THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 897.—*VOL.* XVIII.] SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1899. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

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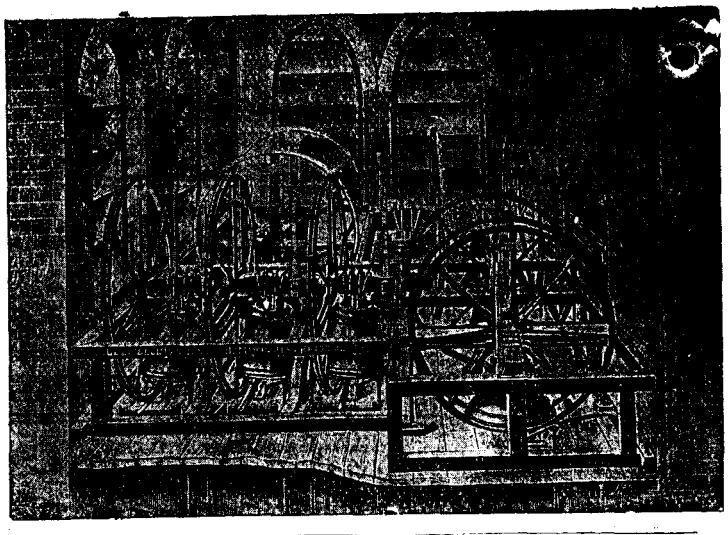
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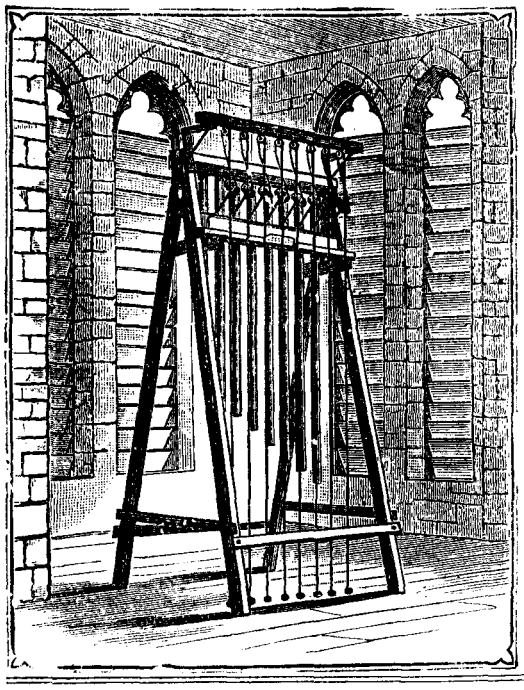
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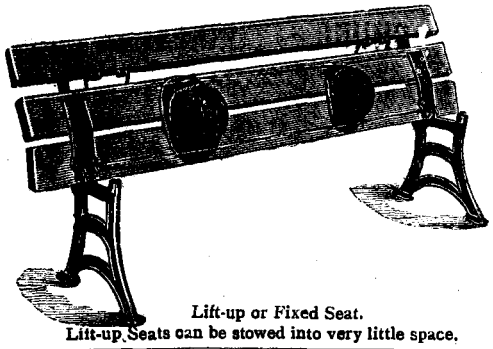
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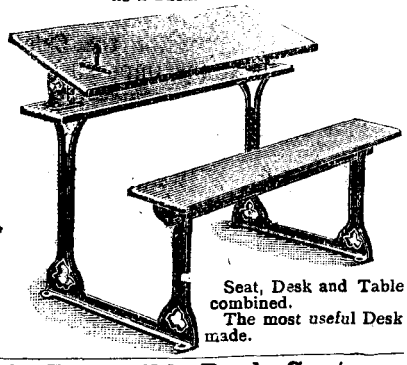
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 897.] SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1899. [Vol. XVIII.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above was again held in Northampton, and notwithstanding the unfavourable weather, was well attended. By special permission the bells of the churches of St. Giles (ten), St. Sepulchre, St. Peter, and St. Edmund (eight), were placed at the liberty of the ringers at stated times throughout the day. At one o'clock a special service was held in St. Sepulchre's church, at which a large number of ringers were present. A short sermon was preached by the Vicar, the Rev. C. Brookes, who took for his text the 22nd and 23rd verses of the seventh chapter of St. Matthew—"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity." Having welcomed the ringers to the grand old church of St. Sepulchre, the preacher said he had before them a word of warning, and a warning which all church officials alike needed. It was a warning against being taken up with the outside routine of their work so much as to forget the inner meaning and the inner sacredness of it. It applied to the choir boys, the clergy, and the ringers alike.

After the service, a dinner was held at The Peacock hotel. In the absence of the President (Archdeacon Lightfoot), the Rev. C. Brookes (Vicar of St. Sepulchre's), presided over a large company, and at the outset read the following telegram: "Best wishes for the welfare of the Association. Much regret unable to come. Archdeacon." The other Clergy present were: The Rev. H. C. Holmes (Curate of St. Sepulchre's); Rev. J. B. Fawssett (Mears Ashby); Rev. E. C. Channer (Ravensthorpe); Rev. R. Copeman (Stoke Albany); Rev. W. St. George Coldwell (Rector of Wilby); and Rev. A. S. Lindsay (vice-president).

The Secretary announced that the Rev. C. Brookes had expressed his desire to become an honorary member of the Association. The Chairman briefly expressed the pleasure he felt at being asked to preside over that gathering, and remarked that perhaps they might think he had been "letting them have it" from the pulpit that morning. (A Voice: "Not a bit, sir.) What he had said he meant quite as much for himself as for them. The Hon. Secretary explained that in a large part the absence of the Clergy was due to the number of weddings that took place on Whit-Monday. The balance at the bank in favour of the Association now stood at £26 4s. 3d. During the year they had added both to the list of honorary and ringing members. He regretted the deaths of several members, and then went on to congratulate the Vicar and Churchwardens of St. Sepulchre's on the re-hanging of the bells, which had been increased to eight. He mentioned that the first peal on the re-hung bells of St. Sepulchre's, as well as the first peal of ten bells at St. Giles' church, had been rung by Northampton men. The beautiful board recording the peal at St. Giles', was the gift of the Vicar of Christ Church. The total receipts for the year amounted to £18, and the expenditure left a balance to the good of £2 os. 3d. Whiston and the district adjoining was selected for the next quarterly meeting. On the motion of Mr. Gilbert (Raunds), seconded by Mr. Roberts (Northampton), it was decided to join the Central Council. The Rev. J. B. Fawssett proposed a vote of thanks to the Clergy and Churchwardens for the use of the bells that day. Mr. Dennes seconded, and announced that a donation of 10s. 6d. from the funds of the Association, following the usual precedent, had been voted on account of the re-hung bells of St. Sepulchre's. The motion was heartily carried; Mr. Howard, captain of St. Sepulchre's belfry, and the Rev. H. C. Holmes responding.

The Hon. Secretary then announced new honorary and ringing members as follows:—The Rev. C. Brookes; Mr. H. F. Henson, Kettering; the Rev. W. Macmanus, Broughton; Mr. Newton Whitworth; Mr. J. B. Whitworth, Wilby; the Rev. P. M. Smythe; the Rev. E. E. Benson, Kettering; Mr. F. Watts, and Mr. John Porteous, Northampton. New ringing members also from Stoke Albany, Broughton, Mears Ashby, Finedon, Wellingborough, Desborough, Northampton, Earls Barton, Doddington, and Raunds, and an out-of-county member in the person of Mr. Avis, Evenhill, Suffolk. A hearty vote of thanks was moved to the Hon. Secretary by the Rev. W. St. George Coldwell, and seconded by the Rev. C. Brookes. This was carried with musical honours, and appropriately responded to.

The church of the Holy Sepulchre, Northampton, is one of four in England which were built under the direct influence of the Crusades, and of which the form was imitated from that of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem. St. Sepulchre is the "soldier's church" of Northampton, and has several windows and tablets to the county regiment. By general desire of the ringing members of the Association, the bells of the church of All Saints were not used at this meeting, as they are in great need of re-hanging. In addition to ordinary church ringing and chiming, these bells are much rung in connection with Corporation and County affairs: there should therefore be no difficulty in raising the funds for their re-hanging and improvement. All Saints is always considered the town or corporation church of the ancient borough of Northampton.

After the conclusion of ringing in the evening, social chat, some good songs and glees, and tunes and changes on a veteran peal of twelve large handbells the property of St. Peter's belfry, passed away the time very pleasantly. The handbells in question came from Mears, of London, many years ago, and are a capital peal. It is to be hoped that St. Peter's ringers may soon be able to induce the parishioners to provide funds for their much-needed repair.

The Bishop of Wakefield is enquiring by circular for detail, as to all services which are held in addition to those provided for by the Prayer-book, and he desires to see for himself any manuals which are in use. His lordship is also enquiring as to the number of bells, the number of ringers, by whom they are appointed, how they are paid, at what times the bells are rung, whether the ringers attend the services, whether the ringing is preceded by prayer, and who is in charge of the belfry.

NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

(*Continued from page* 28.)

THE ADVANTAGES, OR OTHERWISE, OF PAID RINGING.

Mr. Attree said that by request of the Hon. Secretary he had consented to bring this question forward. Had he not replied by return of post but given the question consideration, he should have hesitated to take the matter in hand. He was placed in a somewhat difficult position, for he could not see any advantages in a paid system, and would therefore leave its explanation to those who believed in it. As to its disadvantages he held strong views, for he considered the paid system to be detrimental to the good of the cause. What benefit was it to the ringer to get threepence or even sixpence a time for his services? Was it this that made men good ringers? He thought not. The ringer who rang for what he could get was not a ringer of the right sort. Payment for ringing often created an ill-feeling among bands in country places, and prevented ringers from being drawn from a better class. There were bands which, had it not been for payment, would long since have made good change-ringers, while in some cases good bands, from the same cause and through no fault of their own, had been broken up. Dissatisfaction often arose through the paid system by one ringer leaving, followed by another, and so a band of eight decreased to six, and finally broke up. It was said that one volunteer was worth so many pressed men, and he was one of those who considered that one volunteer ringer was worth a number of paid ringers. He had had some personal experience, and was himself much in favour of the voluntary system. At St. Paul's, Brighton, they had a band that took no pay for any ringing.

Mr. H. Dains asked what about weddings? Did the clergyman do his part free? If not, why should the ringers do theirs free?

Mr. Attree said not even for weddings did they take any pay. The members of the band gave up their work and time, and had done so for seventeen years. If a ringer took a real interest in the science, he would ring without wanting any money return. This had been the case with his own company for seventeen years, not one penny having been received by any of the band. Members of a choir were not as a rule paid for their services, but gave them voluntarily, and he looked forward to the day when bands would ring not for money, but for the good of the cause. He had looked in vain for the advantages of the paid system, and could not find any. It was a system he should not have anything to do with. It was said that money was "the root of all evil," and this he thought was true with respect to the ringing of church bells.

Mr. Story said the matter was not an urgent one, and he thonght it required careful consideration. His own experience was that the paid ringer was the one to be most relied upon. Another point was that unless you had an over-strong band some of the members were drawn from that class of men who were not in a position at any time to give up their work and attend for ringing purposes without some payment. If no payment was made bands often met short, and, one falling out, another got tired of going, and at last the band did not prove a success, while on the other hand when payment was made, bands were kept more together and they became a success. He would advise that no vote should be taken upon the question.

Mr. Rees said he was for some years connected with a band that were not paid officially, but at Christmas time the hat was sent round with the result that a liberal collection was made. This was some recognition that the ringers had regularly performed their duties by ringing and chiming for the services of the church, for the greater festivals of the church, and generally conducted themselves to the satisfaction of the rector. There was one practice a week, and the amount collected was divided according to the attendances that had been made, and was thus regarded as a small remuneration for the practices they had attended. As to weddings, he considered that those who wanted bells rung when they were married should pay.

Mr. W. Snowdon said he agreed with the remarks that had been made by Mr. Story. He did not wish to draw comparisons, and would rather look upon himself as an amateur ringer than otherwise; but he did not think it possible to depend upon the amateur ringer. Out of pocket expenses were often required, and in this respect difficulties would arise in all directions. The amateur ringer went off to a neighbouring tower, the paid man did not do so, at least there was not that temptation for him to do so, for he knew, if absent from his post, what would be the result. Therefore the paid man was the most to be depended upon. All honour, nevertheless, to the ringer who took such an interest in his ringing, and of his goodness gave the time without any payment. Most of those who knew the condition of a large majority of the working classes knew that many of them had a struggle to make both ends meet; such men should be paid, if not for their actual ringing for services, at least for their attendance at practice. Probably a great deal depended upon the custom of the district. In Yorkshire it was the custom to pay, while the amateur band was an exception. He thought it much more satisfactory to pay ringers than to let the hat go round, but if it did go round it should be undertaken by the churchwardens.

Mr. Rees said that was the custom in the place to which he had referred.

Mr. Snowdon said that made it so much the better. He did not know, however, where they would stop. There were no doubt two sides to the question. There were many temptations for a ringer to visit a neighbouring tower. There could be no doubt but that where ringers were paid they legitimately earned all they got. He was an admirer of an amateur band of ringers when they could be got.

Mr. W. Wakley said that as the leader of a band for twenty-five years—a band which had been successful—his experience was different to that of Mr. Attree's. His opinion was that in order to have a successful band of ringers they must be paid something. He had only known of one amateur band that was in any way a success. There should be something in the way of recognition for those who Sunday after Sunday turned up at their proper time. If they were not paid there was nothing to keep them together. Every ringer should take his proper share of what was paid. In his own company it was thought desirable to have fines, and at first a small fine was adopted, but at last it was necessary to make the fines larger, and so a shilling fine was adopted, and the result was that the company had been kept together for so many years. The members attended regularly, and nothing but continued success had been the result. To ensure success he thought it almost absolutely necessary that ringers should be paid. As to ringing for weddings it appeared to him most extraordinary that men who had to depend upon their work for their living should be expected to give up their time to ring for people when they were married, without any payment for their services. Surely this should be recognised as honest labour, and as such should be paid for.

The Rev. R. C. M. Harvey said he agreed with the remarks of the last speaker. As to ringing for weddings without payment, that was extraordinary. In some places it might be found necessary to pay for ringing on Sundays, while in others, as appeared the case with Mr. Attree's, it was not necessary. He had not found any difficulty in getting a band to turn up for ringing on Sundays without payment.

The Rev. H. Law James thought the question rested in a nutshell. It must depend upon circumstances. It would not be well for the Council to pass any resolution, neither should the Council be down upon the ringer who only rings because he is paid.

Mr. H. Dains said as one of those who came from London he could not help expressing his surprise that men could be found to give up their work and lose time without payment, and only for the sake of ringing, when people were married.

Mr. Attree said there appeared to be a mistake upon the matter. It was correct that his band did not receive any payment for ringing for weddings, but they always made a charge of two guineas for ringing at a wedding, but the men did not take the money, it was put in a box (laughter), and when they wanted an outing they had it (much laughter). He thought it best to make this statement to stop what appeared to be a misunderstanding. He anticipated that after he had consented to bring the question forward he should bring a hornet's nest about him (laughter).

Mr. Dains said in London they had to turn up and ring when

the Lord Mayor came along, or it might be even Her Majesty. If so, every one wanted the bells rung, and to do this men had to give up their work. Could it be expected that working men, as many of them were, could do this without any payment, let them ring what they might, even if it was only stony. If a man had to give up his work for a public service, which he considered ringing for such events as he had referred to was, then he for one considered that the man should be paid.

The Rev. H. J. Elsee said that the members of many bands lived considerable distances apart, in some cases as much as from one to twelve miles. For such men to ring three times upon the Sunday was rather a heavy tax upon the resources of a working man unless he was paid for his services, and would prevent some bands from meeting at all regularly.

The Rev. T. L. Papillon said there were two sides to the question. He had had some thirteen to fourteen years' experience in a country place, and considered it desirable that the bells should be rung for the services on the Sunday. He had not had much difficulty in keeping a band together without any fixed payment for their Sunday ringing, but had found it very desirable that there should be some recognition for the services that were rendered. The plan he had adopted was a kind of sending round the hat at Christmas, and it had hitherto answered very well. His practice was to head a sheet of paper or small memo. book, stating that the ringers had, during the year, discharged their duties to his satisfaction. During the year, this was taken round to the principal inhabitants and a sum of money was collected which was given as a recognition for work the ringers had done. This had acted well in keeping the band together; as to ringing for weddings, he considered that a band should be paid a sufficient sum to recompense them for their loss of time, and according to the circumstances of each place.

The President said he was sure that all had been interested in the discussion that had taken place, for many of them had listened to experiences which had not come under their notice previously. If there was one important thing in life it was to note both sides of every question. Those that did so were those whose opinions would have most weight. He looked with admiration upon what Mr. Attree had effected, and wished it could be done all over the country, but knew that it could not be so. It was not intended to take a vote of the Council upon the question, or that the Council should venture a decision either one way or the other. The object of the discussion was to get an exchange of opinions so as to enable members of the Council to acquire a wider knowledge and broader views on the question. There were occasions when it was necessary for the working man to lose time for ringing purposes, and it would be hard if he was not able to take home at least the same amount to his wife as he would have done had he remained at his daily work. Various speakers had given their experiences. There could be no doubt that local circumstances, as Mr. Papillon had said, must have a great deal to do with the system adopted.

(To be continued.)

THE HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

The annual six-bell contest in connection with the above-named society took place at Shelly on Whit-Monday, May 22nd, when the Association silver challenge cup and other prizes given by the Shelly ringers and friends were competed for. Seven companies entered, all competing. Each company had to ring a peal of 720 changes of Violet. The following is the result of the competition:—

First prize—Association challenge cup and six electro-plated teapots—Almondbury, 280 faults. Second prize—six copper kettles—New Mill, 365 faults. Third prize—six pair of carvers—Dewsbury, 370 faults. The following also rang: Armitage Bridge, Tong, Kirkheaton, and a mixed company.

Great credit is due to the winners of the second prize, as they are a very young company, and only commenced learning to ring within the last two years, this being the first contest they have been engaged in.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, HULL.

The new peal of ten bells cast by Taylor and Co., Loughborough, for the above church, will be dedicated on Tuesday afternoon next, June 20th. Ringers welcomed.

In Memoriam.

GEORGE PULLEN CROSSMAN.

It is our very painful duty to state that a well-known member of the Exercise, one who for a long time co-operated heartily in what we may term the literary produce of this journal, has just been called to his rest. GEORGE CROSSMAN soon after the establishment of this paper became anxious to assist its fortunes by his pen, and like others, now unfortunately no more, spared no gratuitous pains or energy in endeavouring to establish a position for "THE BELL NEWS." For the early numbers he wrote several clever stories which received an appropriate meed of praise from ringers, and numerous rhymes showing a great fund of humour. His last efforts in this direction were written under the heading "Musings by an Old Contributor," and it was hoped in such a capacity that at no distant period we should again have the pleasure of hearing from him. Mr. Crossman, though he had an excellent knowledge of almost every *technique* connected with the Art, was a tenor-man, and he had rung in that position several peals. He had a very wide acquaintance with ringers, among whom may be mentioned the late George Mash, Henry Haley, and others among the veterans who have preceded him; while among the living he was a man highly respected by such as George Muskett, Matthew Wood, James Pettit, Henry Dains, George Dorrington, William Cooter, and many others.

The deceased gentleman was a native of Putney. His profession was that of a marine engineer, and in this capacity he had travelled into every quarter of the world. From tropical latitudes, and frigid zones, he would frequently send some article or paragraph for insertion in these columns; and some of our readers may remember the account of a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles being rung upon handbells in a boat in the Sea of Azov, which he called.

We are quite aware that this sad intelligence will be deplored by many. The Editor of this journal mourns the loss of a brother-ringer—a brother in every sense—to whom he was deeply attached. Never ambitious to increase his list of friendships, George Crossman clung to his old friends, and he would feel acutely if a thought occurred to him that any of them refrained for any length of time from paying him a visit. One practically, of nature's noblemen—a man of true English spirit and mould; he had braved the storms and tempests of a life literally and socially, and had retired to spend the evening of his life upon land with his family. He leaves a devoted wife and five children to deplore the loss they have sustained. And not only those, but troops of friends also, who loved and honored him in life, and will never cease to regret his departure from among them, deeply sorrowing, but in strong hope of another meeting where partings shall be no more.

ST. MARTIN'S, TUDDENHAM, SUFFOLK.

On Tuesday, May 30th, the Bishop of Ipswich dedicated two new bells at the above church. Early in March the whole peal of five were conveyed to Ipswich to the foundry of Messrs. Bowell and Son, who have recast the 3rd and 4th, and entirely rehung the bells in all new framework. Members of the St. Mary-le-Tower society were engaged to re-open the newly-hung bells, one and all expressing their entire satisfaction of the excellent "go" of them, and also of the tone of the new bells. The ringers wish through this medium to thank the Rector and churchwardens for the excellent repast provided by them.

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Correspondence.

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

THE ATTEMPT AT THE LONG PEAL OF 17,000 GRANDSIRE CATERS AT WOLVERHAMPTON.

SIR,—Mr. Jaggar gives in his letter respecting the long peal at Wolverhampton a somewhat erroneous account of what my friend Mr. Musty and I are supposed to have said about the striking. As far as I know, Mr. Musty said nothing; and I certainly said nothing publicly about the striking (nor was I asked to do so). I *was* asked *privately* by a friend (one of the band) what I thought candidly about the striking, and I said that I considered it was not perfect, nor was it. It was very fair, and the attempt was a very good one. I am far from wishing to run the ringing or striking down, and only hope that the same party will succeed in their next effort, and wish them every success. I may mention that Mr. Cartwright, in an excellent little speech which he made, said he was not quite satisfied with the striking (which statement will bear out my opinion), and that he hoped next time it would be first-rate. I do not in the least mean to say, or to imply in the smallest degree, that the striking was such as to make the ringing false, but as to the striking being perfect it was not; and I do not see why either Mr. Musty or I should be reported as having said that it was. I hope none of the Wolverhampton men or Mr. Jaggar will take offence at my letter; no ill-will is meant towards them, and we hope that they will come and pay us a visit here, and bring a 17,000 or 20,000 of Grandsire Caters with them successfully accomplished.

G. H. PHILLOTT.

P.S.—Many people who know me will remember that striking is a thing I am for ever preaching, and it is a quality of change-ringing which is frequently too much neglected in modern times.

9600 SUPERLATIVE.

SIR,—I am obliged to Mr. Dench for his reply *re* the above in your issue of the 3rd instant, by which I anticipate that he (Mr. Dench) was not aware of the fact that the Central Council had issued a pamphlet in 1894 in which a full explanation is given as to special calls. On page 14 it says: "Hence the question of special calls, in the plain and Treble Bob systems and their various derivatives has never practically arisen, indeed the use of such would have been a very gratuitous violation of law and order." I think it is mainly through this that the peal of London in question was never published. Yet I agree with Mr. Dench that it should be recognised on the same grounds as Mr. Lockwood's 9120 of Treble Bob Major, although neither peal could be classed with Harrison's 8896 of Treble Bob Major, or Washbrook's 11,328 of London Surprise. If Mr. Dench will give me his address, I shall be pleased to send him a copy of the pamphlet.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

P.S.—Is the eighth's place bob in the 9600 a plain lead of Mr. Lindoff's method—Rochester Surprise?

SIR,—I see some correspondence in "THE BELL NEWS" *re* the possibility of getting more true changes in the methods of Superlative and London Surprise Major. If it were possible that such a matter as using an extra call in these methods could be considered, it would be best that it should be made to affect an even number of bells, viz., 4 instead of 3. It would then be perfectly easy to put all the true changes together in the best possible manner, which would be far in excess of any number yet put together by our various friends. But to allow such a state of things would, in my opinion, entirely spoil the effect of the beautiful extents we now possess in these methods, and would reduce the art of composition to mere multiplication, or such like.

J. W. WASHBROOK.

ANSWER TO "JUSTICE."

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent "Justice" allow me to say, as one of the band in the attempted peal of Stedman Cinques at Norwich, and as joint author of the resolution that was passed by the Central Council upon illegitimate calls, that in response to an inquiry I made, I was informed the peal would come round by means of a bob-single, and as it was an old composition by the late Henry Hubbard, I think, I considered it would pass muster. In the resolution above referred to, the Central Council never attempted, or intended, I believe, to taboo old compositions, otherwise Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples would not now be on the statute-book. But what it certainly did, and very wisely too I think, was to advise and admonish future composers not to employ any but the usual and ordinary calls properly belonging to the methods under treatment. Without doubt there are plenty of peals of Cinques as good or probably better obtained by the use of ordinary calls, and an easy coming-round course also, but that is not my business at present. All I am endeavouring to show is that the councillors in question were not ringing under special jurors.

HENRY DAINS.

THE KIDLINGTON PEAL.

SIR,—The letter by Mr. Pye is nothing short of a direct insult to the company who rang the above peal. It is the greatest concoction of falsehoods ever published upon ringing affairs; and the person that wrote it is a fine specimen of that conceited humanity which so often, unfortunately, is the cause of bitter and revengeful wrongs to one's fellow-man. I cannot treat his epistle with the contempt it deserves, owing to his damaging remarks affecting myself. The correspondence accompanying his is sufficient to show that what he writes is not the opinion of all other listeners. I sincerely hope that everyone of the ringers who were listening to the peal will give their straightforward and unbiassed opinion. Now as to his remarks affecting me personally. I will, first of all, swear by the true ringing of the peal, and by the correct making of all the calls. But I would like, just as a test of Mr. Pye's statements, to ask him to refer to his list of course-ends and bob-changes, and tell me the rows that turned up at the 80th and 81st course-ends respectively, and what bob rows occurred between them? This is the course in which he said we cut out two leads, so that he would be sure to have got the rows that occurred before and after, very conspicuously marked. It would be very interesting to know what Mr. Pye's course-ends are, so that they could be compared with the correct ones, which are in the hands of another of the listeners. I hope he will not tell us that he could not take the course-ends off, as other ringers present could do it without difficulty. As to the extent with the 6th at home, I am told by an expert ringer who happened to be present, that the 6th was brought home at 6.11 exactly, so that I was eleven minutes out in my reckoning when giving the account of the peal. Now from 6.11 to 7.42 would be 91 mins., and as I am also informed that after the 6th came home we rang just 25¼ per minute; this just allows time for twenty courses, which was correct. Mr. Pye can say what he likes, but he must admit this. In fact he has already done so, only he says about 6.15, whereas the other person gives it more exact. I am told also that the only time we were ringing 24 to the minute was between 12 and 1 o'clock, but that the first hour's ringing was 26 to the minute, and the average for the whole, carefully totalled up by a careful listener was 25¼ per minute. This brings the number of changes as near as possible correct. Mr. Pye's attack on the 7th man is only because he could not pick holes in any other individual ringer; it is a fearful lot of exaggeration, mountains made out of mole-hills in fact, and when a man makes such dreadful assertions, he should, at least, be careful that what he says is correct in every sense of the word, and that he has plenty of proof to back him up. It is quite possible for a man so disposed to wish for things, and brood over them till he really believes that they are facts, and treat them accordingly, and thereby run his head in a noose, which, to use a vulgar term, would hang forty folks. A man should also speak what he writes, and write what he speaks, if he is to be an effectual story-teller. Not as Mr. Pye did, contradict himself in this fashion outside Kidlington tower. Says he, "You fired the bells; there was no ringing about it; the last hour was good ringing; if you had brought them home at 5000 you would have rung a good 5000; if the 7th man had rung as well as the others, you would have rung a good peal."

Now, Sir, all I can gather from this is as follows: Although we fired the bells the 7th alone was responsible for it, and although we cut out two leads and rang four courses short, the 7th alone was responsible. Oh! Mr. 7th man, how very very awful! you must, indeed, be in with the evil one, to accomplish such wonderful tricks without the knowledge of your follow-

ringers, or of the great number of ringers outside the tower—*except one*. The next time you make such a wonderful exhibition let us all have the benefit of hearing it, and not, as on this occasion, confine it to one single person. I will not say a word regarding the attitude of Mr. Pye towards other ringers during the progress of the peal. That no doubt is best left alone, or rather, left to those who had the misfortune to make his acquaintance during that time. I hope that I have explained myself with regard to Mr. Pye's assertions. It will be understood by your many readers that the composition should not be made public property till after Mr. Pye has favored us with the courses he may have in hand, especially the 80th and 81st, for I consider that a man should take the whole of the course-ends, when he is judging a peal, or how is he to judge if the ringing is correct or not? J. W. WASHBROOK.

P.S.—Since writing this letter a gentleman has informed me that Mr. Pye told him he considered that the tenor was rung well throughout the peal. May I thank Mr. Pye for this? It has, in my idea, somewhat lightened his sentence upon me.

SIR,—As the peal rung in my church tower on Whit-Monday last has been called in question, I think it only fair to state plainly my own impression in the matter. I heard the whole peal from beginning to end, and certainly it was a most admirable performance throughout. During the greater part of the time, the striking was perfectly even and distinct, and though here and there a slight irregularity may have been detected, there was nothing which could have been called "firing" by a really impartial critic. I do not know what may be the motive of any who desire to discredit this peal, but it can scarcely be that of simple justice. A. C. R. FREEBORN.

Kidlington Vicarage, Oxford.

[We have several other letters to hand, all in terms of approval of the Kidlington peal, but they must stand over till next week.—ED.]

PEAL COLLECTION: STEDMAN CATERS AND CINQUES.

SIR,—As the peals of above which have reached me up to the present are very few, and as I am desirous of completing the same as soon as possible, I would esteem it a favour if those composers who have not sent their peals would do so as early as possible. That there are many who have not done so I am sure of, and as I have not the advantage of having all the back numbers of this paper by me, I am unable to find many that I know have been published. May I ask those who have not yet sent in to do so, whether published or not, to enable me to send in my report as early as possible. J. R. PRITCHARD.

6, *Ward Street, Salford, Manchester.*

Obituary.

On Tuesday, June 6th, at his residence, The Green, Long Melford, Mr. John Silver, aged 87 years. Mr. Silver was the last survivor of the band of ringers who in 1840 rung the two peals at St. Peter's, Colchester, viz.: 5040 of Bob Major, in which he rang the 4th, and 5088 of Oxford Treble Bob Major, in which he rang the 2nd. Mr. Silver also at one time resided at Cambridge, and in the year 1852 he rang the 5th with the Cambridge Youths in a peal of Grandsire Caters, 5039 changes, at Great St. Mary's, Cambridge. Deceased had resided at Long Melford for several years, and was greatly respected by all who knew him.

Mr. R. Ford, of the Three Towns branch of the Devonshire Guild, after an illness of only a few days, passed to his rest on May 27th, at the age of 66, and was buried on the 31st. The deceased, who was at Charles belfry on the 17th May, was one of nature's gentlemen, a man noted far and wide for his integrity of character. Formerly he was a sergeant in the metropolitan police, but some years ago retired on his pension. He was first introduced to change-ringing by Mr. W. Banister, when they were in the dockyard together, and took part in 1867 in the first peal of 5000 ever rung in the West of England, conducted by Mr. Banister. Mr. Ford had for eleven years filled the office of treasurer to the local co-operative society, and on his retirement twelve months since, was presented with a gold watch and albert, costing £30. As far as can be gathered, he had rung three peals of Grandsire Triples. His loss will be greatly felt by the local company. Messrs. Taylor, Marsh, Pine, Stead, Stephens, and Smith bore his remains into St. Barnabas church, where he had been an earnest worshipper. Mr. Banister was also present. The sad event was made doubly so by the fact that Mrs. Ford also passed away on the eve of the day on which her husband was buried, and Mr. Ford's brother, who attended the funeral, died within a week. At Charles belfry a knell was tolled while the funeral was taking place at Devonport cemetery, and in the evening touches of Grandsire Caters, with the bells half-muffled, were rung to his memory. Of him it may be said, that never a truer, more honest, upright, lovable, God-fearing man ever took hold of a bell-rope. His loss is acutely felt by his comrades, by whom he was greatly revered.

FARNHAM ROYAL, BUCKS.

On Whit-Monday, the annual friendly meeting took place. The number of visitors was not so great as was expected, owing no doubt to the unsettled state of the weather. At Burnham ringing commenced at 11 o'clock, and was kept up until 3.0., and at Farnham ringing continued until 8 o'clock. Ringers attended from Boyne Hill, Burnham, Farnham, Hanwell, Hughenden, Heston, Stanwell, Slough, Uxbridge, and Winkfield. In the course of the day, touches were rung in the following methods: Stedman, Oxford Bob, and Grandsire Triples; Kent and Oxford Treble Bob; and Bob Major. At 5.30 the company sat down to tea, provided under the management of Mr. J. J. Parker. The Rev. H. C. Bell, Hon. Secretary of the East Berks and South Bucks branch of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, being present, kindly took the chair, in the absence of the Rev. H. C. Wilder, Rector of Farnham Royal.

THE ST. THOMAS'S GUILD, DUDLEY.

A quarterly meeting of this Guild was held on Saturday, May 27th, at Halesowen. The Worcestershire Association Service was said in the church at 5 o'clock, the Rev. J. T. Cartwright, curate (an hon. member of the Guild), saying the prayers. The Vicar (Rev. J. C. Hill) read the lesson, and delivered an impressive address, which was listened to attentively, and much appreciated by those present.

After service the business meeting, at which the Rector presided, was held in the Church House, when eight new members were enrolled, and arrangements made for the ringing of three peals; it was also left with the Master to arrange for any other peals during the quarter that may be desired. It was resolved to hold the next quarterly meeting at Coseley on the last Saturday in August.

After the meeting, at the invitation of the Revs. J. T. Cartwright and L. G. Gosling, the visitors enjoyed a substantial tea in the schoolroom, where the Rector heartily welcomed the members, the rev. gentleman wishing the Guild every prosperity and expressing his pleasure at and approval of the formation of so useful a society.

Votes of thanks were given to the Rector for the service and address, the use of the bells, church-house and schoolroom for meeting and tea; also to the Revs. J. T. Cartwright and L. G. Gosling for their hospitality; which were suitably responded to.

Touches of Treble Bob and Plain Bob Major and Stedman Triples were afterwards rung on the tower bells.

Situations Vacant.

WANTED as Caretaker of a Church in county Wicklow, Ireland, a married man and his wife to live in a Gate Lodge and take charge of the gate. He must be a skilful Bellringer, and competent to undertake the training and management of a set of Bellringers, for a new Church with a peal of eight bells, and he and his wife will be required to keep the Church clean and tidy, wind the clock, attend to the lighting, and perform all the duties of Sexton. Salary 30s. per week, and a good house. Apply to the Earl of Carysfort, 10, Hereford Gardens, Park Lane, London, W.

WANTED a good Boot and Shoe Maker and Repairer. Change-ringer on eight bells preferred. Apply—Shifnal Boot Company, Shifnal, Salop.

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The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1899.

RE-OPENING OF THE BELLS AT GREAT KIMBER, BUCKS.

The valley of Great Kimber on the Chiltern hills, though it has not been much in the public eye of recent years, is historic ground. The place derives its name from Cymbeline, the Bristol chief who was killed in battle there against the Roman invaders, and whose reputed burial-place is Cymbeline's mound, or Kimber Castle as it is sometimes called; a barrow about half-a-mile from the church. In later years it was the scene of many skirmishes between the soldiers of the Parliament and of the King during the civil war, and the celebrated petition against the ship-money tax was actually drawn up in Great Kimber church. A descendant of the patriot, John Hampden, is Rector of Kimber at the present day.

On Thursday, June 1st, the village was *en fete* on the occasion of the re-opening of the church bells after they had undergone an extensive restoration.

About a year ago the existence of an Art of change-ringing came to the knowledge of the Kimber ringers, and their introduction to the rudiments of the Art (on handbells) was soon followed by an agitation for something to be done to the church bells. Eventually Messrs. Webb and Bennett, of Kidlington, were called in, and the result is that the peal of five is augmented to six by the addition of a new tenor weighing 10 cwt. 3 qrs 3 lbs.; the old tenor, now the 5th, recast, the 3rd and 4th, two old bells, cast by Knight in 1587, quarter-turned, and the peal rehung in an iron frame with entirely new fittings. It is hardly necessary to say that the work has been done in first-rate manner, and leaves nothing to be desired.

The opening service, conducted by the Rev. J. L. Challis, Rural Dean, took place at 2 o'clock, ringers being present from several towers, including Boyne Hill, Marlow, Hughenden, Lane End, chiefly from a distance, as change-ringing does not yet flourish in this part of the county. After prayers had been said in the tower by the Rural Dean the bells were rung round by the parish ringers. After the service an attempt was made for a peal, which unfortunately soon came to grief. During the afternoon and evening several touches of Plain Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, and Treble Bob were rung, and as a bazaar was being held in the Rectory garden in aid of the fund for re-hanging the bells, the ringers found plenty of amusement in the intervals of ringing, and all spent a very pleasant day.

The first touch on the bells was 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, rung as follows: M. Smithers, 1; Rev. H. C. Bell, 2; J. J. Parker (conductor), 3; G. Martin, 4; J. Evans, 5: J. C. Truss, 6.

Next autumn the local band intend to secure the services of one of the instructors of the Oxford Guild, and it is to be hoped that before long the ringing at Kimber may encourage other towers in the neighbourhood to take up change-ringing and join the Diocesan Guild.

The Metropolis.

THE ALL SAINTS SOCIETY, FULHAM.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 21 cwt.

JAMES W. DRIVER ..	..*Treble.*	REUBEN CHARGE	6.
ERNEST A. ARTHURTON ..	2.	*WILLIAM PICKWORTH ..	7.
FREDERICK G. PERRIN ..	3.	GEORGE CHARGE	8.
EDWARD H. ADAMS	4.	†CORNELIUS CHARGE	9.
WILLIAM T. ELSON	5.	SAMUEL HOW	..*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by CORNELIUS CHARGE.

*First peal in the method. †First peal in the method as conductor, and first attempt.

The Provinces.

CHARLWOOD, SURREY.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, May 27, 1899, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Violet, London Scholars' Pleasure, Woodbine, Kent, College Pleasure, Oxford, and College Exercise.

Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE WICKENS	..*Treble.*	FREDERICK R. TULLETT..	4.
JOHN AKEHURST..	2.	FREDERICK WICKENS ..	5.
ALFRED D. MILLS	3.	ALBERT ELLIS	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by ALBERT ELLIS.

Reference to this peal will appear next week.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 3, 1899, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

JAMES TANN	..*Treble.*	CHARLES BAKER	5.
HERBERT MATTHEWS ..	2.	HENRY ADCOCK	6.
JAMES BOUGHTON	3.	CHARLES TANN	7.
ROBERT WHITING	4.	FREDERICK BORRETT	..*Tenor.*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by JAMES TANN.

FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 7, 1899, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

Tenor 19 cwt.

WILLIAM OSTLER	..*Treble.*	ALBERT E. READ	5.
HORACE BEDINGFIELD ..	2.	CHARLES REVELL	6.
JOHN C. SELF	3.	SAMUEL GARNHAM	7.
JOHN J. O'NEILL	4.	DAVID G. WIGHTMAN	..*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by DAVID G. WIGHTMAN.

WOLVERHAMPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday June 7, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE, BLAKENHALL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 10 cwt.

HUGH J. BALCOMBE ..	..*Treble.*	HERBERT KNIGHT	5.
ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT ..	2.	JOHN JAGGAR	6.
SAMUEL REEVES	3.	*JAMES E. GROVES	7.
WILLIAM R. SMALL	4.	HENRY DAWKES.. ..	..*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Rung to celebrate the birthday of Mr. E. Lisle, the donor of the bells. *First peal of Stedman as conductor.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, June 7, 1899, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 17 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs.

ROBERT J. DAWE	..*Treble.*	*GEORGE H. HOWSE	5.
THOMAS PRICE	2.	ALFRED J TURNER	6.
GEORGE WILLIAMS	3.	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH ..	7.
GEORGE H. HEAD	4.	JOHN F. STEADMAN ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

*First peal of Stedman Triples. Rung as a birthday compliment to J. F. Steadman.

SPROUGHTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, June 8, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Cambridge Surprise, Grandsire, Double Bob, Double Court Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, and Plain Bob Minor. Tenor 10 cwt.

DAVID SOUTHGATE* ..	..*Treble.*	*HENRY J. MEE	4.
EDGAR RIVERS*..	2.	FREDERICK MEE	5.
ALFRED G. RIVERS*.. ..	3.	CHARLES MEE	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by CHARLES MEE.

*First peal on six bells. This is the first peal on the bells.

NOTTINGHAM.—THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thnrsday, June 8, 1899, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES.

Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

HARRY ROBERT COBBIN	..*Treble.*	JOHN W. THOMPSON.. ..	5.
ALBERT E. THOMPSON ..	2.	GEORGE H. JOHNSON ..	6.
JOSEPH WOOLLEY	3.	JOHN HICKMAN	7.
JOHN H. GRUNDY	4.	CHARLES R. LILLEY..	..*Tenor.*

Composed by SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, BART, and Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

First peal in the method by the treble, 3rd and 7th ringers. The visitors wish to thank Mr. Hickman for making arrangements. The last peal of Bob Major rang in Nottingham was on October 14th, 1820, so it is seventy-nine years ago.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, June 9, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-four Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 8 cwt. 3 qrs.

GEORGE H. HOWSE ..	..*Treble.*	GEORGE H. HEAD	5
FREDERICK W. HARDING..	2.	THOMAS PRICE	6.
ARTHUR MILES	3.	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.. ..	7.
ARTHUR GOWER..	4.	JAMES OSBORNE	..*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

ECCLES, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION

(MANCHESTER AND BOLTON BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 13 cwt. 3 qrs.

JOHN DENNER	..*Treble.*	ALFRED POTTER	5.
JOSEPH POTTER	2.	TITUS BARLOW	6.
JOHN JACKSON*	3.	RICHARD RIDYARD	7.
JOHN POTTER	4.	AMOS TRIPPIER	..*Tenor*

Conducted by RICHARD RIDYARD.

*First peal of Stedman Triples.

SMETHWICK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-two Minutes,

AT THE OLD PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

JAMES E. GROVES	*Treble.*	JOHN JAGGAR	5.
ERNEST BROWN†	2.	HARRY MILLS	6.
SAMUEL REEVES	3.	THOMAS J. ELTON	7.
THOMAS HORTON	4.	*JOSEPH HUGHES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

A peal of Stedman was arranged, but meeting one short a peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted with two of the local men. †First peal with a bob bell. *First peal in any method, and rang at the first attempt. This is the quickest peal rung on the bells.

KIDLINGTON, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE.

G. BONFIELD*	*Treble.*	FRANK L. EDWARDS, ESQ.	5.
FRED. WEBB	2.	NEWMAN ALDERMAN	6.
WILLIAM BENNETT	3.	HARRY G. JUDGE	7.
JAMES FRANKLIN	4.	TOM JONES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by H. G. JUDGE.

*First peal.

LISCARD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—WIRRAL BRANCH.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 17 cwt. 3 qrs.

W. WILLIAMS	*Treble.*	††J. HAMMOND	5.
J. MEALOR	2.	‡‡J. HUGHES	6.
W. BRISCOE	3.	*W. WILCOX	7.
G. R. NEWTON*	4.	T. A. EVANS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by J. HUGHES.

First on the bells by the above Guild. *First peal of Triples. †First peal. ‡First of Grandsire Triples as conductor. It may be interesting to state that a young lady walked about four miles in order to listen to this peal.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lbs.

ARTHUR SMEATHERS	*Treble.*	THOMAS R. HENSHER	5.
WALTER PERKINS	2.	*HENRY STUBBS	6.
JAMES GARRATT	3.	JAMES HOUGHTON, SEN.	7.
WILLIAM NEWMAN	4.	JAMES HOUGHTON, JUN.	*Tenor.*

Composed and Conducted by JAMES HOUGHTON, JUN.

*First peal in the method away from the treble.

DEBENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 20 cwt.

JAMES MOTTS	*Treble.*	WILLIAM J. GROOM	5.
WILLIAM GRIMES	2.	ALFRED W. GRIMES	6.
WILLIAM CRICKMER	3.	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY	7.
JAMES G. RUMSEY	4.	HENRY FOLKARD	*Tenor.*

Composed by W. SOTTANSTALL, and Conducted by JAMES MOTTS.

A note to this peal will appear next week.

CAPEL, SURREY.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Superlative and Cambridge Surprise, College Pleasure, College Exercise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent.

Tenor 7¼ cwt.

MARK JENKINS	*Treble.*	CHARLIE TAYLOR	4.
ROBERT JORDAN	2.	ALFRED D. MILLS	5.
FREDERICK W. RICE	3.	EDWIN JORDAN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by EDWIN JORDAN.

MORTIMER, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(READING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 11¾ cwt.

HENRY WHITE	*Treble.*	*RICHARD K. MASON	5.
ALBERT E. REEVES	2.	WILLIAM NEWELL	6.
ARTHUR W. HIGGS	3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON	7.
ARTHUR W. PIKE	4.	*JAMES J. MASON	*Tenor.*

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

†First peal of Stedman. Further reference to this peal will appear next week.

WORTLEY, SHEFFIELD, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF COLLEGE SINGLE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES.

Tenor 12½ cwt.

THOMAS ROBBINS*	*Treble.*	*JOHN PARKIN	5.
THOS. MCKEGG*	2.	*GEORGE W. DRONFIELD	6.
EDWARD ROBBINS*	3.	GEORGE JACKSON	7.
JOHN DRONFIELD*	4.	DAVID BREARLEY	*Tenor.*

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by DAVID BREARLEY.

This is the first peal of College Single on the bells. *First peal of College Single.

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Thirty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 17 cwt.

L. L. LOMAS*	*Treble.*	W. HICKLING	6.
C. R. LILLEY	2.	B. SUGDEN	7.
J. GRUNDY	3.	*J. NEWBOLD	8.
G. DAWSON	4.	J. FLOWER	9.
J. W. THOMPSON	5.	A. E. THOMPSON	*Tenor.*

Composed by SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, BART., and Conducted by A. E. THOMPSON.

*First peal of Royal.

RINGMER, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 10, 1899, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qrs.

LIONEL SEARS	*Treble.*	EDWARD C. MERRITT	5.
FRANK BENNETT	2.	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH	6.
ROBERT J. DAWE	3.	GEORGE A. KING	7.
KEITH HART	4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS	*Tenor.*

Composed by JAMES W. WASHBROOK, and Conducted by KEITH HART.

This is the first peal of London Surprise on the bells.

PEAL CORRECTION.—The peal rung at Tickhill, Yorks., and reported in our last issue, was under the auspices of the Yorkshire Association.

Miscellaneous.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BRADFIELD (Berks).—On Sunday evening, May 27th, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor, in 23 mins. T. D. Rowe, 1; G. Abery, 2; J. Abery, 3; V. Rowe, 4; A. Savage, 5; F. J. Herridge, 6. First 720 by A. Savage.

READING.—On Tuesday, May 29th, at St. Lawrence's, for practice, 341 Superlative Surprise. V. Rowe, 1; J. Tucker, 2; Alfred E. Reeves, 3; Johnson Hern, 4; A. Tucker, 5; C. Giles, 6; Ambrose Osborne, 7; F. Hopgood, 8,

FULMER (Bucks.)—On Saturday, June 10th, a 720 Oxford Bob. E. Elderfield, 1; J. J. Parker, 2; J. Elderfield, 3; G. Basden, 4; G. Allder, 5; C. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also touches of Kent, Canterbury, College Single, Plain Bob, Court, and Grandsire, in which W. Clarke, J. J. Pratt, and G. Gutteridge took part.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ICKLETON (Cambs.)—On Tuesday. June 6th, at the parish church of St. Mary, a quarter-peal of Doubles (1320 changes), made up of 240 each of Old Doubles and April Day, and seven 6-scores of Grandsire, called differently. F. Bowtell, 1; E. Webb, 2; P. Webb (conductor), 3; A. Lilley, 4; J. Webb, 5; F. Crick, 6. Time 50 mins. Also recently on handbells, a quarter-peal of Doubles (1260 changes). F. Carver, 1, the others as above. Also on Saturday, June 3rd, a second quarter-peal (1320 changes). H. Flitton, 1; the others as above. Methods—Old and Grandsire Doubles and April Day. The first attempt at Minor was made a few nights ago by the local band, and the ordinary plain-course was successfully knocked off.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ALDRINGTON (Sussex).—On Tuesday evening, the St. Leonard's parish church ringers, assisted by the St. Peter's church ringers, rang their first 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor, for practice, as follows. M. Broomfield, 1; F. Steele, 2; R. S. Cherryman, 3; E. Marriott, 4; F. Tindall, 5; K. Hart (conductor), 6. The ringers of 3, 4, 6, are from the St. Peter's branch, whom the Aldrington ringers wish to thank for their kind help and assistance. Also on the above date a 720 of Plain Bob Minor by the Aldrington band. J. Broomfield, 1; A. Cherryman, 2; F. Tindall, 3; F. Steele, 4; E. Godby, 5; *G. Steele (conductor), 6. *First 720 as conductor.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

FYLDE DISTRICT BRANCH.—On Friday evening, June 9th, at the parish church, for practice, 720 of Bob Minor, eighteen bobs and two singles, by five of the local band, with one from St. John's, Lytham. G. Staff, 1; *J. Fowkes, 2; *J. Fenton, 3; J. Fell, 4; *J. Hargreaves, 5; *R. Rawcliffe, 6. * First in any method. Mr. G. Staff acting as conductor. Any ringer visiting Blackpool or South Shore during the season wishful for a pull will receive a hearty welcome, either on a Sunday, 10.0 or 6.0 o'clock, or Friday night from 7.30 to 9.0.

RYE (Sussex).—On Wednesday, May 24th, at the parish church of St. Mary, to celebrate the 80th birthday of Her Majesty, ten 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. H. Thorpe, 1; W. Billenness, 2; E. Reed, 3; C. Price, 4; J. H. Durrant (conductor), 5; G. Billenness, 6; H. Lucus, 7; E. Curd, 8. 108 Grandsire Minor. E. Reed, 1; H. Thorpe, 2; W. Billenness, 3; C. Price, 4; G. H. Henley, 5; J. H. Durrant, 6; E. Curd, 7; A. Taylor, 8. 120 Grandsire Doubles. E. Prime, 1; G. H. Henley, 2; E. Reed, 3; C. Price, 4; J. H. Durrant, 5; G. Billenness, 6; H. Lucus, 7; E. Curd, 8. The bells were fired eighty times to represent the age of Her Majesty.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

LEDBURY (Hereford).—On Whit-Sunday, at the parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Doubles, with 7-6-8 covering. J. Pitt, 1; F. Selwyn, 2; F. Summers (conductor), 3; J. Davis, 4; A. Matthews, 5; G. Haughty 6; E. Gurney, 7; H. Ellsmore, 8. This is the longest length ever rung by a local band within memory of the oldest ringer in Ledbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

WORCESTER.—On March 31st, at the church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. B. S. Hill, 1; A. Hadley, 2; G. Hinton, 3; H. Wilkes, 4; C. Jones (conductor), 5; T. Watkins, 6; G. Checketts, 7; T. Malin, 8. April 1st, 210 Grandsire Triples. J. Clements, 1; A. Hadley, 2; B. Hill, 3; C. Jones, 4; W. Lebbon. 5; H. Wilkes (conductor), 6; G. Checketts, 7; T. Malin, 8. 360 Grandsire Triples. J. Hardman, 1; A. Hill, 2; B. Hill, 3; C. Jones, 4; W. Lebbon, 5; H. Wilkes, 6; G. Checketts (conductor), 7; J. Clements, 8. April 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters. N. Wale, 1; A. Hill, 2; W. Lebbon, 3; B. Hill, 4; W. Bright, 5; A. Hadley, 6; H. Wilkes (conductor), 7; C. Jones, 8; G. Checketts, 9; T. Malin, 10. Rang to celebrate Mr. N. Wale's 60th birthday, he being the oldest change-ringer in Worcester. April 2nd, at the Cathedral for Divine Service, 528 Grandsire Cinques. B. Hill, 1; G. Hinton, 2; A. Hill, 3; L. Longney (conductor), 4; W. Powell, 5; A. Hadley, 6; W. Bright, 7; C. Jones, 8; W. Page, 9; G. Checketts, 10; W. Johnson, 11; T. Malin, 12. April 24th, for practice, 395 Grandsire Caters W. Powell, 1; B. Hill, 2; A. Hill, 3; A. Hadley, 4; W. Bright, 5; G. Hinton, 6; G. Checketts (conductor), 7; C. Jones, 8; W. Lebbon, 9; J. G. Wayte, 10. Sun-May 21st, for Service, 528 Grandsire Cinques. B. Hill, 1; A. Hill, 2; T. Bullock, 3; W. Page, 4; W. Powell, 5; A. Hadley, 6; W. Bright, 7; G. Hinton, 8; H. Wilkes, 9; W. Lebbon (conductor), 10; W. Johnson, 11; T. Malin, 12.

THE SAFFRON WALDEN SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, June 13th, a quarter-peal of London Surprise Major J. Freeman, 1; F. J. Pitstow, 2; J. F Penning, 3; C. Freeman, 4; E. Pitstow, 5; A. F. James, 6; N. J. Pitstow (conductor), 7; A. F. Pitstow, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—On Saturday, May 6th, on the occasion of a monthly meeting of the Rochester and District Guild, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob in 25 mins. W. Hobbs (conductor), 1; C. Winsor, 2; A. Ring, 3; C. Fryatt, 4; W. Evans, 5; W. Haigh, 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

COLN ST. ALDWYNS (Gloucestershire).—On Wednesday, May 10th, 504 of Grandsire Triples. T. Barnett, 1; A. E. Peglar, 2; A. C. Harmer, 3; C. E. Bartlett, 4; C. Bate, 5; H. Griffin, 6; J. Kitchener (conductor), 7; A. J. Harris, 8. Also six courses of Grandsire Triples. R. Kitchener, C. Mustow, and W. Minchin taking part.

NORTHFIELD (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, May 14th, for Divine Service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. A. Cole, 1; J. Cole, 2; F. Sumner, 3; H. Withers, 4; F. Clayton (conductor). 5; J. Withers, 6. Also 360 Grandsire Minor. H. Withers (conductor), 1; F. Sumner, 2; A. Hobbis, 3; E. Turner, 4; J. Withers, 5; F. Clayton, 6.

NORWICH.—On Wednesday, May 24th, at the church of St. Peter Mancroft, it being Her Majesty's 80th birthday, three courses of Stedman Cinques were rang at 9.30 a.m. as follows: F. Howchin (conductor), 1; P. Sadler (Norwich), 2; G. Howchin (Norwich), 3; A. Craven (Lincoln), 4; C. Dean (Sutton, Surrey), 5; H. White (Basingstoke), 6; E. Francis (Norwich), 7; J. Griffin (Burton-on-Trent), 8; S. Reeves (West Bromwich), 9; G. Smith (Norwich), 10; E. P. O'Meara (London), 11; S. Slater (Glemsford), 12. At 12.30, a touch of Kent Treble Bob Maximus was rung, and the bells fired three-times-three in honour of the event. E. Ward, 1; A. Warner, 2; C. Barrett, 3; F. Knights, 4; P. Sadler, 5; C. Dean, 6; G. Howchin, 7; E. Francis, 8; F. H. Knights, 9; S. Slater, 10; G. Smith, 11; F. Howchin, 12.

SNAITH (Yorks).—On Sunday morning, May 7th, at the parish church, for Divine Service, 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, twenty-one bobs and twelve singles. *C. Holmes, 1; G. Holmes, 2; E. Pick, 3; *H. Bullock, 4; R. Holmes, 5; J. D. Bullock (conductor), 6. *The first attempt of these two members.

WALKDEN (Lancashire).—On May 7th, being the annual school sermons, 546, 612, 168 Grandsire Triples, 704 and 288 Kent Treble Bob, 640 Oxford Treble Bob, 336, 504 and 168 Stedman Triples, and 352 Bob Major were rung. The following took part: W. Denner, J. Denner, J. Worthington, S. Oakes, John Potter, Joseph Potter, Alfred Potter, J. Brookes, M. Berry, R. Ridyard, J. Jackson, C. Cash, F. Hyde, A. Wallwork, J. Wilson, J. Ridyard. The conductors were—Grandsire, A. Potter and J. Potter; Treble Bob, J. Potter, R. Ridyard and J. Ridyard.

THE General Steam Navigation Company have commenced daily sailings to Southend, Margate, and Ramsgate by the new and magnificent steamer *Eagle*. This vessel is one of the fastest and most comfortable passenger steamers afloat, and has already become a great favourite with the public. Leaving London Bridge wharf at 9.10 a.m., the boat calls at Greenwich at 9.30, and Woolwich (South) Pier at 9.50. Passengers for Margate and Ramsgate can travel to Tilbury by train leaving Fenchurch at 10.15. This Company on the 17th inst. commences running to Margate and Ramsgate (Sundays included), *viâ* Port Victoria, in conjunction with the S.E. and C. and D. Railways. There will be through bookings from Charing Cross, Waterloo Junction, London Bridge, and other intermediate stations between London and Port Victoria, and tickets will be issued down *viâ* Port Victoria and up direct to London Bridge, and *vice versa*; also down *viâ* Port Victoria and up direct by rail, S.E. or C. and D. Railways, from Margate or Ramsgate. Full particulars can be obtained at the offices of the Company, 55, Great Tower St., E.C.

REMARKS ON THE SECULAR NATURE OF THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF CHANGE-RINGING, HISTORICALLY CONSIDERED.

By R. A. Daniell.

(Continued.)

SOME CONSIDERATION OF EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THE FOREGOING (*continued*).

I now give the passage from *Grace Abounding*, referred to last week.

"Now you must know that before this, I had taken much delight in ringing, but my conscience beginning to be tender, I thought such practice was but vain, and therefore forced myself to leave it, yet my mind hankered. Wherefore I should go to the steeple house and look on though I durst not ring. But I thought this did not become religion neither, yet I forced myself and would look on still. But quickly after I began to think, how if one of the bells should fall? Then I chose to stand under a main beam that lay overthwart the steeple, from side to side, thinking there I might stand sure. But then I should think again, should the bell fall with a swing it might first hit the wall and then rebounding upon me, might kill me for all this beam. This made me stand in the steeple door; and now, thought I, I am safe enough for if a bell should then fall I can slip out behind these thick walls, and so be preserved notwithstanding.

"So after this, I would yet go to see them ring but would not go further than the steeple door, but then it came into my head, how if the steeple itself should fall? and this thought, it may fall for ought I know, when I stood and looked on did continually so shake my mind that I durst not stand at the steeple door any longer, but was forced to flee for fear the steeple should fall on my head. Another thing was my dancing. I was a full year before I could quite leave that. But all this while, when I thought I kept this or that commandment, or did, by word or deed, anything that I thought was good, I had great peace in my conscience; and should think with myself, God cannot choose but be now pleased with me, yea, to relate it in mine own way, I thought no man in England could please God better than I. But poor wretch as I was, I was all this while ignorant of Jesus Christ, and going about to establishing own righteousness; and had perished therein, had not God in mercy, showed me more of my state by nature."

Bunyan afterwards joined a Baptist congregation at Bedford, of which he was called to be the Minister in 1655. After the Restoration he got into trouble for offences against the law relating to Religious conformity, by preaching, and was imprisoned from 1660 with one brief interval till 1672. During this enforced seclusion from his usual work he wrote several books, including the biographical *Grace Abounding*, from which I have been quoting, and in a subsequent short imprisonment in 1675 he wrote the immortal *Pilgrim's Progress*, which has made Bunyan's name known throughout the world wherever the English tongue is spoken. In this allegory Bunyan speaks of bells being in the Heavenly City. He says of the two pilgrims approaching it:—

"They had the City itself in view, and they thought they heard all the bells therein to ring to welcome them thereto." And a few lines later, "Now I saw in my dream, that these two men went in at the gate, and lo! as they entered, they were transfigured; and they had raiment put on that shone like gold. There were also that met them with harps and crowns, and gave them to them; the harps to praise withal, the crowns in token of honour. Then I heard in my dream that all the bells in the City rang again for joy,* and that it was said unto them "Enter ye into the joy of your Lord."

Bunyan died of a fever consequent on a cold while on a visit to London on the 31st August, 1688, and was buried in the Bunhill Fields burying ground.

It is evident from the foregoing that Bunyan regarded ringing as a purely secular pursuit, and as such he left it. He had not as yet been enlightened about the central truths of Christianity, but got it into his mind, in some obscure manner, that God would be angry with him if he rang or even frequented the steeple, and by way of punishment might kill him there, and he did not wish to be killed. But he did not want to leave ringing. His "mind hankered," and he only left it under terror of possible death. That he did not in later days regard ringing as wrong seems clear from his placing it in the Heavenly city, and nowhere does Bunyan drop the smallest hint in support of Mr. Tyack's statement that ringing was in those days found to be a hindrance to a man, nor has he anything to say against ringers.

I have noticed Bunyan in connection with ringing at greater length than would have been strictly necessary for my purpose. I have done so because, beyond all doubt, he is the most distinguished person of whom we have certain knowledge that he ever practised the ringing exercise. We may accept or reject Bunyan's theological views, but about the man himself there can be no question. He ranks amongst the greatest of Englishmen. The nobility of his character, his strong common sense, and remarkable gifts, made this brazier a wise and brave leader of his fellow-men for more than thirty years in troublous and unsettled times, and the simple, manly vigour of his writings has made them part of the inheritance of all classes of the English speaking world. In these days when we and the American branch of our race are being drawn into bands of closer friendship, it is often pointed out how strong a bond of sympathy exists between us in the literature of our common language; and probably, after the Bible, there is no book of which this more widely true than of Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The next evidence I adduce as to the secularity of ringing is a book entitled "The School of Recreation" by a certain "R.H.," published in the year 1684. The subjects included in this treatise are Hunting, Racing, Hawking, Riding, Cockfighting, Fowling, Fishing, Shooting, Bowling, Tennis, Ringing and Billiards. The inclusion of instruction about changeringing in such company as this shows not only that it was secular, but that it was an eminently respectable pursuit. The preface to the book is so quaint that I give it entire.

"TO THE READER.

Man the abridgement of the Creation or the Compendium of all God's works, having diversed himself by sin of that original innocence and Angelical state of life wherein his Creator had placed him, and thereby subjected his collapsed nature to the malediction of God, 'In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat thy bread,' etc. It pleased however the Almighty to continue and confirm that original grand charter he had at first granted him of being *Lord of the Creatures*, hereby intimating that though man is now born to trouble, labour and cares, as the sparks fly upward, yet God has not deprived him of any comfort or felicity which the earth or creatures of it can afford, but has invested him with a superior authority and *dominion over the beast of the field, the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea.* Thus it comes to pass that every creature pays a duty and a subjection (as it were) to man, as to their Master; and notwithstanding the ferocity and savageness of their natures, become tame and submissive to the empire of man. They court his favour and mutely supplicate his friendship and confederacy for the subduing the enemies of their several species; they readily obey his precepts, and ravish't with his service willingly execute his commands. And thus by this prime privilege from God, man is allowed the liberty of subduing the creature, and recreating his mind by hunting, fowling, fishing, and the like; and by observing the natural instincts of every species, the innate enmity and cunning of every creature, may glorify the immense wisdom of his Creator.

* It may be noted that the use of ringing, which Bunyan shows in this allegory, has obviously nothing to do with the worship of God, but with welcome extended to human beings. The actual earthly ringing, from which the simile is borrowed, is not ringing for church services, but ringing as a welcome to individuals. This must have been a custom well-known to Bunyan, who had probably taken part in such ringing when the Radcliffes or Hillersdons visited their seat of Elstow Priory, or when distinguished guests came to see them. Such ringing is still well known, especially in connection with the movements of members of the Royal Family.

" And as the liberty of Recreation in lawful Exercises is thus *natural*, so is it highly necessary and useful too. Recreation keeps up the strength and alacrity of the bodily forces, without which the soul cannot work; I mean those brisk and violent exercises, which the following sheets specify.† They cause the body to transpire plentiful sweats, and exhale those black and fuliginous vapours which too much oppress some men, and remove the obstructions which hinder the circulation of nature. Brisk exercises render a man active, vigorous, strong and hardy, and attenuate and disperse that stagnation of humours, benummedness and dulness which idleness contracts; nay (as one excellently observes), divers bodily infirmities, diseases and undecencies are hereby regulated and amended. Riding was used by the great Drusus for the strengthening his weak and small thighs and legs; and by his late Majesty, especially after dinner; and is also good for the head; shooting in a long bow for the breast and arms, and helps squinting; bowling for the reins, stone, gravel, etc.

" Nor are the several other games commonly practised less commendable were they used with a modest and prudent care. I recommend them as useful as the other, were a right use made of them. I would not have them made a trade instead of a Divertisement. But especially those that are managed by skill, and not fortune, may be learned, for these acquaint a man with numbering and quicken the fancy and memory and recreate the mind.

" And as recreation is thus natural and necessary, so is it commendable too, and recommended by the practices of all ages; as well sacred as profane Histories, plainly testifying the truth of it. But I shall not trouble you any longer by detaining you at the door, and enumerating the various examples which may authorize a virtuous use of recreations, and apologise for this work; the severest stoic being never so cruel to himself or nature as not to give his mind some relaxation, and recreate it in some more pleasant paths than the miry heavy way of his own sullen and wilful resolutions. Nor do our modern stoics, though of the strictest lives, deny themselves some mental, if not bodily, recreation, although perhaps, infirmity, age, station, degree, may render their divertisements the more private, yet not totally denied. Solomon had his Ittan for recreations, as Josephus informs us, and the heathen sages their Olympiques, wherein were exercised wrestling, running with horses, leaping, coursing with chariots, contentions of poets, rhetoricians, disputations of philosophers, &c.

" And because *velle suum cuique*, every man's nature claims a special perrogative in the electing a recreation suitable to itself, one thing being very pleasing and delightful to one, and offensive and troublesome to another, I have, therefore, like the industrious bee, gathered honey from various flowers, and, according to your palate, taste and eat; I have carefully delineated and drawn to the life the divers figures of the several recreations, and leave you to admire that piece you fancy best, entreating you to put them to the best use, not to make them your trade instead of your recreation, in which sense I would have you to accept this; and now you may walk in and view the structure."

Next week I will deal further with the *School of Recreation.*

† It is plain that this writer uses the word "exercise" as a general name for all the sports he enumerates, including change-ringing. This is the earliest use of the familiar term "exercise," as applied to our art, of which I am at present aware. It is used in the London Scholars' book of 1702, as "Exercise and Recreation," Exercise and Diversion," "Exercise or Sport," and "Exercise" alone. In the preface to the *Clavis* of 1788, ringing is classed among "Athletic Exercises, or Amusements," and the book is dedicated to "The whole Exercise at large," thereby showing that by that time the term "Exercise" had come to mean, as it still does, both the art itself and those who practise it. So that if we trace back the use of one of our most familiar terms—one appearing on the title-page of this paper—we find it originally applied to change-ringing as a branch of sport.

"MARBLETTE."—The new, excellent, imperishable material for Peal-Boards.—*See advertisement.*

WOODBURY, DEVON.

In the autumn of last year a party of ringers visited various parishes for peal purposes. Woodbury was one of the towers where success attended their efforts, and to commemorate the accomplishment of a peal, and the fact that it was the first in the parish, an illuminated board (executed by Messrs. Shepherd Bros., Exeter), has been placed in the belfry of the church. The board bears the following:

"Devon Guild of Ringers.—A peal of Stedman Triples, 5040 changes, Thurstans' four-part, was rung, true and complete, on these bells by the following members of the above Guild on Monday, October 10th, 1898. Rev. G. F. Coleman, 1; Rev. W. S. Willett, 2; Rev. Maitland Kelly, 3; J. W. Taylor, 4; Rev. H. C. Courtney, 5; F. Shepherd, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; J. Moss, 8. Time, 3 hrs. 6 mins. Tenor 25 cwt. This is the first peal ever rung on the bells."

The ceremony of unveiling and handing over the board took place in the belfry on Saturday afternoon, and was well attended. Among those present were the Rev. H. Neely (Vicar), the Rev. Maitland Kelly, and a number of members of the Guild.

The Vicar conducted a short and appropriate service At a suitable interval the Rev. Maitland Kelly asked the Vicar's acceptance of the board, and said that a peal really meant the accomplishment of the number of changes that could be rung on seven bells, viz.: 5040; and it involved a great deal of previous industry and perseverance, physical endurance–for 5040 changes required three hours, or close upon it, of continuous ringing—and skill. The names on the board were those of veterans in change-ringing, and the younger ringers present must remember that there was a time when not one of the peal ringers could ring or "set" a bell. A peal meant, too, a great deal of ability on the part of the conductor. In this connexion he was exceedingly pleased to know that by the peal-board the name of the conductor would be perpetuated, because there was no one in England or the world who had done more to promote change-ringing than Mr. Robinson, who was honoured by all campanologists, and who had proved himself a right good conductor. Mr. Kelly proceeded to urge that a peal was not only an accomplishment and gratification, but should be regarded as an offering to God, and to point out that change-ringing was pushed forward, because until it had been mastered ringers were not producing the best music they could on the bells. In conclusion, he alluded to the fact that the present treble and second bells of the peal were added in memory of the Rev. J. L. Fullford, who for so many years was Vicar of Woodbury, and who always took a keen interest in everything connected with the church and in the Devonshire Guild of Ringers. The Guild was primarily promoted in part in the parish, because though the first President was the late Colonel Troyte, of Huntsham Court, the first Hon. Secretary was the Rev. Langdon Fullford, of Woodbury. He hoped the record of the achievement of the peal would be an incentive to the local band to study change-ringing and eventually to ring one themselves.

The Rev. R. H Neely, in accepting the peal-board on behalf of the churchwardens and parishioners, said it was to him a very interesting occasion, being the eve of his induction into the parish twelve months ago. And one of his first official acts was to lay down a code of rules for the ringers, whose conduct in the belfry had been all that could be desired, and whose progress in the art of ringing had been noted with gratification by parishioners as well as himself. The ceremony was then closed.

ST. PETER-AT-ARCHES SOCIETY, LINCOLN.

This society has now ceased to exist, owing to a difference with the church authorities arising from the fact that the church is situated in the heart of the city. The ringers, who were a voluntary band, have always shown every consideration for the neighbours of the church, and maintain they have been very badly and unfairly treated by the Rector and churchwardens.

(Signed) C. W. P. CLIFTON, *Master.*

PORTSEA (Hants).—On May 25th, at the parish church, 576 Treble Bob Major. J. Harris, 1; J. Harper, 2; J. Symons, 3; C. Reynolds, 4; C. Reynolds, 5; E. Newman, 6; Rev. G. J. Bayley, of Londo 1 7; F. S. Bayley, 8.

Notices.

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

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.—The annual meeting of this Society will be held to-day, Saturday, June 17th, at Lichfield. Ringing on Cathedral bells from 2 to 4. Committee meeting and payment of subscriptions in belfry at 4 p.m. Service in Cathedral at 5 p.m. in the Lady Chapel, preacher, the Ven. Archdeacon of Stafford, President. Tea at Coffee House at 5.30.

S. REEVES, *Hon Sec.*
10, *Bull Street, West Bromwich.*

The Middlesex County Association, South and West District.—The next meeting of the above will be held, by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. G. N. Pilkington, at St Mary's, Bedfont, to-day, Saturday, June 17th. Ringing to commence at 6 p m.

C. EDWARDS, *Hon. District Sec.*

The Lancashire Association, Manchester Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at Christ Church, Pendlebury, to-day, Saturday, June 17th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 7 p.m.

W. BROWN, *Branch Secretary.*

The Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Cheddleton to-day, Saturday, June 17th.

REV. G. T. BIRCH, W. TWIGG, } *Hon. Secs.*

The Hereford Diocesan Guild.—The festival will be held at Leominster on Wednesday, June 21st, 1899, by kind permission of the Vicar and Churchwardens. Service at 11 a.m. in the Priory church, preacher, Rev. A. Pope, M.A., Vicar of Upton Bishop, with offertory on behalf of the Guild funds. Annual meeting at the free library at twelve o'clock. Dinner (2s.) at The Oak hotel at 1 p.m. Brakes, free of charge, to Bodenham, Eye, and Kingsland towers. Hampton Court Gardens will be open to members by kind permission of J. H. Arkwright, Esq. Parties of eight ringers can travel by rail at 1½ fare, by previous notice to local Stationmaster or Hon. Sec. Those attending and wanting dinner are kindly requested to send notice not later than the 17th instant to—

A. C. LEE, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.*
Lugwardine Vicarage, Hereford.

Notice.—The 88th anniversary of Lavenham bells will be celebrated on Wednesday, June 21st. Visitors will be made welcome.

A. SYMONDS.

Old East Derbyshire Association.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Norton on Saturday, June 24th. The ring of eight will be available from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Business meeting at The New inn at 5 o'clock. All ringers cordially invited. E. JAMES, *Hon. Sec.*

The Hertfordshire Association. — A district meeting will be held at Rickmansworth, on Saturday, June 24th, when the tower of the parish church will be open for ringing from 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30., business meeting to follow. Members and visitors intending to be present are requested to notify the same on or before Wednesday, June 21st, to

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

The Middlesex County Association—North and East District.—A meeting of the members of this district will be held on Saturday, the 24th June, at St. Stephen's church, Hampstead, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. Kirkman. Members and friends of the Association are cordially invited to attend. Bells raised at 5 o'clock.

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

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The monthly ringing meeting of the above society will be held at Tong on Saturday, June 24th. Meeting house, The Greyhound inn. Handbells provided. Members and friends cordially invited.

H. GAYTHORPE, *Hon. Sec.*

Lancashire Association — Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas's, Moorside, on Saturday, June 24th. Bells ready at 4 p.m., and meeting at 6 p.m. All ringers invited, members or not.

E. B. SHAW, *Branch Sec.*

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. — Cirencester Branch. — The next meeting of the members of this branch will be at Northleach on Saturday, June 24th. Short service at the parish church, followed by tea. Bells open for ringing at 2.30 p.m. One shilling each towards expenses allowed to all members present on giving three days' notice to me.

REV. CHARLES GOTT, *Branch Sec.*
Latton Vicarage, Cricklade.

The Saffron Walden Society, Established 1623.—The anniversary will be held on Monday, June 26th. F. J. PITSTOW, *Hon. Sec.*

The Worcestershire and Districts Association.—The next quarterly and committee meeting of the above Association will be held at Persbore on Saturday, July 1st, 1899, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. H. Bridgwater, Vicar. Service in the Abbey at five o'clock. Business meeting to follow in St. Agatha's mission room. Tea will be provided (free) for all members sending in their names to me on or before Tuesday, June 27th. The tower and bells are placed at the members' disposal for ringing. JOHN SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

The Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—The annual meeting will be held at Taunton on Saturday, July 1st. Full particulars on June 24th. It is hoped that members will use every endeavour to attend, and inform the Hon. Secretary so that proper arrangements may be made. Notices of any special subject to be discussed must be sent to the Hon. Secretary at once.

HY. W. TOMKINS, *Hon. Sec. & Treasurer.*
The Cottage, Old Cleeve, Washford.

The Llandaff Dioceean Association.—The Midsummer quarterly meeting will be held at Caldicot, Monmouthshire, on Saturday, July 1st. Meeting in schoolroom at 4 p.m. By the kind invitation of the Vicar a tea will be provided in the school at 5 p.m., free to members sending the number likely to attend from their respective towers to me not later than Monday, June 26th. Bells available all day. H. G. WHITE, *Asst. Sec.*
18, *Cymmer Street, Cardiff.*

BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE.

On Saturday, June 24th, at St. Peter's church, a meeting is to be held to present J. Pollard (who has been a ringer for over 63 years), with a long-service medal (given by the *Sunday Companion*). He is supposed to be the oldest ringer in Lancashire. Tea will be provided, reasonably, for all names received by the 22nd. Tea at five; meeting at seven. Bells ready at three or sooner.

H. TOMLINSON.
3, *Alnwick Court, West Gate, Burnley.*

Compositions.

TWO PEALS OF BOB MAJOR.

BY ARTHUR T. KING, *Barnet.*

5056.

23456	W	B	M	H
23645	–	2		–
56234	–		–	–
42635			–	–
63425	–			–
46325				–
34625				–
62345	–			–
36245				–
24365	–			–
32465				–
43265				–
43526	–	2		–
65432	–		–	–
24536			–	–
53246	–			–
25346				–
32546				–
54326	–			–
35426				–
42356	–			–
34256				–
32456				S

Repeated.

5088.

23456	W	B	M	H
23564		–		–
45236	–		–	–
24365		–	–	–
53246	–		–	–
34562		–		
25346	–		–	–
25463		–		–

Five times repeated, with a single instead of a bob mid-way and end.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H.Y.—Such a process would now be laughed at. "Interdicts" have "gone off."

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SITUATION required by Potter's Mould Maker Good steady hand. Six years' reference from last situation. Good change-ringer on 6, 8 or 10 bells, Standard Methods. Member of the Lancashire and Stoke Archidiaconal Associations. Apply, T. G. Miller, Ellison Street, Wolstanton, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED.—Situation in Flour Mill as Flour Packer or any kind of mill work. Change-ringer on six, eight, or ten bells.—M. R. WATSON, St. Helena Terrace, Boroughbridge.

HIGHLY respectable married man, age 31, wants Situation as Handy Man, used to taking up and re-laying Carpets, fixing Blinds, etc.; also understands Waiting and Valeting. Can ring Standard Methods.—Address, 175, Romany Road, West Norwood.

CAN anyone assist me to obtain a situation for a Lad, aged 15. Strong and willing to be useful, has commenced to ring. Chorister. Gardens preferred.—G. H. HEAD, 16, Susan's Road, Eastbourne.

A SITUATION as Head Gardener, where one or two others are kept, or second in a large establishment. Can manage Vines, Cucumbers, Peaches, Melons, Tomatoes, and the general work of a well-kept garden. Highest references. Abstainer, and very enthusiastic ringer and conductor.—Apply, Editor.

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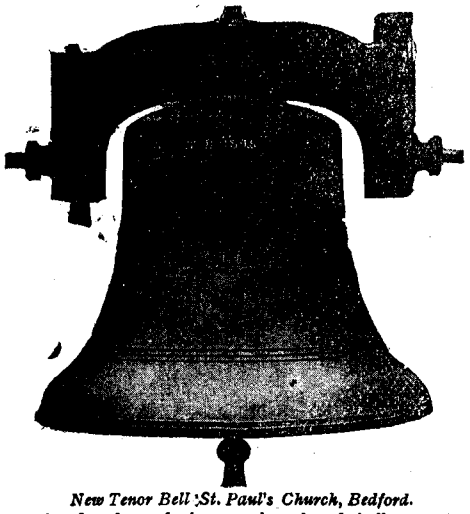
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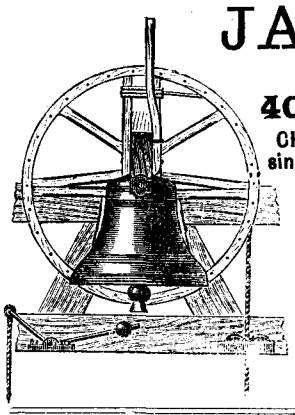
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