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THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 791.—*VOL.* XVI.] SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1897. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

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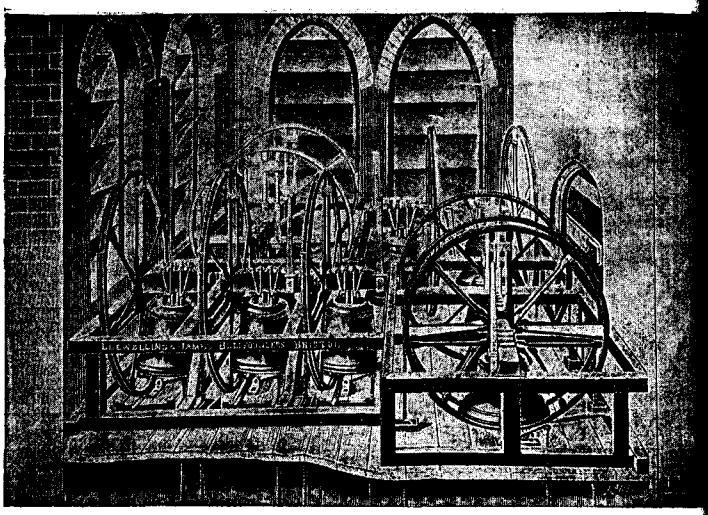

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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 791.] SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1897. [Vol. XVI.

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HAYES, OF BOCKING.

We announced last week the demise of an old country ringer in the person of Joseph Hayes, of Bocking, Essex, father of the brothers Samuel and John Murray Hayes—two well-known metropolitan ringers. The old gentleman had passed the time allotted by the Psalmist as the duration of man's pilgrimage here below; and his feeble condition, especially after he had finally taken to his bed, prepared his family and friends for the last dread call, which they knew could not be far off.

The funeral took place on Saturday last, the remains being carried to their last resting-place by the undermentioned eight ringers: Messrs. C. Bearman, W. Moore, S. Sargent, F. Warren, F. Radley, G. Melbourne, E. Carter, F. Rudkin. At its close the following 720s were rung with the bells deeply muffled. A 720 of Oxford Treble Bob: G. Melbourne, 1; F. Radley, 2; W. Moore, 3; C. Bearman, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; E. Carter (conductor), 6. A 720 of Kent. F. Radley, 1; W. Moore, 2; H. Hammond (conductor), 3; C. Bearman, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; E. Carter, 6. On Sunday the bells were rung deeply muffled both for the morning and afternoon services, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob being rung for the morning service, in which Mr. Grimwade took part. Messrs. Rudkin and Hammond belong to Braintree; other ringers, not included in the above, were present from neighbouring parishes to pay their last tributes of respect to the deceased.

At the afternoon service the curate (Rev. R. G. W. Gardiner) preached from Hebrews xi. part of 5th verse: "Enoch was translated that he should not see death." This sermon, though containing no pointed allusion to the departed, was evidently intended as a funeral discourse. We regret that our space prevents the insertion of it in full; to cull extracts from it would be mutilation.

The late Joseph Hayes was born at Bocking, in Essex, on July 5th, 1818, and was therefore at the time of his death in his 79th year. Although he had not been able to do any ringing for some years past, he loved to listen to his old friends the bells, especially when the "hammering" would bear criticism. He commenced his ringing career in 1836, and was the last surviving member of the old Bocking company, which body was under the leadership of the grandfather of the present Mr. Ezra Carter (of London, though a native of Bocking). This company of six-bell ringers were at this time and for many years afterwards considered second to none in the county; the members of it were pronounced by experts to be most excellent strikers—a qualification which is the highest warrant for good ringing—and the methods rung, although not approaching numerically those of our Stansted friends, or of the late six-bell company at Braintree, were in their day held to be somewhat above the ordinary, being Plain Bob, Single and Double College Bob, College Single, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, New London, Morning Exercise, and Cambridge Surprise. About the year 1846-7, this Bocking company encountered a serious check. The tenor became so badly cracked that ringing had to cease altogether; the 5th was also ultimately fractured by unskilful chiming; and it was not until 1855 that a complete restoration of the bells was made. This was however, satisfactorily carried out. On Whit-Sunday, 1885, special sermons were preached in the church on behalf of the bells restoration fund, and the collections at the morning and afternoon services realised £150.

The departed veteran never rang anything beyond a 720; the members of his company (or at least some of them) not thinking it possible to ring anything like seven 720s at one standing; indeed if they did by chance ring two without stopping they were under the impression that a wonderful feat had been done. They had no "Bell News" in those days to show them what was being done about the country. When the writer of this notice (a member of the Bocking company) had rang (away from home) his first peal, he had hard work to make his Bocking friends believe that it was possible to stand the required period, 3 hrs., although he showed them the report of the achievement, taken from that once noted paper—*Bell's Life in London*; but when they heard that the second son of Joseph Hayes had rang the tenor in the famous 15,000 of Treble Eight at Bethnal Green, they were forced to believe that not only three but upwards of nine hours was possible for men to stand under bells.

Mr. Joseph Hayes kept no record of the number of 720s he had rung, but he kept a list of the churches he had rung in. These were his own parish church of Bocking, Braintree, Boreham, Chipping Hill, Witham, Coggeshall, Widford, Halstead, Earls Colne, Greenstead Green, Stisted, and Wethersfield. By the kind invitation of the donor of the bells, he was present at the opening of the fine peal at Harlow with the rest of the Bocking company. In Suffolk he had rung at Nayland, Stoke-by-Nayland, and Polsted; also in Kent when on a visit to his sons at Gravesend, at Northfleet, Gravesend, and Milton, in which tower last-named there is a tablet recording a 720 of Cambridge by the following: William Loft, William C. Middleton (Gravesend), Samuel Hayes, John M. Hayes, Joseph Hayes, and Henry Bearman (Bocking).

This notice of a worthy old veteran of the Exercise may fittingly be concluded by expressing a hope that the grand ring of six bells at Bocking, tenor 19 cwt. in E., will be augmented to eight in commemoration of the long ministration (52 years) of the Rev. Henry Carrington, Dean and Rector; also as a memento of the long reign of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

The Annual Festival of this Guild was held on Monday, at Bradford-on-Avon. There was a large attendance of members, bands of ringers being present from St. Thomas' and St. Edmund's (Salisbury), Bradford, Horningsham, Mildenhall, Devizes, All Cannings, Great Bedwyn, Maiden Newton, Bromham, Keevil, Coombe Bissett, Longbridge Deverill, Trowbridge, Calne, Warminster, Westbury, Dinton, Ebbesborne Wake, Downton, Evershot, and Seend. Altogether about 140 ringers were present. Letters wishing the Guild every success were received from Earl Nelson and Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, who were prevented from attending by other engagements. At 11.30 a service was held at Trinity Church, the sermon being preached by the Rev. T. J. Woodall, vicar of Britford. The preacher took as his text Romans x. 18, "Their sound went into all the earth."

Immediately after the service the annual meeting of the Guild was held in the parish schoolroom, Newtown. The Master of the Guild (the Rev. A. Du Boulay Hill) presided.

The Chairman, before proceeding to the business of the meet-



THE LATE MR. JOSEPH HAYES.

(Of Bocking, Essex.)

ing, expressed his pleasure at being back amongst them again. He was not able to attend their last festival, and he wished to thank them for their very kind expression of feeling, which the Secretary had duly conveyed to him. He hoped that the Guild had grown bigger in his absence. He was very glad to see such a large number present, and he thought there was every prospect of a successful meeting. The election of officers for the year was then proceeded with. The Rev. M. Hankey proposed the re-election of the Rev. A. D. Hill as Master of the Guild. The Rev. C. W. Hony seconded the proposition, which was carried by acclamation, and the Rev. A. D. Hill briefly expressed his thanks for the honour which had again been conferred on him. Capt. Wiltshire proposed the re-election of Mr. W. Pinckney as treasurer. Mr. J. Judd seconded, and the proposition was carried unanimously. The election of a general secretary and an assistant secretary was the next business. Capt. Wiltshire, who held the latter office, said it was possible that he would not be in a position to carry the duties on through the whole of the ensuing year, and he should like to have someone appointed in his place. The Secretary (Mr. T. Blackbourn) also said he felt bound to resign his office, as he had not the time to do justice to the work. He acknowledged with gratitude the help he had received from Captain Wiltshire, who had done the greater part of the work, but he (Mr. Blackbourn) thought it would be better for the Guild if they appointed another general secretary. The Rev. M. Hankey said he had heard no complaints about the way the work had been done, and he hoped Mr. Blackbourn would continue to carry on the duties. The Rev. C. W. Hony expressed a hope that Captain Wiltshire would continue in his office, because he thought he would do more for the Guild in half a year, if he were unable to remain longer, than others would be able to do in a year. The Chairman said he thought the feeling of the meeting had been very distinctly expressed. He knew that the labours of the secretaries were very hard and that they had taken a great deal of pains to carry them out. They had just inaugurated a system of district secretaries which ought to lighten the labours of the general and assistant secretaries, and he was sure that they would all be very sorry if they had to change horses whilst crossing a stream. He felt that he should be expressing the feeling of the whole of the assembly if he asked Mr. Blackbourn and Captain Wiltshire to continue in their office as long as they possibly could. Mr. Blackbourn said he would continue in his office this year with the assistance of Captain Wiltshire, but he would not be able to do so next year. Captain Wiltshire, who was heartily received, said it had given him much pleasure to work with Mr. Blackbourn, to whom he thought they owed a deep debt of gratitude from a change-ringer's point of view, and he did not know that he could do better than stay with him as long as possible. At the same time he thought that the man who was secretary or assistant-secretary to their Guild should be a ringer and know a good deal about it, much more than he did, although he hoped to learn more than he knew about it at present. He was well aware of his many sins of omission and commission, but if they asked him to stay with them as long as he could, he should be pleased to do so.

The Rev. C. W. Hony was re-elected secretary for Wilts, the Rev. F. H. Fisher was chosen secretary for Dorset, and Mr. Grist (of Bournemouth) assistant-secretary for the latter county. The Rev. E. G. Bond, Mr. F. Rigden, Mr. S. Macey, Mr. J. Judd, and Mr. A. Smith were re-elected members of the special committee, and the Rev. W. J. Birkbeck was chosen in succession to the Rev. J. D. Morrice. Mr. J. E. Wiltshire (of Seend) was added to the list of instructors; Mr. J. R. Jerram was re-elected inspector of belfries, and was also appointed auditor, in the place of Mr. Gifford; and the Rev. A. D. Hill and Mr. Blackbourn were chosen as representatives on the Central Council. Some discussion took place on the question of the town at which next year's festival should be held. Mr. Powney proposed, and Mr. Smith seconded, that it should be held at Salisbury. The Rev. J. F. Welsh moved that Sherborne should be chosen, and Mr. Wilson seconded the amendment. On being put to the vote, Sherborne was chosen by a large majority. This concluded the business.

The annual report stated that at a special meeting of the Committee held in September last, a scheme for the sub-division of the diocese into districts corresponding in name and area to the deaneries, each with its District Secretary, was approved, and although at present the scheme was hardly in working order, yet it was hoped that when firmly established, it would assist to arouse fresh interest and sympathy in the work of the Guild. Compared with last year there was a decrease of one in the number of honorary members, but the ringing members had risen from 191 to 308, a very satisfactory addition for one year, while sixteen new life ringing members had been added to the list. There was a balance in hand of £16 13s. 7d., being £2 11s more in hand than last year. In conclusion the Committee trusted that each and every member, especially those in office, would during the current year heartily work together for the welfare of the Guild, thus endeavouring to secure for it the respect, recognition, and practical sympathy it so justly deserved.

The annual dinner took place at the Town Hall. The Rev. A. Du Boulay Hill presided, and was supported by the Vicar of Bradford (Rev. S. G. Collisson), the Rev. M. Hankey, the Rev. T. J. Woodall, the Rev. C. W. Hony, the Rev. M. D. Wardrop, the Rev. W. Noel, Captain Wiltshire, Mr. R. L. Wilcox, and Mr. T. Blackbourn. After dinner, which was supplied by Mr. Harman, of The New Bear inn, Bradford,

The Chairman, in proposing "The Queen and all the Members of the Royal Family," said they had first of all to consider the one great event of the year. The Diamond Jubilee year was a great one for bellringers, and therefore they, of all people in the world, should show their loyalty. They would on the Jubilee day be the noisiest people, not with their own tongues, but with the tongues of the bells, which, throughout the length and breadth of England would sound out in a great and joyful jubilation in honour of Her Majesty Queen Victoria. He was perfectly certain that in ringing for her Jubilee they would do so with a hearty goodwill, because they would be appreciating the dignity and greatness of Her rule, the simplicity and purity of her character, and the great blessings which God had showered upon them and the whole of the realm in sparing to them so long such a beneficent and honourable life. The toast was heartily received, and the National Anthem was sung.

The Chairman, in proposing the next toast, said he wished to ask them to show their thankfulness to some who had been concerned in their festival. It was an excellent thing that they, as bellringers, should meet together, and first of all to attend a service in church. They were officers and servants of the Church, and it was well that there should be in the forefront of their meeting that service, which linked them altogether. He therefore asked them to give their hearty thanks to the Rev. T. J. Woodall for his sermon, and to the Vicar of Bradford, who had arranged for the service so capitally, and who had made every convenience for their meeting together in the beautiful church of Bradford. He asked them to drink the health of Mr. Woodall and Mr. Collisson with all gratitude, and he also included in the toast the Rev. W. Noel, the curate at Bradford.

The Rev. S. G. Collison, in response, said he should first of all like to thank the preacher for the excellent sermon he had delivered. He assured them that it gave him much pleasure to see them all there and to make arrangements for a service in the church. It was quite a treat to hear them joining so heartily in the service, especially in the singing of the National Anthem, in which he noticed that the first and second verses were much better known than the third. He was not a ringer himself, though he wished he was, but he had always taken a deep interest in bells, as was shown by the fact that the bells in Trinity Church had been restored by Mr Blackbourn, and they now had one of the best peals and frames in the whole of the diocese.

The Rev. S. G. Collisson then proposed "The Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers." He said it was a great work to bring men together as officers of the church, as they were. He trusted that when they met together they met as men to help forward the Church's work. In conclusion, he wished health and prosperity in every way to the Guild of Bellringers.

The Rev. A. D. Hill responded. After thanking the Vicar of Bradford for his kind remarks, he said he felt bound to associate with himself in the toast the names of Mr. Blackbourn and Captain Wiltshire, their secretaries, because so very much of the success of a meeting depended upon their forethought and arrangements. He felt that their Guild had really done and was doing a great work. He felt confident that the churches which they entered that day in order to ring the bells would be entered with feelings of reverence and respect, and he was sure that the tradition of a ringer as one who did not go inside of a church

unless he was going to be paid for it was a thing of the past. They were all looking forward to a year in which bellringers would be very much to the fore. Mr. Woodall, in his admirable sermon that morning, had told them that one of the uses to which bells were put by the ancient Greeks was to hang them round the necks of malefactors. It was just possible, therefore, to have too much of a good thing. It reminded him of a verse which he once heard, he was not sure that he had not quoted it once before. It was not in English, but its meaning was more or less as follows :—

Disturbers of the human race,
Who set the bells a clanging;
If ropes were in their proper place,
Round your necks they'd be hanging.

The words were written by a Frenchman and not an Englishman. He was certain that in no country in the world were bells rung with the same effect and precision, and with the same delightful result, as here in England. It was an entirely English method, and he thought afforded them an opportunity of showing to the world that they were proud of being Englishmen and English Churchmen. They, as bellringers, felt especially proud of having the duty put upon them this year of voicing the gratitude and thanksgiving of the nation, and he hoped that they would rise to their opportunities with earnestness and sincerity. In the name of the Guild he thanked Mr. Collison for drinking their health.

The company then separated. During the afternoon the Devizes amateur bellringers rang a quarter-peal on the bells of Trinity Church, and most of the belfries in the towns and villages of the district were visited by bands of ringers.

An Australian Letter.

4, *Lang Street, Clifton Hill, Melbourne.*

Dear Sir,—I am sending you a review of the doings of The Victorian Association of Change-Ringers for the past quarter ending March. January 3rd: A quarter peal of Stedman Triples, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in 47 mins. A. Bames, 1; M. O'Shea, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; J. Murray, 4; J. C. Nolan (conductor), 5; J. Freeman, 6; W. Coppock, 7; J. Sheehan, 8. January 13th: Tried for a peal of Grandsire Triples at St. Paul's Cathedral, and rang 1344 changes in 59 mins., when 2nd and 4th changed course. E. Bryning, 1; W. Shenton, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; J. C. Nolan, 4; J. Murray, 5: W. Coppock, 6; A. Bames (composer and conductor), 7; M. O'Shea, 8. January 25th: rang 1386 Grandsire Triples, at St. Patrick's, three parts taken from "Clavis," in 53¼ mins. E. O'Shea, 1; M. O'Shea, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; W. Shenton, 4; J. C. Nolan, 5; A. Bames, 6; J. L. Murray (conductor), 7; J. Sheehan, 8. February 7th: rang 1344 Grandsire Triples, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in 48½ mins. E. O'Shea, 1; M. O'Shea, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; A. Bames (composer and conductor), 4; J. C. Nolan, 5; J. Freeman, 6; W. Coppock, 7; J. Sheehan, 8. February 22nd: rang a quarter peal, 1260 changes, Grandsire Triples. at St. Patrick's Cathedral, in 48 mins. M. O'Shea, 1; J. C. Nolan, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; J. Murray, 4; A. Bames (conductor), 5; T. Biddle, 6; W. Coppock, 7; W. Hiles, 8. March 7th: A quarter peal of Grandsire Triples, at St. Patrick's, in 46 mins., composed by H. Franks, London, taken from "The Bell News," December 26th, 1896. A. Bames, 1; W. Shenton, 2; J. P. Nolan, 3; J. Murray (conductor), 4; J. C. Nolan, 5; J. Freeman, 6; W. Coppock, 7; J. Sheehan, 8. March 21st: 1414 Grandsire Triples, at St. Paul's, in 54 mins. J. Clarke, 1; J. P. Nolan, 2; J. Murray, 3; J. C. Nolan, 4; A. Bames (composer and conductor), 5; M. O'Shea, 6; J. Freeman, 7; J. Sheehan, 8. March 27th: tried for A. Bames' peal at St. Paul's Cathedral, rang 2716 changes in 1 hour 48 mins., had to stop, the seventh man being exhausted, bell going very bad. W. Shenton, 1; J. P. Nolan, 2; J. Murray, 3; J. C. Nolan, 4; A. Bames (conductor), 5; M. O'Shea, 6; J. Freeman, 7; I. Davis and J. Sheehan, 8.

Best wishes to all brother-strings in the old country, and wish them every success in ringing Diamond Jubilee Peals.

J. W. Coppock,

Hon. Sec. Victorian Association of Change-Ringers.

PRESENTATION TO A RINGER AT ARUNDEL, SUSSEX.

On Saturday, May 22nd, the Rev. R. F. Tompkins and the ringers of St. Nicholas, met in the bell-chamber to present to Mr. H. Chandler, of Warnham, a splendid 14-day clock, in a beautiful oak case, striking every half-hour, on the occasion of his marriage, which took place a few weeks back. The Rev. R. F. Tompkins, on behalf of the ringers, in a few kind words said he had a very pleasing duty to perform. On presenting the clock to Mr. Chandler he said it gave him great pleasure to meet him and the Arundel ringers together, to show their esteem and good friendship toward him for the kind way in which he had come to help the Arundel band on so many occasions, hoping that he might be spared to spend many more hours with the Arundel ringers in the belfry.

Mr. Chandler, on receiving the handsome present, thanked the ringers very much, as it took him quite by surprise. He hoped that he might be spared to ring more peals with them.

After the presentation had taken place, an attempt was made to ring Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, but after ringing 200 changes a change-course occurred, and "stand" had to be called. H. Searle, 1; H. Lee, 2; F. Luxford, 3; J. Netly, 4; D. Baker, 5; H. Chandler (conductor), 6; C. Blackman, 7; G. Balchin, 8.

THE REV. F. E. ROBINSON'S 500 PEALS.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Grandsire Triples	52	8
Grandsire Caters	27	1*
Stedman Triples	200	69
Stedman Caters	57	28†
Stedman Cinques	1	—
Union Triples	1	—
College Single Triples	1	—
Bob Major	2	—
Duffield Major	1	—
Double Oxford Major	1	—
Double Norwich Major	71	5‡
Oxford Treble Bob Major	2	—
Kent Treble Bob Major	12	2
Kent Treble Bob Royal	9	—
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	1	—
Duffield Royal	1	—
Superlative Surprise Major	40	6
Cambridge Surprise Major	9	1
London Surprise Major	12	3§
	500	123

* Including a Peal of 13247 changes.
† Including a 12041 and a 15041 (record).
‡ Including a 10080 and a 12096.
§ Including a 11328 (record).

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—STANFORD-ON-SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

On Monday, May 24th, the ringers assembled in the belfry to witness the unveiling of a tablet by Mrs. Ratcliff, of Stanford Hall, recording a peal which was rung on Easter Day—Kent Treble Bob Minor, which is supposed to be the first ever rung in the district. Mrs. Ratcliff expressed a few kind remarks to the ringers on having rung a record peal. At the conclusion several touches of Kent Treble Bob were rung, and also a 720 Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles). A. Matthews, 1; W. Perrin, 2; *H. Whittle (conductor), 3; J. Yates, 4; G. Doughty, 5; E. Reader, 6. *First 720 as conductor. On Thursday, May 20th, for practice, 360 Bob Minor. F. Tyler, 1; H. Whittle (conductor), 2; W. Pervin, 3; J. Yates, 4; J. Grundy, 5; G. Doughty, 6.

Kelsale (Suffolk).—On Friday, May 15th, at the parish church, 720 Bob Major. W. Watling, 1; A. Kerridge, 2; J. Coleman, 3; W. Drew, 4; E. Page, 5; G. Thompson, 6; F. Thompson (conductor), 7; G. Hardy, 8. The above was rung to celebrate the wedding of W. Drew, who was married that day.

HAVE "The Bell News" regularly from your bookseller. Go in for the handbells!

CURRENT TOPICS.

Another Christian festival approaches—that of Whitsuntide. We are now fairly well into summer, and the country is speedily assuming its leafy and floral garb. Truly a delightful place after all, this old England of ours, though so much fault is found with it sometimes. Foreigners, some of them, call it "perfidious Albion" and other names, but it still keeps its place: "a right little, tight little island," as the song says. We have only got to look into history, accurate and trustworthy history I mean, to find out that *Albion perfide* has been the saviour of many of the nations, and a friend to all, not excepting the island of Paddy, even.

Whitsuntide is here, and the ringers' Parliament is about to meet once more. This time a very wise step has been taken in having the assembly at the Church House. In consequence some attention will be attracted towards it; clerical visitors will become aware that church bellringers have an organisation hardly second to any other in the Church. And then again the meeting will be near to Westminster Abbey. If I may take so great a liberty, I would suggest that an invitation be sent to the Dean and Canons to attend; it may not be accepted, but it could be given. If the President or the Honorary Secretary, or a few of the clerical members of the Council would wait on Canon Wilberforce, and ask him to honor the assembly with his presence, I think it would be a very good thing indeed.

Every effort should now be made to effect some radical change for the better in the belfry of Westminster Abbey. If no response be made to the representations of the Council, the question should not be abandoned. By no means. The Bishop of London is a prelate of large sympathies, whose influence could I believe easily be enlisted in the cause. He is practical and large-hearted; he knows something of the aims of ringers and ringing; and has before now presided over an Annual Meeting of an important ringing Association. The only difficulty I see in this is getting the Abbey authorities to move; there will be no want of money if they mean business; the necessary funds will be promised in a week, I feel sure.

There is an old and very comfortable saying that the end justifies the means. I should be among the last to accept towards this object any of that commodity which is known as "dirty money," viz., the proceeds of gambling—whether with horses or asses—and such like. There are hundreds of good and reverent churchpeople who without the slightest hesitation would subscribe if they knew it was intended. All that is wanted is to move the powers that be.

I am not one of those in the know with reference to "C.C." business, so that very likely the point to which I am about to refer may have been settled already. Looking over the business paper, I don't see anything about the place for next year's meeting. If this has yet to be settled, the "C.C." would do well to take into consideration whether they could not visit some neighbourhood where ringing concerns want a little fillip,—or a little encouragement, or may be a wake-up. Our Welsh brethren would be all the better for the encouraging influence of the Central Council, and I think the people down in the west could very well do with a little waking-up.

The hands of the long peal ringers would appear to have lost their cunning. Several attempts have been announced of late, but their announcement is all we have had. These long peal gentlemen are wise in their generation. They never publish failures. They don't believe in letting the world know that "after so-and-so, etcetera, etcetera, it came to grief." And I glory in them. Nothing appears to me so *infra dignitatem* as to publish one's failures. The failures of many ringers, I dare say, exceed their successes over one hundred per cert. But sensible men, men with a little wholesome pride in them, hang off circulating accounts of the former.

About the last attempt at Cornhill I have heard something. One of the band, a very safe ringer, sustained an accident to one of his fingers a few hours before. This compelled him when ringing to keep the injured finger in a straight position, and keeping it thus for four mortal hours, caused a swelling of the sinews of hand and wrist, and in consequence the fatal word "stand" had to be pronounced. Four hours lost! Unfortunate, very; but not so bad as getting into the last course, and then—"grief." The gentlemen of this band will appear again.

I have been shown several letters from ringers in various parts of the country intimating their successes in promoting a larger circulation of "The Bell News." Among them this week are Mr. Symonds, of Preston (Suffolk), Mr. Haigh (Retford), and several others. My old friend George, of Rugby, writes to say he is doing all he can in the cause; and in his last note he laconically adds: "Extending papers; now six; will be more shortly." Bravo George.

PLAIN SPEAKER.

FINEDON PARISH CHURCH STRUCK BY LIGHTNING.

During the heavy thunderstorm that passed over the district about mid-day on Friday week, the Parish Church of Finedon (Northhants) was struck by a very vivid flash of lightning, which caused considerable damage to the spire, rendering it unsafe. Eye-witnesses state that about half-past twelve o'clock the steeple appeared to be surrounded by lightning, which lasted for about a minute and then was lost in the trees a little removed from the church. It was not until the storm had abated that a visit was made to the sacred edifice, and it was at once seen that the spire had been struck. The lightning had evidently caught the steeple about thirty yards below the weathercock, and went round the stone-work in cork-screw fashion. In the first place a large gap had been made in the side, and the lightning proceeding downwards opened the masonry, and just below the top windows threw out another large portion of stone. At this point the lightning was attracted to the pipe leading to the stove in the interior of the building, and no doubt it ran down this and finished up with burning the matting surrounding the stove. Outside in the churchyard there were several large pieces of masonry, and visitors to the spot picked some up for the purpose of keeping as relics. The steeple was considerably shaken, and for forty feet from the top it is out of the perpendicular, and appears to be very unsafe. In fact when a representative of the *Northampton Daily Chronicle* visited the spot the next morning, the high wind that prevailed appeared likely to further widen the breach, as several portions of stone-work fell at intervals.

The church is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, and is a very elegant and spacious structure in the late decorated style, and consists of a nave and side aisles, south porch, north and south transepts, chancel and vestry, erected in 1846, and a beautiful tower, surmounted by a spire, containing six bells and a clock.

IRCHESTER, NORTHANTS.

Taking advantage of the fine evening on Monday, May 31st, Wellingborough parish church ringers, with several of their junior members, and Mr. Tompkins, of Finedon belfry, visited Irchester, with the object of having a turn on the ring of five in the tower of St. Katherine, but serious illness near the church necessitated the bells being kept silent. Mr. Perceval, the steeple-keeper and clock-keeper (which post he has held about thirty years), was good enough to show them over the church and bell-chamber. There is a project to completely rehang these bells and add a treble, when funds can be raised. Recently about £12 has been spent on repairing the belfry steps. By invitation of Mr. Craddock, the senior member of the Irchester company, all afterwards adjourned to his residence, where they were most kindly entertained, and enlivened the time with handbell music, consisting of tunes, touches of Triples and Minor by the visitors, and a 6-score of Doubles in which Messrs. Bailey and Pettitt, of Irchester, took part. The local company, including Mr. Craddock, also did a very pretty piece of lapping, which was much appreciated. Mr. Craddock has rung Irchester tenor for many years, and his father before him.

UNVEILING OF TWO PEAL-BOARDS AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH, BEDFORD.

On Thursday evening, May 27th, the ringers of St. Peter's assembled in the ringing-chamber to witness the unveiling of two peal-boards by the rector, the Rev. W. Hart Smith, M.A., and Rural Dean. The company included the Churchwardens (Messrs. H. H. Fraser and J. Watford), Mr. Jos. Miller and a good number of ladies. The peal-boards record six peals of 5040 each (three on each peal-board), rang at different dates since the opening of the bells over two years ago.

The rector in an interesting speech expressed the pleasure it gave him to come and perform the unveiling ceremony.

Mr. Jos. Miller spoke in high terms of the way the ringers had advanced in the Art of change-ringing since the opening of the peal of six.

On the proposition of Mr. S. Constant, seconded by Mr. Harry Toll, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the rector for his presence amongst them.

The St. Peter's company then rang a short touch on the tower bells, followed by 180 Bob Minor on the handbells, in which three of the ladies (who are learning the Art), took part. Miss Lee, 1; Miss Poynder, 2; Miss A. Hart Smith, 3; H. Toll, 4; S. Constant (conductor), 5-6.

It might be here mentioned that a party of young ladies have been learning change-ringing on the handbells for some time under the training of Mr. S. Constant, several 720s having been rang and reported in "THE BELL NEWS" of previous dates, and they are about commencing practising on the tower bells, when it is hoped the ladies alone will soon score a 720. A hope was expressed by the ringers to the rector that two new trebles would be soon placed in the tower. Mr. J. Mills said he would use every means he could to get them, one of which has been already very kindly promised.

The ladies then had their first practice on the bells in rounds, after which the ringers lowered them in peal, and a very interesting meeting was brought to a close.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Rossendale branch of this Association was held on Saturday, May 29th, at St. Saviour's, Bacup. Unfortunately the weather prevented ringers from a distance attending, but by half-past five it was possible to ring a 12-score of Bob Minor. The bells once started, ringers came up rapidly, and with the exception of half-an-hour for the business meeting, were continually going in various methods up till nine o'clock. Among the methods was a 576 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, which was rung very well indeed, and was the first in the method by members of this branch. A 12-score of London Surprise Minor was successfully brought round. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Newchurch; and the Secretary was requested to send reports of meetings to "THE BELL NEWS." These items, and the usual votes of thanks to the Vicar, the local ringers, and chairman (J. B. Taylor) were the topics of the business meeting.

PRESTON BRANCH.—On a recent Saturday a meeting of the members of this branch was held at the parish church, Chorley, when about twenty ringers from various towers were present. Ringing commenced about 3 p.m. and was continued until about 9 p.m. During the afternoon several touches of Grandsire Triples, Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Minor were rung by mixed bands; also the following: 720 Bob Minor. J. Smith, J. Mather, J. Harrison, J. Brown, J. Walker, J. Scholey. A 720 of Plain Bob. J. H. Gartside, J. Marsden, J. Harrison, J. Mather, S. Walker, J. Vogwill. The first 720 was conducted by J. Scholey, the other by J. H. Gartside. A 546 Grandsire Triples. J. Smith, J. Walker, J. Harrison, J. Brown (conductor), J. Calderbank, T. Strickland, J. Scholey, J. Mather. Another 504 in the same method. J. Mather, J. Brown, J. Harrison, W. Slater J. Calderbank, J. Scholey, J. Walker, H. Adams. Conducted by J. Walker. The business meeting was held in the belfry, at which Mr. J. H. Gartside presided. The minutes of the last meeting being passed, three new members were admitted, and votes of thanks passed to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and the chairman for presiding. The next meeting was fixed for July 3rd at Hoghton church.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The Seventh Annual Meeting of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers will be held on Whit-Tuesday, June 8th, 1897, at the Church House, Dean's Yard, Westminster, at two o'clock punctually.

(N.B.—Dean's Yard is a few steps from the west door of Westminster Abbey, and the Church House entrance is at the further end of Dean's Yard).

The Standing Committee will meet at 11.30 a.m. punctually at the Westminster Palace Hotel. Members of this Committee are particularly requested to attend. In consequence of the sparse attendance at the dinner following the last meeting in London, it has been decided to substitute a social muster in the evening; and Mr. Heywood invites members and their ringing friends to a "pipe and glass" gathering at the "Inns of Court Hotel," (Lincoln's Inn Fields Entrance), at 9 p.m. Notification of towers open for ringing will be given at the close of the business meeting.

AGENDA.

1. Election of President and Secretary. Nominations received for *President:* A. P. HEYWOOD, ESQ.; for *Secretary:* REV. H. EARLE BULWER.
2. Election of Hon. Members (if desired.)
3. Appointment of Standing Committee.
4. To receive any further Report of Committee on Rail Fares.
5. To receive any further Report of the Committee on preparation of a Glossary of Technical Terms.
6. To receive any further Report of Committee on Peal Values.
7. To receive any further Report on the progress of the Bibliography.
8. To receive the Report of the Committee for Peal Collection and definition of points constituting "Authorship" and "Variation."
9. To consider the following motions:—
   - (*a*) That the practice of using visible aids to memory in the conduction of peals is detrimental to the interests of the Art; and to recommend for the adoption of Societies a rule requiring all performances to be certified as conducted without such aid.
   - (*b*) That an official letter be written to the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, on behalf of the Council, calling attention to the condition of the Ringing-Chamber at Westminster Abbey, and the unringable state of the bells, requesting him to use his influence in the direction of Belfry Reform in this instance.
   - (*c*) For a return of the condition of all rings of 8, 10, and 12 bells in the country, to enable a tabulated statement of existing defects to be drawn up and submitted by the Council to Church authorities.
   - (*d*) That the Council, recognising the insuperable objection taken by many six-bell ringers to the definition of a peal of Minor as carried at the meeting of 1892, and recognising also the fact that on 5 and 6 bells no actually true peal of 5000 changes can be rung, and that, therefore, no strictly correct definition of such a peal can be logically formulated; do now decide to expunge the said definition from the standing resolutions, thus offering no opposition to the locally-varying construction of the term "peal" in regard to 5 and 6 bell performances.

The following subjects are also ripe for discussion, and may be introduced as questions if time permit:—

- (*a*) Whether the Council should not have recourse to longer meetings, and at least a two days' session in the case of the London meetings?
- (*b*) Whether the Council should pronounce upon a distinctive title to be applied to Thurstans' well-known Stedman Triples composition?
- (*c*) Whether the Council should pronounce upon the suggestion that the now well-known variation of Cambridge Surprise Major should be accepted as the recognised method?
- (*d*) Whether it is an offence against the laws governing Treble Bob composition to commence the calling with 1R or 2R?
- (*e*) How far, and under what conditions, any departure from the true and clear ringing of every change is permissible in the performance of a peal?
- (*f*) Whether the Council should not make some attempt to regulate the practice of Lent and Sunday peal-ringing.

NOTE:—It is to be borne in mind that motions on the agenda paper are in part the proposals of individual representatives, and that their insertion therefore, does not necessarily imply that they command any general support.

Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn. H. EARLE BULWER, *Hon. Sec.*

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

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

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 1897.

THE meeting of the Central Council next Tuesday partakes somewhat of a new departure from previous ones. There is a fine exhibition of topics ready for discussion, but the time at disposal will not allow beyond one-half of the number being even mentioned, much less adjudicated upon. But this is better than having a dearth of material.

The new feature is the abandonment of the usual dinner after the business meeting. But the President has hit upon a *quid pro quo* which we venture to believe will be looked upon with favour. What may be termed, perhaps, a conversazione, possessing convivial qualities, will be held later in the evening, and we shall be surprised if this invention of Mr. HEYWOOD'S is not well patronised. The hour of commencement of this social meeting is not very early in the evening, it is true, but metropolitan ringers are accustomed to Parliamentary hours; the principal society hardly ever commencing their business meetings until ten o'clock p.m.

A glance at the list of representatives leads to the

belief that some new blood will be infused into the Council's deliberations; though it is gratifying to see also the names of well-known members of the Exercise, who have done good service, and who have constantly and continually worked to gain for ringing its proper estimation among Churchmen. We should say there is not the least shadow of a doubt that the principal officers of the Council will be re-elected with positive unanimity. These gentlemen have the welfare of the Council at heart, and it is really impossible to tell what it would be without them.

LATE NOTICE.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Whit-Monday, June 7th, at Plymouth. Tea at Borough Arms, Bedford Street, 4.15 p.m. Meeting at 4.45 p.m. Service at St. Andrew's immediately following tea. An excursion train will run from North and East Devon to Plymouth, returning from Plymouth the same evening. Arrangements have been made for ringing at St. Andrew's, Plymouth (ten bells); Charles and Dockyard (8 bells); and Stoke (6 bells). W. E. PITFIELD CHAPPLE, *Hon. Sec.*

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, May 29 1897, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN, WESTMINSTER,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES. Tenor 24 cwt.

GEORGE FARDON	*Treble.*	SAMUEL E. ANDREWS ..	5.
FRANK BUCK	2.	HENRY R. NEWTON	6.
HENRY S. ELLIS	3.	CHARLES T. P. BRICE ..	7.
WALTER J. SORRELL.. ..	4.	JOHN N. OXBORROW ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by YORK GREEN and Conducted by JOHN N. OXBORROW.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 29, 1897, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET, BARKING,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES. Tenor 22¼ cwt. in Eb,

EDWARD LUCAS	*Treble.*	E. ANDREWS	5.
ALBERT DEARDS..	2.	THOMAS FAULKNER	6.
CALEB FENN	3.	ERNEST CLAYTON	7.
ROWLAND FENN..	4.	HUGH T. SCARLETT..	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by THOMAS FAULKNER.

It was intended to ring Double Norwich, but meeting short, the above was rung instead.

The Provinces.

UFFORD, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 22, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED WARD	*Treble.*	HORACE HOWLETT	5.
WILLIAM WARD..	2.	EDWARD SHERWOOD	6.
WILLIAM MOTTS	3.	JAMES MOTTS	7.
CHARLES WARD..	4.	WILLIAM FLORY.. ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

The brothers Motts belong to the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich; H. Flory and H. Howlett hail frsm Framlingham; the brothers Ward belong to the Ufford Society.

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TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, May 25, 1897, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt. 3 qrs. in F.

WILLIAM H. CARD	*Treble.*	WILLIAM LATTER	5.
EDWARD MANKELOW.. ..	2.	HERBERT PORTER	6.
GEORGE SMITHERS	3.	STEPHEN PERKINS	7.
PERCIVAL J. BROOKER ..	4.	GEORGE HEAD	*Tenor.*

Conducted by STEPHEN PERKINS.

This is the first peal of Stedman by all the ringers, and by a local band. Also first in the method on the bells by the above Association. This is S. Perkins's first peal in the method as conductor.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, May 28, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM WIGHTMAN ..	*Treble.*	STEPHEN WIGHTMAN, JUN.	5.
WILLIAM DYE	2.	ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN ..	6.
HAWKINS ENGLISH	3.	GEORGE WIGHTMAN	7.
GEORGE THURLOW	4.	ARTHUR WOODS.. ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM DYE.

W. Dye hails from Witnesham; H. English from Coddenham; the brothers Wightman from Cretingham, the rest are local men.

NEW SHOREHAM, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 29, 1897, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; A VARIATION OF THURSTANS.' Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

GEORGE WILLIAMS	*Treble.*	JOHN JAY, SEN.	5.
JAMES N. FROSSELL	2.	WILLIAM PALMER	6.
GEORGE A. KING	3.	KEITH HART	7.
EDWARD C. MERRITT ..	4.	FREDK. R. DEARING	*Tenor.*

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

This was the first peal of Triples on the bells. F. R. Dearing belongs to the local band, the rest hail from Brighton.

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, May 29, 1897, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES. Tenor 23 cwt.

FARRINGTON JONES	*Treble.*	JAMES E. GROVES	6.
HENRY A. HALL	2.	GEORGE BURROWS	7.
ROBERT PICKERING	3.	AARON GRIFFITHS	8.
WILLIAM G. HALL	4.	CHARLES H. WATTS ..	9.
HERBERT KNIGHT	5.	WILLIAM PAINTER ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by JAMES GEORGE and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Rang as a birthday compliment to H. A. Hall.

HAWLEY, HANTS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, May 29, 1897, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; THURSTANS' COMPOSITION. Tenor about 16 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES	*Treble.*	BARZILLAI HAWKINS.. ..	5.
HENRY WHITE	2.	FRANK HOPGOOD	6.
HENRY TUCKER	3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	7.
JOHN TUCKER	4.	MAURICE STEER.. ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

This is the conductor's 500th peal and 200th peal of Stedman Triples. A list of these performances will be found upon another page.

Date Touches.

THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Monday, May 24th, at the parish church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1897 changes, in 1 hr. 8 mins. J. H. Sholicar, 1; J. Sholicar (composer and conductor), 2; H. J. Ellis, 3; W. J. Taylor, 4; J. Pilkington, 5; J. R. Park, 6; A. Halton, 7; T. Martland, 8.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

NORBURY (Cheshire).—On Wednesday, May 26th, a date touch, 1897 changes, in 1 hr. 9 mins., being 457 Plain Bob, and 720 each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. J. Dean, 1; S. Fernley (conductor), 2; G. D. Warburton, 3; S. Rutter, 4; A. Fernley, 5; J. Shallcross, 6. Arranged by J. S. Wilde. This is the longest touch on the bells and by all the band.

DARTFORD (Kent).—On Sunday, May 23rd, for morning service at the parish church, a date touch of 1897 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 7 mins. S. Everson, 1; E. Everson, 2; F. French, 3; H. Castle, 4; H. Alford, 5; J. Saxby (conductor), 6; G. Cullum, 7; C. Culmer, 8.

Miscellaneous.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PULHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday evening, May 23rd, for Divine Service, 768 Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Tann (conductor), 1; H. Matthews, 2; R. Whiting, 3; D. Ruth, 4; F. Surridge, 5; C. Baker, 6; C. Tann, 7; F. Borrett, 8.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CLUN (Salop).—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Thursday, May 13th, in the Cottage Room, 720 Grandsire Minor. J. Davies, 1; W. Roberts, 2; W. H. Fussell (Slough), 3-4; W. Mead, 5; J. G. Buchanan, Esq. (conductor), 6. Another 720 was attempted, but failed in the 6th part. J. Roberts, 3; W. H. Fussell, 4; the rest as before.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

EPSOM (Surrey).—On Monday, May 24th, at St. Martin's church, on the occasion of Her Majesty's birthday, 1092 Grandsire Triples, containing seventy-eight treble leads, in 36 mins. A. E. Bassett, 1; H. Pederick, 2; H. Kenten, 3; G. Pederick, 4; J. Easton, 5; W. Sanders. 6; T. Miles (conductor), 7; T. Everett, 8. Considering the dilapidated condition of the frame, this touch was exceedingly well struck. Visitors however are requested to note that owing to want of repair, practice is still suspended.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

KETTERING (Northants).—Recently at the parish church 1056 Bob Major. C. Newman, 1; W. Newman, 2; A. Robinson, 3; E. Underwood, 4; J. D. Matthews, 5; J. Julian, 6; W. Perkins, 7; W. R. Hensher (conductor), 8. And 720 Bob Minor. G. Toseland, 1; C. Newman (conductor), 2; E. Underwood, 3; A. Robinson, 4; J. Julian, 5; W R. Hensher, 6. Also 630 Grandsire Triples. A. Robinson, 1; E. Underwood. 2; J. Julian, 3; W. R. Hensher (conductor), 4; T. R. Hensher, 5; C. Newman, 6; J. D. Matthews, 7; J. Spence, 8. And 658 Grandsire Triples standing as before, with W. R. Hensher (conductor). A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples taken from Holt's Original. G. Toseland, 1; W. R. Hensher (conductor), 2; A. Robinson, 3; J. Julian, 4; E. Underwood, 5; C. Newman, 6; T. R. Hensher, 7; J. Spence, 8. And 1152 Kent Treble Bob Major. C. Newman, 1; A. Tyler, 2; E. Underwood, 3; W. R. Hensher, 4; J. J. Julian, 5; J. D. Matthews, 6; W Perkins, 7; J. Houghton, jun. (conductor). 8. On handbells 576 Kent Treble Bob Major. E. Worfor, 1; A. Robinson, 2; E. Underwood, 3; C. Newman, 4; J. D. Matthews, 5-6; W. R. Hensher (conductor), 7-8. And 720 Bob Minor. C. Newman, 1-2; W. R. Hensher, 3-4; J. D. Matthews (conductor), 5-6. Also 384 Bob Major. W. Roughton, 1; C. Newman, 2; E. Underwood, 3; W. R. Hensher, 4; J. Julian, 5; A. Robinson, 6; J. D. Matthews (conductor), 7-8. And a course of Stedman Triples. J. D. Matthews, 1-2; E. Underwood, 3; A. Robinson, 4; J. Julian, 5; C. Newman, 6; W. R. Hensher, 7-8. On Saturday, May 22nd, an attempt was made for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 3 hrs. 10 mins., "stand" was called owing to a change-course. A. Robinson, 1; W. Newman, 2; E. Underwood, 3; W. R. Hensher, 4; J. Julian, 5; C. Newman, 6; W. Perkins, 7; J. D. Matthews, 8. Tenor 24 cwt.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES (Sussex).—On Sunday evening, May 2nd, previous to Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, containing the twenty-four 6-7s, in 43 mins. S. Shoesmith, 1; H. Jones (Ringmer), 2; W. Trusler, 3; J. Rickman, 4; R. Dawe, 5; A. Turner, 6; J. Goldsmith (composer and conductor), 7; J. Steadman, 8. On Sunday, May 9th, 360 Bob Minor. S. Shoesmith, A. Turner, R. Pelling, W. Trusler, R. Dawe, and J. Goldsmith (conductor). Also two courses in the same method. On Monday, May 17th, 504 Stedman Triples in 17 mins. H. Rann, 1; A. Turner, 2; E. Merritt, 3; K. Hart, 4; G. King, 5; R. Dawe, 6; J. Goldsmith (conductor), 7; J. Steadman, 8.

RINGMER (Sussex).—On Tuesday, May 18th, for practice, 252 Stedman Triples. A. Rooke, 1; F. Banks, 2; T. Miller, 3; J. Goldsmith, (conductor), 3; H. Jones, 5; A. Turner, 6; C. Painter, 7; F. Gates, 8. On Tuesday, May 25th, for practice, 742 Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. G. Taylor, 1; A. Rooke (longest length with a bob bell), 2; F. Banks, 3; A. Turner, 4; H. Jones, 5; J. Goldsmith (conductor), 6; C. Painter, 7; W. Hemsley, 8. Also 168 Stedman Triples. T. Miller, 3; F. Gates, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On Monday, April 12th, 720 Bob Minor. H. Milhams, 1; W. Lane, 2; G. Hayes, 3; F. Ring, 4; W. Harper, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Sunday, May 2nd, 720 Kent Treble Bob. W. Lane, 1; W. Clifford, 2; G. Hayes, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. Also 720 Bob Minor. H. Catton, 1: H. Milhams, 2; G. Hayes, 3; W. Clifford, 4; W. Martin (conductor), 5; M. Digby, 6. On Monday, May 10th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Lane, 1; F. Ring, 2; G. Hayes, 3: M. Digiy, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Sunday, May 16th, 720 London Surprise. W. Lane, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. Also 720 Superlative Surprise. W. Clifford, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Harry Catton, who passed away after a short illness on Wednesday, May 12th; and after being laid to rest by his fellow-ringers on Monday, May 17th, the usual whole pull and stand was rung, concluding with a 720 of Cambridge Surprise. W. Lane, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

LEWISHAM (Kent).—On Sunday, May 9th, for Divine Service, 504 Stedman Triples. A. Bedwell, 1; W. Bedwell (conductor), 2; E. H. Nixon, 3; E. Wightman, 4; G. H. Daynes, 5; T. Taylor, 6; H. Warnett, 7; J. Town, 8.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

CHURCHILL (Oxon).—On Saturday, May 8th, on the occasion of the spring meeting of the Chipping Norton Deanery Branch, 720 Grandsire Minor. A. Turner, 1; W. Longshaw, 2; W. Large, 3; J. F. Barlow, 4; A. Joyner, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 of Minor rung on these bells for over thirty years.

CAVERSHAM (Oxon).—On Sunday morning, May 23rd, for Divine Service, 447 London Surprise Major. H. Simmonds, 1; E. J. Menday, 2; A. Cullum, 3; E. W. Menday, 4; J. Hands, 5; A. W. Pike, 6; G. Essex, 7; T. Newman (conductor), 8. Also 336 Grandsire Triples. E. J. Menday, 1; J. F. Tarrant, 2; G. Newman (Romsey), 3; E. W. Menday (conductor), 4; A. Cullum, 5; A. W. Pike, 6; H. Simmonds, 7; T. Newman, 8.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On May 9th, for morning service, 720 Grandsire Minor. R. Bovington, 1; J. Parker, 2; J. J. Parker, 3; G. Basden (conductor), 4; J. Bovington, 5; C. Clarke, 6. For evening service 720 College Single, conducted by J. J. Parker. On May 16th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor for morning service. J. Bovington, 1; G. Basden, 2; J. Elderfield (conductor), 3; J. J. Parker, 4; G. Bloomfield (Bray), 5; J. Parker 6. On May 23rd, for morning service, 720 Oxford Bob, conducted by J. Elderfield. On May 24th, being the Queen's birthday, 720 Oxford Bob, conducted by C. Clarke. And 720 Court Bob, conducted by J. J. Parker. On May 30th, for morning service, 720 Oxford Bob. J. Bovington, 1; C. Clarke, 2; J. Elderfield (conductor), 3; J. Parker, 4; G. Basden, 5; A. Crook, 6 For evening service 720 Grandsire Minor, conducted by G. Basden.

FULMER (Bucks).—On May 28th, 720 College Single. J. Bovington, 1; R. Flaxman, 2: J. Elderfield, 3; J. J. Parker (conductor), 4; C. Clarke, 5; A. Crook, 6. Also 360 each of Plain Bob and Grandsire, and various 120s of Doubles, in which T. Toombs, W. and J. Bateman, G. Guttridge and others took part.

THE ST. MARTIN'S SCHOLARS, STAMFORD.

STAMFORD (Lincolnshire).—On Monday, May 24th, at St. Martin's church, 420 Grahdsire Doubles. E. Gale, 1; G. Betts, 2; G. Slaughter, 3; R. S. Cox, 4; Rev. H. L. James (conductor), 5; J.

Smith, 6. At St. Mary's church in the evening an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples came to grief after ringing 1700 changes, in 1 hr. 8 mins., through the rope of the 7th breaking. G. Slaughter, 1; E. Popple, 2; Rev. H. L. James (conductor), 3; R. S. Cox, 4; R. Wyche, 5; C. Harper, 6; F. Dennison, 7; G. Betts, 8. At St. Michael's church, 720 Oxford Bob. R. Wyche, 1; E. Popple, 2; C. Harper, 3; R. S. Cox, 4; F. Dennison, 5; Rev. H. L. James (conductor), 6.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—On Saturday, May 22nd, at the church of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, two touches of Bob Major, 1392 and 352. J. Scholes, 1; M. Wood, 2; E. Hall, 3; Y. Green, 4; J. Dart, 5; E. Clayton, 6; S. Joyce, 7; H. Springall (conductor), 8.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

WALTHAMSTOW (Essex).—On Monday, May 24th, at St. Saviour's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. A. Abrahams, 1; H. Street, 2; *F. W. Butler, 3; E. D. Lillywhite, 4; H. P. Abrahams, 5; G. B. Lucas (conductor), 6; F. C. Perrin, 7; W. Joyce, 8. *First quarter-peal. F. C. Perrin hails from Harlow.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, May 23rd, for Divine Service, several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. H. C. Pilcher, 1; H. Pilcher, 2; H. Collins, 3; W. Farrow, 4; C. H. Howard (conductor), 5; W. Hammond, 6. For evening service several more 6-scores and touches of Bob Minor. On Monday, May 24th, at 6 a.m. in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, the bells were rung at intervals during the day. Touches of Grandsire, Bob Minor and Canterbury Pleasure were brought round, and in the evening the bells were fired and the Queen's change rung.

STISTED (Essex).—On Sunday afternoon, May 23rd, for Divine Service at All Saints' church, 720 Kent Treble Bob. *H. Collins, 1; *H. Pilcher, 2; Ed. Chaplin, 3; E. Chaplin, 4; A. Chaplin, 5; E. Radley (conductor), 6. *First attempt for a 720 in the method, and hails from Braintree.

STANSTED (Essex).—On Thursday, April 22nd, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, for practice, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob. J. Cavill, 1; I. Hammond, 2; T. Hudson, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. This makes W. Watts' 1400th 720. Also 720 Cambridge Surprise. T. Hudson (first 720 in the method), 1; G. Jordan, 2; T. J. Watts, 3; W. Watts, 4; I. Hammond, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And 720 Plain Bob Minor. T. Hudson, 1; H. Little (first 720 in the method with a bob bell), 2; I. Hammond, 3; G. Gray, 4; W. Watts, 5; T. J. Watts (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, April 25th, for morning service, 720 Durham Surprise. G. Jordan, 1; I. Hammond, 2; T. J. Watts, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. Also for afternoon service, 720 Worcester Surprise. H. Little (first 720 in the method), 1; T. J. Watts, 2; G. Gray, 3; W. Watts, 4; G. Jordan, 5; J. Luckey (conductor), 6. And on Thursday, April 20th, for practice, 720 Double Oxford Bob (eighteen singles three bobs), composed by the late Mr. H. Prior, of Stansted. G. Jordan, 1; I. Hammond, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Luckey, 4; H. J. Tucker, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. This makes W. Watts' fiftieth 720 Double Oxford Bob. Also 720 Grandsire Minor. H. J. Tucker (conductor), 1; I. Hammond, 2; T. J. Watts, 3; W. W. Tucker, 4; J. Luckey, 5; W. Watts, 6. Mr. T. Hudson hails from Sunderland and the brothers Tucker from Bishops Stortford. Tenor 13 cwt.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM (Surrey).—On Thursday, May 6th, at St. Andrew's church, on the occasion of the seventeenth anniversary of the wedding-day of Mr. J. Hawkes, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. A. Smith, 1; J. Hawkes, 2; A. Honor (first quarter-peal), 3; A. J. Le Clercq, 4; H. Garfath (conductor), 5; A. Headey, 6; E. Clapshaw, 7; H. Herrington, 8. On Thursday, May 20th, several members of the Alton band visited the belfry for combined practice, when the following touches were successfully brought round. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins. Rev. F. A. Whyley, 1; *Miss F. Whyley, 2; *Miss W. Whyley, 3; *A. Evans, 4; H. Garfath (composer and conductor), 5; F. A. Barnett, 6; A. Burgess, 7; *F. Noakes, 8. *First quarter-peal on tower bells. Also 630 Grandsire Triples. A. Smith, 1; A. Le Clercq, 2; W. Bramley, 3; H. Garfath (conductor), 4; A. Burgess, 5; C. Fry, 6; E. Clapshaw, 7; H. Herrington, 8. Also 210 Grandsire Triples. A. Evans, 1; Miss W. Whyley, 2; Miss F. Whyley (conductor), 3; H. Garfath, 4; J. Hawkes, 5; C. Fry, 6; E. Clapshaw, 7; H. Herrington, 8. The Rev. F. and the Misses Whyley, Messrs. Burgess, Bramley, Evans, and Noakes hail from Alton. On Monday, May 24th, in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins. A. E. Smith, 1; A. Smith, 2; A. Le Clercq, 3; H. Garfath (conductor), 4; J. Hawkes, 5; G. Fry, 6; E. Clapshaw, 7; H. Herrington, 8.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

GREENWICH.—On Saturday, May 22nd, at the church of St. Alfege, on the occasion of the opening of the Blackwall Tunnel by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, after an unsuccessful attempt for Thurstans' peal of Stedman, a 1024 Kent Treble Bob Major. I. G. Shade (conductor), 1; W. Weatherstone, 2; *W. Berry, 3; *J. J. Lamb, 4; H. Hoskins, 5; J. Waghorn, junr., 6; *H. Flanders, 7; F. W. Thornton, 8. *Longest length of Treble Bob. And on Monday, May 24th, after Confirmation Service, a 704 of Kent Treble Bob Major. I. G. Shade (conductor), 1; W. Weatherstone, 2; W. Berry, 3; J. J. Lamb, 4; E. E. Richards, 5; H. Hoskins, 6; H. Flanders, 7; F. W. Thornton, 8.

EAST LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WRANGLE (Lincolnshire).—On Monday, April 19th, at the church of SS. Mary and Nicolas, two 720s of Bob Minor. E. Rawlinson, 1; J. Phillips, 2; H. Staffurth, 3; A. Barber, 4; E. Clayton, 5; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 6. And 720 Bob Minor. E. Rawlinson, 1; E. Mason, 2; J. Phillips, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; A. Barber (conductor), 5; E. Clayton, 6. Another 720 in the same method. E. Rawlinson, 1; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 2; H. Staffurth, 3; A. Barber, 4; E. Clayton, 5; J. Phillips, 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

FRIESTON (Lincolnshire).—On Sunday, April 18th, at the parish church of St. James, 120 St. Simon's and 120 Plain Bob. E. Clayton, 1; A. Barber, 2; H. Staffurth, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; J. Sharpe (conductor), 5.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

CHESTERFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday evening, May 18th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins. W. Nuttall (first quarter-peal), 1; J. Hunt, 2; W. J. Thyng, 3; J. H. Bell, 4; G. Toplis, 5; G. M. Farr, 6; A. Knights (conductor), 7; G. Mee, 8. Composed by the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS," and contains the twenty-four 6-7s all the right way.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Thursday, April 29th, at St. Paul's church, a 576 of Treble Bob Major. H. Toll, 1; W. Barker (first touch in the method), 2; C. Chasty, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; H. Tysoe, 6; W. Shimmans, 7; I. Hills, 8. On Sunday, May 2nd, a course of Treble Bob Royal. F. Smith, 1; C. Chasty, 2; H. Tysoe, 3; S. J. Cullip, 4; W. Hall, 5; C. R. Lilley, 6; I. Hills, 7; F. Hull, 8; H. Sharp, 9; C. W. Clarke, 10. And a course of Bob Royal. And a 305 of Grandsire Caters. E. Tingey (first touch in the method), 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; S. J. Cullip, 3; H. Sharp, 4; W. Hall, 5; C. R. Lilley, 6; I. Hills, 7; C. Chasty, 8; F. Hull, 9; J. Sear, 10. On Sunday, May 9th, a 324 Grandsire Caters. F. Ball, 1; S. J. Cullip, 2; W. Barker, 3; F. Hull, 4; W. Hall, 5; C. R. Lilley, 6; I. Hills, 7; C. Chasty (conductor), 8; F. Smith, 9; J. Sear, 10. On Sunday, May 16th, a 384 of Superlative Surprise Major. W. Barker, 1; C. Chasty, 2; W. Hall, 3; F. Hull, 4; I. Hills, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6; H. Tysoe, 7; H. Sharp, 8. On Friday, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Double Court. F. Ball, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; F. Hull, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. R. Lilley, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Tuesday, May 4th, a 720 of Double Court. E. Tingey (first 720 in the method), 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Barker, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; C. Chasty, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Tuesday, May 11th, a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Tysoe, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Barker, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; C. Chasty, 5; H. Tysoe, 6. On Tuesday, May 11th, a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Tysoe, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Barker, 3; A. Robinson, 4; C. Chasty, 5; F. Hull, 6. On Tuesday, May 25th, a 720 Woodbine Treble Bob. E. Tingey (first 720 in the method), 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Barker (first 720 in the method), 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; F. Hull, 6.

CLIFTON (Bedfordshire).—On Saturday, May 1st, at the parish church, a 720 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Sharp, 1; C. Chasty, 2; C. W. Clarke, 3; C. R. Lilley, 4; F. Hull, 5; S. Constant (conductor), 6.

SANDY (Beds).—On Saturday, May 1st, at the parish church, a 720 of Double Court. S. Constant (conductor), 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; I. Hills, 3; W. Barker, 4; C. Chasty, 5; C. R. Lilley, 6. And 360 Bob Minor. J. Fox, 1; C. R. Lilley, 2; F. Hull, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. W. Clarke, 5; S. Constant (conductor) 6.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH (Northants).—On Saturday, May 22nd, at the parish church, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples, a quarter-peal in the method (Thurstans'). H. Sharp, 1; W. Barker, 2; C. Chasty, 3; I. Hills, 4; A. Tyler, 5; F. Hull, 6; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 7; C. R. Lilley, 8. This is the longest length in the method on the bells.

ADDINGHAM (Yorks).—On Sunday, May 16th, at St. Peter's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 25 mins. W. Mosley (Kilwick), 1; S. Tillotson

(Kilwick), 2: J. Mumford (Pateley Bridge), 3; C. Low (Kilwick), 4; J. Summersall (Pateley Bridge), 5; J. Hill (conductor, Kilwick), 6.

BUNGAY (Suffolk).—On Monday, May 24th, on the occasion of the Queen's birthday, the flag floated from the steeple, and the bells were rung at intervals during the day. A touch of 1386 Grandsire Triples was brought round in the morning by the following: W. Spalding, 1; J. Folkard, 2; F. Hembling, 3; W. Felgate, 4; G. Alexander, 5; E. Lincoln, 6; R. Baker (conductor), 7: F. Baker, 8. Several other touches were brought round by the same band. On handbells, at the meeting house, three courses of Grandsire Caters. J. Folkard, 1-2; E. Lincoln, 3-4; G. Alexander, 5-6; W. Felgate, 7-8; R. Baker, 9-10.

COLCHESTER (Essex). On Sunday, May 16th, for morning service at St. Peter's Church, 336 Bob Major. W. Scott, 1; W. Howell, 2; G. Rashbrook, 3; G. Burch, 4; F. Bumpstead, 5; F. Rudkin, 6; W. Schofield (conductor), 7; W. Burch, 8. Also three leads of Kent Treble Bob. W. Harvey, 1; W. Howell, 2; G. Rashbrook, 3; G. Burch, 4; F. Bumpstead, 5; F. Rudkin, 6; W. Schofield, 7; W. Burch, 8. Also a course in same method, R. Stannard, 3; the rest as before. For evening service a course of Double Norwich (first on the bells). W. Harvey, 1; W. Howell, 2; R. Stannard, 3; G. Rashbrook, 4 F. Bumpstead, 5; D. Elliott, 6; E. Beckwith, 7; J. Newman, 8. And 576 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Howell, 1; E. Beckwith, 2; R. Stannard, 3; G. Rashbrook, 4; F. Bumpstead, 5; D. Elliott (conductor), 6; W. Ladhams, 7; J. Newman, 8. Also a course of Bob Major. W. Schofield, 7; W. Burch, 8; the rest as before. On handbells, 720 Bob Minor, non-conducted. G. Rashbrook, 1-2; D. Elliott, 3-4; E. Beckwith, 5-6. And 240 Cambridge Surprise Minor. J. Newman, 1; E. Beckwith, 2; F. Bumpstead, 3; F. Rudkin, 4; G. Rashbrook, 5; D. Elliott (conductor), 6. Messrs. Beckwith, Elliott and Newman hail from Coggeshall, Rudkin from Braintree, Ladhams from Great Tey, the rest are local men.

CAERLEON (Monmouthshire). — On Wednesday, May 12th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor. L. Stafford, 1; E. Davies, 2; F. Attwell, 3; R. Le Vesconte, 4; G. Condick, 5; J. Cox (conductor), 6. And a 6-score of Stedman Doubles. G. Condick, 4; J. Cox, 3; F. Attwell, 6; the rest as before. Rung on the back six. Tenor 7¼ cwt.

CHARING (Kent).—On May 24th, in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, 720 Grandsire Minor, being six 6-scores called differently. P. Edwards, 1; E. Archer, 2; W. Good, 3; W. Spice (conductor), 4; H. Ward, 5; J. Clifford, 6. Also later in the day the bells were fired, and a 6-score of Doubles rang, W. Hadlow (Lentham), and F. Cacket and J. Willis taking part.

FAR HEADINGLEY (Yorks). — On Sunday evening, May 2nd, for Divine Service at St. Chad's church, 1036 Bob Major. R. Dickinson, 1; G. Morris, 2; A. Naylor, 3; D. Swift, 4; L. Stokoe, 5; J. Walker, 6; W. Baines (conductor), 7; W. Child, 8. Rung on the occasion of the conductor's birthday. On Saturday, May 22nd, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr. Simpson to Miss Bray, 1040 Bob Major standing as above. On Sunday evening, May 23rd, for Divine Service, 912 Bob Major standing as above. The last two touches were conducted by W. Child.

FULHAM.—On Sunday morning, May 23rd, for Divine Service at All Saints' church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1259 changes, in 50 mins. A. Ough, 1; W. Meaton, 2; W. Elson, 3; †H. G. Owen, 4; G. Meaton, 5; H. Adams, 6; C. Charge, 7; J. Nicholls, 8; J. Aldridge (composer and conductor), 9; S. How, 10. †Longest touch in the method.

MILDENHALL (Suffolk).—On Monday, May 24th, at St. Mary's church, 360 Bob Minor with 6-8 behind. H. Turner, 1; T. Soames, 2; H. Turner, 3; A. Turner, 4; G. Turner, 5; F. Barton, 6; C. Carpenter, 7; C. Manson, 8. Also 504 Bob Triples. J. Locke, 2; Rev. H. B. Woolley, 4; A. Turner, 6; the rest as before. Conducted by H. Turner. Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.

SOLIHULL (Warwickshire).—On Monday, May 24th, in honour of the Queen's birthday, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. H. Haines, 1; J. Bragg, 2; W. Wall, 3; G. Skuce, 4; G. Martineau (conductor), 5; F. Rowley, 6; S. Bragg, 7; J. Tarplee, 8. First quarter-peal ever rung by a local band, and first quarter-peal by all except Messrs. Wall and Martineau.

WERT HAM (Essex). — On Sunday evening, May 23rd, before Divine Service at Holy Trinity church, Barking Road, four 120s of Grandsire Doubles. A. Waits, 1; E. Clayton, 2; J. Waits, 3; W. H. Dallimore (conductor), 4; W. Truss, 5; W. Living, 6. After service 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Whight, 1; E. Lucas, 2; W. H. Dallimore, 3; W. Truss, 4; W. H. Doran, 5; T. Faulkner (conductor), 6. Also 360 Bob Minor. J. Waits, 1; E. Lucas, 2; W. Truss, 3; W. H. Dallimore, 4; T. Faulkner, 5; E. Clayton (conductor), 6.

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

INFORMATION WANTED.

SIR,—I think it would be interesting to ringers generally, if Mr. Bradney, Shifnal, would kindly forward to "THE BELL NEWS," for publication, a copy of the peal tablet, recording the first peal of Stedman Triples rung there. I would also ask, where, and on what date, was the first peal of Stedman Triples rung in London? The following is the copy of a tablet in Longney Parish Church, and I have heard that it was one of the first rung in a village:—

"On Sunday, 16th January, 1831, was rung on these bells, Mr. Cooper's New Peal of Stedman Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 2 hours and 36 minutes, by the following band. W. Longney, jun., Treble; W. Michael Soule, 2; John Longney, 3; Daniel Merrett, 4; Samuel Sims, 5; William Longney, sen., 6; Richard Guilding, 7; John Prosser, Tenor. Conducted by William Longney, sen."

Croome, Worcester. L. LONGNEY.

Obituary.

HARRY VOYCE.

We regret to announce the sudden death of Mr. Harry Voyce, which event occurred on Saturday, May 22nd, at the age of 26. Deceased was for many years a ringer at Foy, Herefordshire, and member of the choir. The interment took place on Tuesday, the 25th, when the choir attended, the service being fully choral. The sacred edifice, which was draped in black, was filled by many sorrowing friends who came to show their regard, for the deceased was loved by all who knew him. The prayers at the graveside were most impressively read by the Vicar, the Rev. C. T. Wilton, M.A., and the writer hopes that the brightness of the service in the quiet country churchyard made many who were present realise that their late friend was taken to a still brighter service in the heavenly mansions. The coffin was covered with wreaths and crosses sent by relatives and ringers of the Hereford Guild, of which deceased was a member. In the evening 1200 of Grandsire Doubles were rung in 45 mins. with the bells deeply muffled by the following; E. Evans, 1; W. Clarke, 2; C. Sadler, 3; C. Davis, 4; A. J. Llewellyn (conductor), 5; J. Watts, 6. Tenor 10½ cwt.

LLANBADARN FAWR (Montgomeryshire).—The ringers of the parish church have been receiving a course of lessons during the past week in the art of change-ringing by Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough, who for eight years acted in a similar capacity for the Hereford Diocesan Guild of Bellringers. Handbells have been used in the belfry to further the practice with good results, the method adopted being known as "Grandsire." The preliminary work was confined to "Doubles," or changes on five bells with the tenor covering, which is the basis of eight bell ringing. The following is a summary of the ringing successfully performed, with the names of those who took part:—Thursday, a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles on handbells by E. Simon, 1; W. H. Fussell, 2-3; John Davies, 4; S. Walters, 5; and E. G. Thomas, 6. Friday:—Another 6-score (the extent of changes on five bells) was rung on handbells by W. H. Fussell, 1-2; S. Walters, 3; J. Davies, 4; G. Richards, 5; S. Hughes, 6; and a half peal on the tower bells by the same band with Mr. E. Simon (foreman) at the treble. Saturday evening was looked forward to with the hope of being able to score a tower bell peal, which was accomplished after two failures by Messrs. Simon, Walters, Fussell (conductor), Davies, Richards and Hughes, and was a source of pleasure to the band after their week of hard practice. On Sunday morning a full peal of 120 changes Grandsire Doubles was rung for the service, and a half-peal also by the same band, when the eight bells were brought into use, Messrs. George Gardner and E. G. Thomas ringing the 4th and tenor. The two last-named men are able to ring 6-scores on handbells and will make promising tower bell hands. It is to be hoped that the Llanbadarn Society will continue their study and practice of such an interesting art, so that we may soon hear of the first real Welsh team of pealmen. It is due to Mr. Walters that the services of Mr. Fussell were obtained.—*Montgomery County Times.*

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NEW BELLS FOR STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

The Vicar of Stockton presided over a meeting of church officers, held in the vestibule of the Parish Church, on Thursday evening. He explained that the meeting was called to consider the project emanating from Mr. G. J. Clarkson for increasing the peal of bells from six to ten. Mr. Clarkson had described the present peal as "inadequate both in number and weight of metal for the principal church of a large town," and he gave a list of sixteen towns and villages in Durham and North Yorkshire, none of which had so light a peal as Stockton, whose town bell weighs only 10 cwt. The object being one in which the whole town and neighbourhood would feel an interest, what would be a more fitting memorial of the long and beneficent reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty? Mr. Clarkson had ascertained that the six bells now in the tower could not be changed into a peal of eight without alteration, but they could fittingly become the first six of a peal of ten. The cost of four additional bells, together with the necessary fittings and alterations and extension of the bell frame, would be £722. Towards this sum Mr. Clarkson was willing to give the price of the first additional bell, amounting to £63, on the condition that the cost of the second bell, amounting to £78 15s., was subscribed exclusively amongst those officially connected with the church, including the Vicar, churchwardens, curates, sidesmen, choir, and organist, and also the ringers, who would surrender the usual salary for one year, amounting to £18. In conclusion, the Vicar remarked that the clergy were willing to do their part in the scheme, and he was aware that a committee was being formed of townsmen generally in furtherance of the project, and he felt sure it would be taken up warmly if the church officers felt able to accept the condition. Mr. Wass, speaking for himself and his fellow-warden, said they agreed that an effort ought to be made to meet Mr. Clarkson's condition, and they were willing to do their part. Mr. Parkinson said the idea seemed very popular in the town, and a gentleman holding a high position in the Corporation, but not an attender of the parish church, had informed him that he would not only subscribe, but also would undertake to canvass a district in the town. The subscription list was then opened for the second bell, and almost the whole amount subscribed, the remainder being contributed afterwards by sidesmen absent from the meeting. The following are the subscriptions:—The Vicar, £10; Rev. M. J. G. King, £2 10s.; Rev. M. S. Ware, £2 10s.; Mr. G. H. Wass, £10; Mr. F. Robson, £10; Mr. Leng, £5; Mr. Parkinson, £5; Mr. D. Kidd, £2 2s.; Mr. Wood, £1 1s.; Mr. R. J. Talintyre, £5; The Bellringers, £18; Mr. J. Chapman, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Harrison, 10s. 6d.; Mr. W. Pargeter, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Lackenby, 5s.; Mr. T. Godfrey, 10s. 6d.; Mr. R. Weatherell, £2 2s.; Mr. W. Watson, Prov. terrace, £2 2s.; Mr. T. Brown, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Kirtley, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Wilson, 5s.; Mr. Jenkins, 5s.; Mr. Kendall, 10s. 6d.; Mr. H. J. Close, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Rutherford, £1 1s.; Mr. G. R. Toogood, 5s.; total subscription, £18 12s. Every sidesman of the Parish Church, without exception, has contributed to the above list.

The *Darlington and Stockton Times* of May 22nd, has the following:—"An effort is being made to signalise this Jubilee year by the addition of new bells to the Stockton parish church peal. The idea is a good one, for the bells in the parish church are beloved by all people. Mr. G. J. Clarkson, an enthusiastic and talented campanologist, has most generously proffered to defray the cost of over £60 for one new bell, and the church officials have agreed to raise the funds for another. All that is now wanted is to raise funds for two other bells and the fittings; and surely there ought to be no difficulty in procuring £200 or £300 for such a purpose in such a memorable jubilee year."

OLDSWINFORD, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Wednesday evening, May 26th, the rector of Oldswinford (Rev. A. B. Timbrell), gave his ringers their annual supper. The Rev. C. Moore, the newly-appointed curate, and Mr. A. E. Parsons, their late instructor, were among the guests. After enjoying a substantial meal, digested by a stroll round the lovely garden, the usual business was duly transacted. Messrs. W. Whitehouse and J. G. Orford were unanimously re-elected leader and secretary respectively. Messrs. H. Skelding and W. Nutting were enrolled as full ringing members, and Mr. A. Roberts as a honorary member.

The Rector, after dwelling at length on the year's progress, presented Mr. Parsons on behalf of the churchwardens and ringers, with a handsome marble timepiece as a memento of their esteem and appreciation for the admirable tuition given to the ringers. He had known him for years and on the appointment of instructor to the ringers in January, 1896, he felt thankful and assured that he would raise the ringing standard at Oldswinford. During the twelve months he came among them no band he ventured to assert had made more satisfactory progress, and had the present before them been a hundred times its value he would not have thought it too good. He hoped Mr. Parsons' connection with himself and ringers would last for many years.

Mr. Parsons, in acknowledging and accepting the timepiece, said he could not find words to thank them for their kindness. Coming to teach them what he could in ringing had been a source of pleasure to him, and whenever he should look upon the present he would be immediately reminded of the pleasant evenings spent in the belfry and of the spirit which had prompted them to give it. On a brass plate at the base of the timepiece the following inscription is engraved:—"Presented to A. E. Parsons by the Rector, Churchwardens and Bellringers of St. Mary's, Oldswinford, May, 1897."

The Rev. C. Moore then said how pleased he was to be with them, and hoped to know more of them in the belfry.

THE DIDSBURY DIAMOND JUBILEE COMMITTEE.

This Committee have decided to inaugurate the Jubilee rejoicings at Didsbury, Lancashire, by a Bellringing Contest on Saturday, the 19th June. The contest will be confined to the following local churches, viz.:—Birch, Stockport Parish Church, St. George's Stockport, Hazel Grove, Cheadle, Northenden, Bowdon, Stretford, Christ Church Didsbury, and Didsbury Parish Church. The contest will be held at the Didsbury Parish Church, and it is proposed that each company of six men shall ring a peal of 720 changes. The prizes consist of six handsome silver medals for the winners and six bronze ones for the runners up.

Ringers' Outings.

THE HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY, BURNLEY.—On Saturday, May 29th, the members of this society had their annual outing, the place chosen being the "North Round." Accompanied by their wives they made a start from the church gates shortly after 6 a.m. The weather looked very nice just about now, but unfortunately did not continue. Whalley was reached about 7 a.m, and the early hour prevented us from having a pull on the old bells. Several of the company had a stroll through the churchyard, and examined with interest the ancient building. We then proceeded on to Brungerley Bridge (a very pretty little spot on the Ribble), where an elegant breakfast was served by Mrs. Holt, and was done justice to, as only ringers can. After breakfast Mr. T. Mouncey called upon Mr. Dick Ashworth to make a present of a very nice writing desk to the conductor for his services to the belfry and ringing in general. Mr. Ashworth, in making the presentation, alluded to the manner in which he had always worked along with Mr. Redman, and trusted that he would look upon this desk as a slight token of the esteem in which he was held by the ringers. Mr. Redman, in replying, said he hoped in return to retain the confidence reposed in him by the company. Afterwards a few of the company journeyed to Waddington, and rang a 720 of Kent upon the musical ring of six there. We then had a row upon the river, and I do not know whether the inhabitants appreciated their performance in this direction or not, but at all events we enjoyed ourselves. We then went on through Sawley to Gisburn, where another substantial meal had been provided, and had a pull on the bells at the parish church, which go very badly. A start was then made for home, all being very thankful to the wardens, and also to Mr. T. Mouncey for looking after our comfort during the day. T. R.

Notices.

The East Derbyshire Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be at Horsley, to-day, Saturday, June 5th. Tea at 5.30 (free to members); meeting afterwards.

T. ALLIBONE, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—Having had no reply from Healy the next monthly meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Glodwick, instead of Healy, to-day, Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready at 4 p.m., meeting at 6 p.m. All ringers invited.

E. B. SHAW, *Branch Sec.*
14, *Thomas Street, Leesfield.*

The Chester Diocesan Guild. — Crewe Branch.—The next monthly meeting of the above branch will be held at Tarporley, to-day, Saturday, June 5th. Bells ready at 3 p.m., meeting at 5 p.m. Members are earnestly requested to attend if possible.

58, *Rigg Street, Crewe.* R. LANGFORD, *Sec.*

Stoke Archidiaconal Association. — The next meeting of the above will be held at Kingsley, to-day, Saturday, June 5th.

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

The Central Northamptonshire Association.—Annual Meeting at Northampton, on Whit-Monday. By special permission the bells of the churches of All Saints (eight), St. Giles (ten), St. Peter (eight), and St. Edmund (eight), will be at liberty for ringing from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. Divine service at St. Giles' church, with sermon by the Rev. E. C. Channer, M.A., vicar of Ravensthorpe, at 1 p.m. Luncheon and business meeting at The Peacock Hotel, Market Square, at 2 p.m. This hotel will be the Association Head Quarters for the day.

Wellingborough. E. J. DENNES, *Hon. Sec.*

The South and West Middlesex Guild.—Preliminary Notice.—The annual general meeting will be held on Whit-Monday, June 7th, at Ealing. The bells of St. Mary's and Christ Church being open for ringing at 10 a.m. Divine service at St. Mary's (parish church) at 12.30, preacher, Rev. W. E. Oliver, LL.D., Vicar of Ealing Luncheon at 1.30, at 1s. 6d. each; followed by the meeting, when it is much wished that all members will make an effort to attend, very important business having to be got through. Tea will be provided about six o'clock. Members and friends who intend to be present are earnestly requested to let me know at their earliest, that proper arrangements can be made as to numbers, etc.

2, *Oakland Road, Hanwell, W.* J. BASDEN.

The Middlesex Association.—An important meeting of this association will take place at Ealing, on Whit-Monday, in conjunction with the South and West Middlesex Guild, the proposed arrangements for which will be seen by a reference to the notice relating to that guild. The Hon. Secretary requests that all members who can conveniently do so, will be in early attendance, and that those who wish to partake of luncheon will kindly communicate with him at once, in order that the necessary arrangements may be made.

ARTHUR T. KING, *Hon. Sec.*
18, *Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.*

The Kent County Association. — The Annual meeting will be held on Whitsun-Monday, June 7th, at Canterbury. Service in the Cathedral at 10 a.m. The address will be given by the Dean of Canterbury. Committee meeting at 12; dinner at Gaywood's restaurant, High Street, at 1.30 p.m.; business meeting after dinner. The following towers will be open during the day:—Cathedral (ten bells), St. Stephen's (eight), St. Dunstan's (six), St. Alphege (six), and Holy Cross (five). Applications for dinner tickets to be made to the Hon. Sec. Tickets of admission to the cathedral belfry will be sent with the dinner tickets.

FRED. J. O. HELMORE, *Hon. Sec.*
Canterbury.

The Essex Association—The annual meeting of the above will be held on Whit-Monday, June 7th, at Chelmsford. Divine service will take place in St. Mary's Church at 11.30 a.m. An address will be given by the Rev. Thos. C. Webster, rector of Rettendon. The business meeting will commence at the Central School at 12.30 p.m. Agenda: The officers of the association to be re-elected; election of new members; the presentation of the annual report and any business that may arise therefrom. Dinner will be served in the Boys' School at 1.30 p.m.; the price to members will be 1s.; tickets may be obtained of the Assistant Secretary, at the business meeting. The towers of the following places will be open for ringing: St. Mary's, Chelmsford (ten bells), Writtle (eight), Widford (eight), Boreham (six), Springfield (six), Broomfield (six). A brake will leave the Town Hall at 3 p.m. for Writtle and Broomfield.

HENRY T. W, EYRE, *Ass. Sec.*,
Gt. Totham Vicarage, Witham.

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—A general meeting will be held at Darlington, on Whit-Monday, June 7th. The bells of St. Cuthbert's (except between the hours of 11 and 3), St. John's and Holy Trinity churches, also of Hurworth church, three-and-a-half miles distant, will be open for the use of members during the day. Dinner will be served at The King's Head hotel at 2.30 prompt. Members 1s. 6d., non-members 2s. 6d. each. The committee will meet at the hotel half an hour before dinner.

THOMAS HUDSON, *Hon. Sec.*
314, *High Street West, Sunderland.*

The Heavy Woollen District Association, Yorkshire.—The annual six-bell contest will be held at Tong on Whit-Monday, when the Association's cup and other prizes will be awarded for the best 720 of Violet. Draw at 10 a.m., start at 10.30. Mixed companies allowed to compete if members.

GEO. H. SIMON, *Hon. Sec.*
19, *Albert Street, Batley Carr.*

The Old East Derbyshire Association.—The annual contest will take place at Wingfield, on Whit-Tuesday, June 8th, for the Association silver cup. Draw to take place at 12 o'clock, contest to commence at 12.30. Peal of six, tenor 19 cwt. Clay Cross station Midland Railway, tower five minutes' walk from station. Local secretary, Mr. T. Allibone.

E. JAMES, *Hon. Sec.*
26, *Park View, Meersbrook Bank Road, Sheffield.*

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.—Quarterly Meeting, Newnham-on-Severn, Saturday, June 12th, 1897. Divine service at the parish church, with address by the vicar, 5.30 p.m.; meat tea, 6 p.m., at 1s. 6d. per head; business meeting after tea. Sixpence will be allowed to each member who sends a 1s. postal order on or before Wednesday, 9th, to REV. C. H. JOBERNS.

St. Stephen's Rectory, Bristol.

The Lancashire Association—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, June 12th. Particulars by post-card.

HENRY COLEY, *Branch Sec.*
3, *Rumford Place, Liverpool.*

The Hertfordshire Association.—A district meeting will be held at Oxhey and Bushey, on Saturday, June 19th. Further particulars next week. E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Winchester Diocesan Guild.—Preliminary Notice. — The annual festival and meeting will be held at Romsey, on Monday, July 19th. Subscriptions for 1897 should be sent in as soon as possible. Members or bands wishing to visit any particular tower must inform the Hon. Sec. before June 28th.

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

NOTICE OF LONG PEAL.

On Whit-Monday, June 7th, ten members of the Bedfordshire Association will attempt a long peal of Grandsire Caters at St. Paul's, Bedford, starting at 11.45 a.m.

C. CHASTY.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Please note change of address from Cross Street, Longlands, Stourbridge, to Old Bank House, Stourbridge.

GEO. H. PAGETT.

Ringers Wanting Situations.

WANTED.—Situation as gardener, single-handed or where help is given; age 29; single; change-ringer. R. Arnold, Betchworth, Surrey.

COULD anyone help me to get a situation; am willing to do anything. By trade a six-quarter Tapestry Weaver. Can ring Double Norwich, Stedman, Superlative, Cambridge, and London Surprise. Can conduct in method I can ring. I am willing to give my services as a ringer for getting employment. Married; 29 years of age; 15 years' character.—W. H. Smith, Lark Hill, Kidderminster.

GARDENER AND PARISH CLERK.—Understands both well; married; age 35; change-ringer, standard methods on eight or ten bells. Apply, office of this paper.

SITUATION Wanted as under Gardener, or single-handed am not particular as to any other sort of work. Age 21. Five years good character. Change ringer. Member of St. Mary's Society, Beddington.—A. Clayton.

WANTED by young man a situation as in-door servant, or would not object to other work; age 25; 10 years' experience as footman; 3½ years in present situation. Can ring Minor methods, and Grandsire and Plain Bob on eight. Member of Oxford Diocesan Guild. Address W. H., care of Editor.

WANTED by good general smith constant employment. Nine years with late employer in small engineer's shop. Good reference forwarded if required. Apply G. Condick, Cambridge, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

YOUNG MAN, 23, requires situation as clerk or position of trust; change-ringer and member of Durham and Newcastle Association; seven years' reference. Apply, Fred. P. Howcroft, 20, Westward Street, Middlesbrough, Yorkshire.

WANTED by a young man, light employment; age 23; change-ringer in four methods. Address, A. B. C., care of editor.

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.

WANTED situation as Under Gardener, where two or more are kept; age 21; four-and-half years in last situation; good character and change-ringer Address—F. Whiteman, Woburn Town, near Maidenhead, Berks.

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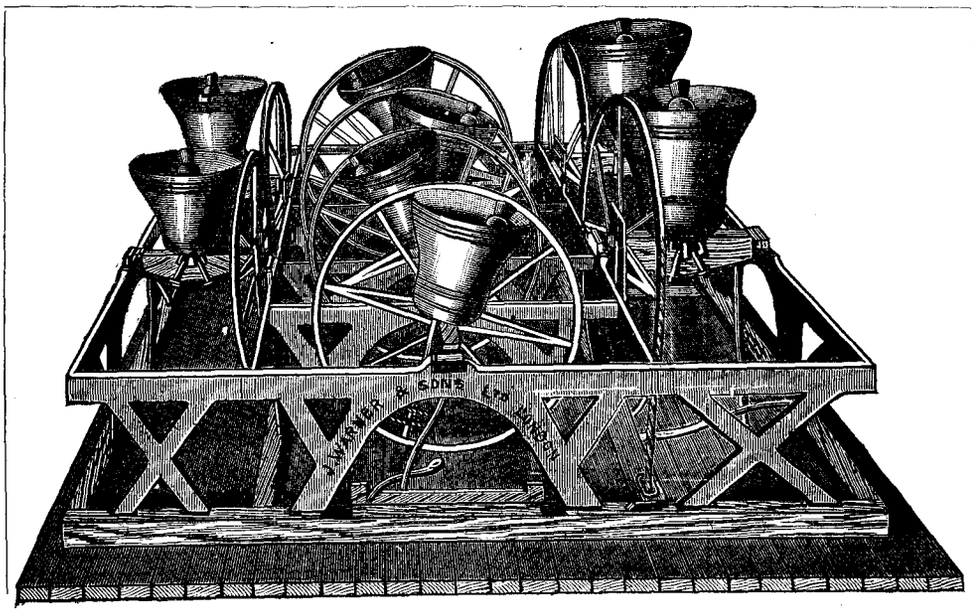

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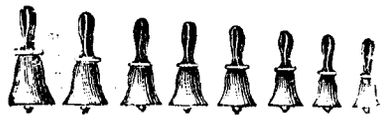

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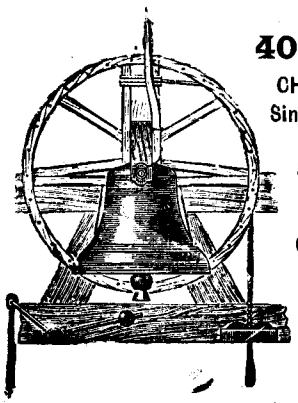

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