

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

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

No. 806.—VOL. XVI.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1897.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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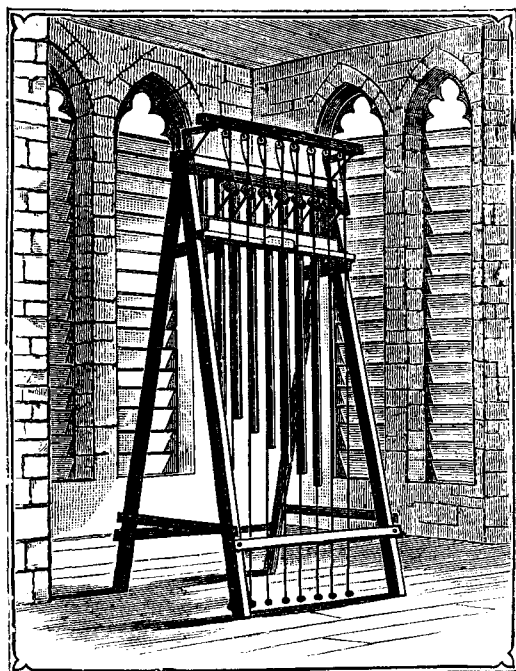
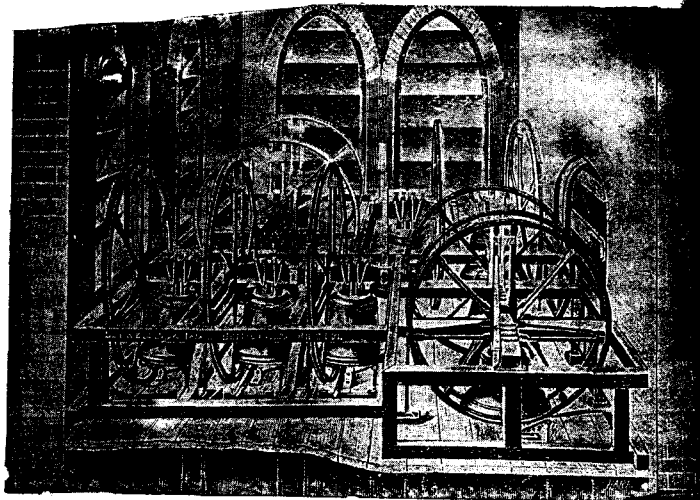
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 806.]

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1897.

[Vol. XVI.]

THE LATE MR. SAMUEL THURSTON, OF NORWICH.

(Warner to the Society of Norwich Scholars; and Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.)

By SAMUEL SLATER, Glemsford, Suffolk.

It is my wish to give in "THE BELL NEWS" a memoir of the late Samuel Thurston, of Norwich, as a small tribute of respect to the memory of so good and great a ringer, one who was so well acquainted with the Art he loved, who did honour to it by the feelings he displayed, who gave abundant proofs that he was master of the Art, and that very love of it qualified him for the tasks he performed so well in connection therewith.

This great and illustrious person was born at Norwich, in the parish of St. Martin-at-Oak, on February 19th, 1789, and was baptised on the 27th of the same month. He was brought up to the trade of a stonemason; and for many years was the mason employed at Norwich Cathedral. We may regard him as being during his lifetime the very bone and sinew of ringing in connection with the Society of Norwich Scholars. At what time he commenced to ring I do not know, but the first mention of his name in connection with the Art is on Saturday, July 1st, 1809, when he tapped upon the handbells belonging to the Norwich Scholars at the New Theatre, in Norwich, plain courses of Bob Triples, Bob Major, Bob Major Reverse, Double Bob Major, and Grandsire Bob Caters. This was at the time considered the greatest performance ever completed by one person in the world.

On October 22nd, 1809, Mr. Thurston rung his first peal, viz.: 5040 of Bob Major, at St. Giles's, Norwich. This was conducted by Mr. Jeffry Kelf, and was in fact the first peal by the whole of the band. The record goes on to state that Mr. Chesnutt, who was then conductor of the Norwich Scholars, had composed a new peal, and it was called "The Royal Jubilee," and was rung on the following Wednesday evening by the St. Peter's company, that being the Jubilee day of George III., but what this new peal was I have never been able to discover. Soon after this peal was rung, Mr. Thurston took unto himself a wife, as the following record from the marriage-register of the church of St. Martin-at-Palace: "Samuel Thurston, bachelor, to Marianne Coleman, spinster, both of this parish, married January 14th, 1810." The Norwich Scholars once had a John Coleman among them, who died in 1835, perhaps it was one of his family that Thurston married. The house in which Thurston lived is still standing, being nearly opposite the east end of the church of St. Martin-at-Palace, the second house to the north of The Cupid and Bow publichouse. Thurston's second peal—a 6000 of Bob Major—was rung at Bungay in Suffolk, with the Bungay company. We gather that he had not yet become a member of the Norwich Scholars, although he had been elected into the College Youths in 1813. By this time Thurston had become such an accomplished ringer that he, in the local papers challenged Mr. Chesnutt (the then leader of the St. Peter Mancroft company) to ring with him for £100! This led to a controversy in the papers. After all, I don't think this challenge was accepted, various suggestions were made by the parties, but a satisfactory settlement could not be attained. Soon after this, however, Thurston became a Norwich Scholar, as on Friday, April 29th, 1814, I find his name recorded as one of St. Peter's company. On this it states "that he struck on his musical peal of eight bells at The Eight Ringers, in Norwich, three full courses of Bob Major, with the 6th, 7th, and 8th making bobs, and containing 336 musical changes, which he nobly brought round in 14 minutes, being the greatest performance in the Art in the British Dominions."

Thurston's first peal with the Norwich Scholars was when they visited Suffolk to attend the grand opening of the Helmingham bells in 1816, when on the third day of the opening they

rung the first peal on the new bells—5376 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, with 6ths place bobs: the Norwich Scholars for several years practiced that method with 6ths place bobs, and had previously rung a long length at home on that plan. After this Helmingham peal, Mr. Thurston seems to have been the most noted man that Norwich had had, as it was he that composed, and rung St. Peter's tenor to, the very remarkable peal of Norwich Court Bob Maximus, for the prowess of which the Norwich Scholars presented him with an elegant silver-gilt jewel, having annexed to it this inscription:—

"Presented to Mr. S. Thurston, July 4th, 1825, by the United Ringers of St. Peter Mancroft, For his eminent Services in Composing the peal of Norwich Court Twelve In, and ringing the tenor in a Superior Style."

Thurston's next peal was 5264 of Bob Major at Aylsham, and is the first peal in which he figured as conductor; and in the same year and on the same bells he rang his next peal—Bob Triples (Holt's 6-part). This was followed up by seven 720s of Bob Minor, at Loddon, in 1818, each being called differently. About the year 1819 we find him officiating as a bellhanger, and having hung the bells at Blofield and Worstead, and I believe also at Paston and Weston.

A very interesting painting of Samuel Thurston is or was in the possession of a daughter of his, a Mrs. Finlay, of Macclesfield, who some years ago lent this painting of her father to the St. Michael's (Macclesfield) ringers, to be viewed by the members present at their second annual meeting. The picture was returned to Mrs. Finlay, who faithfully promised that whenever anything happened to her, it should become the property of the St. Michael's company. The painting illustrates Mr. Thurston standing in the belfry with a rope in one hand and a ms. in the other, the latter being inscribed—"The Art of Change-Ringing." It was presented to Thurston by the St. Peter Mancroft society "for his valuable aid in Composing, Ringing, and Conducting a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples on handbells, the first ever rung double-handed." This was rung on February 22nd, 1822. Thurston made a stone tablet for this performance, and placed it in St. Peter's belfry. The presentation of the portrait took place on Saturday, August 3rd, in the same year. The address written underneath it is dated 1822, and I believe the painting is in a cork frame. Mrs. Finlay has said that her father used to take ringers to his house to instruct them on the handbells: and for some time before he died, while bedridden, and his house being conveniently situated for the purpose, he could hear most of the ringing which took place by sitting up in bed and using a ear-horn. She also says that he once had a silver bell presented to him by the members of his society. This is the bell I have before alluded to. Mrs. Finlay does not know what has become of this bell.

On Thursday, January 30th, 1823, it is recorded "that a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung in this city on eight musical handbells, by Samuel Thurston and William Tuck, two in hand, with four other ringers who rang single-handed; conducted by William Tuck, under the direction of that able composer, S. Thurston." In the same year Thurston rung 5-6, with six other ringers, in a peal of Bob Major at an inn in the parish of St. George's Colegate; this he followed up by ringing the tenor to Reeves's 6400 of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Hingham; his next peal was a 5088 in the same method, at St. Andrew's, Norwich, being the first peal on the bells. In the following year, 1824, he called a peal of Grandsire Triples: this is given by H. Hubbard in his first edition as Holt's 10-part, but a short time ago I was shown the original figures of this peal written by Thurston himself on March 20th, 1824, and upon examination I find it to be Holt's 10-part peal with the 7th the observation, as given in *The Clavis*. His next peal was one of Oxford Treble Bob Major, rung at Aylsham, and in July of the same year he

rung a long touch of Stedman Caters on handbells, composed and conducted by himself. This was rung by seven ringers, viz.: four single and three double-handed, the record of which stated "as the greatest length ever rung two in hand in that intricate method, and no doubt will remain unequalled by the scientifices." This he followed by Reeves's extent with the tenors together—8448 changes—at St. Michael Coslany, and the record states "that the band after the peal was rung were agreeably surprised by an excellent dinner being provided for them by one of the churchwardens, at The Barleycorn, where they spent the evening with much conviviality." His next performance was a half-peal of Stedman Triples, composed by the late J. P. Powell, Esq., of which the following is the record: "On Monday, January 3rd, 1825, was rung by eight youths called Norwich Scholars on St. Andrew's musical peal of eight bells, as a first attempt, 2520 changes, or half-peal, of Stedman Triples, with only two bobs together. This beautiful peal had long been the study of the most scientific ringers, but without success, till the persevering industry and consummate skill of J. P. Powell, Esq., of Thanet, Kent, brought it to perfection, and it is allowed by the best judges in the Art to be the most ingenious peal for the number of changes in Stedman Triples that was ever composed. The peal was conducted by Mr. Samuel Thurston, of this city, and rung by the following persons: William Mann, treble; George Homes, 2; Frederick Watering, 3; John Hornegold, 4; Joshua Hurry, 5; Thomas Hurry, 6; Samuel Thurston, 7; John Coleman, tenor." His next peal was the first peal rung in hand by four of the Norwich Scholars. This was considered a grand performance, and was witnessed by three of the same society. His next was Reeves's peal from *The Clavis*, rung at Bungay on the Saturday morning after the bells had been tuned by Mr. Benjamin Oldring, of Kelsale, who rung the treble, and so far as I know this was the only peal he (Mr. Oldring) ever rung. No. 18 is the peal of Oxford Treble Bob Royal in which the tenor of St. Peter Mancroft was rung by Thomas Hurry, being the first time it was rung single-handed to a peal; this was conducted by Thurston. No. 19 was the first peal of Treble Bob Major ever rung upon Thetford bells, conducted by Thurston, being Reeves's 3-part peal from *The Clavis*. His next peal was his first of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. It was an augmentation of Annable's 3-part peal, with an ugly long course tacked on in front of the peal by Thurston, to supplement, I suppose, the peal rung at Coslany in 1815. This he followed up by ringing Reeves's peal of 6880 Treble Bob Major containing the sixty course-ends, the record saying "it was conducted by Thurston, who called the bobs, and whose well-known abilities as a bob-caller to a band of ringers need no comment on the present occasion, but in justice to him and the company it must be said that if ever equalled it never can be excelled, and will long stand as a master-piece untouched by the amateurs of the Art." This I suppose has reference to the composition of the peal. No. 22 was the composition of H. Hubbard, rung for the first time, and conducted by Thurston. No. 23 was a peal rung upon handbells at Crostwick, a small village near Norwich. Anxious to be doing something, no doubt Thurston got this band together and rung the peal. It was rung by seven men, Thurston being the only double-handed ringer of the band.

In the year 1829 Thurston left Norwich for London, but he however returned back to Norwich the following year, and remained with the Norwich Scholars until the time of his death. Peals No. 24, 25, and 26 were rung with the Ancient Society of College Youths, of which Thurston was elected a member in the year 1813, and as he had not rung any peals with this society until 1829, we gather that he was at work there at the time of ringing these peals, as they were all rung in a period of about six weeks' time. His next performance that we have been able to find, is the ringing of a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. This was rung on handbells by four of the Norwich Scholars, was composed and conducted by Thurston, and no doubt was the same quarter-peal that he called in the year 1822. No. 27 was the composition of Mr. James Hurry, a five-part peal, and was conducted by the composer. Thurston's next performance was with four of the Norwich Scholars ringing the celebrated half-peal of Stedman Triples, by J. P. Powell, Esq. This was at the time considered an unparalleled feat in handbell ringing, being the first half-peal that was rung two in hand in this

method. Thurston made a stone tablet to record this feat, and placed it in the belfry of St. Peter Mancroft, where it still remains. No. 28 was up to date, and for a great many years after the greatest length rung in the method of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. This was a grand performance, and was composed and conducted by Thurston. It is a five-part peal, and was now rung for the first time. His next performance was a long touch of Stedman Cinques in an attempt for a peal in that method at St. Peter's Mancroft, when the Norwich Scholars rang 4885 changes, the bells being brought home a course too soon owing to some error on the part of Thurston, who was conducting. No. 29 was one of Henry Hubbard's compositions, and was conducted by the composer, and contained the 120 course-ends, being the first with these properties ever rung in the city of Norwich. The calling will be found in H. H.'s 2nd edition, page 87, and 4th edition, page 88. No. 30 was Double Oxford Bob Major, the composition of Wm. Shipway, and was conducted by Thurston, and was the first peal ever rung in this method and the longest for a great many years after. No. 31 was a five-part peal. This was the first peal that was rung upon the new ring of bells at Diss. A tablet in the steeple records this peal, on which the conductor, Mr. Thurston, is here described as "that eminent great bell ringer of Norwich." No. 32 was one of Thurston's greatest peals, benign one of Superlative Surprise—5376 changes—an abridgment of Mr. Wm. Shipway's 30-course peal, and was in fact the first ever accomplished in Norwich. The record there states that the extreme intricacy of this composition is such as places it at the highest point of practical attainment in the extensive science of ringing. Moreover this celebrated peal was rung at the first attempt, and in a superior style. These circumstances add much to the credit of the company, having a tendency to show the highest degree of perfection they have attained in this Art. No. 33, London Surprise—the top of the tree—being the first peal in the method ever rung in England. The record is interesting, as it runs thus: "We had the pleasure of hearing from our scientific ringers 5280 changes of that intricate composition London Surprise. This peal has been attempted by many of the most learned of the Science, but relinquished on account of its complexity; but in the hands of our Norwich ringers that obstacle soon vanished, and in 3 hrs. 25 mins. a perfect peal was completed, thus showing what perseverance, combined industry and knowledge can obtain. The peal was conducted by Mr. Samuel Thurston." No. 34 is a very good and interesting five-part composition in Treble Bob Major by Mr. Thurston, which he also conducted on its first performance. This peal contains thirty courses, the greatest number of courses that can be had with the tenors together, and contains the sixty seven-eights before, and only fifty bobs. I must here state that Thurston had a son, and so far as I know this and the following peal are the only ones that father and son rung together. No. 35 was a anniversary peal, being the annual feast day of the Redenhall company. A batch of the Norwich Scholars arrived in the evening and rang this peal. The record also states that James Truman is now clerk at St. Peter's, Norwich, and conductor of the company. The next peal, No. 36, was this great ringer's last one. It has been said that like all other great men Stedman was his delight. This peal was composed by J. J. B. Lates, and contained 442 calls, and never more than two together. The last account that I have of his ringing is a date touch in 1840 of Kent Treble Bob Royal at St. Peter Mancroft, in which he rang the tenor. He also composed and conducted it.

A short time ago (May 1896) the following account of Thurston and his death was related to my friend Mr. Philip Sadler, of Norwich, by one that knew and remembered Mr. Thurston well:—

"He was 5ft. 8in. in height and weighed about 17 stone. He died on a Sunday morning suddenly between two and three o'clock. He had had a supper the night before at The Adam and Eve public-house in the parish, as it was a custom to have suppers sometimes on Saturday nights in those days. He had eaten rather heavily and the doctor said that he died through having too much fat round the heart, so that it had not sufficient room to beat. The same morning he died he was sent for to go to the Cathedral to put the bell out for a death, early of course it being Sunday, and the person was surprised to hear that Thurston was dead also."

This statement does not exactly agree with what his daughter has said, and which I have received from Macclesfield, but wishing to give all particulars of this great man, I have given them as received, so leave my readers to judge what they think best of them, but I would remark that the newspapers and his memorial stone states that he died suddenly, and I should give my opinion in favour of them, as I believe his daughter had left Norwich some long time before his death. Now follow his obituary notices taken from the local newspapers of the day:—

"On Saturday, January 9th, 1841, died suddenly in the 52nd year of his age, Mr. Samuel Thurston, who was for more than 30 years one of St. Peter's Mancroft ringers. As a practical ringer and theorist combined, the art has lost one of its brightest ornaments, but though dead, the tablets erected in different parishes throughout the city and county will yet live to record his fame as a ringer, and those who best knew him can testify that the best ringers our city can boast of are indebted to this great artist in the profession for the knowledge they possess in the art of ringing, Norwich being able to compete with any band of ringers in the United Kingdom."

"At Aylsham, in Norfolk.—On Wednesday, January 13th, 1841, was rung at Aylsham, a muffled peal as a tribute of respect due to that celebrated ringer, Mr. Samuel Thurston, late of St. Peter's Mancroft, consisting of a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by T. Greenwood."

The following is from St. Peter's Mancroft burial book: "Samuel Thurston, of St. Martin-at-Palace, buried January 15th, 1841, aged 51 years."

The following is from St. Peter's sick society's books: "January 15th, 1841—paid to the widow, £3; paid to the bearers, 12s.; warning the society, 2s.; beer and tobacco, 19s. 7d.; bumping the bells, 2s."

I gather that Thurston is buried at the foot of St. Peter's Mancroft tower, close to the little door where the ringers go up to ascend the tower at the south-east corner. A memorial tablet was placed in the south wall of St. Peter's tower by the Norwich scholars recording the same, the following is the inscription: "This stone is erected to the memory of Mr. Samuel Thurston, many years an eminent ringer of this parish, in commemoration of his great abilities and perseverance in advancing the art of ringing, he having performed and conducted many of the most intimate peals. He suddenly departed this life much regretted by the Exercise at large on the 9th of January, 1841, in the 52nd year of his age."

From what I can gather this stone was taken down some 15 years ago when the tower was being restored, and not put back in its original place again, as it ought to have been, but it is laid flat at the west end of the north aisle in the churchyard, where it will soon become illegible. I think it ought to be in the belfry out of the weather. I may mention that William Gaul is buried on one side of Thurston, and John Greenwood on the other; they were, like Thurston, members of St. Peter's Mancroft company. The three had each a small stone laid flat on their graves with their initials and the date of death of each one, but I am sorry to hear that they were taken up some time ago and not put down again as they should have been. I believe the stones are now lost through neglect on the part of the late sexton, who being a mason ought to have taken more care of them. The late Rev. G. H. Harris, one of the founders of the Norwich Diocesan Association, had these three ringers' graves nicely done up at his own expense about the year 1878, but now I believe a concrete path is laid down over their graves.

The following is copied from the local newspapers of that day: "On Tuesday, December 9th, 1856, in her 69th year, died Mary, widow of the late Mr. Samuel Thurston, who was many years one of St. Peter's Mancroft ringers."

SAMUEL THURSTON'S PEALS.

1	Oct. 22	1809	Bob Major	..	5040	3.7	S. Giles Norwich
2	Aug. 1	1812	Bob Major	..	6000	3.40	Bungay, Suffolk
3	June 12	1816	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5376	3.28	Helmingham
4	Jan. 20	1817	Nor. Ct. B. Max.		5016	4.2	S. Peter Mancroft
5	April 28	1817	Bob Major	..	5264*	3.12	Aylsham
6	Oct. 25	1817	Bob Triples	..	5040*	3.1	Aylsham
7	Jan. 29	1817	Seven 720s B. M.		5040*	3.15	Loddon, Norfolk
8	Oct. 21	1820	Bob Major	..	5040*	3.10	S. Michael Norwich
	Feb. 22	1822	Stdm. Triples (h)		1260*		S. Peter Belfry
9	Dec. 28	1822	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5120*	2.59	Kenninghall
	Jan. 30	1823	Stdm. Triples (h)		1260		Norwich

10	Oct. 21	1823	Bob Major (h) ..		5040*	2.55	S. George Colegate
11	Nov. 22	1823	Ox. T. B. Maj.		6400*	4.3	Hingham
12	Dec. 5	1823	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5088*	3.10	S. Andrew Norwich
13	Feb. 23	1824	Grndsire Triples		5040*	3.10	S. Andrew Norwich
14	Mar. 23	1824	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5280*	3.5	Aylsham
	July 17	1824	Stedm. Caters (h)		1620*		Norwich
15	Nov. 18	1824	Ox. T. B. Maj.		8448*	5.17	S. Michael Coslany
	Jan. 3	1825	Stedm. Triples		2520*		S. Andrew Norwich
16	Aug. 24	1826	Ox. T. B. Maj. (h)		5088*	2.45	Norwich
17	Nov. 11	1826	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5600*	3.34	Bungay, Suffolk
18	Feb. 13	1827	Ox. T. B. Royal		5040*	3.52	S. Peter Mancroft
19	April 13	1827	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5088*	3.18	S. Peter Thetford
20	May 19	1827	Dbl. Nor. Ct. Mj.		5376*	3.16	S. Giles Norwich
21	Oct. 29	1827	Ox. T. B. Maj.		6880*	3.47	Alburgh
22	Nov. 2	1827	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5024*	3.9	S. Michael Coslany
23	June 20	1829	Ox. T. B. Maj. (h)		5280*	2.45	Croftwick
24	Oct. 23	1829	Grndsire Triples		5040	2.54	S. Mary Abbots
25	Oct. 25	1829	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5120*	3.2	S. Mary Isleworth
26	Dec. 17	1829	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5120*	3.32	S. Clement Danes
	Aug. 18	1830	Stedm. Triples (h)		1260*		S. Peter Belfry
27	Jan. 17	1831	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5440	3.23	S. Michael Coslany
	April 11	1831	Stedm. Triples (h)		2520*	1.17	S. Peter Belfry
28	Nov. 1	1831	Dbl. Nor. Ct. Mj.		6160*	3.35	S. Michael Coslany
	Dec. 31	1831	Stedman Cinques		4885*		S. Peter Mancroft
29	Mar. 10	1832	Ox. T. B. Maj.		6720	3.53	S. Giles Norwich
30	July 26	1832	Dbl. Ox. Major		6000*	3.27	S. Giles Norwich
31	Jan. 6	1834	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5120*	3.11	Diss, Norfolk
32	Feb. 6	1835	Suprlat. Surprise		5376*	3.15	S. Giles Norwich
33	Nov. 17	1835	London Surprise		5280*	3.25	S. Andrew Norwich
34	Nov. 16	1837	Ox. T. B. Maj.		7360*	4.44	S. Andrew Norwich
35	Jan. 13	1838	Ox. T. B. Maj.		5280*	3.30	Redenhall
36	Mar. 25	1839	Stedm. Triples		5040*	2.55	S. Giles Norwich
	Jan. 7	1840	Knt. T. B. Royal		1840*		S. Peter Mancroft

By this List it will be seen that Mr. Thurston rung his first and last peal on the same bells, viz., S. Giles Norwich.

Peals marked with * Thurston conducted.

As I stated above, Mr. Thurston had a son named George, who like his father was a mason and a member of the Norwich Scholars, but was only a glimpse of a peal-ringer in comparison with his father, as from what I can gather he only assisted in ringing four peals, viz., Nos. 34 and 35 above, with his father, and the two I now give below.

July 21	1832	Oxford T. Bob Major	5280	S. Michael Coslany
Feb. 16	1843	Oxford T. Bob Major	5248	S. Michael Coslany
Oct. 26	1844	Bob Major	..	1844 Swaffham, Norfolk

The last account of his ringing that I have any account of which is similar to his father was in a date touch, which was rung at Swaffham, given above, when he rung the tenor and conducted the touch. I have heard that he poisoned his fingers or one of his hands, and that he died under an operation in the Norfolk and Norwich hospital. The following obituary notice is copied from the local newspapers of that day: "On Wednesday, March 21st, 1849, died Mr. George Thurston, at the Norfolk and Norwich hospital, son of the late Samuel Thurston, the celebrated change-ringer of this city." I gather he was buried on March 28th, 1849, aged 37 years, in the parish of St. Martin-at-Oak, Norwich.

Before I close this account I wish most sincerely to return my best thanks to Mr. Philip Sadler, of Norwich, for his kindness in supplying me with a great deal of information on this subject, also to Mr. W. T. Cockerill, of London, and Mr. Wm. Walmsley, of Macclesfield, similar kindness, because without the help of such gentlemen, I should never have been able to know so much of such an excellent ringer as Samuel Thurston of Norwich.

THE ALL SAINTS SOCIETY, WEST BROMWICH.

On Saturday afternoon, September 4th, the members of the above Society visited the old town of Warwick, and also its fine Castle, and afterwards, by the kind permission of the Vicar of St. Nicholas, had a ring for half-an-hour, bringing round a touch of Grandsire Triples. They then wended their way to The Old Bowling Green hotel, where a splendid meat tea was waiting them, and after doing justice to the good things provided a move was made to Leamington by tram, but as the time was short only the Pump Room Gardens could be seen, as darkness was coming on also. The Great Western Station was reached in time for the return journey, arriving home by 10 p.m. The above touch was rung by J. Davis, T. Danks, J. Wheatley, J. Culwick, E. Cashmore, A. Griffiths, A. Mills, and C. Bendall.

THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS ASSOCIATION, GLOUCESTER.

No history of the "Juniors" would be complete unless reference were made to a small study six feet square in one of the boarding houses of the college at Malvern. It was in the Jubilee year of Her Gracious Majesty that the bells at St. Michael's, at Gloucester, were increased from six to eight, chiefly through the energy and perseverance of a school boy, and under the shadow of the Malvern hills, in conference with his younger brother, he formulated his plans, and sketched out the details of a young company of ringers who should have their headquarters at St. Michael's, and belong absolutely to the tower, which until then had been worked by the old society of Crypt Youths (now the Cathedral ringers).

A meeting was summoned at St. Michael's school, on Thursday, September 6th, 1887, to which all the young men of the city interested in bells, and bellringers, were invited, and the society was founded and commenced practice under the able instruction of Mr. Sidney E. Romans, a happy omen for its future welfare. Practice with the clappers tied was the order of the day, and from the 6th until the 28th of September, six evenings a week the bells swung silent in their lofty home. On the feast of St. Michael, permission was obtained to ring open for the first time, and Thursday was definitely fixed for practice-night. Members joined, and members resigned; but a good attendance at practice all through the winter and ensuing spring culminated in the first peal being scored at Upton St. Leonards, on June 30th, 1888, conducted by W. J. Sevier. In this peal, H. L. James, the founder of the society, scored his first 5000 at the treble. From this time Mr. Sevier has the undoubted claim to be regarded as the conductor of the company, calling nine peals out of the first ten. In 1889, the old Grandsire method was discarded, Bob Major became the order of the day, and a few words of praise from "Free Lance" in the columns of "THE BELL NEWS" stimulated the members to fresh efforts. The next marks of progress were peals of Canterbury Pleasure Major, Stedman Triples, Grandsire Caters, and Kent Treble Bob Major: this brings us up to Christmas 1890, when the advent of John Austin, from Burton-on-Trent, begins a new chapter in the history of the Juniors; let him speak for himself as to his first impression of the society—"I knew as there was a promising society of young ringers in Gloucester before I came, but when I first got among em I certainly did not expect to score a peal of Double Norwich for at least six months." The writer has often heard him express himself to this effect, nevertheless the first peal of Double Norwich came round before breakfast on Christmas morning, followed by another at Stroud on the ensuing day. Double Norwich now became the standard method of the Juniors, and in 1891 no advance was made, save a peal of Duffield, at the Cross, on the feast of St. Michael, conducted by William H. Brunsdon, one of the ablest conductors who has ever served the society. It was during this year that James E. Groves, now of Wolverhampton, joined the society; he had come from Salop and joined the Upton company, where he was soon spotted as a promising ringer, and induced to join the juniors, and his short career among them was marked by rapid progress. In the same year the name of Walter T. Bennett appears for the first time in the peal-book: he came from Chepstow, and has been a member of the society ever since, holding the office of Master in 1893, when ground was first broken in the Surprise Methods by a peal of Superlative at Quedgely, conducted by John Austin, who had already established his title of "conductor" on April 28th, while Double Oxford Bob followed on May 13th at Newnham. Owing to the absence of members from home, Cambridge Surprise was not scored until May 9th, 1894, and this was followed by Double Norwich Court Bob Caters on September 22nd, the finest music

that was ever heard to issue from a steeple, so all the juniors agree; and the year culminated on November 8th in a peal of London Surprise at the Cross, composed and conducted by the Rev. H. Law James, and rung in honour of his brother's twenty-fourth birthday, the then Master of the Juniors. From that time forward peals have been rung and peals have broken down in all the above methods, until June 7th of the present year, when the society secured their first peal of Bob Maximus at Cirencester. June 19th saw a new method out of the egg, when Gloucester Surprise was achieved at the Cross; and finally the tenth anniversary of the society was commemorated on September 9th by the peal of Treble Bob Maximus, which will be found in these columns. During these ten years the hand of death has not been entirely idle in the society. All who knew Harry Brawn will remember him as an agreeable companion, an able ringer, and a sincere friend, and on such an occasion as this, one cannot look back without a feeling of regret at his early death. All the rest of the members are still living, and to each and all of those who have gone forth from the old city, those who are left take this opportunity of extending the right hand of friendship in kindly greeting for the sake of "Auld lang syne."

The peal book of the society contains the following peals: Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 19; Bob Major, 12; Grandsire Triples (one in hand), 11; Stedman Triples, 8; Grandsire Caters, 6; Superlative Surprise Major, 5; Kent Treble Bob Major, 5; Bob Triples (one in hand), 4; Gloucester Surprise Major, 2; Canterbury Pleasure Major, 2; Double Norwich Court Bob Caters, 1; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1; Bob Maximus, 1; Bob Royal, 1; Duffield Major, 1; Double Oxford Bob Major, 1; Union Triples, 1; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 1; Seven Minor Methods, 1; Five Minor Methods, 1; Cambridge Surprise Major, 1; London Surprise Major, 1; Bob Minor, 3. Total, eighty-nine peals in twenty-three methods.

THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, September 11th, the quarterly meeting of this Guild was held at Christ Church, Southport, and a good muster of ringers attended from Aughton, Bootle, Crossens, Croston, Hindley, Ormskirk, Sefton, Upholland and Wigan, besides several of the local company. A short service was held in the church, when the senior curate, the Rev. F. Sinker, in the absence of Canon Honeyburne, delivered a most stirring address, taking for his text Exodus xxviii. 33—"Golden bells"—and traced the continuity of the use of bells in Divine worship from the earliest to the present time, and also enlarged on the duties and responsibilities of those who undertook to ring church bells. After service the ringers sat down to a substantial tea at Messrs. Fisher and Son's restaurant. Mr. Bentham, ringing secretary, stated that the members of the Guild were working hard in mastering other methods, and Mr. Short (Bootle) gave some valuable suggestions which were generally discussed, and from which good results are hoped for. A very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. F. Sinker for his instructive address and kindly welcome was passed. It was also resolved to print Mr. Sinker's address in the next annual report. An expression of sincere gratitude to the Rev. W. T. Bulpit for his unflinching zeal in furthering the best interests of the Guild, brought a pleasant meeting to a close. Several new members were elected.

A WORTHY INVITATION.

A very old and valued subscriber asks us to insert the following invitation:—

"A senior brother-string would like to form a band of efficient ringers for a peal of eight bells, to ring for Sunday service at Robin Hood's Bay, near Whitby, as early as possible. An hearty welcome would be given by the Vicar and parishioners. For particulars apply to the Station Master, Robin Hood's Bay, near Whitby."

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD PEAL-BOOK.—A RECORD of Five Hundred and Twenty Peals rung by this Guild. Paper covers, 1s. 2d.; cloth do., 1s. 8d.—Blackwell, Reading; or the Hon. Sec. of the Guild—the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Dunsden Vicarage, Reading, Berks.

FINEDON, NORTHANTS.

THE CHURCH BELLS.—The re-building of the church spire having sufficiently advanced, and the absentee tenor bell being duly replaced in the tower (after a journey to Loughborough, for tuning purposes), the church authorities deemed it safe to ring the full peal of eight to test the manner in which the work had been carried out. By request of the Rev. G. W. Paul, the ringers of the parish church, Wellingborough, visited Finedon on Thursday evening, September 9th, to try the bells in various ways. They first chimed them in rounds and several set changes, and then rang a short touch of Grandsire Triples. Both the chiming and ringing showed clearly the excellent way in which the new bells blend with the others, and the brightening and enlivening effect the addition of the two thoroughly good and strong-voiced trebles has on this old ring of six. Their music on Thursday evening gave much pleasure and gratification to both ringers and parishioners. The new treble (commemorating the Jubilee of the Vicar) weighs 7 cwt. 13 lbs. The new second bell (a memorial of the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria) weighs 7 cwt. 3 qrs. 2 lbs. They reflect great credit on the founders, Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, and should be a source of pride to the inhabitants for generations to come. After the trial by the Wellingborough company, ringers from Irthlingborough and Finedon handled the ropes in turn. This increased peal at Finedon and the new one at Thrapston brings the number of rings of eight in Northamptonshire up to sixteen. Finedon bells make a very similar octave to those at Kettering and Higham Ferrers. Like the latter they are in the key of E flat. The formal dedication ceremony is arranged for Feast Week.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CREWE BRANCH.—The monthly meeting of this branch was held at Alsager, on Saturday, September 4th, members attending from Crewe, Lawton, Wrenbury and Alsager. At 2.30 the bells were raised in peal and touches of Plain Bob Minor, Grandsire Minor and Kent Treble Bob Minor were rung by various mixed bands during the afternoon. At 5.0 p.m. the welcome call to tea was heard, and by the way in which the pork pies, ham sandwiches and bread and butter and other good things disappeared shewed anyhow that that part of the programme was thoroughly enjoyed. Tea being over the business meeting was held. the Rev. D. Shaw in the chair. The rev. gentleman said he was very pleased to give the members a hearty welcome to Alsager, and he was very pleased to see such a grand muster, although the weather was anything but favourable, but he hoped they all would enjoy themselves. He had just returned from his holidays that afternoon, and as he stepped out of the railway station he heard the village bells ring merrily as if they were welcoming him home.

After reading and passing the minutes of the previous meeting five new members were elected and general business discussed. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Rev. D. Shaw for his kindness in presiding at the meeting and tea, and for the use of the bells and meeting room. A vote of thanks was also accorded Mr. J. Edwards for the able manner in which he had carried out all the arrangements for the meeting: and to the ladies who kindly waited on them at tea.

After the meeting the Lawton ringers played several selections on their handbells in capital style from Gordon's music, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Pierpoint. A visit was then paid to the tower and a well-struck 720 of Oxford Bob was rung in 24 mins. R. Langford, 1; W. Rigby (conductor), 2; T. Cartwright, 3; W. Cartwright, 4; R. T. Holding, 5; G. Baddeley, 6. Then several 120s were got through for the benefit of the young learners; and at 8 p.m. the bells were lowered in cross changes, queens position, thus bringing a very pleasant afternoon's enjoyment to an end.

R. S.

A RINGING TOUR.

All being well several members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild intend attempting peals at the following towers in Hants, commencing Saturday, September 18th, at Fareham: Monday, 20th, Soberton; Tuesday, Privett and East Meon or Petersfield; Wednesday, Portsea and Havant.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Bank Holiday the members of St. John's Newcastle branch of this Association visited Edinburgh—their annual excursion. Starting at 6 a.m. they arrived in "Auld Reekie" about 9, and after seeing round the town went to St. Mary's cathedral, when Mr. W. Fyfe had everything in readiness for a peal of Stedman Caters. After two starts the length of about 50 minutes was reached, when a change-course brought it to grief. F. Lees, 1; R. S. Story, 2; R. C. Hudson, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; W. Story, 5; H. Dall, 6; E. J. Lincoln, 7; R. Richards, 8; W. Holmes (conductor), 9; F. J. Harrison, 10. Tenor 42 cwt. Touches and courses of Stedman Triples and Treble Ten were rung, as time did not allow of the peal being re-attempted. At 5.30 all the above were entertained to dinner at the West End Cafe by the members of the St. Mary's Cathedral Society, the sub-dean (Canon Wilson) in the chair, supported by the Rev. Dr. Lawlor (chaplain to the society). The chairman, after toasting "The Queen," said he was glad to see ringers from across the border, and gave the St. John's men a pressing invitation to come and try their luck again. The attempt, he said, deserved a better fate. Mr. R. S. Story thanked the chairman for his kindly remarks, and the St. Mary's Society for their pleasing hospitality. He hoped they (the Newcastle men) would soon have an opportunity of returning the compliment in Newcastle to them. A peal could be arranged at any time almost if St. Mary's men would only cross the border. The return home was made by the 7.35 train, arriving home about 11 p.m., having passed a most enjoyable day, though somewhat disappointing from the performance point of view. Through these columns the Newcastle St. John's ringers beg to tender their heartiest thanks to the Dean and Chapter for the use of their fine peal of bells, to Messrs. Ellis and Fyfe for so kindly making all arrangements and having the bells in such good condition, and to the St. Mary's Society generally for their hospitality during the visit. They also trust they will take Mr. Story's words in the spirit they were expressed, and come at an early date southwards for a peal on one of the many rings in Newcastle.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Friday, September 10th, at headquarters, the election of officers for the ensuing year took place, when the following were unanimously elected: Mr. G. Wild, Master; Mr. W. Baron, sen. Treasurer (retaining office); Mr. Barton and W. Baron, jun., Stewards; A. Jacob retaining the office of Secretary.

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Obituary.

JOSEPH POXON.

It is with very deep regret we have to record the death of the above-named ringer, at the early age of 27 years, who died on Wednesday, September 8th, 1897, at his residence, 10 Bonsall street, Long Eaton, after an illness of ten days, and was interred in the quiet country churchyard of Lockington, Leicestershire, his native place, on Friday, September 10th, 1897, when four members of the St. Lawrence's Society of Long Eaton attended the funeral, and rang a course of Grandsire Triples at the grave side, as a last tribute of respect to their departed comrade. Mr. Poxon joined the St. Lawrence's society at the beginning of 1892, and was very soon able to ring his first 120 of Grandsire Doubles, when he joined the Midland Counties Association, whose meetings he was very seldom able to attend on account of his employment. He had rang eight peals, his first being a peal of Grandsire Triples at the parish church, Prestwold, on Monday, May 22nd, 1893, and his last at Long Eaton, on Saturday, August 22nd, 1896. He had conducted two peals, one of Grandsire Triples and one of Darlaston Bob Triples. Always an enthusiastic ringer he very seldom missed a practice, or Sunday ringing, he will be greatly missed by the members of the St. Lawrence's Society (in whose tower his place will be hard to fill) and other ringing friends who knew and have rang peals with him. At the evening service at the Parish Church, Long Eaton, on Sunday, September 12th, the organist, Mr. J. B. Markell, played the Dead March, and the bells were deeply muffled all day, for morning service 504 Grandsire Triples was rung, and in the evening, two quarter-peals of Grandsire Triples, one before and one after service.

JASPER W. SNOWDON'S WORKS.

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

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

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1897.

We publish in this number a quantity of most interesting particulars about **SAMUEL THURSTON**, once a leading spirit of the Society of Norwich Scholars. This compilation is the work of **Mr. S. SLATER**, of Glemsford, who though he modestly tells us he is indebted to others for much of the information, must have been at some trouble and pains to gather together the various interesting items regarding one who was a very prominent member of a very important Society a few generations ago. Much of it is very quaint; and we of the present day are apt to smile when reading the somewhat high-falutin' compliments which lubricated these various records of the past. Nowadays we cannot afford to be the least fulsome in drawing attention to the talents of a composer, the prowess of a conductor, or the staying powers of a company. But our ancestors lived in a different age, and this made all the difference. As times change, so does fashion alter even in sentiment and speech. We don't know that we are any the better for it. Complimentary

phraseology is certainly before brusqueness, though it is to be feared the latter is now making headway.

There are other ringers of a past age who could be appropriately dealt with like the one under review. Perhaps some of our friends will take the hint and see if they can make a contribution equal in interest to that of Mr. SLATER.

The Metropolis.

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

On Saturday, September 12, 1897, in Three Hours and Twenty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN, WESTMINSTER.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES. Tenor 25 cwt.

HENRY R. NEWTON Treble.	ALFRED W. BRIGHTON .. 5.
ARTHUR G. ELLIS 2.	SAMUEL E. ANDREWS .. 6.
FRANK BUCK 3.	CHARLES T. P. BRICE .. 7.
HENRY S. ELLIS 4.	JOHN N. OXBORROW .. Tenor.

Composed by H. JOHNSON and Conducted by C. T. P. BRICE.

The Provinces.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 28, 1897, in Three Hours and Thirty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES, Kent Variation. Tenor 28 cwt.

JOHN SMITH Treble.	CHARLES H. FOWLER .. 6.
WILLIAM WILLSON 2.	WILLIAM T. BILLINGHURST 7.
WILLIAM H. INGLESANT .. 3.	DAVID BREARLEY 8.
ARTHUR W. MATTHEWS .. 4.	ARTHUR BREARLEY 9.
SAMUEL SMITH 5.	JOHN W. TAYLOR, JUN. .. Tenor.

Composed by J. REEVES and Conducted by JOHN W. TAYLOR, JUN.

Messrs. W. Willson and C. H. Fowler hail from Leicester; Messrs. Brearley from Sheffield, the rest belong to Loughborough.

GLOUCESTER.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS).

On Thursday, September 2, 1897, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL,

A PEAL OF GLOUCESTER SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES. Tenor 20 cwt. 48 lbs. in E.

FRED G. MAY Treble.	JOHN AUSTIN 5.
WALTER T. BENNETT .. 2.	ERNEST E. DAVIS 6.
WILLIAM T. PEGLER .. 3.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 7.
FRANCIS E. WARD 4.	*REV. H. LAW JAMES .. Tenor.

Composed by the REV. E. BANKES JAMES, and Conducted by the REV. H. LAW JAMES.

*70th peal and 40th as conductor.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, September 7, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; THURSTON'S COMPOSITION. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. CARD Treble.	GEORGE SMITHERS 5.
HERBERT PORTER 2.	WILLIAM PORTER 6.
WILLIAM LATTER 3.	STEPHEN PERKINS 7.
GEORGE HEAD 4.	EDWARD MANKELOW, SEN. Tenor.

Conducted by STEPHEN PERKINS.

CIRENCESTER, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER).

On Thursday, September 9th, 1897, in Three Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES.

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 29 cwt. in D.

ERNEST E. DAVIS Treble.	WALTER T. BENNETT .. 7.
FRANCIS E. HART 2.	FRANCIS E. WARD 8.
REV. E. BANKES JAMES .. 3.	FRED G. MAY 9.
ERNEST BISHOP 4.	WILLIAM T. PEGLER .. 10.
JOHN AUSTIN 5.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER .. 11.
LIONEL LONGNEY 6.	REV. H. LAW JAMES .. Tenor.

Composed by J. MILLER and Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

This is the first peal of Treble Bob Maximus on these bells, the first by the Association and by all the band, and the first in this county since the record peal at Painswick in 1833.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, September 10th, 1897, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

GEORGE WILLIAMS Treble.	CHARLES PAINTER 5.
FRANK BENNETT 2.	KEITH HART 6.
ROBERT J. DAWE 3.	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH .. 7.
JAMES N. FROSSELL 4.	ALFRED J. TURNER .. Tenor.

Composed by HORACE HOWLETT and Conducted by ALF. J. TURNER.

First peal of Major as conductor. C. Painter hails from Ringmer; Messrs. Dawe Goldsmith, and Turner belong to the local band, the rest from St. Peter's, Brighton.

ENFIELD, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, September 11, 1897, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 18½ cwt.

HENRY A. BARNETT Treble.	ALFRED W. DARLINGTON . 5.
ERNEST IVERSON 2.	PERCY DARLINGTON .. 6.
WALTER W. DICKINSON .. 3.	JOSEPH WAGHORN, JUN. .. 7.
GEORGE B. LUCAS 4.	JOSEPH WAGHORN .. Tenor.

Conducted by JOSEPH WAGHORN, JUN.

WOODHOUSE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(STANFORD BRANCH.)

On Saturday, September 11, 1897, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-IN-THE-ELMS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 10 cwt.

JAMES WILSON Treble.	WILLIAM PERVIN 4.
WM. H. INGLESANT 2.	*HARRY WHITTLE 5.
JOHN YATES 3.	†GEORGE DOUGHTY .. Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY WHITTLE (aged 19)

*First peal as conductor. †First peal with a bob bell. James Wilson hails from Leicester; Inglesant from Quorn, the rest belong to Stanford. Great credit is due to the treble man, J. Wilson.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

On Saturday, September 11, 1897, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES.

GEORGE WARD* Treble.	GEORGE HAYWARD 6.
JOHN MASON† 2.	†RICHARD HACKLEY .. 7.
JAMES JONES 3.	GEORGE HITCHMAN .. 8.
THOMAS COLLINSON 4.	GEORGE BOURNE 9.
OLIVER JAMES† 5.	†JOHN T. PERRY .. Tenor.

Composed by GEO. HAYWARD and Conducted by JOHN T. PERRY.

*First peal. †First peal of Royal. This peal is in four equal parts, with 4, 5, 6 in sixths place at the course-ends, and the 6th her extent there. Messrs. Collinson, Hitchman, Jones and Perry hail from Birmingham, Mason from Stoke Prior, and the rest belong to Bromsgrove.

BENGWORTH, EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 12, 1897, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s each called differently.

Tenor 10½ cwt.

GEORGE WILLIAMS* Treble.	THOMAS J. SALTER 4.
ALBERT H. SHARP* 2.	†FREDERICK JOHNSON 5.
THOMAS WAKEMAN† 3.	*FRANK COOK Tenor.

Conducted by FRANK COOK.

First peal on the bells. *First peal. †First peal on six bells. Sunday, September 12th, being the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening of the church, the vicar was anxious that a peal should be rung to celebrate the event. T. J. Salter of Kidderminster, was asked by the vicar to come and assist to accomplish it, which he kindly consented to do. T. Wakeman volunteered to come also, and the result was a well-struck peal.

COLN ST. ALDWYNS, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 12, 1897, in Two Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 8½ cwt.

CHARLES GARDENER Treble.	WILLIAM T. PEGLER 5.
THOMAS RICKETTS 2.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 6.
JOHN AUSTIN 3.	JAMES KITCHENER 7.
HENRY ROBERTS 4.	JAMES H. SHEPHERD .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

First peal of Major on the bells. Messrs. Gardener, Ricketts and Shepherd hail from Swindon; Roberts from Cheltenham; Kitchener from Coln; A. E. and W. T. Pegler and John Austin from Gloucester.

STANFORD-ON-SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Sunday, September 12, 1897, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

WILLIAM PERVIN* Treble.	†HARRY WHITTLE 5.
JOHN W. TAYLOR, JUN. 2.	JOHN H. GRUNDY 6.
ARTHUR W. MATTHEWS 3.	*JOHN YATES 7.
WILLIAM H. INGLESANT 4.	EDWARD READER Tenor.

Composed by H. HUBBARD and Conducted by EDWARD READER.

*First peal of Major. First peal of Major on the bells; which had during the previous week been augmented from six to a peal of eight, and thus the first peal as above the day after completion. Messrs. Taylor, Matthews, Inglesant and Grundy hail from Loughboro', the rest belong to the Stanford company. †First peal of Major with a bob bell.

BIRMINGHAM.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.
 (BIRMINGHAM FRIENDLY SOCIETY BRANCH.)

On Monday, September 13, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE GLOBE TAVERN, GRANVILLE STREET,

ON HANDBELLS RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5067 CHANGES.

ROBERT J. HUNT 1-2.	THOMAS MILLER 5-6.
WILLIAM H. BARBER 3-4.	WILLIAM A. HANCOX 7-8.
RICHARD HACKLEY 9-10.	

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by WILLIAM A. HANCOX.

This composition has the 6th twenty-two times behind the 8th and 9th. REFEREE—F. Clayton. Witnesses—Jos. Porter and Albert Hackley.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, September 14, 1897, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Being seven 720s each called differently.

FREDERICK TYLER* Treble.	HARRY WHITTLE 4.
ISRAEL LOVETT 2.	GEORGE DOUGHTY 5.
W. H. INGLESANT 3.	ARTHUR W. MATTHEWS .. Tenor.

Conducted by W. H. INGLESANT.

*First peal. First 5040 of Minor ever rang in the tower. Meeting one short for Grandsire Triples, the above was rung instead for practice.

BRISTOL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. STEPHEN'S GUILD.)

On Wednesday, September 15, 1897, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 21 cwt.

W. JAMES HINTON Treble.	ALBERT E. BAWN 6.
CHARLES MILLARD 2.	CHARLES H. TOMKINS 7.
CHARLES H. HORTON 3.	CHARLES H. GORDON 8.
WILLIAM KNIGHT 4.	FRANCIS PRICE 9.
HARRY PRING 5.	WILLIAM A. CAVE Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF and Conducted by WILLIAM A. CAVE.

The above is the first peal of Royal by all except W. J. Hinton, and first as conductor by W. A. Cave. First by the Guild, and first peal of Treble Bob Royal rung in the City of Bristol by a local band. Rung as a birthday compliment to C. H. Horton.

PEAL CORRECTION.—The peal of Double Norwich Major rung at Irthlingborough, Saturday, September the 4th, reported last week, was composed by Arthur Knights, of Chesterfield, and is in two parts, the 3rd being in 6ths place at the course-end, one course in each part.

Miscellaneous.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcestershire).—On Saturday, August 14th, an attempt was made for a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, which was lost in the twenty-second course after ringing 2 hrs. 50 mins. E. Hunt, 1; J. Bennett, 2; N. Davis, 3; A. E. Parsons, 4; T. Salter, 5; A. Roberts, 6; W. Short, 7; W. Barber (conductor), 8. Tenor 30 cwt. *Handbell Ringing.*—Recently 1260 Grandsire Triples, composed by T. Goldsmith. W. Barber (conductor), 1-2; T. Salter, 3-4; J. Pagett, 5-6; T. Wakeman, 7-8. Also 720 Bob Minor (fourteen singles and four bobs). T. Salter, 1-2; W. Barber (conductor), 3-4; J. Pagett, 5-6. On Sunday, September 5th, an attempt was made for a peal of Bob Major, but after ringing 3890 changes in 1 hr. 40 mins. it came to grief owing to a change-course. T. Pagett, 1-2; F. Clayton (composer), 3-4; W. Barber (conductor), 5-6; W. Smith, 7-8.

KING'S NORTON (Worcestershire).—On Sunday morning, August 22nd, for Divine Service, 1152 Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Betterton, 1; W. Pritchett, 2; F. Sumner, 3; W. Barber (conductor), 4; J. T. Pritchett, 5; T. Pritchett, 6; W. Palmer, 7; F. Clayton, 8. Also on handbells retained in hand, 528 Stedman Triples, taken from Thurstans' four-part. F. Clayton, 1-2; W. Barber (conductor), 3-4; W. Pritchett, 5-6; W. Palmer, 7-8. Recently an attempt was made for a peal of Double Norwich, which came to grief after ringing 1 hr. 32 mins. J. Sumner, 1; T. Wakeman, 2; B. Witchell, 3; T. Pritchett, 4; W. Barber (conductor), 5; W. Short, 6; W. Hancox, 7; F. Clayton, 8. Tenor 14½ cwt.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.

HIGHER SUTTON.—On Wednesday, September 8th, at St. James' church, 720 Bob Minor. J. Williams, 1; W. Ingham (conductor), 2; W. Matthews, 3; F. Stonely, 4; J. Davenport, 5; W. Steele, 6. Also on handbells a course of Grandsire Major. J. Davenport, 1-2; W. Ingham, 3-4; W. Matthews, 5-6; W. Steele, 7-8.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN GUILD.

HALESWORTH (Suffolk).—On Sunday evening, August 29th, for Divine Service, 504 Bob Triples. A. Lee, 1; W. Peirce, 2; F. Lambert (conductor), 3; E. Easter, 4; A. Took, 5; J. Howard, 6; C. Kerrison, 7; W. Lee, 8. On handbells three courses of Grandsire Triples. Mrs. F. Lambert, 1-2; A. Took, 3-4; F. Lambert, 5-6; A. Lee, 7-8.

WISSETT (Suffolk).—On Monday, August 30th, 720 each of Grandsire, Plain Bob, Old Doubles, and April Day. S. Kerrison, 1; C. Kerrison, 2; A. Lee, 3; F. Lambert (conductor), 4; A. Took, 5.

BRAMFIELD (Suffolk).—On Monday, September 6th, several 6-scores of Doubles in the following methods: Grandsire, Bob, April Day, and St. Simon's, by Messrs. Thain, Ludbroke, Punchard, Lambert, Took, Tracy, Chatton, and Walker.

FRAMLINGHAM (Suffolk).—On Saturday, September 4th, an attempt was made for a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, but it came to grief after ringing 2 hrs. 40 mins. W. Ostler, 1; H. Howlett, 2; A. Read, 3; W. Last, 4; G. Wilson, 5; J. Self, 6; S. Garnham, 7; W. Flory (conductor), 8. Recently at St. Michael's church, 704 Oxford

Treble Bob. W. Ostler, 1; W. Flory, 2; H. Howlett, 3; W. Last, 4; H. Folkard, 5; J. Self, 6; G. Wilson (conductor), 7; A. Read, 8. And 704 Bob Major. W. Ostler, 1; C. Harper, 2; H. Howlett, 3; W. Last, 4; W. Flory (conductor), 5; J. Self, 6; S. Garnham, 7; A. Read, 8. Also 720 Bob Minor. W. Flory, 1; J. O'Neill, 2; W. Last, 3; J. Self, 4; S. Garnham, 5; H. Howlett (conductor), 6. On handbells 336 Bob Major. H. Howlett (conductor), 1-2; W. Flory, 3-4; W. Last, 5-6; J. O'Neill, 7-8. And 720 Bob Minor. W. Flory, 1-2; W. Last, 3-4; H. Howlett (conductor), 5-6. Also 480 Bob Major. H. Howlett, 1-2; W. Flory (conductor), 3-4; W. Last, 5-6; J. O'Neill, 7-8. G. Wilson hails from Leiston.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Tuesday, July 20th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Barker (first 720 as conductor), 1; I. Hills, 2; C. Lilley, 3; A. Robinson, 4; C. Chasty, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also 720 Double Court. D. Thompson, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; W. Barker, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. Lilley, 5; A. Robinson, 6. On Monday, July 26th, 720 Double Court. D. Thompson, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; C. Lilley, 3; F. Hull, 4; C. Chasty, 5; W. Barker, 6. And 720 Double Oxford. F. Ball, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; C. Lilley, 3; F. Hull, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; W. Barker, 6. On Tuesday, August 10th, 720 Double Oxford. F. Ball, 1; I. Hills, 2; W. Barker, 3; C. Chasty, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; C. Lilley, 6. On Tuesday, August 17th, 720 Oxford Bob. I. Hills, 1; C. W. Clarke, 2; E. Tingey, 3; W. Barker, 4; C. Chasty, 5; C. Lilley, 6. Also 720 College Pleasure. E. Tingey, 1; I. Hills, 2; W. Barker, 3; C. Chasty, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; F. Hull, 6. Both conducted by C. W. Clarke. On Tuesday, August 24th, 720 720 Grandsire Minor. W. Gazeley (first 720), 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; C. Lilley, 3; W. Barker, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; F. Hull, 6. Also 720 College Exercise. E. Tingey, 1; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 2; C. Chasty, 3; W. Barker, 4; H. Tysoe, 5; C. Lilley, 6.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BARNET (Herts).—Recently at the parish church, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor, 6-8 covering. W. H. Passmore, 1; W. J. Dell, 2; F. A. Milne, Esq., 3; J. Sumpter, 4; G. E. Symonds, 5; W. F. Dolton, 6; A. H. Belton (conductor), 7; A. T. King, Esq., 8. For practice, 386 Grandsire Triples. W. F. Dolton, 1; W. J. Dell, 2; J. Sumpter, 3; S. Wade (conductor), 4; A. D. Chidwick, 5; F. A. Milne, 6; A. H. Belton, 7; A. T. King, 8. And 356 Grandsire Triples. A. Baldwin, 1; J. Kentish, jun., 2; A. D. Chidwick, 3; J. Sumpter (conductor), 4; J. Stevens, 5; A. E. Dolton, 6; A. H. Belton, 7; E. H. Symonds, 8. Also four 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, the following ringing their first 120 on the treble: A. T. King, J. Witley, W. J. Baldwin, and A. J. Chidwick. On August 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. A. Miller, 1; J. Sumpter, 2; A. D. Chidwick, 3; W. J. Dell, 4; J. Miller, 5; C. H. Martin, 6; A. H. Belton (conductor), 7; A. T. King, 8. On August 15th, 360 Bob Minor, conducted by J. Stevens. On August 30th, 720 Bob Minor, with the tenor covering. W. F. Dolton, 1; J. Sumpter, 2; W. J. Dell, 3; A. D. Chidwick (first 720 with a bob bell), 4; A. H. Belton, 5; J. Miller (first 720 as conductor), 6; A. T. King, 8. On September 6th, 518 Grandsire Triples. S. Ansell, 1; C. H. Martin, 2; J. Miller, 3; J. Sumpter (conductor), 4; J. Stevens, 5; A. H. Belton, 6; A. Miller, 7; C. Bale, 8. Also 504. W. F. Dolton, 1; J. Sumpter, 2; J. Stevens, 3; J. Miller (conductor), 4; A. Miller, 5; H. Martin, 6; A. H. Belton, 7; A. T. King, 8. And 108 Bob Minor, 6-8 covering. J. Witley, 1; S. Ansell, 2; J. Miller, 3; A. H. Belton, 4; J. Stevens, 5; J. Sumpter, 6; C. H. Martin (conductor), 7; C. Bale, 8.

HADLEY (Middlesex).—On August 2nd, at St. Mary's church, a peal of Minor was attempted, but came to grief after ringing 2500 changes. W. J. Dell, 1; J. Sumpter, 2; J. Miller, 3; A. Miller, 4; C. H. Martin (conductor), 5; A. H. Belton, 6. The Rector and his brother afterwards entered the belfry and invited the ringers to tea, which was very much enjoyed.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

STOCKPORT (Cheshire).—On Saturday, August 14th, at St. George's, Heaviley, a touch of Grandsire Caters. J. Booth, 1; T. Marshall, 2; T. Jackson, 3; H. Meakin, 4; R. Holding (Crewe), 5; W. Hartshorne (Crewe), 6; A. Harding (Crewe), 7; J. Bayley, 8; A. Sidebotham (conductor), 9; J. Schofield, 10. Also 168 Stedman Triples. T. Marshall (conductor), 1; A. Harding, 2; H. Meakin, 3; W. Hartshorne, 4; J. Bayley, 5; R. Holding, 6; A. Sidebotham, 7; J. Schofield, 8. And 336 Bob Major. T. Jackson (first touch in the method), 1; T. Marshall, 2; H. Meakin (first touch in the method), 3; A. Harding, 4; J. Bayley, 5; A. Sidebotham, 6; W. Hartshorne, 7; R. Holding (conductor), 8. On Saturday, August 21st, 503 Grandsire Caters. T. Barber, 1; J. Booth, 2; T. Jackson, 3; T. Sale, 4; H. Meakin, 5; T. Marshall, 6; J. Bailey, 7; J. S. Wilde (Bredbury),

8; A. Sidebotham (conductor), 9; E. Williamson, 10. Also 305 Grandsire Caters. J. Booth, 1; H. Meakin, 2; T. Jackson, 3; T. Sale, 4; J. S. Wilde, 5; S. Fernley (Norbury), 6; T. Marshall, 7; J. Bayley, 8; A. Sidebotham (conductor), 9; E. Williamson, 10. On Monday, August 23rd, for practice, 503 Grandsire Caters. T. Barber, 1; J. Booth, 2; T. Jackson, 3; J. Bayley, 4; H. Meakin, 5; J. Pearson, 6; J. Hankinson, 7; T. Marshall, 8; A. Sidebotham (conductor), 9; E. Williamson, 10. This is the first touch by a local band. On Friday, September 3rd, 593 Grandsire Caters. T. Barber, 1; H. Meakin, 2; J. Bayley, 3; T. Sale, 4; A. Gordon, 5; J. Pearson, 6; J. Mottershead, 7; T. Marshall, 8; A. Sidebotham (conductor), 9; E. Williamson, 10. On Sunday evening, September 5th, for Divine Service, 503 Grandsire Caters. C. Barber, 1; J. Booth, 2; T. Jackson, 3; J. Bayley, 4; H. Meakin, 5; J. Pearson, 6; A. Gordon, 7; *T. Marshall (conductor), 8; A. Sidebotham, 9; E. Williamson, 10. *First touch of Caters as conductor. On Monday, September 6th, for practice, 395 Grandsire Caters. C. Barber, 1; J. Booth, 2; T. Jackson, 3; T. Marshall, 4; H. Meakin, 5; J. Pearson, 6; A. Gordon, 7; J. Bayley (first touch of Caters as conductor), 8; A. Sidebotham, 9; E. Williamson, 10.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—CREWE BRANCH.

TARPORLEY (Cheshire).—On Wednesday, September 8th, for practice, 672 Plain Bob Major in 25 mins. H. Fitton (first attempt at Major), 1; J. Sheen, 2; H. Wright, 3; J. Hunt, 4; W. Stockton, 5; F. Vernon, 6; J. Richardson, 7; R. T. Holding (conductor), 8. The conductor hails from Crewe; the rest belong to the local company.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (Kent).—On Sunday, September 5th, at St. Peter's church, 504 Stedman Triples. W. Pollard, 1; W. Latter, 2; H. Porter, 3; G. Head, 4; S. Perkins, 5; G. Smithers, 6; W. Porter (conductor), 7; J. Muggridge, 8. On Thursday, September 9th, for practice, 504 Stedman Triples. G. Smithers, 1; W. Porter (conductor), 2; G. Head, 3; S. Perkins, 4; W. Latter, 5; S. Saker, 6; W. Card, 7; A. Welsh, 8. And 288 Treble Bob Major. W. Porter, 1; G. Head, 2; G. Smithers, 3; A. Welsh, 4; W. Card, 5; S. Saker, 6; W. Latter, 7; S. Perkins, 8. Also a plain course of Double Norwich. J. Muggridge, 1; G. Head, 2; G. Smithers, 3; W. Pollard, 4; W. Card, 5; W. Porter, 6; W. Latter, 7; S. Perkins, 8. S. Saker hails from Hastings; W. Porter from Darlington.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

FEERING (Essex).—On Sunday, September 5th, in the early morning at the parish church, on the occasion of the Harvest Festival, 720 Bob Minor. C. Willsher, 1; W. Hunwick, 2; G. Hum, 5; W. Hayward, 4; E. Rogers, 5; J. Newman (conductor), 6. For morning service 720 in the some method. G. Mays, 1; W. Hunwick, 2; W. Keeble, 3; D. Elliott (conductor), 4; W. E. Hunwick, 5; J. Newman, 6. For afternoon service 240 Oxford Treble Bob. G. Hum, 1; H. Pye, 2; J. Newman, 3; J. Sadler, 4; W. E. Hunwick, 5; D. Elliott (conductor), 6. Also 360 standing as before. After service 720 Oxford Treble Bob. G. Hum, 1; H. Pye, 2; J. Sadler, 3; C. Norfolk, 4; D. Elliott (conductor), 5; J. Newman, 6. A 720 of Double Court was attempted, but "stand" was called by the conductor when just over half-way, owing to the third rope stranding. C. Mills, 1; W. Dyer, 2; J. Sadler, 3; C. Norfolk, 4; D. Elliott (conductor), 5; J. Newman, 6. For evening service 720 Kent Treble Bob. W. E. Hunwick, 1; W. Dyer, 2; W. Keeble, 3; H. Evers, 4; D. Elliott, 5; W. Elliott (conductor), 6. The day's ringing concluded with a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob after evening service. G. Hum, 1; H. Evers, 2; W. Keeble (conductor), 3; W. Elliott, 4; W. E. Hunwick, 5; J. Newman, 6. On Tuesday, September 7th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor (eighteen singles and three bobs). C. Willsher, 1; H. Pye, 2; C. Rogers, 3; W. Hayward, 4; W. E. Hunwick, 5; J. Newman (conductor), 6.

WOODFORD (Essex).—On Sunday, August 29th, for evening service, 720 Double Court Bob Minor, in 25 mins. H. Gowers, 1; G. Pye, 2; J. Mardell, 3; E. Pye, 4; J. Dale, 5; W. Pye (conductor), 6. And 360 Kent Treble Bob.

LEYTONSTONE.—On Sunday, August 29th, after evening service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. H. Gowers, 1; G. Pye (conductor), 2; W. Miller, 3; W. Pye, 4; J. Dale, 5; E. Pye, 6.

LOUGHTON.—On Tuesday, August 17th, for practice, 1008 Double Norwich Court Bob Major. F. Freeman, 1; W. H. Doran, 2; E. Bacon, 3; E. Wightman, 4; J. Rann, 5; G. Carter, 6; W. Clark, 7; W. Pye (conductor), 8. Longest length in the method by all except the ringers of the 2nd, 4th and tenor.

BUNGAY (Suffolk).—On Monday evening, September 6th, at the parish church of St. Mary, 1008 Bob Major. J. Folkard, 1; G. F. Alexander, 2; W. Felgate, 3; F. Keeler, 4; E. Lincoln, 5; F. Borrett, 6; R. Baker, 7; C. Borrett (conductor), 8. Also 896 Grandsire Triples. J. Folkard, 1; C. Borrett, 2; W. Felgate, 3; F. Borrett, 4; E. Lincoln, 5; C. Woods, 6; R. Baker (conductor), 7; G. F. Alexander, 8. F. Keeler hails from Newmarket; F. Borrett from Pulham; C. Borrett from Norwich. At the meeting house a course of Bob Royal. C. Borrett, 1-2; G. Alexander, 3-4; W. Felgate, 5-6; F. Borrett, 7-8. R. Baker, 9-10. And a course of Grandsire Caters. J. Folkard, 1-2; E. Lincoln, 3-4; W. Felgate, 5-6; G. F. Alexander, 7-8; C. Woods, 9-10.

CAVENDISH (Suffolk).—On Sunday, August 1st, for morning service 240 Plain Bob Minor and 240 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; G. Rice, 2; B. Pettit, 3; G. Maxim, 4; H. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6. For evening service 720 Plain Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; G. Rice, 2; B. Pettit, 3; H. Perkins, 4; E. Perkins, 5; G. Maxim, 6. On Wednesday evening, August 18th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; B. Pettit, 3; G. Maxim, 4; E. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6. On Wednesday evening, August 25th, 720 Plain Bob Minor. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; B. Pettit, 3; G. Maxim, 4; E. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6. On Sunday, August 29th, for morning service, 256 and 120 Plain Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; W. Purdy, 3; G. Maxim, 4; E. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6. Rngg as a farewell peal to W. Purdy, who is leaving for Leicester. On Wednesday evening, September 1st, 1440 Plain Bob Minor, being two 720s, each called differently, in 50 mins. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; B. Pettit, 3; H. Evans, 4; E. Perkins, 5; G. Maxim, 6. Longest touch by all except G. Maxim.

CLENT (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, August 29th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Barber, 1; W. Page, 2; W. Shilvock, 3; W. Stone, 4; W. Short, 5; W. Barber (conductor), 6. Also 720 Kent. W. Stone, 1; W. Barber, 2; W. Page, 3; J. Bates, 4; W. Short, 5; J. Barber (conductor), 6. On handbells 480 Bob Major. W. Short, 1-2; W. Barber (conductor), 3-4; W. Stone, 5-6; W. Page, 7-8. Also two courses of Grandsire Caters, and one course each of Stedman Caters and Bob Royal. W. Stone, 1-2; W. Page, 3-4; W. Barber, 5-6; W. Short, 7-8; J. Barber, 9-10. Messrs. Stone and Page hails from Worcester.

HUNDON (Suffolk).—On Sunday afternoon, August 15th, a party of ringers from Cavendish visited this place, and rang several touches during the afternoon and evening, including 108 Plain Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; B. Pettit, 2; W. Purdy, 3; H. Evans, 4; E. Perkins, 5; H. Perkins, 6. Also a 120. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; B. Pettit, 3; H. Evans, 4; E. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6. For evening service 360 Plain Bob. W. Underwood (conductor), 1; H. Perkins, 2; B. Pettit, 3; H. Evans, 4; E. Perkins, 5; P. Newman, 6.

KIDDERMINSTER (Worcestershire).—On Sunday evening, August 29th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, 504 Stedman Triples. J. Pagett (conductor), 1; N. Davies, 2; J. Bennett, 3; G. Salter, 4; T. Salter, 5; E. Hunt, 6; H. Smith, 7; J. Crump, 8. On Wednesday, September 1st, for practice, 448 Superlative Surprise Major. J. Bennett, 1; N. Davies, 2; T. Salter (conductor), 3; G. Salter, 4; R. E. Grove, 5; E. Hunt, 6; J. Pagett, 7; J. Barber, 8. On Thursday, September 2nd, at the residence of Mr. J. Pagett, on handbells retained in hand, 630 Grandsire Triples. N. Davies, 1-2; J. Pagett, 3-4; T. Salter (conductor), 5-6; E. Hunt, 7-8. Longest length on handbells by Messrs. Davies and Hunt. On Sunday morning, September 5th, an attempt was made to ring F. Clayton's peal of Bob Major, but it came to grief after ringing 1 hr. 40 mins., owing to a change-course. J. Pagett, 1-2; F. Clayton, 3-4; W. Barber (conductor), 5-6; W. Smith, 7-8. Referee—Mr. N. Davies. In the evening at St. Mary's church, 384 Superlative Surprise Major. W. Smith, 1; J. Bennett, 2; T. Salter (conductor), 3; N. Davies, 4; J. Crane, 5; T. Wakeman, 6; W. Barber, 7; F. Clayton, 8. First in the method by T. Wakeman. Messrs. Wakeman, Barber, and Clayton hail from Birmingham.

LONG MELFORD (Suffolk).—On Sunday morning, September 12th, for morning service, 800 Bob Major. T. Cadge, 1; H. Duce, 2; S. Slater, 3; A. Ambrose, 4; F. Connell, 5; E. Ambrose, 6; C. Bixby (conductor), 7; S. Fond, 8.

QUIDENHAM (Norfolk).—On Sunday, September 5th, at St. Andrew's church for Divine Service, 600 Bob Minor. W. Hensley, 1; R. Haylett, 2; G. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; J. Tite, 5; J. Woods (conductor), 6. On Tuesday, September 7th, 720 in the same method. W. Hensley, 1; R. Haylett, 2; G. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; J. Woods (conductor), 5; J. Tite, 6. Also 432 in the same method. W. Hens-

ley, 1; G. Haylett, 2; R. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; A. Mann, 5; J. Woods (conductor), 6. On Friday, September 10th, another 720 in the same method. J. Woods, 1; J. Tite, 2; G. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; R. Haylett, 5; J. Woods (conductor), 6. And another 432 in the same method. J. Woods, 1; J. Woods, 2; R. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; G. Haylett, 5; J. Tite (conductor), 6. On Sunday, September 12th, another 720 in the same method. W. Hensley, 1; J. Tite, 2; G. Haylett, 3; W. Ringer, 4; R. Haylett, 5; J. Woods (conductor), 6.

RUGBY (Warwickshire).—On Sunday, September 5th, at St. Andrew's church for Divine Service in the evening, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Doody, 1; R. Watson, 2; A. Dubber, 3; W. T. Lightfoot, 4; H. Tarver, 5; T. Holmes, 6; J. George (conductor), 7; S. Manning, 8.

THORNBURY (Gloucestershire).—On Sunday, September 12th, at the parish church, 252 Stedman Triples. A. Burchell, 1; S. Phipps, 2; W. Symes, 3; J. J. Poole, 4; S. Cullimore, 5; T. Alsopp, 6; F. K. Howell (conductor), 7; W. Gale, 8. For evening service 252 in the same method. W. Gale, 4; A. Phipps, 6; the rest as above. This is the longest length in the method by T. Alsopp.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—On Sunday morning, September 5th, for Divine Service, 658 Grandsire Triples. E. J. Dennes, 1; F. Wood, 2; F. Underwood, 3; W. H. Ette, 4; W. Wood, 5; E. West, 6; T. R. Hensher (conductor), 7; T. Craddock, 8. Recently, for practice, 503 Grandsire Triples. E. J. Dennes, 1; W. H. Ette, 2; F. Underwood, 3; W. Wood, 4; E. West, 5; F. Wood, 6; T. R. Hensher (conductor), 7; T. Craddock, 8. Also 504 Grandsire Triples. E. J. Dennes, 1; G. Turnell, 2; F. Underwood, 3; W. Wood (conductor), 4; E. West, 5; W. H. Ette, 6; F. Wood, 7; T. Craddock, 8. And 168 with W. H. Ette, jun., ringing the 5th, and one with G. M. Ette ringing the 4th, and F. J. Tompkins the 5th. The three last-named are probationers.

Correspondence.

While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.

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

'REPLIES TO "T. M."

SIR,—I notice that a question is asked in "THE BELL NEWS" of September 4th, as to the existence of rings of bells in the Channel Islands. There are none in Jersey. At St. Peter's Port, Guernsey, there is a ring of eight (tenor I should think about 23cwt. but it went very heavily). When I was there six years ago, a new band had just started to learn, but they could do little as the bells were then. The sixth, seventh and tenor were fairly good bells and in good tune; as to the rest, I never heard bells so excruciatingly out of tune and of such poor tone; and one or two of the ropes came down so close to the wall that you could only ring by turning your back on the bells behind you. Whether they have been re-hung or re-cast since then, I am unable to say.

FRED. J. O. HELMORE,

Hon. Sec. Kent County Associ'n.

SIR,—I see by "THE BELL NEWS" of the 4th inst. that "T. M." want to know if there is any peals of bells in Jersey and Guernsey. I visited the Islands in June 1896, but did not find any peal in Jersey. But on visiting Guernsey I found a peal of eight, tenor about a ton, in fairly good going order, but miserably out of tune. The local band do not know anything of change ringing, they only ring call changes. They ring three times each Sunday, viz., for the 10 o'clock service in English, also 6 o'clock service in French, and again for the 7 o'clock service in English. I believe this is the only peal in the town, and the church is spoken of as the town church. The visitor can take the electric tram opposite the above church and ride about a mile towards St. Sampson's Bay, and a pleasant walk of about one and a half miles will bring him to Vale church, where he will find a nice little ring of six in good going order. The ringers are fishermen of the village; here again it is round ringing and call changes. F. K. HOWELL.

SIR,—In answer to "T. M." as to whether there are any peals of bells in Jersey and Guernsey, I find in Mears and Stainbank's catalogue that a ring of six was sent to St. Mark's, Jersey, in 1844. Tenor 11cwt. DAN GRIDLEY.

Clare, Suffolk.

GENTLEMEN'S Curb Alberts. Heavily Plated with Pure Gold. Guaranteed 18 carat, 45. 6d., 22. 5s. 6d., Double, 7s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. Member of Norwich Diocesan Association.—SKINNER, 3, Mayes Terrace, East Dereham.

THE HACKNEY (MIDDLESEX) SOCIETY.

The members of this society paid a visit to Barnet, on Saturday last, September 11th, and were met at High Barnet station, by Mr. A. J. King, the indefatigable secretary of the Middlesex County Association. The party were not long in reaching the parish church of St. John the Baptist. This church was originally built about 1250, and a century later a tower was erected, but wholly disconnected from the church. About 1420 the main building was demolished, excepting the north wall, and a new church extending to the tower was erected in its place. In 1875 the church was thoroughly restored and much enlarged at a cost of £16,000, under the direction of Mr. W. Butterfield, of London, by the addition of a new nave, chancel, and tower, the original nave being made a north aisle, while the old north aisle remained beyond it. The old tower was also partly taken down and added to the former nave, a new tower being raised at the west end; the church is now a building of flint and stone, in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles, consisting of chancel, clerestoried nave of eight bays, south transept, with the Ravenscroft chapel adjoining it on the east, two north aisles, south aisle with porch, north east vestry, and a western embattled tower containing a clock with chimes, and what was more interesting to the visitors, a splendid peal of eight bells by Mears and Stainbank.

Before ascending the belfry steps Mr. A. T. King kindly shewed all the interesting subjects contained in the church, including the beautifully-carved pulpit, a magnificent piece of work. Two 504s of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, conducted by M. A. Wood and W. D. Smith respectively, also a short touch of Grandsire, conducted by F. Rumens, were rung for six o'clock evensong, after which an adjournment was made to the Church House close by for tea. This had been provided solely at the expense of Mr. A. T. King, and during its progress the Rector of Barnet, the Rev. Daniel William Brown, M.A., made a welcome addition to the party. He was very pleased to see the visitors. He had been listening intently to their doings in the belfry, which he thought were very creditable. He quoted an instance where he unwittingly rang a Superlative Surprise, relating that previous to his induction as Rector of Barnet a rumour had spread that he was an admirer of bells and also could ring. On making his appearance at the appointed time and place for what is termed ringing himself in, the bell had been left up. Of course the result of pulling the bell off was both a surprise to him and those around to a superlative degree, though the consequences were not of a serious turn.

Mr. W. D. Smith, as Secretary of the Hackney Society, thanked both Mr. King and the Rector for their kindness, and Mr. King especially for his hospitality.

Mr. King suitably responded.

A course of Grandsire Caters on the handbells, and the tower was again visited, but it was found necessary to stop the ringing in consequence of an accident that had happened near the church, so a visit was paid to Hadley church, where 720 Treble Bob Minor was rung by W. D. Smith (conductor), G. J. Gains, E. Wallage, F. Rumens, G. J. Smith, W. B. Manning. The party, who consisted of Messrs. E. J. Comb, Albert Coles, Arthur Coles, W. Gardner, A. Hughes, F. Harradine, W. B. Manning, W. Prime, W. Pinsent, F. Rumens, W. D. Smith, G. J. Smith, M. A. Wood and E. Wallage, left Barnet by the 10.34 p.m. train, and wish through the medium of this paper to thank all those who contributed to make an afternoon's call at Barnet a most pleasant and satisfactory one.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, September 12th, Messrs. A. E. and W. T. Pegler and J. Austin, at the invitation of Mr. J. Kitchener to ring a peal at Coln St. Aldwyns, started early in the morning on bicycles up the famous Birdlip, one of the highest hills in the Cotswolds, and along the old Roman road to Cirencester, where with some of the local ringers touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung for morning service, in which H. Cluttbuck, H. Midwinter, F. W. Bond, H. C. Bond and C. Bart-

lett took part. Mounting our steeds again another eight miles ride brought us to Coln. On arriving we were welcomed by our old friend Mr. Kitchener, and to our surprise Mr. H. Roberts, of Cheltenham, was also awaiting us. After partaking of Mr. Kitchener's hospitality another arrival was announced in the person of Mr. J. Shepherd, of Swindon, followed shortly afterwards by T. Ricketts, O. W. Layng, G. S. Brown and C. Gardener, of Swindon, who had driven over to take part. After the usual greetings a start was made for the tower, where a well-struck peal of Bob Major was brought round, the record of which will be found in its proper place. While the peal was in progress some of the members, with the assistance of some of the local ringers, visited Hatherop, and rang some touches of Minor and Doubles on the pretty ring of six. After tea a suggestion was thrown out that we should visit Fairford and ring after evening service, which was agreed to at once, and wishing Mr. Kitchener and Mr. Roberts *au revoir* we started for Fairford, passing the monument where it is supposed the stained glass windows were buried during the time of the Civil Wars, and so on to the church. On arriving we found that after the service there was an organ recital, which delayed us, but after it was over, and the Vicar was asked for the use of the bells, which he readily granted, we were soon raising them in peal, no easy task on account of the long draught. A start was made for a touch of Grandsire Triples by G. S. Brown, J. Austin, O. W. Layng, T. Ricketts, C. Gardener, J. Shepherd, W. T. Pegler and A. E. Pegler. Also two courses of Bob Major, three courses of Stedman Triples and a touch of Grandsire, with one of the local ringers taking part, conducted by J. Austin. The Vicar said it was the first time he had heard the tenor turned in, and expressed a wish that we would again visit them. After lowering the bells and looking to our horses we had to wish our Swindon friends good bye, and again start for Cirencester, where, after spending a pleasant hour with H. C. Bond, we started for home. On arriving at Birdlip we had the greatest difficulty in holding our horses back, but after arriving safely at the bottom we were soon in the Fair City once again.

A.

THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, CHEPSTOW.

The members belonging to the above society paid a visit to Oxford, on Monday, September 6th, and were met by Mr. T. Collinson, of Birmingham (late of Chepstow), and soon after we had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Washbrook and Mr. Cox, who conducted us to all places of interest during the day, but owing to some of the churches having their bells under repair and death near others, we were unable to ring there. We then made a move for some dinner, under the able conductorship of Mr. Cox, and very much to our delight found in him as good a waiter as he is a ringer. After dinner the handbells were brought into use, when some courses of Grandsire Triples were rung. Train time drawing near we made the best of our way to the station. We thank Mr. Collinson for so kindly joining us and also Mr. Washbrook and Mr. Cox for their great kindness to us, and we trust on some future occasion to do the same for them.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday last, the Ross ringers journeyed to Mitcheldean by brake through the kind invitation of the Rector. Several long touches of Grandsire Triples were rung on the fine-toned peal of eight at the parish church, the following taking part: J. G. Wall, J. Symes, A. Bird, W. Phillips, W. Clark, R. Clarke, C. Sadler, C. Davis, A. J. Llewellyn, F. Hearne, F. Voyce, R. Vaughan. Afterwards an excellent repast was supplied by Mr. Bayham, and ample justice being done the ringers departed for home, every one being pleased with the visit. Before commencing ringing the company were photographed by Mr. G. Williams, of Ross. The ringers wish to thank the Rector for his kind invitation, and also Mr. Chew for having everything in readiness for them. The tenor is 18 cwt.

NORTH'S ENGLISH BELLS AND BELL LORE.

Illustrated. Price 12s., Postage 6d. Should be in the hands of all Bell lovers.—W. H. Eaton, Publisher, Leek, Staffs.

Notices.

Middlesex County Association.—South and West District.—The next meeting of the above will take place at Isleworth, to-day, Saturday, September 18th, ringing to commence at 5 sharp. C. EDWARDS, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*

Yorkshire Association.—The next General Meeting will be held at Lightcliffe, to-day, Saturday, September 18th. Tea in the National School at 5 o'clock. Business meeting immediately after. The rings of eight at the Parish Church and six at the Congregational church, will be available. The local hon. sec. is Mr. F. W. Bradley, 8, George street, Hipperholme, near Halifax, to whom all communications respecting the day's arrangements should be sent. B. T. COPLEY, *Hon. Sec.*

14, Hillside Terrace, Bradford.

The Heavy Woollen District Association, Yorkshire.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Sandal, to-day, Saturday, September 18th, at 5.30 p.m.

GEO. H. SIMON, *Hon. Sec.*

19, Albert Street, Batley Carr.

The Norwich Diocesan Association.—The Annual Meeting will be held at Ipswich, on Thursday, September 23rd. At 12.45 a special service at St. Mary-le-Tower church, with address by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. Dinner at 1.30 at the Co-operative Hall, Carr street—2s. 6d. Hon. members and friends; 1s. 6d. Company members. Business meeting after dinner. The bells of St. Mary-le-Tower, St. Matthew, St. Mary Quay, St. Nicholas, and St. Margaret's churches will be available for the use of members. All who intend to be present should give notice to the Hon. Secretary at least a week before the date of the meeting. No attention can be promised to notices arriving after to-day, Saturday, September 18th. Members requiring reduced railway fares should state exactly the number of tickets that will be taken, and the station of departure. H. EARLE BULWER, *Hon. Sec.*

Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn,
30th August, 1897.

The Worcestershire and Districts Association.—The next Quarterly Meeting of this Association will be held in the old schoolroom, King's Norton, on Saturday, September 25th, at 6 o'clock prompt. A short service will be held in the church at 5 o'clock, to which all members are specially requested to attend. The tower will be opened and the bells placed at the members' disposal. Tea will be provided (and to which all are cordially invited) for members sending their names to me on or before Tuesday, September 21st.

JOHN SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

36, Simms Lane, Netherton, near Dudley.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—The Headquarters of this Society have been removed to "The Coffee Pot," Warwick lane, E.C. It is hoped that there will be a good attendance of members at the business meeting to be held, after ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral, on Tuesday, September 21st.

WILLIAM T. COCKERILL.

7, Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, S.W.

The Essex Association.—A district meeting of the above will be held on Saturday, September 25th, at Roydon, six-bell tower. Tea will take place after business meeting at 5 p.m. Holders of tickets on the Colchester line, who travel via Witham and Stortford will be allowed to return via Stratford. Members

intending to be present, must signify their intention not later than the previous Monday. The tower of Hunsden (eight bells) will also be available. HENRY T. W. EYRE, *Ass. Sec.*

Gt. Totham, Witham.

The Old East Derbyshire Association.—The Quarterly Meeting will be held at Chesterfield, on Saturday, September 25th, meeting house, Rutland Arms, close to church, peal of ten bells, M.S. and L. and Midland Railway, Mr. A. Knights, Local Secretary.

EDWIN JAMES, *Hon. Sec.*

18 Meersbrook, Bank road, Sheffield.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The next Monthly Ringing Meeting of this Society will be held at Bramley, on Saturday, September 25th. A peal will be attempted at 3 p.m. (6 bells). Meeting house, The Cardigan Arms. Business meeting at 7 prompt. Members and any ringing friends are cordially invited to attend.

R. BINNS, *Hon. Sec.*

18, Irwin Street, Hogg's Field, Holbeck.

The Lancashire Association.—Annual meeting at Newchurch, Rossendale, September 25th. Particulars by circular.

The Middlesex County Association.—North and East District.—A district meeting of the above will be held at Pinner, on Saturday, 2nd October next. Bells ready at 4.30 p.m. Tea at six, followed by short business meeting for the election of members. All members of the Association are invited, and ringers, whether members or not, will be welcome. Those who desire tea to be provided are earnestly requested to send their names to the Hon. Sec. before the date of the meeting, to assist him in making proper provision.

ARTHUR T. KING, *Hon. Sec.*

18, Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.

NOTE TO PEAL AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—This peal was arranged for Mr. W. Porter, of Darlington, Durham, who was formerly a member of St. Peter's Society and who is re-visiting his native place for his holidays. He was a member of this society when we started learning Stedman a few years ago and was always a very energetic and enthusiastic ringer. He left Tunbridge Wells about four years ago, and the band since have had uphill work to master the method, through members leaving the town just as we were making a little progress, and having to teach others. We had nobody to lend us a hand and so had to get on quite unaided, and it is remarkable that all the present members of the band who have rung a peal in the method, rung their first peal of it at their own church with their band, although several have started for peals of it with other ringers and at other towers several times without success. As soon as it was known that Mr. Porter was at home, an attempt for a peal of Stedman was proposed. The Vicar's consent was obtained and the band selected, Tuesday, September 7th, being the date, meeting at 6 p.m. A slight delay was caused through one of the ringers not turning up, however he was soon hunted up, and induced to leave some work he was doing which was promised to be finished that night. The bells were raised, and "Go! Stedman" was called at 6.15, and for an hour the bells were going at a rattling pace with excellent striking without a word being spoken except the conductor calling the bobs, then a couple of slight trips occurred within about five minutes, these were satisfactorily got over and the pace slowed down a little, nothing else was amiss, and at 9.10 the welcome "This is all" ended a good peal. This is the first at-

tempt for a peal by the band since they rung their first peal of Stedman on May 25th last. It is W. Porter's first peal in the method, and G. Head's first in the method with a bob bell with the exception of W. Porter it was a local band. L.

THE YATES DISTRESS FUND.

Amount already advertised	£	s.	d.
St. Andrew's Society, Rugby, per J. George	15	3	0
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T. J. Salter (Kidderminster)	0	1	0
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LONG PEAL ATTEMPT.

NOTICE.—Five members of the Birmingham Friendly Society Branch of the Midland Counties Association will attempt a 7,000 of Stedman Caters on handbells retained in hand, to-day, Saturday, September 18th, at The Hope and Anchor, Fisher street. Meeting time, 4 o'clock sharp.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. MILLWAY.—Next week.

NAT.—It is not advisable to commence calling before you are well able to ring the method. When that happy period arrives write again.

HOPEFUL.—The plan is too vast to be answered here. Send a stamped addressed envelope.

EUPHONY.—The recognised positions do not include those you name, which are absurd.

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WANTED a Situation as Under-Gardener, or Groom and Gardener. Four years in last situation as Groom and Gardener. Change-ringer on six; member of the Ely Diocesan Association. Age 21; single, with good character. Address, W., care of Editor.

PLUMBER, GASFITTER, BELLHANGER (Electric and Ordinary), and **TINSMITH** wants situation. Good change-ringer on 7, 8, 9 and 10 bells, willing to instruct band of learners. Apply J. E. R. K., care of Editor.

JOINER.—Improver seeks situation. Large shop preferred. Change-ringer from eight-bell tower. A., care of Editor.

WANTED Employment by a young man. Has been working in painters' shop. Change-ringer on 6, 8, or 10 bells. Apply—A. B. C., care of Editor.

Situations Vacant.

SHOP FOREMAN.—Wanted at once, reliable man for a small shop, as working Shop Foreman. Accustomed to good work, setting out, details and staircases. Permanency. Change-ringer required (ten bells, tenor 23 cwt.). All particulars to S. Ellis, Builder, Chertsey Street, Guildford.

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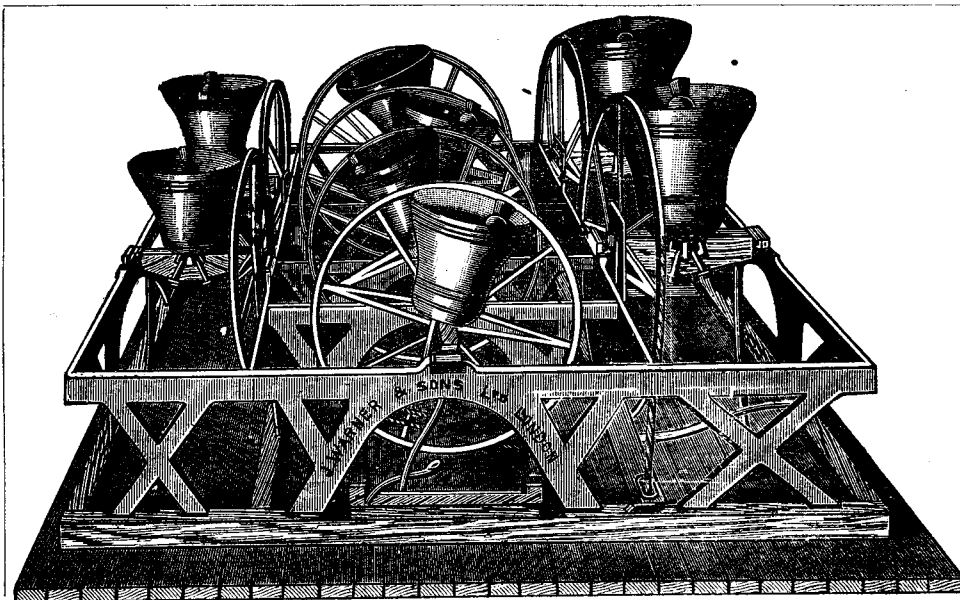
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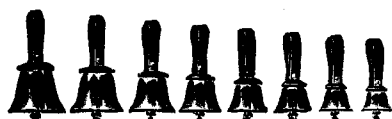
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