as one who has the welfare of the Art at heart. He is always ready and willing to put his own convenience on one side to assist in any way to advance the interests of the Association, and the members are to be congratulated upon having

such a Secretary. In his family, though Mrs. Hudson is not in any sense a ringer, her native place is the well-known Saffron Walden, the seat of one of the oldest ringing societies. His two sons are well-known performers, and his two daughters can both use the handbells, one being a member of the Association, having rang several 720s of Minor.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—ANNUAL MEETING AT NORWICH.

On Tuesday last the ancient city of Norwich was enlivened by a great deal of bell-ringing, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, members of which had come to the city of churches from all parts of Norfolk and Suffolk. The towers represented were Norwich, Aylsham, Beccles, Debenham, Somerleyton, Yarmouth, Blofield, Wickham Skeith, Quidenham, Tunstead, Cawston, Fundenhall, Eye, Stradbroke, Wiveton, St. Cross, Fressingfield, Leiston, North Elmham, Hethersett, Aldeburgh, Grundisburgh, Clopton, Wenhaston, Ipswich, Diss, Bramfield, Wetheringsett, Ufford, and Haddiscoe. The Norwich towers available were St. Peter Mancroft, St. Andrew, St. Michael Coslany, St. John Maddermarket, St. Mary Coslany, St. Lawrence, St. Gregory, and St. Peter Permountergate. After some ringing in the morning the members assembled in the church of St. Peter Mancroft, for Divine Service, and afterwards adjourned to the assembly room of the Norfolk and Norwich Conservative Club to dine and to transact the business of the annual meeting. At the service the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, the secretary, read the prayers, and the Rev. Dr. Raven, president, read the lesson, the Rev. W. P. Burn preaching a brief and admirable sermon from Isaiah xli. 6. "They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, be of good courage." The preacher dwelt on the principle of mutual help, which ought also to be observed amongst ringers, for as bells were God's witnesses calling men to his service, those who were instrumental in ringing them should consecrate themselves to Christ. At the dinner Dr. Raven presided. The repast, served by Mr. H. L. Brown, of the Shirehall hotel, was of the excellent and substantial character which the ringers have always had provided for them at Norwich. The genial president was supported by the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, Revs. W. Pelham Burn, T. H. Marsh, H. J. Coleman, J. H. Pilkington, C. F. Blyth, A. G. Blyth, F. J. Moule, G. S. Ives, J. Goodwin Johnson, and W. Morley Smith, Messrs. J. W. Spratt, F. Knights, and others. Alongside the upper table was a framed portrait of her Majesty, with the inscription, "Presented to James Chandler by Queen Victoria, in recognition of his having assisted to ring the bells of Fressingfield Church on every anniversary of the birth of her Majesty." It will be remembered that we gave a portrait, a few weeks ago, of Mr. Chandler, with a short account of his ringing career, written by the Rev. Canon Raven, D.D., F.S.A.

The President, in giving "The Queen," said that on the morrow her Majesty's reign would be the longest in English annals. At that moment the Czar was with her Majesty in privacy at Balmoral, and God only knew what might result from that visit. They must not expect much, but they might hope to any extent. The destinies of Europe once hung on three quarters of an hour's chat in an orchard in Holland. It was a question of peace or war, and there came peace. All they could hope was that He in whose hands were the hearts of kings and princes might so dispose and govern the hearts of those who ruled in Europe that they might not let the end of the 19th century be marked with the unmitigated disgrace pertaining to the priest and the Levite, who passed by on the other side. The speaker then pointed to the portrait above referred to as an illustration of the kindly and gracious character of the Queen, for it was presented by her to John Chandler, who was born on



MR. THOMAS HUDSON, SEN.
(Of Sunderland.)

the 29th February, 1812, and who, having had only twenty-one birthdays, was consequently still a very young man. When he mentioned to Canon Hervey, of Sandringham, that Chandler had rung the bells at Fressingfield on every anniversary of the Queen's birth, he was simply satisfied that he had done so, but on returning home he found the portrait, framed, with the inscription thereon, an inscription he knew to be correct, because he recognised the very words he used in his letter to Canon Hervey. This gracious and kindly act showed her Majesty's regard for her subjects, even for those not born of high estate.

The Chairman next gave "The Prince and Princess of Wales and the rest of the Royal Family," and "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," with thanks to the Rev. W. Pelham Burn for his able and interesting discourse.

The Rev. W. Pelham Burn said that it was a pleasure to see the ringers of the diocese at St. Peter Mancroft. Since their last visit the tower had been made secure for many generations to come. The two lower storeys were left unrepaired at the time of the restoration for want of funds, but during the past two years a great effort had been made to complete the job, and it had all been paid for with the exception of about £100. Ringers would be able to continue ringing in the tower for as long a period as it had stood.

The President, for the amusement of the company of experts in the way of ringing, called attention to a West of England story, which appeared in an illustrated magazine, to show what strange ideas were current about ringing. His experience was that it took both hands to raise a bell, but possibly some present could raise two bells at a time, one with each hand. [A voice: "Handbells."] Dr. Raven went on to quote from the magazine story a conversation in which it was set forth that a person could raise not only two but even three or four bells at the same time. When he reached that point he felt bad, but the ill effects went off in a fit of tremendous laughter. An act of Parliament might be introduced to compel people to write about what they did not understand, in order to provide amusement for their fellows.

The Rev. H. Earle Bulwer stated that at Christmas there would appear in the *Windsor Magazine* an article that would give a clear and concise account of bell ringing, to act as a sort of counter irritant to such ignorant stories as that to which Dr. Raven had referred. The Rev. Pelham Burn's discourse suggested to him the necessity there was to try to improve the organisation of the several companies, for it was exceedingly loose in many places in the diocese. There was a great tendency to break up. It was of great importance for the welfare of the association and of change-ringing generally that a little more attention should be paid in various parishes to the organisation of companies and the rules governing them. No company would do much good without discipline and organisation. The most fruitful cause of the break up of companies was money. Where the ringers received a certain sum from the churchwardens, from the parish, or for weddings during the year, if one man did not get so much on a division as he expected he would throw up ringing. If churchwardens had not the same amount at their disposal for distribution, the ringers in a body would be disgusted and throw it up. There ought to be some understanding so that companies should not break up for such a trivial reason. He suggested that everything received in the course of the year for ringing should be put into a common fund, and that there should be a system of small fines or forfeits for non-attention to duties or for absence from practice, so that at the end of the year, when the total came to be divided, each man's share would be the same, less his forfeits, which would go to a subsidiary fund, to be equally divided. Thus the man who was most attentive would get the most, and the man who did the least would get the least. If something of that kind were done many difficulties would be removed. The rev. gentleman then presented the annual report, which he said contained some welcome features, while others were not so cheering. The numerical strength of the society was stationary, about 800 resident members, the number of new members being barely sufficient to counterbalance the losses. They had to regret the retirement of two vice-presidents, Archdeacon Neville and Sir Lawrence Jones, the latter having gone to reside abroad for some time. They had lost by death the Rev. C. Ward, of Ipswich, Mr. J. Cullum of Fandenhall, Mr. B. Smith, of the Reden-

hall company, and Mr. William Degée and Mr. C. Saul, of Ipswich. There had been a considerable diminution in the number of peals rung as compared with the previous two years; but on the other hand the character of the performances achieved exhibited a marked advance over former years, for Superlative Surprise Major again appeared in the record, the perseverance of the company practising at Redenhall having been deservedly rewarded by the achievement of an excellent peal in that beautiful method. Several peals of Double Norwich Court had also been rung, two of them by a band under great disadvantage as regarded eight-bell practice, and two on handbells by four members of the Ipswich company, the only previous record of the kind having been by the Cambridge University Guild. Three towers had come into union during the year—Besthorpe, Huntingfield, and Quidenham, while Grimston had withdrawn. The Kenninghall company had broken up, and Gorleston was represented by only one annual subscriber and one life member. The Tunstead company had been reorganised, and its recruits sought admission into the Association. The number of towers actually in union or represented by one or more members was 92, of which 23 were five-bell and 31 six-bell towers. Few, comparatively, of these smaller towers were represented ten years ago; the increase was therefore very gratifying. Of the restorations which had been effected or commenced in the diocese during the year the following were the most important. At Borgate the bells had been rehung; at Griston the four bells had been re-cast and one added, the whole being rehung; at Haughley the five bells had been rehung in a new six-bell oak frame on steel girders, and had just been reopened; at Huntingfield a new six-bell frame had been erected, and one bell recast; at Old Newton the five had been rehung in a new six-bell oak frame on steel girders, the fourth being recast, a new belfry provided, and the tower repaired; at Saham Toney the frame had been restored and the bells overhauled; at Sproughton the third bell had been rehung and the rest overhauled; at Stonham Aspal the fourth bell rehung and the others repaired; at Stutton the frame had been reconstructed for six bells, and the five existing ones rehung with new fittings; and at Westerfield the three bells were being rehung. The peal records for the year showed that fifty-nine performances had been accepted for entry in the peal-book, comprising one peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at Ipswich, one each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. Peter Mancroft, one of Superlative Surprise Major at Redenhall, seven of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, two of which were on handbells; sixteen of Oxford and thirteen of Kent Treble Bob Major, nine of Bob Major, two of Grandsire Triples and one of Bob Major. Of the six-bell performances one was in seven Treble Bob methods, two in seven mixed methods, one in three methods, and one of Bob Minor. Of five-bell performances there had been only two, one in seven methods and one in four methods. The general distribution was as follows: At Attleborough, one; Bedford, one; Boxtord, in Essex, one; Clopton, one; Debenham, four; Diss, three; East Dereham, one; Eye, two; Framlingham, six; Framsdon, one; Helmingham, four; Huntingfield, one; Ipswich, three (two being on handbells); Kelsale, three; Leiston, four; Monewden, two; Norwich St. Peter, three; St. Michael-at-Coslany, three; Fulham Mary, seven; Redenhall, one; Stowmarket, one; Tunstead, one; Ufford, two; Wells, one; Wickham Skeith, one; Woodbridge, one. After referring to the meeting held during the year the report showed that the financial position of the Association continued satisfactory. Although there were great difficulties to be faced in sustaining the organisation of a society dependent upon annual subscriptions, owing to the straitened circumstances of clergy and laity, yet they might look forward without misgiving if the company members would be true to themselves and alive to the responsibilities of their office as church bell ringers. Every ringer should anxiously ask himself whether he was faithfully subserving or thwarting the work of the Church in his parish. The future of change-ringing and of ringing societies would be found in the long run to hinge upon that. Each member should therefore strive to do away with the causes that tended to decay. The number and quality of change ringing performances, however excellent, were but as the dust in the balance compared with the value of a good example set by

an honest and fearless obedience to the principles of Christian faith and practice.

Dr. Raven having thanked the Secretary for his invaluable services and his annual report, then retired from the presidency.

The Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, in retiring from the post of secretary, said that the time would come when he would have to relinquish the position, and they would have to elect his successor.

The Rev. C. F. Blyth said that every year they had to go through the little comedy of the president and secretary retiring for two or three minutes. There ought to be a rule that they should give ten years' notice. He moved that Dr. Raven be re-elected President, and the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, Secretary.

The Rev. T. H. Marsh seconded, and the motion was carried with very hearty unanimity.

Dr. Raven said that he would again accept the position, to do what little he could for the Association, as it was one of his greatest pleasures to be amongst them.

The Rev. H. Earle Bulwer thanked them for his re-election, undertook the office for another year, and said that if he was wanted at any place in case of a muddle, he would be at their service.

The Secretary, Messrs. J. Motts, W. L. Catchpole, and J. A. Trollope were elected representatives on the Central Council, and it was resolved next year to hold quarterly meetings at Halesworth and Yarmouth.

The company then dispersed to the several towers to resume ringing, which was continued till shortly before the departure of the several trains.

In connection with the story above mentioned, any allusions to which at the Norwich meeting gave rise to much merriment, the Rev. Dr. Raven writes:—

"I have to draw the attention of my brother-ringers to another of those wonderful descriptions of bell-ringing which appear from time to time in the illustrated magazines and newspapers. He is a good man who can raise a bell with one hand; and it is just possible that two might be raised simultaneously, but this writer has no scruple in representing a west-countryman as raising three at once. Nay more—as you read on you come across still greater wonders—four—even five! What would cricketers think were their matches to be described in corresponding terms?"

A RINGER'S WEDDING.

On Saturday last, September 19th, Mr. Samuel Cotton, of Leicester, was united in the bonds of Holy Matrimony to Miss E. Ward, also of Leicester, at Christ Church, Bow-street. The event had been anticipated for some time, but the greatest secrecy had been observed, owing to the shy disposition of the bridegroom-elect. However, late on Friday night the writer was aroused from sleep by the redoubtable John Buttery o' that ilk, and informed that the secret had leaked out. All the postcards on hand were made use of, and on Saturday afternoon a company met at St. Saviour's church (near to where the shy couple are residing), and rang a merry quarter-peal (composed by the Editor) in honour of the event. The bridegroom—who by the way is a member of the choir at Christ Church—was supported by Mr. C. Ward, who acted as best man, while the bride was assisted by Miss Cotton. Both bride and bridesmaid carried handsome bouquets of orchids, the gift of the bridegroom, and were dressed in cream cashmere, trimmed with pink satin. The choir ably assisted in the service, and sung the hymn—"The voice that breathed o'er Eden," and Mr. G. Cross, F.C.O., played Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" at the close. The quarter-peal was rung by the following: J. Morris, 1; J. O. Lancashire, 2; G. Cleal (conductor), 3; E. E. Smith, 4; J. S. Needham, 5; J. Veasey, 6; W. Willson, 7; J. Buttery, 8. After the ringing the ringers made their way to the house of the bridal party, where they were very hospitably received. Songs, recitations, and handbell tunes enlivened the proceedings between the usual toasts. Before leaving a course each of Grandsire and Stedman Caters was rung by J. Buttery, 1-2; W. Willson, 3-4; G. Cleal, 5-6; S. Cotton, 7-8; J. Needham, 9-10. The presents were numerous and costly; and we may leave them with wishing the happy couple the best of health and prosperity, feeling sure that ringers generally will re-echo the wish.

W.W.

MUSINGS

BY AN OLD CONTRIBUTOR.

Apropos of Big Ben, I see that on the occasion of the late stoppage to repair the striking parts of the great clock, an authoritative statement is put forth by one of the great daily journals, on the authority, it states, of Messrs. Dent, that Big Ben himself is "perfectly sound." On the other hand, others of the big dailies repeat, as a matter of common knowledge, that Big Ben is cracked. That this latter is commonly accepted as a fact, I am well aware; but I should like to know really how the matter stands, and a word from Messrs. Mears and Stainbank would of course settle the matter definitely. I think that for the satisfaction of the bell-world, those gentlemen might be induced to enlighten us. I do not pretend to have an "ear," and in my humble judgment the great bell does not sound as if it were cracked.

I am very glad to see the new column of coming events: it is a departure in the right direction. If now the various secretaries of the ringing companies could only be induced to spend a half-penny post card stating when peals were to be attempted, it would be, I think, a boon to many ringers who are not upon the active list, but, like myself, would be highly gratified to get the chance sometimes to listen to a peal. I have often felt disappointment when on reading my "BELL NEWS," I have seen peals recorded, of which, had I but have known were in contemplation, I could have easily have been within hearing.

I trust all readers of "BELL NEWS" will, so far as lies in their power, help to swell the agitation, now rapidly growing, for the deposition of the vile miscreant who now disgraces the name of manhood from his seat upon the throne of Turkey. That such horrible massacres should be possible in Europe at this stage of time is a scandal to the Christian religion, and reflects the deepest dishonour upon the statesmen of all professedly Christian nations. No dastardly fear of consequences should prevent England at least from removing this monster. "Do justice though the Heavens may fall."

I have been given to understand that the rather "rollicking" style somewhat noticeable in the effusions of friend Jingle, has been owing to the deficiency of water in Walthamstow (for the information of provincial readers it may be mentioned that "THE BELL NEWS" printing office is within the area of the notorious East London Water Company, who demand and receive their water rates four times a year with the most precise regularity, but only supply water at frequent intervals), in consequence of which the sheets having had to be damped before going to press with a more potent liquid, the fumes of which have got into the type. I deprecate in anticipation the obvious retort of our lively friend that the musings of the O.C. should be entitled the bemusings.

For some two years now my daily grind has led me past a church near the eastern extremity of the city of London, with a peal of eight. There is a fortnightly meeting, for practice presumably, and on one occasion within the period named, I heard Treble Bob rung for about half-an-hour. I think a peal was started for on this occasion. Every other time, and they have been a great number, that I have heard them, Churchyard Bob has been the order of the evening, and generally speaking very poor stoney it has been. I confess that I cannot see the utility of annoying the near inhabitants in such a fashion. That it is an annoyance I happen to know from two different sources. To obtain facilities for legitimate practice is often difficult enough, but such futile proceedings as obtained in this instance, is, in my humble opinion, simply opening the gate to the enemy.

MR. MATTHEW A. WOOD.

On Tuesday, September 22nd, this old and favorite member of the Exercise reached his seventieth birthday. A few intimate friends met on the occasion at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and rung a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. J. Bonney, 1; J. Comb, 2; E. Wallage, 3; Matthew A. Wood, 4; J. Scholes, 5; S. Lawrence, 6; J. West, 7; W. Williamson, 8. Composed and conducted by Matthew A. Wood. All our readers will join in wishing our old friend many happy returns.

PRACTICAL HINTS TO YOUNG CONDUCTORS
AND COMPOSERS.

CHAPTER III.

OF "IN-AND-OUT-OF-COURSE."

Before we advance any further it will be as well to get some idea of what is meant by the above phrase. To many it may seem odd that changes, in no matter what method, are of two distinct kinds, each being of a different nature to the other, or as the old ringing books say, "diametrically opposed to each other." Yet this is really the case. By whatever names the changes are defined is perhaps of little consequence. We may call them respectively right and left, or black and white, male and female, odd and even, or any other appellation, so that we comprehend that there is a distinction. The general terms adopted however, are "in-course" and "out-of-course," and we had best use those terms on the present occasion. I think there is some alteration in this definition suggested by the Central Council, but as this alteration seems not yet to have been generally accepted, we had better adhere to old custom. The subject is somewhat difficult to explain, except by those who have a better command of language and forms of expression than I have.

One half of the extent of the changes, then, in any method, it is understood, are "in-course" changes, the remaining half—"out." Beyond this any arbitrary arrangement is impossible. In Grandsire Doubles every change rung are "in-course" changes until a single is made; directly a single is effected the changes are all "out of course." In Triples of the same method every back-stroke change is "in," every hand-stroke change being out. A single in this case reverses them, putting the hand-stroke changes "in," the back-stroke changes "out." Caters run the same as Doubles; Cinques as Triples.

Of course the round is one of the changes. Thus—1234567 is one of the changes of a 5040 of Triples. That is, I suppose, well known. If you write out 5040 changes of Triples, 1234567 will be one of them, there is only 5039 without it. And on any number of bells the round is an "in-course" change. Therefore if you want to produce rounds at the back-stroke lead of the treble, in the case above-mentioned, you should have your back-stroke leads "in-course." For instance take Grandsire Triples and Cinques. The handstroke-changes are all "out," the backstroke changes "in." Therefore the bells must come round at back-stroke. But if a single is made, the courses are turned, and the handstrokes become "in" and the back-strokes "out," rounds must be produced at the handstroke. Doubles and Caters having every change "in-course," can be brought home either at hand or backstroke. But (as has been before shown) when a single is made all the changes become out of course, and cannot be brought round at all without another single.

I hope this will be understood. The subject is far from being exhausted in the above remarks, but I think I have said enough to set the young practitioner thinking over what is very important, if he wishes to become expert in composition.

It is necessary sometimes to be able to tell whether a particular lead-end or course-end is an "in-course" change or the contrary. Let us assume the following change for illustration, the change known as "the Queens":—

1 3 5 7 2 4 6
1 3 5 2 7 4 6 out
1 3 2 5 7 4 6 in
1 3 2 5 4 7 6 out
1 2 3 5 4 7 6 in
1 2 3 4 5 7 6 out
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 in

Here will be seen that two bells, and two bells only, are transposed in each change from the one preceding it. If by such transposition rounds are produced from the given change in an even number of changes or rows, the given change will be "in-course," but should rounds be produced in an odd number of rows, the given change will be "out." This is not the quickest

way of discovering the condition of the courses, but I use it here from its simplicity. It may be done by transposing more than two bells at a time, thus in the following example four bells are transposed:—

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

In the first example the transposition puts the bells "in and out of course" alternately; in the second they remain "in." This shows that two bells only changing alters the state of the courses from the previous row, while four retains them. Therefore the changes are retained in the same course, or *vice versa*, according to the number of bells moved from the preceding change.

A knowledge of this subject is, as before observed, necessary to those who attempt composing. Wanting this knowledge many would-be composers attempt the impossible, which an acquaintance with this subject would prevent. A good conductor knows the value of such information if he possesses it only in an elementary degree. A ringer who aspires to neither of the higher branches of the Art, greatly increases his own enjoyment while ringing if he understands this subject.

In the progress of these papers the matter will become more fully developed, without dealing with it directly. The remarks I have now made upon "in" and "out-of-course" of the changes are really only prefatory, but the "hints" which are to follow will I think gradually more and more unfold the subject.

ALEPH.

(To be continued.)

Obituary.

F. R. T. BOLTON.

It is our very painful duty to record the death of Mr. F. T. Bolton, of Braeside, West Kirby, Hon Sec. of the Chester Diocesan Guild (Wirral Branch), who died on September 4th, at his mother's house, Church Stretton, after two days' illness, at the age of forty-four. He was deeply interested in bell-ringing, but it was the ringers who occupied the first place in his affections, and with almost his last breath he sent a message of love to his friends, the West Kirby ringers, and asked that he might be carried to his grave by them. They did this lovingly and gently on September 7th, and laid him close under the old church tower in a piece of ground which he had only a short time before pointed out as the place where he should wish his grave to be, lowering the coffin with bell-ropes. In him the ringers lose a good friend but his influence and example are not lost. They will live in the lives of those he loved so well.

On Monday, September 7th, at Great Neston parish church, a 720 of Oxford Bob was rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect from the following members of the Wirral branch of the Chester Guild for their late secretary, Mr. R. F. T. Bolton. H. Grundy, 1; J. Edwards, 2; W. Williams, 3; J. Sutton, 4; J. Mealon, 5; W. Briscoe (conductor), 6; J. A. Evans, 7.

We are requested to print the following:—

"SIR,—We, the bell ringers of West Kirby, through the medium of your paper, wish to express to Mrs. Bolton and relatives, our deepest sympathy in the great loss which they have sustained in the death of her husband. We feel it our duty to do so, he being the hon. sec. of the Wirral branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild of church bell-ringers, and also being an honorary member, and being always in our midst. He was a gentleman who always studied the interest of the ringers, though being a non-ringer himself, his whole mind was wrapped up in the art. He was to be seen on practice night, on Sunday, in the tower unless illness prevented him, and then there would be a cheery message from him. He was a most unselfish gentleman, giving up his own time for the benefit of the ringers, and we feel that we have lost in him the dearest friend in the world, for his kindly word and cheery smile was ever greeting us. He was a thorough churchman, his whole religion based on self-denial, giving up his leisure hours for the pleasure of others, patient in all his sufferings, he never complained, but lived the life of a Christian, teaching others the way of Christ, and giving his advice to all who came to him. And now he is laid to rest until the great day beneath the tower of the church where he used to worship at, the bells of which he often listened to and loved so well to hear. "Fell asleep September 4th, and laid to rest September 7th.

C.W.P.

"West Kirby, September 15th, 1896."

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.—A meeting of the above was held at Disley, on Saturday, September 12th, when there were twenty-four members present, representing the following towers, Macclesfield, Bollington, Poynton, Sutton, and Disley. The tower bells were set in motion soon after three o'clock, and a 720 of Grandsire Minor (thirty-eight bobs and twenty-two singles), was rung. A. Mottershead, 1; W. Kenny, 2; W. Matthews (conductor), 3; M. Davenport, 4; F. Stonely, 5; J. Norbury, 6. And a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (fourteen singles and four bobs). A. Mottershead, 1; W. Ingham, 2; M. Davenport, 3; W. Matthews, 4; W. Steel, 5; W. Walmsley (conductor), 6. At five o'clock an excellent knife and fork tea was partaken of at The Ram's Head hotel, which was entirely free, the Disley ringers having got subscriptions for the purpose from gentlemen in the village. After tea, a meeting was held in another room, W. Walmsley, of Macclesfield being in the chair, when a resolution was passed thanking the Disley ringers for their kind reception, and especially Messrs. Marsland and Johnson, who had collected the subscriptions and made all the arrangements for the splendid tea that had been partaken of. It was resolved to have a ringing meeting at Prestbury about the third Saturday in October. A vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman for presiding, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells. After the meeting the Macclesfield ringers rang several tunes on the handbells, after which the tower bells were again set in motion and kept going with short touches till about 8 o'clock. An adjournment was then made to The Ram's Head hotel, and the rest of the evening was spent in handbell ringing, singing, &c. Train time arriving, all departed with pleasant recollections of the first meeting at Disley, it being one of the best meetings the branch has had.

WASHINGTONBOROUGH, LINCOLNSHIRE.

The bells of the church of St. John, after being tuned, quartered and rehung, and two new trebles added, were formally opened on Sunday, September 6th, by the Rector, the Rev. J. Dudding. The whole work has been carried out by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, and has given every satisfaction, both to the committee and ringers. On Sunday, September 13th, for morning service, 336 Bob Triples. For evening service 504 in the same method by the local company. G. Croft, 1; J. W. Ash, 2; J. W. Walker, 3; G. Kettleboro, 4; T. D. Clarke, 5; W. Walker, 6; J. Ash, 7; J. Hutton, 8. Conducted by J. W. Ash.

LATE PEALS.

TILEHURST, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, September 23, 1896, in Two Hours and Forty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

ALICE WHITE	Treble.	AMBROSE OSBORNE	5.
JOHN TUCKER	2.	CHARLES CHAPMAN	6.
JOHNSON E. HERN	3.	HARRY GOODGER	7.
FRANK HOPGOOD	4.	RICHARD HAINES	Tenor.

Conducted by FRANK HOPGOOD.

Miss White was elected a member of the Guild previous to starting.

BANGOR, NORTH WALES.

On Wednesday, September 23, 1896, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DAVID,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

ROBERT J. HUGHES*	Treble.	*DAVID DAVIES	5.
REV. T. LEWIS JONES*	2.	*JOSEPH GAYTON	6.
SAMUEL TAYLOR	3.	MORRIS J. MORRIS	7.
FRED. W. TAYLOR	4.	PHILIP W. DAVIES	Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by MORRIS J. MORRIS.

*First peal of Major. First peal of Major rung in the diocese of Bangor. David Davies hails from Oswestry, the rest belong to the local band.

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."

ST. PETER MANCROFT TENOR.

SIR,—As your contributor "Jingle" seems to cast a doubt on the weight of the above bell as lately given, I will, with your kind permission, state what I know about the matter. That it has always been called 41 cwt., is true, and it is somewhat remarkable that its correct weight should not have been known to the ringers. The peal was cast in 1775, but the tenor was split nearly forty years after, in 1814, and was replaced by a new bell, the old one not being taken away till the new one was ready. I have always heard that the first bell was 36 cwt., and that the new one was better and heavier, but I find that Messrs. Mears' list, which they lately informs us is of the original peal, gives the old bell as 41 cwt., and the same weight is given on the tablets recording two peals rung before the bell was broken. If then the new bell was heavier than the old one, 43 cwt. might be correct. The idea that the old bell was 36 cwt. arose no doubt from the fact that the specification for the peal gave that weight as the approximate size of the tenor. In addition to this Messrs. Mears state that they have destroyed the books relating to the recast, and so the only written evidence in existence relating to the bell's weight is an autograph letter of Mr. Mears dated 1814, giving the bell as 43 cwt. I may mention that Mr. Day, of Eye, informed me that he had heard that when the bell came home Tom Hurry weighed her, and said that the founders' weight was not correct. Some correspondence occurred on the matter, but the founders declared that the bell was a good one, and the weight correct, and that if the parish didn't like the bell, well, they could leave it; and having a monopoly of bell-casting they got their way.

J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE ST. ALPHEGE COMPANY, CANTERBURY.

SIR,—The members of the above company are arranging an entertainment to be given in aid of a fund for putting a new window into their belfry, which is very much needed, and among other things, they wish to have a few tableaux, or living pictures, and would be very glad if any of your readers could suggest any stories that would be suitable for it, in which bells or bell-ringing could be introduced. Suggestions will be gladly received by the rector, the Rev. T. G. Crosse, Eastbridge, Canterbury, or by myself.

E. H. BENEY, Hon. Sec. St. Alphege Company.

17, St. Mary Street, Canterbury.

KIDDERMINSTER PREMIER MAJOR.—A NEW METHOD.

By JAMES PAGETT, Kidderminster.

21354687	46127835	78645312	53872164
12536478	64218753	87463521	35781246
21563487	46281735	78430512	53718264
12654378	64827153	87345621	35172846
21645387	46872135	78354612	53127864
12463578	64781253	87536421	35218746
21436587	46718235	78563412	53281764
24163857	47681325	75836142	52318674
42618375	74863152	57381624	25136847
24681357	47836125	75318642	52163874
42863175	74381652	57136824	25618347
24836157	47318625	75163842	52681374
42381675	74136852	57618324	25863147
24318657	47163825	75681342	52836174
42136875	74618352	57863124	25381647
41263785	76481532	58736214	23518467
14236758	67418523	85763241	32581476
41327685	76145832	85672314	23854167
14372658	67154823	85627341	32845176
41736285	76518432	85263714	23481567
14763258	67581423	85236741	32418576
41672385	76854132	85327614	23145867
14627358	67845123	85372641	32154876
16472538	68754213	83527461	31245786
61745283	86572431	38254716	13427568
16754238	86527413	38245761	13472586
61572483	86454731	38427516	13745268
16527438	86245713	38472561	13754286
61254783	86427531	38745216	13572468
16245738	86472513	83754261	31527486
61427583	86745231	38572416	13254768
64172853	87654321	35827146	12345678

Ringers' Outings.

THE ST. MARY'S GUILD, TAUNTON.—On Saturday, August 29th, eleven members of this Guild had their annual outing. Meeting at Taunton station at 8.0 a.m., they took train for Bristol, which they reached at 9.25, and resorted first to a well-known restaurant to arrange for dinner. The Temple church was first visited, the leaning tower of which, being between 6 and 7 feet out of the perpendicular, caused one or two of the party to hesitate before entering. The steeplekeeper's assurances, however, soon dispelled all fear. The company found at this church a splendid ring of eight bells, which they raised in peal, and then several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung by Messrs. T. Radford, E. Shepherd, J. Burge, S. Radford, S. Wyatt, A. Walker, J. Fowler, A. Evans, J. Jones, J. Hunt, and W. Thomas. The bells were then lowered in peal, and the company repaired to the above-mentioned restaurant, where they were joined by Mr. Boutflower (Master of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association) and Mr. F. Price, of Bristol. A good dinner having been here partaken of, steps were taken in the direction of the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, where the visitors were met by Messrs. C. Horton and James Hinton, and everything being found in readiness, the back eight were raised in peal, and a course each of Grandsire Caters and Cinques were rung, when the bells were again lowered in peal. Then the church of St. Stephen was visited, and 503 of Grandsire Caters rung by J. Jones, A. Evans, A. Walker, S. Wyatt, J. Burge, E. Shepherd, S. Radford, J. Fowler, T. Radford (conductor), and J. Hunt. And 153 Stedman Triples by S. Radford, F. Ellis, E. Shepherd, W. Knight, J. Hinton (conductor), T. Radford, F. Price, and A. Walker. Tea was the next item, and then a visit to the Hot Wells, and a hoist up the lift on to the suspension-bridge, and returning to the ringers' meeting-house, touches of Grandsire Triples and Caters were rung with Bristol friends on the handbells. The hour of departure for home now drew nigh, and the visitors, wishing sincere farewells to their brethren of Bristol, arrived at Taunton about 10.15 p.m., bringing to a close one of the pleasantest outings the Guild has ever had. The visitors heartily thank the respective vicars and churchwardens at whose churches permission was given to ring; the steeplekeepers of the same for having everything in readiness; and Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower, Mr. J. Hinton, and Mr. F. Price, for making arrangements.

T. R.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.—OTTERY S. MARY BRANCH.—Taking advantage of an excursion train to Bristol, on September 3rd, this band determined on a visit to this city for their general outing this year, and a very pleasant holiday was enjoyed by all. Through the kindness of C. E. D. Boutflower, Esq., Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Association, leave was obtained to ring at Clifton Old Church, from 1 to 2 p.m. and at St. Mary Redcliffe, at 5.30 p.m. At the former tower touches of Grandsire Triples and a course of Stedman Triples were rung, but owing to the bad "go" of the 6th bell it was very difficult to ensure good striking, still the performance was most creditable, considering some of the band had only once previously rung out of their own tower. The band was J. Wilson, 1; W. Godfrey, 2; S. Godfrey, 3; Rev. M. Kelly, 4; J. Godfrey, 5; J. Baker, 6; J. A. Pike, 7; J. Lovering, 8. In the course of Stedman the Rev. M. Kelly took the treble and W. Wilson, 3; S. Godfrey, 4; the rest standing as before. In the evening with the assistance of Mr. Boutflower, some of the visiting band rang the twelve bells at St. Mary Redcliffe, in rounds, which was quite a new experience for the Ottery men, who had never handled such heavy metal before. A touch of Grandsire Triples was also rung on the front eight. The band are very grateful to Mr. Boutflower for the trouble he took in making arrangements for them, and to the church authorities for the use of the bells. On Sunday, September 16th, a visit was made by three of the band to the parish of Colyton, and some six-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles were rung on the fine-toned bells of the church. These bells have lately been rehung by Mr. H. Stokes, and their "go" now is excellent. The tenor is 28 cwt. in Eb. And it is hoped that two trebles may before long be added to the peal, such a tenor is indeed worthy of the full octave. J. Godfrey, 1; S. Godfrey, 2; Rev. M. Kelly, 3; J.

Baker (conductor), 4; A. Pike, 5; J. Lovering, 6. Some of the local ringers who have made a beginning at half-pull change-ringing afterwards joined in, and some plain courses of Grandsire Doubles were accomplished.

THE HORBURY SOCIETY, YORKS.—On Saturday, September 5th, the above society had their third annual excursion, in the shape of a drive to Wragby, Roystone, and Felkirk. A start was made at 1.25 p.m., and after picking up one of our party at Wakefield, we made direct for Wragby, which was reached soon after 3 o'clock. On enquiry we found there was a funeral at 3.45, so we made straight to the tower, and had just time to pull off a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob. W. H. Giggie, 1; E. Brooke, 2; G. Hunt, 3; G. Barstow, 4; H. Rowley (conductor), 5; G. Pickles, 6. The church is a handsome structure in the Perpendicular style, consisting of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch, and embattled western tower containing six bells, dated 1768, and all of which were rehung in 1886. There are fourteen stained windows, the west window dating from 1535, and some fine examples of wood carving. There are several monuments of the Winn family. The font of the church possesses an especial interest from the fact of its having once formed part of the font belonging to the church of Auburn, near Bridlington, the site of which is now some distance out at sea. The font was removed from the church before the cliff on which it stood was washed down, and was afterwards given to the late C. Winn, Esq. Soon after four o'clock we were en route for Roystone, and after driving for half-an-hour, we found it impossible to reach our destination on account of the rain having washed down a quantity of soil under a low bridge, and so making it impossible for the waggonette to pass under, so we were obliged to abandon the idea of going to Roystone that day. We turned back and wended our way toward Felkirk disappointed and hungry. Arrived at Felkirk church (which is some distance away from a village), we got out and sent the waggonette on to the nearest hostelry, intending to ring and then follow on. On enquiry at a farmhouse near, we were told that the keys of the church were kept at the vicarage, about half-a-mile away. After some discussion which should come first, ringing or eating, the latter prevailed, and we started off to walk to the nearest inn, where tea was ordered, and while it was being prepared, a few courses on the handbells were rung. After tea, and having got the keys of the church, we left orders for the waggonette to meet us in an hour. We were soon jogging along in a happy mood to the church, where a 720 of Oxford was rung with the members standing as before. The church is an ancient building in the Perpendicular style, with some Norman portions, and consists of chancel, nave, aisles, south porch, and embattled western tower, containing six bells, the last three of which were given by the late T. Dymond, Esq., when the church was restored in 1876. Leaving Felkirk about 8.20 p.m., favored with a pitch dark night, and no one knowing the way, it was no wonder that we found ourselves at 10.30 p.m. (when we ought to have been nearly home), at Notton. After enquiries and sundry ejaculations from our honoured friend Mr. Pickles, we were put on the right track again, but alas! it would have been no use if our honoured friend (and now our guide), had not kindly condescended to examine by the aid of a match, the numerous finger-posts. In the course of half-an-hour we found ourselves at Sandal, where a halt was made, and it was a pleasure to see the beam of delight which overspread the countenance of our worthy guide when he found we were once more in a well-known district. A drive of an hour saw us in "Good Old Horbury," again well pleased with our outing.

THE ST. MICHAEL'S SOCIETY, SHREWSBURY, held their annual outing on Thursday, September 10th. They left Shrewsbury at 1.45 p.m., Shifnal being the place selected, arriving there in a wagonette at four o'clock, when they soon made their way to the parish church, and several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung on the back six. J. Collett, jun., 3; R. Smith, 4; J. Owen, 5; F. Hannett, 6; G. J. Taylor, 7; J. Collett, sen., 8. Several 6-scores were also rung on the eight with 6-7-8 covering. J. Owen, 1; R. Smith, 2; F. Hannett, 3; W. Lewis, 4; W. Carter, 5; Rev. — Chinner, 6; G. J. Taylor, 7; J. Collett, sen., 8. Conducted by Messrs. Taylor, Smith, Hannett, and Owen. These bells are a fine ring of eight, and are in a very good going order. The tenor weighs a little over 18 cwt. There are some

very fine tablets in the belfry, having records of peals of all kinds, which have been rung by the Albion Society of Shifnal. The visitors gave several tunes on the handbells and rang also several 6-scores. After having about three hours' ringing the bells were lowered in peal, and then a walk down to The Jer-ningham Arms inn, where supper was awaiting the company. After supper several 6-scores were rung on the handbells; and tunes, one of the ringers vamping the piano. Time was then coming to a close when a vote of thanks was passed to the clergy and churchwardens for their kind permission given to ring. The company then finished up on the handbells by playing Auld Lang Syne, and then returned homeward, leaving Shifnal at 9.10 p.m. and arriving at Shrewsbury about 11.30 p.m., all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and hoping this would not be the last time they would visit Shifnal. G.I.T.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — On Saturday, September 12th, the members of the Grimsby branch of this Association had a most enjoyable outing to Scunthorpe, where there is a splendid ring of eight bells. We arrived about 4.30 and were met by the local leader, Mr. Dixon, and at the church gates by the vicar, who gave us a hearty welcome. Ascending the tower, the bells were raised in peal, and several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung. After lowering the bells a move was made for tea, which was provided by the vicar at a restaurant. We then had a look round, and returned to Grimsby at 8 o'clock, all having thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We wish through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS" to thank the vicar for his kindness and for the use of the bells, and the local ringers for their company. A. B. S.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUDBURY ARCHIDIACONAL BRANCH.

A meeting of the above branch of this Association was held at Monks Eleigh on Saturday, September 19th, and was well attended by members from Sudbury (1), Lavenham (8), Monks Eleigh (6), Hitcham (4), Preston (2), Melford (8), Bildeston (3), Hadleigh (1), and Ipswich (1), thirty-four in all being present. During the morning a band was got together, and two touches were rung on the bells of Lavenham church, viz., a touch of Bob Major by W. Boby (Lavenham), 1; F. Symonds (Lavenham), 2; C. Jarvis (Lavenham), 3; A. Symonds (Lavenham), 4; H. Smith (Lavenham), 5; W. Snell (Lavenham), 6; R. Grimwood (Hitcham), 7; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 8. Also 504 Grandsire Triples. W. Boby, 1; T. King, 2; C. Jarvis, 3; A. Symonds, 4; H. Smith, 5; W. Snell, 6; C. Sillitoe, 7; R. Grimwood, 8. Both touches were conducted by C. Sillitoe.

At Monks Eleigh touches of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob and Bob Minor were rung during the afternoon and evening by various bands. This is a beautiful ring of six, one of the finest in the county, but the "go" of the tenor is bad, and not conducive to ringing any length of time. It is hoped that this will be remedied ere long.

The tea was held at The Bull inn, where a very excellent spread was provided by host Farthing, thirty-three sitting down, presided over by the genial vicar, the Rev. A. J. C. Connell supported by Messrs. C. Sillitoe (District Secretary), E. Ambrose, C. Bixby, F. Connell (Melford), W. Boby, H. Smith, W. Moore (Lavenham), etc.

At the conclusion of the repast the chairman proposed The health of "The Queen," which was drunk with enthusiasm. In a few well-chosen remarks he also welcomed the Association to Monks Eleigh, and hoped it would not be the last time they would come there. He thought that these Association meetings did an immense deal of good, and he wished the Association every success and prosperity. As he was obliged to leave owing to another engagement, he would now ask Mr. Sillitoe, their District Secretary, to kindly take the chair and preside over the business meeting. The first business was the election of members. The following were elected: Rev. A. J. C. Connell (Monks Eleigh), Hon. Member; A. Howell (Ipswich), Life Performing Member; Non-Resident: Messrs. R. Keeble and A. Bowers (Monks Eleigh), J. Scowen (Hadleigh), Cyril Herbert, Ernest Herbert (Woburn, Beds.), G. Maxim (Waltham Cross), R. Brett (Stanstead), and J. Ambrose (Melford).

The chairman said the next business was to fix a place for

the next meeting. Mr. A. Symonds proposed, and Mr. W. Moore seconded, that it be held at Lavenham. Mr. E. Ambrose proposed, and Mr. C. Bixby seconded, that it be held at Sudbury. The chairman said that there had been one meeting held there this year, also at Melford, and he thought the Lavenham proposition a very good one. The first meeting was held there, and he thought that it was time that another visit should be made there. It was ultimately unanimously decided to hold the next meeting there on the first Saturday in January, 1897. No other business arising, Mr. J. Ambrose (Melford), said he rose to propose the health of their Secretary, Mr. Sillitoe, and also at the same time to thank him on behalf of the meeting for the trouble and time he spent in arranging and bringing these meetings to a success. He (the speaker) was not a first-class ringer himself, but he always liked to be where good ringers were, and he was sure he was, as he looked round and saw some of the faces there. He proposed the health of the Secretary with musical honours, which was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. Sillitoe, in thanking the members for the very kind manner in which they had drank his health, said he was very pleased if his humble efforts were appreciated by his brother-members, and he was very pleased to see such a large number present that day. He did not expect to see such a large meeting. He would just mention that nine peals had been rung up to the present this year by this branch of the Association, namely, two of Bob Major, one of Grandsire, and six of Treble Bob. These included a 7040 of Treble Bob at Walter Belchamp, Essex, being the longest peal on those bells; and also the first peal of Treble Bob on the bells of St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmunds. He must congratulate Messrs. A. Keeble and R. Grimwood on the very able manner in which they rang in the peal of Bob Major at Lavenham on August 29th, this being the first peal by both of them.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the vicar for kindly granting the use of the bells; also to the local company for the warm reception accorded to the visitors by them.

This concluded the proceedings, and the members adjourned, some to tower ringing, and some to handbell ringing. A course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by E. Ambrose (Melford), 1-2; A. Symonds (Lavenham), 3-4; C. Sillitoe (Sudbury), 5-6; A. Howell (Ipswich), 7-8; T. King (Lavenham), 9-10. Also a course of Bob Major with the bells swung. A. Ambrose (Melford), 1-2; C. Sillitoe, 3-4; H. Duce (Melford), 5-6; A. Symonds, 7-8. A very merry evening was spent with songs and dancing, Mr. Sillitoe accompanying on a violin, which was unearthed somewhere in the parish by some of the local members.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.

A dinner was given the other evening to the ringers and choir of the parish church, through the generosity of Mrs. C. F. Gore, wife of the Vicar, in celebration of the opening of the two new bells and a new organ, both of which were dedicated two months since. After the dinner, which was most ably served to the satisfaction of all concerned, the rest of the evening was devoted to harmony, and a capital toast list was gone through, one of the principal (after the usual loyal and clerical toasts) being that of the Edenbridge ringers, coupled with which were the names of Mr. J. Preston and Mr. T. Wallis, the latter of whom urged the young members to become more efficient by study at home. Other toasts followed, and with a large amount of vocal power present, the hour of midnight came too soon for all.

NOTE TO THE PEAL AT ARLEY CASTLE.—This is A. Spittle's first 5040 on six bells, E. Hampton's first 5040 with a bob bell, and the first 5040 on the bells. There is a tablet in the belfry bearing the following record:—"On December 24th, 1786, was rung in this tower a peal of 240 changes. The above peal rung in a masterly manner. John Gill printed." The bells have recently been rehung by Carr, Birmingham, and the go of them is all that can be desired. The ringers tender their best thanks through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS," to the Vicar and Churchwardens for the use of the bells, and also to the tower-keeper, Mr. Bint, for having everything in readiness.

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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, SEPTEMBER 26, 1896.

THERE has just been achieved, undeniably, a record peal (as the words are understood) of a most superior order. It has been our privilege on many occasions to be the first to chronicle performances superseding those which for years had maintained the first place, but we think nothing hitherto done comes near to the performance of which a report will be found among our peal records. Members of ringing Guilds and Associations who will this day assemble at various places according to the announcements in our notice page, will have a fruitful topic of conversation. An eleven thousand of the most difficult method known—LONDON SURPRISE—has been rung at a church far from the Metropolis, by a company of ringers, one-half of whom were comparatively unknown. Eleven thousand of LONDON! The method is not of itself one to be commended in point of symmetry or musical properties; but its difficulty is the chief thing. That many well-bred ringers have fought

shy of it, is well-known, but here we find a band knocking off—not an ordinary peal, but one twice the usual length. The composer and conductor—MR. WASHBROOK—had better retire from ringing at once, for he is surely a second Alexander, and while we are writing is probably sighing for more methods to conquer. To speak seriously, the peal is the greatest achievement, intellectually considered, which the history of the Exercise has to annalize. We would make no invidious comparison between the performers, but it is impossible not to remark upon the fact that the ringer of the seventh bell in this extraordinary peal is the Vicar of the parish, in which church the peal was rung—the REV. F. E. ROBINSON. When a few weeks ago we gave an illustration of the church of St. Peter's, Drayton, Berkshire, we little thought—and our readers were in the same area of innocence—that such a performance was on the eve of being rung there. That picture of this church will become historical through this wonderful essay of the Oxonians.

Next week will appear a selection of "Plain Methods with two Guiding Bells," by Mr. JOHN CARTER, embracing features never yet before published. Those friends who are making enquiries concerning the absence of our popular contributor, may rest assured that he will be *en evidence* before long. We shall shortly have the pleasure of issuing a beautiful photograph of Chesterfield Church, with its twisted spire.

The Metropolis.

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

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, PIMLICO,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

HENRY R. NEWTON Treble.	HENRY S. ELLIS 5.
WALTER J. SORRELL 2.	SAMUEL ANDREWS 6.
FRANK BUCK 3.	JAMES WILLSHIRE 7.
NATHAN J. PITSTOW 4.	CHARLES T. P. BRICE .. Tenor.

Composed by J. H. BARRETT and Conducted by HENRY R. NEWTON.

The composition of this peal appeared in "THE BELL NEWS" of August the 15th, 1896.

The Provinces.

LINCOLN.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, September 16, 1896, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER-AT-ARCHES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 20 cwt.

HENRY W. M. KIRTON .. Treble.	JOSEPH B. FENTON 5.
GEORGE FLINTHAM 2.	ARTHUR CRAVEN 6.
JOHN WELLS 3.	JOHN W. WATSON 7.
FREDK. S. W. BUTLER .. 4.	CHARLES W. P. CLIFTON Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

This peal was arranged for Messrs. Kirton and Butler, who hail from Gainsborough. It contains the 4th and 5th eleven times each in 6ths place, the 6th the extent at six course-ends, and the 2nd never there. It is now rung for the first time.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(THE OXFORD SOCIETY)

On Thursday, September 17, 1896, in Six Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 11,328 CHANGES. Tenor 9½ cwt. in G.

CHARLES HOUNSLOW .. Treble.	EDWIN HIMS 5.
FREDERICK EXON 2.	THOMAS PAYNE 6.
CHARLES H. FOWLER .. 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
CHARLES EXON 4.	JAMES W. WASHBROOK .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES WILLIAM WASHBROOK.

This is the longest length composed and rung in this method. The figures will be found on another page.

BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 20 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE BURROWS .. Treble.	*JOHN OVERTON 5.
JOHN E. OVERTON* 2.	HERBERT KNIGHT 6.
ARTHUR ESLEY 3.	AARON GRIFFITHS 7.
HENRY DAWKES 4.	JAMES E. GROVES .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

*First peal of Major. This is the first peal of Major ever rung in Bridgnorth, also the first peal of Grandsire Major by the Hereford Guild. This was the conductor's 20th peal, particulars of which will be found on another page.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5248 CHANGES. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lbs.

WALTER PERKINS .. Treble.	ALFRED H. MARTIN .. 5.
WILLIAM PETTITT 2.	JAMES GARRATT 6.
CHARLES CHASTY 3.	ANDERSON TYLER 7.
FRANK HULL 4.	CHARLES W. CLARKE .. Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN and Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

This peal is in two parts, and contains the 4th ten times, the 5th fourteen times, and the 6th twenty-four times in 6ths place at the course-ends, the second never there. This peal is now rung for the first time.

BURY, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE AND ROCHDALE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Two Hours and Forty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; SHEPHERD'S BOB-AND-SINGLE.

HARRY WOODCOCK* .. Treble.	WALTER TAYLOR 5.
SAM LORD 2.	HARRY WALLS 6.
JAMES B. TAYLOR 3.	JOHN HARRISON 7.
EDMUND SCHOFIELD† .. 4.	†JOSEPH S. MARSHALL .. Tenor.

Conducted by WALTER TAYLOR.

*First peal. †First peal in the method. Messrs. Walls, Taylor (2), and Lord hail from Newchurch; Schofield and Marshall from Rochdale; the rest are of the local band.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

JOSEPH WAGHORN, SEN.* .. Treble.	FREDERICK S. BAYLEY .. 5.
GEORGE A. KING 2.	ISAAC G. SHADE 6.
HARRY WESTON 3.	†JOHN W. WHITING 7.
FRANK BENNETT 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS .. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

*First peal of Superlative. †First peal of Superlative with a bob bell. J. Waghorn, sen., hails from Tottenham; F. S. Bayley, from Lewisham; I. G. Shade, from Greenwich; J. W. Whiting, from Fareham, Hants. Rang in honour of the 45th birthday of Mr. Whiting, his brother ringers wishing him many happy returns.

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(BURTON-ON-TRENT BRANCH.)

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 17 cwt.

GEORGE PESTELL BURTON..Treble.	GEORGE ROBINSON 5.
WILLIAM J. SMITH 2.	JOHN JAGGAR 6.
WALTER CANNER 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN.. .. 4.	GEORGE THORNLEYTenor.

Conducted by JOSEPH GRIFFIN.

This peal, a variation of Thurstans' Original, was arranged by N. J. Pitstow.

BANGOR, NORTH WALES.

On Saturday, September 19th, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DAVID,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

ROBERT J. HUGHESTreble.	FRED. W. TAYLOR 5.
REV. T. LEWIS JONES 2.	†PHILIP W. DAVIES 6.
JOHN COLE* 3.	JOSEPH GAYTON.. .. 7.
SAMUEL TAYLOR 4.	WILLIAM CRANETenor.

Conducted by PHILIP W. DAVIES.

*First peal. †First peal as conductor. This peal was arranged as a birthday compliment to J. Cole, who hails from Llandudno.

DERBY.—THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(DERBY BRANCH.)

On Monday, September 21, 1896, in Two Hours and Thirty-One Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. ALBERT E. THOMPSON,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

GEORGE THOMPSON .. 1-2.	FRANK BRADLEY 5-6.
WALTER WALLACE .. 3-4.	JOHN W. THOMPSON .. 7-8.

Conducted by FRANK BRADLEY.

Referees—Albert E. Thompson and John A. Thompson.

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, September 21, 1896, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 23 cwt.

FARRINGTON JONES†..Treble.	HERBERT KNIGHT 5.
WILLIAM G. HALL†.. .. 2.	JAMES E. GROVES 6.
HENRY A. HALL 3.	AARON GRIFFITHS 7.
EDWARD NICHOLLS 4.	*ISAAC PURSERTenor.

Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

*First peal. †First peal away from tenor. †First peal with a bob bell. This peal is believed to be the first rung by an entire local band at Wolverhampton for upwards of fifty years, and is rung to celebrate the opening of a new east end part by the Mayor of Wolverhampton, C. T. Mander, Esq.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.

THE SOUTH AND WEST MIDDLESEX GUILD.

On Monday, September 21, 1896, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 13 cwt. 1 qr. 25 lbs.

HENRY G. ROWETreble.	†ALBERT T. DAMPIER 5.
REV. H. G. BIRD 2.	†WILLIAM ODELL 6.
JOSEPH J. PARKER 3.	REUBEN FLAXMAN 7.
HENRY S. REEVES 4.	†JOHN PEDDLETenor.

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH J. PARKER.

†First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. This is Mr. H. G. Rowe's 50th peal, made up as follows: Grandsire Triples, 35; Bob Triples, 6; Stedman Triples, 1; Grandsire Caters, 1; Bob Major, 4; Canterbury Major, 1; on six bells, 2. Conducted 19.

HENFIELD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, September 22, 1896, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FIVE-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt.

WILLIAM JOHN ALLISS ..Treble.	ALFRED W. GROVES 5.
JOHN SMART 2.	GEORGE GATLAND 6.
HENRY STRINGER 3.	CHARLES TYLER 7.
GEORGE PAYNE 4.	HENRY H. CHANDLER ..Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES TYLER.

G. Gatland and J. Smart hail from Steyning; Chandler from Warnham; the rest are local men.

Performances on Five and Six Bells.

KILDWICK.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(AIREDALE BRANCH.)

On Friday, September 18, 1896, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

SEVEN 720s OF MINOR, as follows;

Kent, Violet, Duke of York, Oxford, Woodbine, New London, and Plain Bob. Tenor 10 cwt.

CHRISTOPHER BROWN ..Treble.	CHARLES LAW 4.
SETH TILLOTSON 2.	CLARENCE HOLMES 5.
JOHN BODDY 3.	JOHN HILLTenor.

First six conducted by JOHN BODDY; and the last by JOHN HILL.

Longest length by all. First 5040 on the bells. All the above belong to the local company.

ARLEY CASTLE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 19, 1896, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS;

Being 720 each of the following:

College Single, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, Plain Bob, and Grandsire. Tenor 9½ cwt.

ARTHUR SPITTLETreble.	SAMUEL SPITTLE 4.
WILLIAM J. SMITH 2.	EDWARD HAMPTON 5.
WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT 3.	JOHN SMITHTenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT.

Reference to this performance will be found on another page.

Date Touches.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—BLACKBURN BRANCH.

BURNLEY (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, September 15th, at Holy Trinity church, a date touch of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1 hr. 10 mins. D. Heys, 1; N. Townend, 2; F. Towns, 3; H. Heyworth, 4; J. Werring, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman, 8. Composed by J. Werring, and Conducted by D. Heys.

MIRFIELD (Yorks).—On Sunday, September 13th, at the parish church, a date touch of 1896 Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung with the bells muffled, as a tribute of respect to the late Joah Peacock, of Mirfield, in 1 hr. 17 mins. W. Peacock, 1; C. Peacock, 2; F. Robinson, 3; H. Peacock, 4; T. Crawshaw, 5; A. Holmes (conductor), 6; D. Clarkson, 7; H. Hinchcliffe, 8; B. Robinson, 9; S. Peacock, 10. Composed by William Holmes, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Miscellaneous.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—WIRRAL BRANCH.

LOWER BEBINGTON (Cheshire).—On Saturday, Saturday, 5th, 3024 Canterbury Pleasure Major in 2 hrs. 15 mins. J. Smith, 1; J. Shone,

2; J. Woods, 3; W. Smith, 4; J. Rowlands, 5; F. Jones, 6; C. Gittins, 7; J. Dillon (composer and conductor), 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of Mr. F. R. T. Bolton, late secretary of the branch, who died on September 4th, after a brief illness.

THE ELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

(SUDBURY ARCHIDIACONAL BRANCH.)

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Saturday evening, September 12th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor (nine bobs), in 27½ mins. W. Hollocks, 1; T. Levett, 2; H. Poulson, 3; C. W. Grimwood, 4; A. Hollocks, 5; C. W. R. Grimwood (conductor), 6. Messrs. Grimwood (2) and Levett hail from Hitcham; the rest belong to Preston.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

EDENBRIDGE (Kent).—On Sunday evening, September 6th, for Divine Service, 672 Grandsire Triples. J. Edwards, 1; R. Jenner, 2; J. Heasman, 3; J. Steddy, 4; J. Wallis, 5; T. Wallis, 6; J. Preston, 7; J. Maylon, 8. On Wednesday, September 16th, for practice, 504 Grandsire Triples. J. Maylon, 1; R. Jenner, 2; J. Heasman, 3; J. Steddy, 4; J. Wallis, 5; T. Wallis, 6; J. Preston, 7; P. Smith, 8. And another 504 in the same method. J. Edwards, 1; R. Jenner, 2; J. Heasman, 3; J. Steddy, 4; J. Wallis, 5; T. Wallis, 6; J. Preston, 7; G. Balaam, 8. All the above were conducted by John Preston.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MANCHESTER.—On Saturday, September 19th, at the Town Hall, on the light six, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. J. Smith, 1; F. Smith, 2; G. Turner, 3; G. Woodhouse, 4; A. Cross, 5; H. Chapman (conductor), 6. Tenor 17 cwt.

CHIPPING (Lancashire).—On Sunday, August 16th, at the parish church, 720 Canterbury Pleasure. R. Kenyon, 1; W. Timbrell, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; E. Timbrell (conductor), 4; T. Seed, 5; E. Seed, 6. On Sunday, August 23rd, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. R. Kenyon, 1; W. Timbrell, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; E. Timbrell (conductor), 4; T. Seed, 5; F. Timbrell, 6. On Wednesday, August 26th, 720 Plain Bob (forty-two singles). R. Kenyon, 1; J. Seed, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; W. Timbrell (conductor), 4; E. Timbrell, 5; F. Timbrell, 6. On Wednesday, September 2nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob. R. Kenyon, 1; W. Timbrell, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; E. Timbrell (conductor), 4; T. Seed, 5; F. Timbrell, 6. On Sunday, September 6th, 720 Grandsire Minor, standing as above. On Wednesday, September 9th, 720 Oxford Bob and 720 Canterbury Pleasure, standing as above. On Sunday, September 13th, 720 Plain Bob. E. Timbrell, 1; J. Seed, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; W. Timbrell (conductor), 4; T. Seed, 5; F. Timbrell, 6. On Sunday, September 20th, 720 College Single. R. Kenyon, 1; W. Timbrell, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; E. Timbrell (conductor), 4; T. Seed, 5; F. Timbrell, 6. Also 720 Plain Bob. T. Seed, 1; J. Seed, 2; J. Kenyon, 3; W. Timbrell (conductor), 4; E. Timbrell, 5; F. Timbrell, 6.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

WOLVERLEY.—On Tuesday, September 8th, at the parish church, a 720 London Surprise. G. Salter, 1; E. Hunt, 2; W. Smith, 3; N. Davis, 4; T. Salter (conductor), 5; J. Pagett, 6. This is the first 720 in the method in the county.

KIDDERMINSTER.—On Wednesday, September 16th, 720 London Surprise. N. Davis, 1; E. Hunt, 2; W. Smith, 3; J. Bennett (first 720 in the method), 4; T. Salter (conductor), 5; J. Pagett, 6.

KING'S NORTON (Worcestershire).—September 11th, an attempt was made to ring Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, which came to grief after 4764 changes had been rung in 2 hrs. 45 mins. W. H. Sumner, 1; W. H. Barber (conductor), 2; F. Sumner, 3; J. Withers (longest length), 4; J. Wright, 5; W. Palmer, 6; F. Clayton, 7; G. Cooper, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs. in E. Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect to the late Mr. Richard Foster, Clerk of this parish for fourteen years; also sexton and beadle for a much longer period.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

REIGATE (Surrey).—On Monday, September 7th, at the parish church, 224 Bob Major. F. Linter, 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2; G. Thompson, 3; G. Huggett, 4; T. Brown, 5; G. Hoad, 6; W. Argent, 7; F. Hoad, jun., 8. And 224 Kent Treble Bob Major. E. Mosas, 1; F. Hoad, sen., 2; F. Linter, 3; G. Huggett, 4; G. Hoad, 5; E. Kenward, 6; W. Argent, 7; F. Hoad, jun., 8. Also 252 Stedman Triples. G. Thompson, 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2; F. Linter, 3; G. Huggett, 4; G. Hoad, 5; E. Kenward, 6; F. Hoad, jun., 7; J. Steadman, 8. On Monday, September 14th, 360 Bob Minor on the back six. P. Knight, 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2;

E. Kenward, 3; G. Hoad, 4; W. Argent, 5; F. Hoad, jun., 6. And 504 Stedman Triples. P. Knight, 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2; G. Huggett, 3; E. Kenward, 4; G. Hoad, 5; F. Hoad, jun., 6; W. Argent, 7; J. Steadman, 8. Also 336 Bob Major. P. Knight, 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2; G. Huggett, 3; E. Kenward, 4; T. Brown, 5; G. Hoad, 6; W. Argent, 7; F. Hoad, jun., 8. And 378 Grandsire Triples. F. Hoad, jun., 1; F. Hoad, sen. (conductor), 2; P. Knight, 3; G. Hoad, 4; T. Brown, 5; E. Kenward, 6; G. Huggett, 7; A. Moseley, 8.

NEWBURY (Berks).—On Saturday, September 12th, eight members of the Croydon society paid a visit to the church of St. Nicholas, and after ringing 500 Stedman Triples, an attempt was made for a peal of Grandsire Triples, but owing to the bad "go" of the seventh bell, the bells were brought round at the half-way in 1 hr. 31 mins. C. Bance, 1; J. Rumble, 2; H. Brooker (conductor), 3; E. Matthews, 4; F. Pates, 5; W. States, 5; W. Hill, 7; C. Gordon, 8. Afterwards a visit was paid to the churches of St. Giles and St. Mary, Reading, where several touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung. The ringers wish through the medium of this paper to thank the vicars for the use of the bells; and also Messrs. Hussey (Newbury), and Newell (Reading), for making all preparations.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

WHITWICK (Leicestershire).—On Sunday, September 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. J. Rawson, 1; W. West, 2; A. Whitmore, 3; S. West, 4; H. Partridge, 5; B. West, 6; J. A. Moulton (conductor), 7; L. Partridge, 8.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PULHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday, September 20th, 1896, at the church of St. Mary Magdalen, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. F. Borrett (conductor), 1; C. Baker, 2; F. Roope, 3; D. Ruth, 4; J. Allen, 5; W. Roope, 6. For evening service 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. F. Borrett (conductor), 1; F. Surridge, 2; F. Roope, 3; D. Ruth, 4; C. Baker, 5; W. Roope, 6.

REDENHALL (Norfolk).—On Sunday, September 20th, before afternoon service, a course of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. E. Smith (conductor), 1; J. Betts, 2; R. Whiting, 3; F. Borrett, 4; E. Poppy, 5; J. Tann, 6; F. Smith, 7; J. Souter, 8. And after service 448 Superlative Surprise Major by the same band, and a touch of Oxford Treble Bob Major. E. Smith (conductor), 1; J. Betts, 2; R. Whiting, 3; J. Tann, 4; F. Borrett, 5; H. Fairhead, 6; F. Smith, 7; J. Souter, 8.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HIGHAM FERRERS (Northants).—On Tuesday, September 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. A. Everitt, 1; A. H. Martin, 2; G. Warner, 3; J. Garrett, 4; J. B. Martin, 5; W. Parker, 6; J. Houghton (conductor), 7; G. Brown, 8. Also 608 Bob Major. A. Everitt, 1; G. Warner, 2; J. B. Martin, 3; J. Garrett, 4; G. Brown, 5; J. Houghton, 6; W. Parker, 7; A. H. Martin (conductor), 8. And 518 Grandsire Triples. J. Garrett (conductor), 1; J. B. Martin, 2; G. Brown, 3; G. Warner, 4; A. H. Martin, 5; W. Parker, 6; J. Houghton, 7; A. Everitt, 8. Also 584 Bob Major, conducted by J. B. Martin. An attempt was also made by the same company for a peal of Bob Major, but it came to grief after ringing 2000 changes, conducted by J. Houghton.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday, July 14th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Oxford Bob. F. Parrott, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; H. Toll, 3; F. Hull, 4; C. Chasty, 5; A. Robinson, 6. And a 720 Woodbine. A. Robinson, 1; I. Hills, 2; C. Chasty, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; H. Toll, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Tuesday, July 21st, a 5040 in seven Treble Bob Minor methods was attempted, but after ringing a 720 each of College Pleasure and London Scholars' Pleasure, and 600 of College Exercise, the 4th rope broke. H. Toll, 1; I. Hills, 2; C. Chasty, 3; F. Hull, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; H. Tysoe, 6. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Tysoe, 1; I. Hills, 2; H. Toll, 3; C. W. Clarke, 4; F. Hull, 5; C. Chasty (conductor), 6. On Tuesday, August 4th, a 720 Double Court. F. Parrott, 1; H. Sharp (conductor), 2; C. Chasty, 3; H. Toll, 4; C. W. Clarke, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Tyson, 1; H. Sharp, 2; H. Toll, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; A. Robinson, 6. And a 720 Woodbine. A. Robinson, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; C. Chasty, 3; H. Sharp, 4; H. Toll, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Tuesday, August 25th, a 720 Double Court. F. Parrott, 1; I. Hills, 2; F. Hull, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; H. Tysoe, 6. And a 720 of College Exercise. H. Toll, 1; I. Hills, 2; C. Chasty, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; H. Tysoe, 5; F. Hull, 6. On Sunday, July 19th, at St. Peter's church, a 720 of Bob Minor. F. Parrott, 1; F. Hull, 2; H.

Tysoe, 3; H. Toll, 4; A. Robinson, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. And 720 Oxford Bob. F. Parrott, 1; A. Robinson, 2; F. Lowe, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; F. Hull, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Sunday, July 26th, a 720 Double Court. F. Parrott, 1; C. Chasty, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; H. Toll, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; S. Constant, 6. And a 720 Kent Treble Bob. C. W. Clarke (conductor), 1; A. Robinson, 2; H. Tysoe, 3; S. Lowe, 4; S. Constant, 5; F. Hull, 6. On Friday, July 31st, a 720 Kent Treble Bob. F. Hull, 1; S. Lowe, 2; F. Lowe, 3; H. Toll, 4; A. Robinson, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. And a 720 Woodbine. A. Robinson, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; S. Lowe, 3; H. Sharp, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; F. Hull, 6. On Thursday, August 6th, a 720 College Pleasure. H. Toll, 1; H. Sharp, 2; C. Chasty, 3; F. Hull, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. On Sunday, August 9th, a 720 Oxford Bob. F. Parrott, 1; S. Lowe, 2; C. Chasty, 3; A. Robinson, 4; S. Constant, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. And a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. S. Constant, 1; F. Lowe, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; H. Sharpe, 4; C. Chasty, 5; F. Hull, 6. On Thursday, August 13th, a 720 Grandsire Minor. F. Parrott, 1; C. Chasty, 2; F. Lowe, 3; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 4; H. Toll, 5; S. Constant, 6. On Thursday, August 20th, 720 Woodbine. A. Robinson, 1; F. Lowe, 2; C. Chasty, 3; F. Hull, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BARKING (Essex).—On Thursday, September 10th, on handbells retained in hand, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1280 changes), in 41 mins. R. Fenn, 1-2; A. Hardy, 3-4; T. Faulkner, 5-6; C. Fenn, 7-8. First in the method on handbells by all. Also a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original, in 36 mins. Both conducted by T. Faulkner. On Sunday, September 13th, after evening service at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major, 1280 changes, in 48 mins. A. Deards, 1; S. Hayes, 2; T. Faulkner, 3; G. R. Pye, 4; E. Pye, 5; A. Hardy, 6; J. Dale, 7; W. Pye (composer and conductor), 8. Tenor 22½ cwt. First quarter-peal in the method by all and on the bells.

KELVEDON (Essex).—On Wednesday, August 12th, for practice at St. Mary's church, a 720 Bob Minor (thirty-two bobs and two singles). H. Gazzard, 1; H. Elliott, 2; J. Elliott, 3; W. Keeble, 4; H. Evers, 5; W. Elliott (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, September 2nd, for practice, a 720 Double Court (eighteen bobs and two singles). C. Mills, 1; H. Elliott, 2; J. Elliott (first in the method with a bob bell), 3; W. Keeble, 4; H. Evers, 5; W. Elliott (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, September 9th, a 720 Double Court. W. Keeble, 1; D. Elliott, 4; the rest as before. And 360 Bob Minor. J. Willshire, 1; D. Elliott, 2; W. Keeble, 4; the rest as before. On Wednesday, September 19th, for practice, two courses of Cambridge Surprise, and a 360 of Cambridge Surprise. H. Elliott, 1; E. W. Beckwith, 2; D. H. Elliott, 3; W. Keeble, 4; H. Evers, 5; W. Elliott (conductor), 6. First 360 in the method by all, and rung at the first attempt.

WITHAM (Essex).—On Tuesday, August 18th, at the parish church, a 720 of Bob Minor. J. Willsher, 1; A. Chalk, 2; W. Keeble, 3; H. Evers, 4; E. Chaplin, 5; D. Elliott (conductor), 6. And 720 Double Court. J. Butler, 1; the rest as before. On Sunday, August 30th, a 720 Bob Minor. J. Butler, 1; A. Chalk, 2; W. Richards, 3; W. Keeble (conductor), 4; E. Garnett, 5; H. Sayers, 6. Rung on the occasion of Harvest Festival.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BRIDGNORTH (Salop).—On Thursday, September 17th, on the occasion of the opening of the Bridgnorth and South Shropshire Infirmary, the ringers of St. Leonard's church rang 518 Grandsire Triples, also a quarter-peal in the same method. T. Overton, 1; J. Howard, 2; W. Maund, 3; J. E. Overton, 4; W. Richards, 5; H. W. Overton, 6; J. Overton (conductor), 7; H. Jones, 8.

CHELMARSH (Bridgnorth).—On Sunday, September 20th, seven members of the above Guild visited St. Peter's church and rang for the Harvest Festival service in the evening several 6-scores of Doubles and 360 Grandsire Minor, conducted by H. A. Hall. And 720 Grandsire Minor. W. Maund, 1; A. H. Espley, 2; H. A. Hall, 3; H. Hammond, 4; H. W. Overton, 5; J. Overton (conductor), 6.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—On Sunday, September 19th, at St. Matthew's, Clapton, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, 1260 changes, in 40 mins. W. Burkin (conductor), 1; J. Pettit, 2; W. D. Smith, 3; F. Rumens, 4; A. Rumens, 5; G. J. Smith, 6; W. T. Cockerill, 7; Arthur Coles, 8.

LONDON.—On Monday, September 21st, at St. Ann's church, Stamford Hill, a 720 Grandsire Minor. A. Ringrose, 1; F. Rumens, 2; W. D. Smith, 3; W. B. Manning, 4; G. J. Smith, 5; W. Burkin (conductor), 6.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Sunday, August 30th, at St. Martin's church, 720 Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles). F. Hodgkin, 1; W. Sherwood, 2; D. Hodgkin, 3; R. Goodbourn, 4; P. Hodgkin (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.

BANHAM (Norfolk).—On Wednesday, September 6th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Bob Minor (six singles and eight bobs). F. Nudds, 1; W. Nudds, 2; R. Patrick, 3; J. Tite, 4; A. Mann, 5; J. Saunders (conductor), 6.

CHEAM (Surrey).—On Sunday, September 8th, at St. Dunstan's church, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). C. F. Northfield, 1; W. Chatfield, jun., 2; C. E. Spence, 3; J. T. Reynolds, 4; F. Northfield, 5; C. G. Gomme (conductor), 6. This is C. F. Northfield's first 720, and great credit is due to him, as he is only fifteen years of age.

EARLS COLNE (Essex).—On Sunday, September 13th, for the Harvest Festival, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. S. Burst, 1; W. Rogers, 2; J. Flenty, 3; D. Claydon, 4; E. Ridgewell (conductor), 5; W. Scillitoe, 6. And 720 Kent Treble Bob. E. Ridgewell, 1; A. Saunders, 2; G. Arnold, 3; W. Rogers, 4; W. Burst (conductor), 5; D. Claydon, 6. Ridgewell, Saunders, Arnold and W. Burst hail from Grensted Green; the rest are local men.

FEERING (Essex).—On Sunday, September 6th, on the occasion of the Harvest Thanksgiving, for early morning service, a 720 Bob Minor. J. Willsher, 1; H. Pye, 2; W. Hunwick, sen., 3; G. Hum, 4; W. Hunwick, jun., 5; J. Newman (conductor), 6. And a 720 Bob Minor, for 11 o'clock service. W. Keeble, 4; rest as before. And for evening service, a 720 Double Court. W. Hunwick (first 720 in the method), 1; H. Elliott, 2; J. Sadler, 3; D. Elliott (conductor), 4; H. Evers, 5; W. Elliott, 6. And 360 Bob Minor. J. Willsher, 1; H. Pye, 2; W. Hunwick, 3; G. Hum, 4; W. Keeble, 5; J. Newman (conductor), 6. After service a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Keeble, 1; H. Elliott, 2; H. Evers, 3; W. Elliott, 4; D. Elliott (conductor), 5; J. Newman, 6. Messrs. H. and W. Elliott, Evers, and Keeble hail from Kelvedon; D. Elliott from Coggeshall, the rest belong to the local company. Tenor 18 cwt. in F sharp.

HORSLEY (Derbyshire).—On Thursday, September 10th, two 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by the local company. On Sunday, September 13th, a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. T. Whilton, 1; W. Smith, 2; W. Aldread, 3; W. Peat, 4; J. Aldread (conductor), 5. Tenor 20 cwt. This is the first change-ringing by a local band at the above place.

OLNEY (Bucks).—On September 3rd, at the church of SS. Peter and Paul, 720 Bob Minor. F. Hopper, 1; R. Perkins, 2; W. Wright, 3; S. Smith, 4; W. Jones, 5; R. Raban (conductor), 6. First attempt by treble-man. For the Harvest Thanksgiving service 720 Bob Minor, in 28 mins. F. Hopper, 1; R. Perkins, 2; W. Wright, 3; S. Smith, 4; W. Jones, 5; R. Raban (conductor), 6. And another 720 in the same method. T. Wright, 1; the rest as before.

OCKLEY (Surrey).—On Thursday evening, September 17th, at St. Margaret's church, for practice, 720 Oxford Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). C. Cox, 1; Rev. C. E. Eagles, 2; G. Cox, 3; W. Mills, 4; J. Taylor, 5; C. Taylor (conductor), 6. Also 360 in the same method (twelve singles). A. Bravery, 1; Rev. C. E. Eagles, 2; E. Holloway, 3; C. Taylor, 4; J. Taylor, 5; E. Jordan (conductor), 6. E. Jordan and E. Holloway hail from Capel; the Rev. C. E. Eagles, from King Somborne.

PETERSFIELD (Hants).—On Monday, August 14th, at St. Peter's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 47 mins. G. Bettes, worth, 1; Rev. Cyril Edwards, 2; W. Wilkinson, 3; T. Cole, 4; W. Butter, 5; G. Barnes, 6; J. W. Whiting (conductor), 7; W. Downs, 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

PRITTLEWELL (Essex).—On Friday, September 18th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. W. Hunt, 1; W. Bedwell, 2; W. Dowsett, 3; W. Dudley, 4; C. Anderson, 5; J. Smith, 6; W. Judd (conductor), 7; J. Pryor, 8. First quarter-peal on the bells.

ROUGHAM (Suffolk).—On Sunday afternoon, September 6th, after Divine Service at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. A. Steggles, 1; Rev. E. J. Teesdale, 2; H. Hanley, 3; H. Simpson, 4; S. Slater (conductor), 5; H. Bridges, 6. For evening service 720 Bob Minor. A. Osborne (conductor), 2; H. Hanley, 3; H. Simpson, 4; H. Blake, 5; H. Bridges, 6.

8vo. Price 1s. 6d. nett. Post free 1s. 7½d.

A DIAGRAM OF A SYSTEM OF PEALS OF UNION TRIPLES: In imitation of Shipway's peal, with the bobbing of three hundred peals of the system, and directions for getting from the diagram the bobbing of fifteen hundred more peals of the system.—By W. H. THOMPSON, Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

CAMBRIDGE: Macmillan and Bowes.

THE BELLS OF CROYLAND ABBEY.

This venerable Abbey (of which a sketch is annexed) is situated in the south of Lincolnshire, and was founded in the year 716 A.D. by Ethelbald, King of Mercia, in memory of his promise made to a monk named Guthlac. In the year 870 the Danes, under Osketul, slew Theodore, the fourth Abbot of Croyland, at the high altar, and burnt the Abbey. Thurkytel, Athelstan's Chancellor, became the sixth Abbot of Croyland in the year 941. He rebuilt the Abbey on a majestic scale, and introduced into the Monastery the Benedictine rule. In the year 946 Thurkytel gave a great bell, which he named Guthlac; afterwards other bells were added. Thus in Croyland Abbey "the first peal of bells was hung in England:" a fact which will be interesting to the readers of this paper. Elgeric, Thurkytel's nephew, made the six bells named Bartholomew, Betelin, Thurkytel, Tatwyn, Bega, and Pega. These, when rung together, resounded with melody through the extended plains of South Lincolnshire, whence the proverb: "As sweet as Croyland bells." But these bells were destroyed by fire in the year 1091. Abbot Joffrid, on the 7th of March, 1113, laid the first stone of the choir, but before the nave could be roofed an earthquake (1118) damaged the building. In the year 1170 the Abbey was burnt a third time. Abbot Lytlington (1464) sent five of the six bells to London, to be recast at a cost of £160. Before they were hung they were consecrated by Nicholas, Bishop of Elphin, and Suffragan to John, Bishop of Lincoln. The bells were named Guthlac, Bartholomew, Michael, Mary, and Trinity. As they were raising a great beam to the roof of the new-built belfry, the tackle suddenly gave way, and in falling greatly damaged the building below, but though there were twenty workmen in the tower, not one of them received any hurt. At the dissolution of the monasteries (1539) the annual income of the Abbey amounted to £1217, out of which sum the Commissioners generously allowed the sum of "£10 for serving the cure of Croyland." In 1688 the nave roof fell, and the north aisle became the parish church.

A few notes from the Parish Book of Records may interest the readers of "THE BELL NEWS."

"5th July, 1788. Took the third and second bells down, and sent them to Leicester to be recast. The third bell weighed 6 cwt. 2 qrs. 21 lbs.; the second bell weighed 6 cwt., with 7½ stone of iron, with nuts, bolts, screws, and two clappers."

"The second bell was brought back 16th July, and put in the frames the 24th and 25th July, 1788."

"1797, the fourth bell was recast by Edward Arnold, of Leicester, at a cost of £22 18s. 2½d.

The cost of carriage from Crowland to Leicester, £1 13s. 6d.

The fourth bell weighed 9½ cwt.

Gave the ringers five shillings for ringing after the bell was up. Paid James Blake for a set of bell ropes, £1 7s. 6d.

"18th October, 1798. Paid the ringers at Nelson's victory 5s., and 2s. for powder."

"24th December, 1815. Paid the ringers for three days at the celebration of peace, £1 10s."

The present peal consists of only five bells, but a new frame has been added for a sixth bell. Would some kind steward of this world's wealth give a small bell?

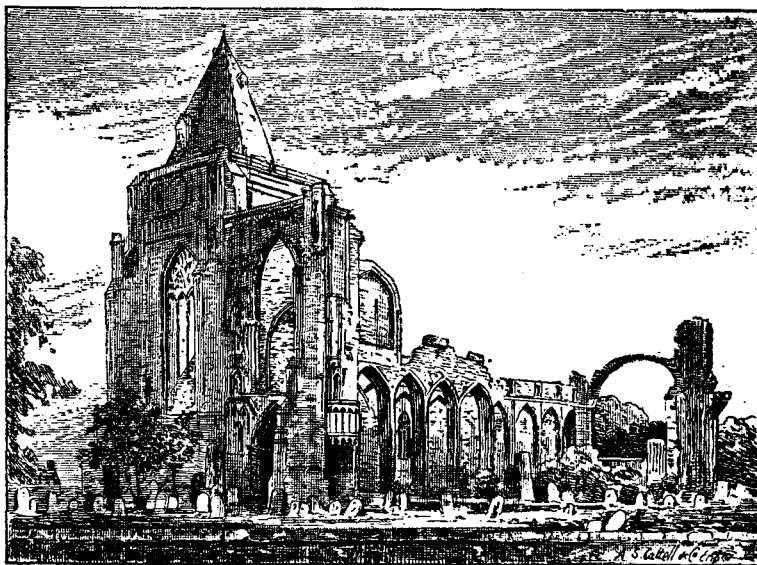
The present peal was re-tuned and one bell re-cast in 1895, and re-hung for the 5th May, 1895, the fortieth anniversary day of the Rector's wedding.

The present peal of bells, as fixed for the 5th May, 1895:—

No. 1: Diameter, 2ft. 6½in.; height, 2ft. 1in.; musical note, C Sharp; weight, 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs.; date, 1895; inscription, "Thomas Norris made me 1674." Rev. T. H. Le Boeuf, Rector. T. Atkinson, A. Bellairs, Churchwardens. This bell was re-cast 1895, by J. Taylor, Loughborough."

No. 2: Diameter, 2ft. 9in.; height, 2ft. 3½in.; musical note, B; weight, 6 cwt. 2 qrs. 14 lbs.; date, 1788; inscription, "Wm. Hickling and Wm. Cooke, Churchwardens. Edwd. Arnold, Leicester, Fecit 1788."

No. 3: Diameter, 2ft. 9½in.; height, 2ft. 5½in.; musical note,



A Sharp; weight, 6 cwt. 1 qr. 18 lbs.; date, 1788; inscription same as No. 2.

No. 4: Diameter, 3ft. 1½in.; height, 2ft. 5in.; musical note, G Sharp; weight, 9 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs.; date, 1797; inscription, "Rev. Moore Sciebo, Rector. William Cooke and Charles Ashby, Churchwardens. E. Arnold, Leicester, Fecit 1797."

No. 5: Diameter, 3ft. 3in.; height, 2ft. 7½in.; musical note, F Sharp; weight, 9 cwt. 2 qrs. 8 lbs.; bears no date; inscription, "IN MULTIS ANNIS RESONET CAMPANA JOHANNIS."

Total weight: 37 cwt. 3 qrs. 3 lbs.

The cost of the tower repairs since 1887 has been nearly £2,000. The sum still required is £1,830 for the north aisle, or present parish church. The Bell Fund is in debt £10 11s. 7½d. The Rector of Croyland earnestly appeals for help in this great work, and trusts that donations may still flow in, which may enable him to make safe the ancient and historic Abbey of Croyland, otherwise Crowland.

T. H. LE BOEUF,
Rector of Croyland.

KELVEDON, ESSEX.

On Sunday, September 13th, a new stained glass window, erected to the memory of the late Vicar of Kelvedon and his wife, was dedicated by the Rev. E. F. Hay (Vicar), the sermon being preached by the Rev. F. Spurrell, of Faulkbourne, a former friend of the deceased Vicar. The window has been placed in the tower, and represents Dorcas making garments for the poor, and St. Peter feeding Christ's flock. The inscription on the window is as follows:—

"To the glory of God and in loving remembrance of George Peter Bennett, M.A., for 32 years Vicar, and his wife Charlotte. Erected by their son, Henry Curtis Bennett, J.P., Sept., 1896."

The ringing in the morning, when the window was "opened," commenced with a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob by J. Elliott, C. Elliott, H. Elliott, W. Keeble, D. Elliott, W. Elliott (conductor). For evening service 720 of Kent (5th the observation). J. Elliott, H. Elliott, C. Elliott, W. Keeble (first 720 of Treble Bob as conductor), H. Evers, W. Elliott. After service 360 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Elliott, W. Elliott, J. Newman, W. Keeble (conductor), H. Evers, D. Elliott. Tenor 21 cwt. 1 qr. 17 lbs.

WILBY, NORTHANTS.

On Thursday evening, September 10th, Wilby bells sent forth in mellow muffled tones a token of respect from the Rector and parishioners for the memory of Mr. John Sharp, of Doddington. The local ringers accomplished 720 changes, being 360 each of Grandsire and Bob Doubles. R. Sharp, 1; F. Fowler, 2; F. Barber (conductor), 3; A. Fairey, 4; W. Smith, 5. Mr. Sharp was an honorary member of the Central Northamptonshire Association.

MEN AND MANNERS.

The bells of earth go sounding on
 From many an ancient steeple,
 Telling their tales of woe or joy
 To all the waiting people;
 To-day they mourn a nation's loss
 In muffled tones of sorrow,
 But chant the merry wedding bells
 In gladsome tones to-morrow.
 To-day they sing of victory
 With banners gaily flying,
 To-morrow, requiems for the slain
 On all the winds are sighing;
 Their tune is one; but human souls
 All thoughts and passion blending,
 Can turn the music at their will,
 To each emotion bending.
 And when death's sad procession moves,
 The bells are slowly tolling;
 How mournfully upon the ear
 Those waves of sound come rolling.
 The bells of earth go sounding on
 With note that ever changes,
 And over all the chords of life
 Their mystic muses ranges.

No thank you. My noble brow looks quite manly enough without the laurel wreath. The above poem is nothing to speak of. It was simply dashed off to make my column look classical, but it shows what we can do when occasion requires. It will not be a walk over for the next laureateship, not by several long chalks. Talking of poetry, it is about time the Glemsford gladiator got to again. His slate is full and running over with bell poetry and things, in fact the Editor is seriously thinking of running a poet's corner for the benefit of the poor long-haired individuals who dwell in garrets. To make poetry is (to use the phrase of the Kettering men) "as easy as snuff." You simply write down all the melancholy things you can think of, cut off the ends of each line, rhyme the last words, and there you are. To be conventional you must wear your hair very long, diet yourself until you get lanky, and then sallie forth. Once again, it's as easy as snuff.

* * * *

The six-bell ringers are naturally in sore trouble over the latest discovery. All who have rung 5040s on six, with Yorkshire Court and Court Bob, will put the blue pencil through those performances as false. It is lucky the methods were not produced by mushroom composers. As Mr. Snowdon points out, it is evident that the methods were originally evolved by Hubbard for Major ringing, and eventually reduced or applied to Minor. I can only see one 5040 rung during this year that includes Yorkshire Court, viz.: one by the South Lincolnshire Association. In 1895 I find there were three or four, in fact most six-bell companies have rung the methods one time or another. As it is clear that a 5040 on six bells must be false sevenfold, it might be argued that a false 720 ought not to invalidate the performance; but the line must be drawn somewhere, and most properly through a false method or composition. The greatest chagrin will be felt in those companies where tablets are erected to record the performance, but some solace might be felt by ringing another genuinely on the anniversary to take the place of the false one. I know of several peals which have been re-rung in this manner.

* * * *

Who says a slice of Turkey? This is the question before the political gourmands of Europe. Here are six powers all agreed that something ought to be done for the persecuted Armenians, but no move is made. Is it because each suspects the other of seeking a greater share of the spoils? Here and there we hear rumours that H.R.H. the Prince of Wales will get the ear of the Czar, and thus induce the Russian monarch to lead in the attack on Turkish misrule. It may be so, but there are some of us who recollect that there is such a place as Siberia, and such an instrument of torture as the knout. There are some of us too who know what horrible cruelties were perpetrated on the Jews when they were exiled from Russia, and what the word freedom means to inhabitants of a country where every

third man is a police spy. In short, the "Czar of all the Russias" may safely—to slightly alter the adage—let justice begin at home. Our course is clear. Seeing that the British sword is so ready to leap from its scabbard to slay savages whose only crime is in defending their huts and lands from being stolen, to satisfy a handful of grasping philanthropic (?) millionaires; can we not on this errand of mercy go forth—if necessary—alone?

* * * *

"Ye ringers all: who prize your health and happiness, be sober, merry, wise, and you'll the same possess." So runs the refrain, but I venture to say that if the ringers' jug we saw in last week's "BELL NEWS" is made use of in its fullest capacity, "Ye Ringers" no doubt will be merry, but whether they would be wise or happy is a question. Of course there are times in a ringer's life when such a jug would come in handy. For instance, Christmas morning, when one has been out all night with the handbells and finished up on the tower, such a jug would be as welcome as the flowers in May. But sixteen quarts! However, it would not go far among some that I know. Let me tell you a story. Some years ago a certain band went out to ring a peal. I believe it was in the neighbourhood of Church Langton, Leicestershire. The usual crowd of hangers on went with them, and were told that while the peal was on they might have a little refreshment. The peal was rung, and when they went to settle the light refreshment bill, lo! it was forty quarts! And they had "shifted" it in three hours. Well, as the landlord said, they had had it, and the "hangers on" said ditto, there was nothing to do but settle up; but it will be a very cold day before some of them hang on again. There is a very quaint old ringers' jug in Lincoln, at the meeting house. It don't hold so much as the one at Glemsford, but it holds enough; and shall I confess it? I have "looked" inside it. On one side is painted "Presented to ye city ringers, 1792." It is made entirely of leather, and when a peal is rung it is sometimes brought out; but what a thirsty lot the last century ringers must have been.

* * * *

According to the news found in another column it will be seen that another of us has joined the Benedicts. One by one they come, unable to ward off the darts of Cupid, but we who have experienced it all can at least in the manner of Artemus Ward extend to the couple "our deepest sympathy!" Of course Artemus didn't mean it, not if we take the tale of his courtship as a guide, and neither do I. The probabilities are that if I hadn't got wed when I did I would have been in the workhouse—and as Mrs. Jingle, peeping over my shoulder says—or prison. But in all seriousness, courtship is often a great drawback to ringing, that is unless the lady takes to the art, in which case all runs smoothly; but as a rule the smitten suitor transfers for a time his attentions from the rope to the belle, but after the happy event the method is exactly reversed. At any rate it was in the case of

JINGLE.

THE HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION, YORKSHIRE.

The September meeting of the above was held at Batley Carr on Saturday, September 19th, members being present from Batley, Earlsheaton, Ossett, Lindley, Thornhill, Mirfield, and Batley Carr. The meeting took place at the Foresters' Arms, Mr. F. Scholefield occupying the chair.

The Chairman moved, and George Day seconded, a vote of condolence to the families of J. G. Hardy and J. Peacock, late members.

Mr. George Day proposed, and Mr. A. Briggs seconded, that Mr. J. Blackburn be elected vice-president *pro tem*.

Two new members were made. The meeting then closed, the remainder of the evening being spent in ringing.

THE PEAL "APPENDIX, 1895," PRINTED BY
 the Central Council Committee, may be obtained post free, with the Report on Calls, on application to the Hon. Secretary, Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn, enclosing 7½d. in stamps.

Notices.

Lancashire Association.—The Annual Meeting will take place to-day, Saturday, September 26th, at Manchester. Service in the cathedral at 3.30 p.m. Preacher—The Hon. and Rev. A. T. Lyttelton, M.A., vicar of Eccles. Rossendale, Blackburn, Liverpool, and Preston branches are called upon to nominate members for the Committee. All matter for the above, any additions or alterations for the report, should be sent to J. Redford. New compositions of peals rung during the year send to A. E. Wreaks, 41, Gibbon Street, Bolton.

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

The Worcestershire and Districts Association.—The next committee and quarterly meeting of this Association will be held at Evesham, to-day, Saturday, Sept. 26th. The Rev. G. Napier Whittingham, M.A., Vicar, has kindly promised to preside over same in the Parish Hall at 5.30 prompt, and placed the tower and bells at our disposal.

JNO. SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

The Old East Derbyshire Association.—The quarterly meeting will be held at North Wingfield to-day, Saturday, September 26th. Church (six bells), ten minutes' walk from station. EDWIN JAMES, *Hon. Sec.*
Park View, Meersbrook Bank Road, Sheffield.

The Liverpool Diocesan Guild.—The next meeting of this Guild will be held at St. Peter's, Hindley, to-day, Saturday, September 26th. Bells ready 3 p.m.; tea 5 p.m. (free); business meeting 6 p.m.

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

The Winchester Diocesan Guild.—There will be a quarterly meeting at Basingstoke to-day, Saturday, September 26th. Bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 5.30. Meeting at 6 p.m. at the Church Cottage.

CHARLES E. MATTHEWS, *Hon. Sec.*
Hursley, Winchester.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The next monthly ringing meeting of this Society will be held at Christ Church, Armley (6 bells), to-day, Saturday, September 26th. A peal will be attempted at 2.30. Meeting house, The Barley Corn inn. Members and friends please note the change of Secretary's address.

R. BINNS, *Sec.*
4, Kirkland Square, Kirkland Street,
Beeston Road, Leeds.

North Lincolnshire Association.—The next general meeting will be held at Grimsby to-day, Saturday, September 26th. Short service in the parish church at 4.30. Tea, at 1s. 3d. each, will be provided in the Bull Ring Coffee Hall at 5 o'clock. Business meeting directly after. The bells at S. James' (eight) during afternoon and evening, and S. Andrew's (eight) until 7 o'clock, will be at the use of ringers.

REGINALD BOND, *Hon. Sec.*
77, Newland Street West, Lincoln.

The Essex Association.—There will be a district meeting of the above at Prattlewell on Saturday, October 3rd. The tower of Prattlewell (8 bells) will be open for ringing. The bells at Leigh will not be available through illness. Tea will be provided at The Beehive inn at 5 p.m., to be followed by business meeting. Members intending to be present must signify their intention and the

station they are proceeding from, not later than the previous Monday.

HENRY T. W. EYRE, *Assistant Sec.*
Great Totham Vicarage, Witham.

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.—The quarterly meeting in connection with this Society will be held on Saturday, October 3rd, at Breewood. Bells available from 2 o'clock. Nearest railway station, Four Ashes, on the L.N.W.R. Tea 1s. each. A brake will start from Wolverhampton, L.N.W. Railway station yard, at 3 o'clock, if a sufficient number send in their names not later than September 30th. Fare for the return journey, 1s. 6d.

S. REEVES, *Hon. Sec.*

10, Bull Street, West Bromwich.

The Halifax and District Association.—A meeting will be held at Brighouse on Saturday, October 3rd. Business meeting at 4.0 p.m.

F. P. POWELL, *Hon. Sec.*

Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Longton on Saturday, October 3rd. Members intending to be present are requested to give notice to Mr. G. Woods, 44, Uttoxeter Road, Longton.

REV. J. W. ALSTON, } *Hon. Secs.*
W. TWIGG, }

Bedfordshire Association.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Husbome, Crawley, on Saturday, October 3rd. The bells at Aspley Guise will also, it is hoped, be available.

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

The Middlesex Association.—The annual meeting will be held at Southgate on Saturday, October 10th. The tower of Christ Church will be open for ringing from 5 p.m. The business meeting will be held at The Cherry Tree inn at 7.30 p.m., where tea will be provided at 1s. per head. Members and friends of the Association are cordially invited to attend, the business to be transacted being of more than ordinary interest.

ARTHUR T. KING, *Hon. Sec.*

Sarum, Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.

The Surrey Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Banstead, on Saturday, October 10th, by kind permission of the Vicar. Time and place of meeting for tea will be announced later.

R. B. BLANCHARD, *Hon. Sec.*

13, Sunnyhill Road, Streatham, S.W.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—The Autumn Meeting will be held at Witney on Saturday, October 17th. Seven towers open for ringing. Meat tea in schools at 6 p.m., price 6d. Evensong at 7. Preacher—Rev. Canon Norris. Apply—Rev. H. J. Scott, Witney. REV. H. HART-DAVIS, *Hon. Sec.*
Dunsden Vicarage, Reading.

The Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held in November, of which due notice will be given.

HENRY COLEY, *Branch Sec.*

3, Rumford Place, Liverpool.

J. E. GROVES' 100 PEALS.—Plain Bob Triples, 2, conducted 1; Major, 10, conducted 6; Caters, 1; Royal, 1. Grandsire Triples, 21, conducted 14; Major, 5, conducted 5; Caters, 24, conducted 9; Royal, 1; Cinques, 2. Stedman Triples, 7; Caters, 1; Cinques, 1. Oxford Treble Bob Major, 1; Kent Major, 2; Royal, 1. Darlaston Bob Triples, 4, conducted 1; Canterbury Pleasure Major, 1; Double Norwich C. B. Major, 5; Forward Major, 1; Royal, 2; on five and six bells, 7. Total rung, 100; total conducted, 36.

Handbells for Sale.

FOR SALE.—Complete set of Handbells in good condition, fully up to pitch, the property of the Birkby Baptist Chapel.—For particulars, apply to J. WOOD AND SONS, New Street, Huddersfield.

HANDBELLS.—A peal of Fifty-six for sale—F 26 to C or—in excellent condition; also Portable Padded Table, 14ft. long, and hangings trimmed with gold braid and fringe A bargain.—F. Masefield, Albert Street Newcastle, Staffs.

Ringers Wanting Situations.

WANTED by married man, age 28, situation as Fireman, used to Engine and Boilers. Ten years' experience. Can ring Grandsire Minor and Triples, or conduct. Apply—W., care of the Editor.

WANTED Situation as Wool Sorter. Age 26. Can ring Treble Bob methods on six bells. Member of the Yorkshire Association. Good reference if required. Apply—S. H., care of Editor.

PLUMBER, Gasfitter, Bellhanger, with slight knowledge of Tinsmithing, wants a situation. Can ring Stedman, Double Norwich, etc. Willing to instruct a band of ringers. Age 21. Apply—J. K., care of Editor.

COMPOSITOR (Book and News), wants situation. Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Norwich Diocesan Association.—Address, E. L., care of the Editor.

GARDENER (Head Working), age 27. Good practical experience inside and out; excellent characters for fifteen months and eight years previous; single; disengaged; change-ringer on eight or ten bells.—Apply, A. Rought, Cawston road, Aylsham, Norfolk.

SITUATION Wanted as Foreman or Manager of Rubber Works. Thoroughly understands the business. Twenty-three years' experience in England and America. Can ring Standard methods.—John Wright, King's Norton, Birmingham.

WANTED, Situation as Sexton (understands duties), or any place of trust. Good change-ringer in all Standard Methods. Married; age 32; good testimonials. Member of Kent County Association and College Youths Address, B.Y., care of Editor.

SITUATION Wanted as Under Gardener. I am not particular as to any other sort of work. A ringer at Frindsbury church.—Address—C. Winsor, 37, Quarry cottages, Frindsbury Hill, Stroud, Kent.

WANTED, by good change-ringer, employment in a painting and decorating business. Member of Norwich Diocesan Association. Experienced, with good references.—Apply, G.A., care of the Editor.

WANTED by married man, age 30, situation as Bread Baker, First hand or Good Second; Change-ringer in three Standard methods; Excellent references Apply, H. Blake, Fornham St. Martin, Bury St. Edmund's, Suffolk.

SITUATION Wanted.—Gardener (under), 18 years of age. Can ring the Standard methods.—Apply, W., care of Editor.

CHANGE-RINGER (used to gardening), would be glad to hear of a situation. Well recommended. Disengaged.—H. S. Reeves, Hillingdon Heath, near Uxbridge.

WANTED, Situation as clock jobber, or any other light employment; good change-ringer; age 28, married.—Address, Jarvis, 25 Baring street, New North road, Islington, N.

WANTED.—Situation as Oil Sheet Maker and Tent Repairer; age 25; married; change-ringer in Grandsire and Plain Bob; member of the Salop Guild; would be glad to hear of something. Good reference if required. Apply—F. W. Taylor, 17, St. Alkmund's square, Shrewsbury.

WANTED by young man, age 19, situation in bakehouse. Good bread baker, used to smalls. Seven years experience. Good character; change-ringer; and member of the Sussex County Association.—I. J. Attwater, Church street, Cuckfield, Sussex.

PAINTER wants a job on builders' firm or on estate. Can ring Treble Bob on six and eight.—Apply F. F., Ewhurst Green, near Cranleigh, Surrey.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. ASH (Washingborough).—We will do as you suggest.

A. R. ALDHAM.—We have a letter for you; if you send your address, it shall be forwarded.

Coming Events.

TO-DAY, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

Annual Meeting of the Lancashire Association at Manchester.

A Committee and Quarterly Meeting of the Worcestershire and Districts Association at Evesham.

Quarterly meeting of the Old East Derbyshire Association at North Wingfield.

Meeting of the Liverpool Diocesan Guild at Hindley.

Quarterly meeting of the Winchester Diocesan Guild at Basingstoke.

Monthly meeting of the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society at Armley.

General Meeting of the North Lincolnshire Association at Grimsby.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3.

District meeting of the Essex Association at Prittlewell.

Quarterly meeting of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford at Breewood.

Meeting of Halifax and District Association at Brighouse.

Meeting of the Stoke Archidiaconal Association at Longton.

Quarterly meeting of the Bedfordshire Association at Hushorne Crawley.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10.

Annual meeting of the Middlesex Association at Southgate.

Quarterly Meeting of the Surrey Association at Banstead.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17.

Autumn Meeting of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at Witney.

Compositions.

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR.

By CORNELIUS CHARGE, London.

5024.					
2 3 4 5 6	W	5	4	M	H
4 2 6 3 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 6 4 5	-	-	-	-	-
6 2 3 4 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 3 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
4 3 2 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 6 4 3 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 6 4 2 5	S	-	-	-	-
4 2 3 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 2 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 4 6 5	-	-	-	-	-
5 4 2 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 5 4 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
4 2 5 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 4 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
4 5 3 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 5 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 2 3 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 5 2 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 5 4 6	-	-	-	S	-
5 3 2 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 5 3 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 5 4 6	-	-	-	S	-

Repeated.

This peal has the 4th and 5th eleven times each in 6ths place, and the 6th twelve times wrong and twenty-four home.

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR.

By J. W. WASHBROOK, Oxford.

11,328.

2 3 4 5 6	M	in	Fths	W	H
5 3 2 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 2 5 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 5 3 4 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 5 6 4 2	-	-	-	-	-
6 4 5 2 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 3 5 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 6 5 2 4	-	-	-	-	-
6 5 3 2 4	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 6 2 4	-	-	-	-	-
6 3 4 2 5	-	-	-	-	-
3 5 4 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 4 3 2 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 6 2 5	-	-	-	-	-
6 2 4 5 3	-	-	-	-	-
6 5 2 4 3	-	-	-	-	-
4 5 2 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
5 2 4 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 5 3 6	-	-	-	-	-
3 4 2 5 6	-	-	-	-	-
2 4 6 5 3	-	-	-	-	-
5 4 6 3 2	-	-	-	-	-
5 3 4 6 2	-	-	-	-	-
5 6 3 4 2	-	-	-	-	-
6 2 3 4 5	-	-	-	-	-
2 3 6 4 5	-	-	-	-	-

Twice repeated; but omit the courses lined off, together with the bob at the middle in the 15th course of the second and third parts.

Rung at St. Peter's, Drayton, Berks., on Thursday, September 17th, 1886, conducted by its author.

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR.

By N. J. PITSTOW, Saffron Walden.

5024.

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

This peal has the 2nd the extent in 5ths place, and the 6th the extent in 6ths at course-ends.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

By JOHN ROWE WERRING, Burnley.

5152.

2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H
3 2 6 5 4	-	-	I	2
3 4 2 5 6	2	-	-	I
4 5 2 3 6	I	-	-	-
3 6 4 5 2	-	-	2	-
5 4 2 6 3	2	-	2	-
4 3 2 6 5	2	-	I	2
6 4 2 3 5	I	-	2	-
5 2 4 3 6	2	-	I	I
3 5 2 6 4	-	-	2	-
5 3 4 6 2	-	-	I	2
3 6 5 2 4	-	-	-	-
2 3 6 4 5	-	-	2	-
4 6 3 2 5	I	-	2	-
4 5 6 2 3	-	-	I	I
4 3 5 2 6	-	-	I	I
4 2 6 3 5	-	-	2	I
2 3 4 5 6	-	-	-	-

Contains the 5th and 6th each five times in sixth's place, and each four times in fifth's place.

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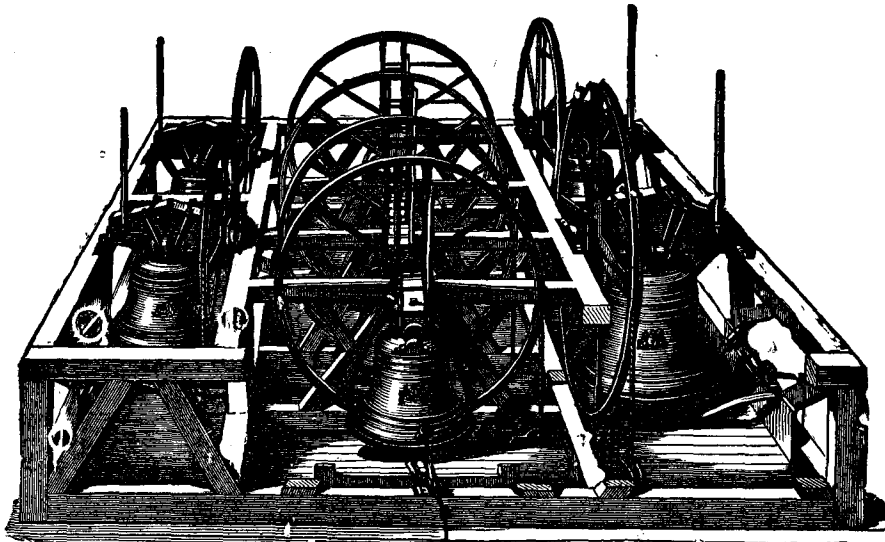
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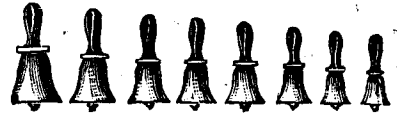
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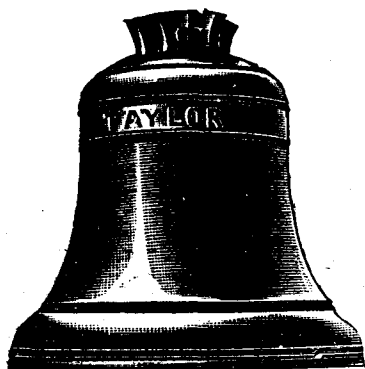
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