THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 915.—*VOL.* XVIII.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1899. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

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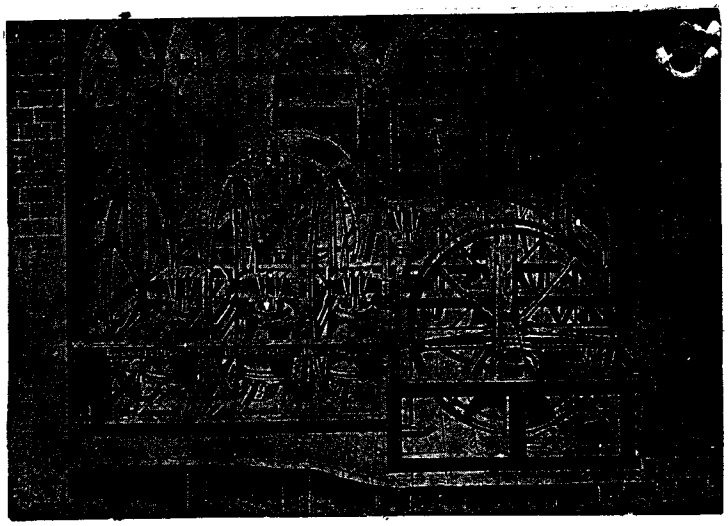
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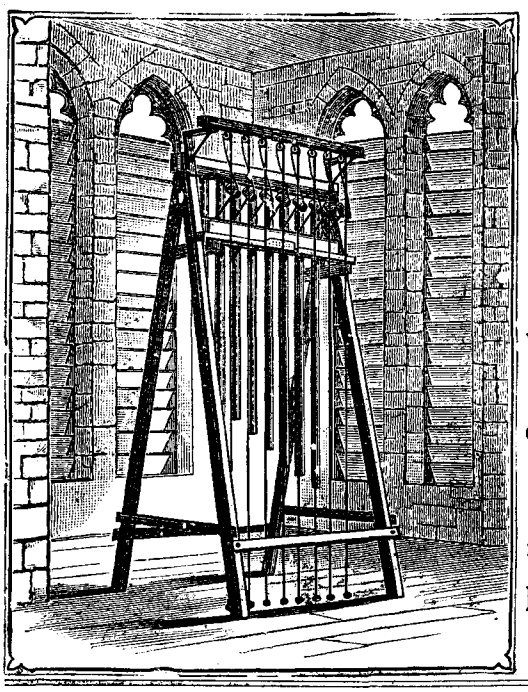
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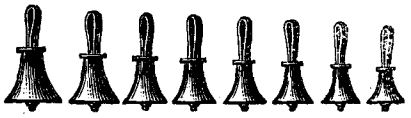
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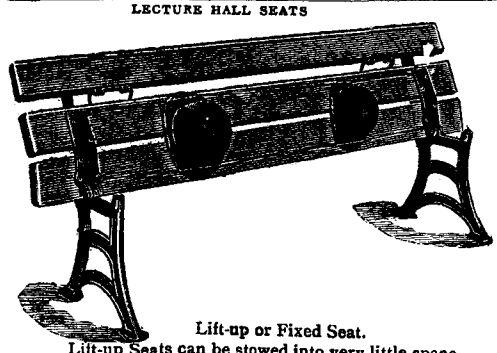
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 915.] SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1899. [Vol. XVIII.

RESTORATION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH BELLS, BRIDGWATER.

Sunday, the 8th instant, was an important day in the history of St. Mary's Church, Bridgwater. It marked in a way that will not quickly be forgotten, the final scene in connection with the renovation of that splendid peal of bells which has swung for so long a period in the belfry 'neath the loftiest tower in Somersetshire. The circumstances under which the restoration was brought about are still so fresh in mind that it need only be briefly repeated that it was due to the persistent energy of Mr. Geoffrey Leigh—whose efforts were worthily accorded public appreciation a short time since—that the condition of the bells and the dangerous state of their supports were brought to the notice of the townspeople, and a fund opened for bringing about the renovation of the peal and the replacing with steel girders of the decaying wooden beams, upon which the bells formerly hung. Two of the bells—the treble and the 5th—have been re-cast, and the remaining ones cleaned and fitted with new clappers, and judging from the sweetness with which the bells resounded on Sunday, it may well be claimed that Bridgwater now possesses a peal second to none in the county. A sum of about £500 was required to carry out the desired improvement in a satisfactory manner, and by means of subscriptions and a bazaar this amount was reached within a matter of £40, but as on Sunday the offertory was in aid of the fund this deficit was reduced to the extent of £18. The work just accomplished may be said to have put the finishing touch, as it were, to the beautiful and ancient mother church of Bridgwater, and after the lengthened period over which the bells have been silent, it was only fitting that importance should enter into the event associated with the completion of such an undertaking. This was the case, the ceremony of re-dedication of the bells by the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, the attendance of his Worship the Mayor and Corporation, with every degree of civic pomp and splendour, and the presence of a large gathering of townsmen and the local corps of Volunteers investing the occasion with great interest, and it was one that should long remain memorable in the borough.

The service of re-dedication was fixed for eleven o'clock, and a quarter of an hour previously the Mayor (Mr. Councillor Thos. Good), the members and officials of the Corporation, and an unusually large gathering of townsmen, who had been invited to accompany his Worship, assembled at the town-hall, and in procession—in every way one of "State"—proceeded to the church. The Mayor and five ex-Mayors—Aldermen F. C. Foster, H. W. Pollard, and T. Manchip, Councillor J. H. Waddon, and Mr. A. G. Barham—were resplendent in their ermine robes of office, and amongst others who were in the forefront of the procession were the Lord Bishop, the officiating clergymen, and Mr. E. J. Stanley, M.P. The two companies of Volunteers, under the command of Major Edward Trevor, and headed by their band, had, ere this, paraded and marched to the church, and after the entry of the Mayoral procession the sacred edifice was crowded with a large congregation.

The first part of the service was the usual form of morning prayer. The Vicar (the Rev. H. W. H. Bircham) intoned the prayers, and the lessons were read by the Rev. T. B. Waddell.

The re-dedication portion of the service followed.

The Bishop then preached a sermon from the words: "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

After the sermon, the hymn, "Hark, on high the joyful music" having been rendered, and the Benediction pronounced, the service was concluded, the Mayoral procession and the Volunteers first leaving, during which the organ, at which Mr. J, Burch presided, pealed forth the National Anthem.

At the Town Hall the Lord Bishop replying to a vote of thanks, said he was much obliged to them for passing it, but after all he had only tried to do his duty, and he did not know that any Englishman meant to be thanked for that. It had, however, been a very great pleasure to him to come amongst them, and to see that the energy of his friend, Mr. Bircham, had been crowned with the success that that day must reward him when he heard those bells rung, about which he had taken so very much interest. The Mayor had alluded to very many happy interesting topics, and if it were not Sunday he (the Bishop) should feel very much inclined to try and follow him in some of the happy and interesting allusions he had made. He had been interested in the Mayor's reminiscences. As they came along the Mayor told him of the times when he had heard those bells ringing, of their being rung after the victory of the Alma, but he (the Bishop) hoped that if ever those bells had in any way to commemorate anything that had happened to English arms, it would be to record a victorious achievement, though they might well rather wish that those bells might summon people to pray that peace might be preserved, and that awful scourge of war might yet be averted. He congratulated them on having the bells. He thought they were well hung; as far as he could tell they were being well rung, and he hoped they would always be well rung. Whether those who lived in the immediate vicinity might have too much of them was a matter upon which he could not speak, but it was always a pleasure to him to come and hear the bells of St. Mary's, Bridgwater, and he was very much honoured by having been asked to come on those occasions. He thanked them for the vote which they had passed to him for simply doing his duty in coming down when he was asked.

The company then separated.

When the bells were taken down they were all sent to the foundry of Messrs. John Taylor and Co., Loughborough, the same firm of bell-founders to whom the re-casting of the tenor bell was entrusted thirty years ago. Here they were carefully examined, and as the treble bell was found to be a bad one, and the 5th was cracked, these two were re-cast. All the bells were

cleaned with sand-blast, and fitted with new clappers and new hollow cast headstocks of a special pattern peculiar to the firm, pivoted on mild steel gudgeons. The stays are of an improved pattern, in which what is known as the "Hastings tongue," replaces the old-fashioned wooden slider. A chiming apparatus is to be added.

RE-OPENING OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF WOODDITTON, CAMBS.

It is doubtful whether there was a parish church in the diocese of Ely which was in a worse condition than that of Woodditton, near Newmarket. For many years the fabric was most dilapidated, and in a really dangerous state. Recently through the munificence of the patron, Mr. Harry McCalmont, M.P., the church has been entirely renovated, and on September 30th last was re-opened by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese. It is now a very pretty church, and is carefully and tastefully furnished throughout. A new organ has been built, also a new vestry. At the west end of the church a pair of very handsome antique gates, ornamented with beautiful brass medallions of saints, have been erected. These gates were purchased by Mr. McCalmont in Italy, and bear the date 1805. The cost of restoration will be about £5000. As has already been stated, Mr. McCalmont is bearing the whole of the expense. The tower, which was also in a very unsafe condition, contained a peal of five bells (two were cast in 1588), which have not been rung for several years. These were taken down and sent to the Loughborough Foundry, where they have been tuned, the treble recast, and the whole peal fitted with cast-iron headstocks, new clappers and wheels, etc. It is almost needless to add that a vast improvement has been effected. The bells were re-opened by the Newmarket All Saints Society, who rang altogether nine 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles before and after the service. The ringers were unanimous in praising the splending "go" of the bells and the way in which Messrs. Taylor had done their work. The tenor weighs about 12½ cwt., and is considered a very fine-toned bell for its weight. It was strongly suggested that another bell be added, and we trust it may soon be obtained, as nearly all the churches in this district possesses only five bells. This of course is much against young ringers who wish to follow up the Art, and it is hoped that the article which appeared in *The Times* recently, may be the means of setting the machinery in motion that will eventually fill up the spaces in our towers, and though we may not be fortunate enough to get peals of eight, we trust the number will not drop below six. F. C. T.

THE NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

The Autumnal Quarterly Meeting of this society was held at East Markham, on Saturday, October 14th. East Markham possesses a fine old church and tower, with a commodious ringing-chamber and a sweet-toned, well-hung ring of six bells; it is easy of access both by road and rail, and in addition to these attractions, the members had an invitation to tea, free of charge, so that it was no wonder that they turned up in force to the number of forty. The following towers sent representatives:—Anston, Everton, Harthill, Ordsall, East and West Retford and Shireoaks, besides the local men and some unattached brethren. Ringing commenced at 2.30 p.m., but up to tea-time the performances were singularly unsuccessful, especially considering the favourable circumstances, and no completed touch had been recorded in the Secretary's book at 5 o'clock. At that hour an adjournment was made to The Old England inn, where a good old English tea was provided by the genial hospitality of Mr. Cowlishaw, who, although he does not ring himself, takes a deep interest in the bells of his parish and all that pertains to them. Whatever failure there had been in the ringing there was nothing to find fault with in the service and consumption of the good things provided, the frequent "calls" of "a little more ham, please," and "just another cup of tea," were responded to without the leash hitch or "clashing," and both host and guests were well satisfied with the way in which the meal was brought round. After grace had been said, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Cowlishaw for his kindness, to which he made a brief but cordial reply. The quarterly business meeting was then proceeded with, the Rev. A. E. Briggs, Vicar of the parish, in the chair. It was decided to hold the winter meeting at Worksop, on January 13th, 1900. Mr. Cowlishaw was elected an honorary member with acclamation; Messrs. D. Taylor and H. H. Hall, both of Shireoaks, were elected performing members, and a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and for attending the meeting, concluded this part of the day's programme. A 720 of Violet was then rung for Evensong which was attended by a good number of ringers, and this being ended, ringing was resumed and carried on to the late close of a very pleasant day.

THE CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The October Meeting of this Association was held at Guisbrough and Skelton on Saturday, 7th inst., when upwards of forty members were in attendance, the following places being represented: Darlington, Middlesbrough, Guisbro', Stokesley, Stockton-on-Tees, Thirsk, Thornaby and Whitby. Some good ringing was accomplished during the afternoon, and a marked improvement was shown by several members who hitherto have had but a limited opportunity of making progress in the art. The following peals and touches were rung on the Guisbrough bells, tenor 9 cwt. 720 Bob Minor; two 720's Kent Treble Bob; 360 Grandsire Minor; 120 each of Stedman, Grandsire and Bob Doubles and 720 Oxford Treble Bob, whilst at Skelton-in-Cleveland, tenor 23 cwt., the ringing comprised two 360s of Plain Bob, and 720 each of Kent Treble Bob and York Surprise Minor.

At 5.15 p.m. an adjournment was made for tea, and a substantial spread was disposed of, followed by a short business meeting, at which eighteen new members were elected, including the Skelton ringers, the Rector of Skelton and A. J. Walker, Esq., donor of the Felixkirk bells. After which a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. F. H. Morgan (Guisbrough), and the Rev. R. J. Ellis (Skelton), for the use of the bells. Thos. Wrightson, Esq., M.P., donor of the Thornaby bells, has expressed his intention to join the Association. The February meeting will be held at Whitby, and the Annual Meeting on Whit Monday of next year at Middlesbrough, Thornaby and Stockton.

Situations Vacant.

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THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(EASTERN DIVISION.)

A most successful meeting of the above Association was held at Mayfield on Saturday, September 30th, and in spite of the distance of this village (said to be one of the prettiest in Sussex) from most of the change-ringing centres, the stormy weather, and poor train service, a goodly member attended from Brighton, Eastbourne, Hastings, Lewes, and Hailsham.

The majority of the members arrived by the train due about 4.30 p.m., and within a quarter-of-an-hour later started to raise the bells with great eagerness, as the notice in "BELL NEWS" stated, "bells just re-hung," and enjoyable 720s in various methods were anticipated. Disappointment was however in store for us; 1, 2, 3, and 5 went up quite readily, but 4 and 6 were very obstinate and remained so all the evening in spite of a liberal supply of oil, the result being that no longer touches than 224s of Minor were brought round, and Stedman and Grandsire Doubles predominated. Tea was provided at the village hostelry by Host Foord, the Rev. J. H. R. Kirby presiding, and the members of the local company joining the party. The usual business meeting followed at the instigation of the Vicar, the whole of the members of the Mayfield Society were made members of the Association. John Easton of Christ Church, Eastbourne, was also elected.

The formal business being ended the Secretary proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar for the hearty welcome he had accorded the Association upon this their first visit to Mayfield, and during the course of his remarks stated that he was very pleased to find the local band had made such a good start in change-ringing. He had no idea that change-ringing had been attempted by them, and was surprised when inviting a member of the Battle Society to attend, about a week before the date fixed for the meeting, to hear him remark, "Oh, that's where Jack Curtis gave them their first lesson in Grandsire Doubles sometime ago." He was very glad to find that they had not forgotten that first lesson, and now that the bells were rehung would persevere until they mastered something beyond Grandsire Doubles, and he was sure that if they did so they would never be satisfied with ringing call-changes. He was sorry to find that the "go" of the 4th and tenor was not quite what it should be, and he hoped they would induce the bellhangers to improve this.

The Vicar in responding said it gave him very great pleasure to welcome the Association to his church, and he hoped they would come again at some future time. With reference to the bells, he was sorry they were not quite satisfactory, as he had taken a great deal of trouble to have them so. They were in a very bad state when he first came to the parish, two of them being quite unringable, and on the occasion of a recent wedding four bells were rung and the other two "clocked." They had spent about £220 in restoring the bells, and he hoped in course of time, to be able to add two more.

The bells are a heavy ring of six, the weight of the tenor being given as approximately 20 cwt. They have just been rehung in a new iron frame with new wheels and fittings, and space has been left for the addition of two trebles when funds are forthcoming.

Ringing was indulged in until 9 p.m. and included several 6-scores of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and touches of Plain Bob and Kent Treble Bob Minor, and everyone appeared to have enjoyed the outing.

BELL RESTORATION IN SUFFOLK.

The scheme for the restoration of the five bells in Badwell Ash having been announced in *The Bury and Norwich Post*, the following letter appeared in the issue of that paper of the 29th August:—

"Sir,—A tradition exists in the parish of Wyverstone, that the tower there formerly contained a larger bell than any of the present three, which bell was sent to Badwell Ash, in exchange for stones to repair a road. It would be interesting to know if any records of this transaction exists in either parish. From Dr. Raven's *Bells of Suffolk*, we learn that in the return of 1553, Wyverstone tower contained three large bells and Badwell four. Of these Wyverstone bells, the third, dating back to the middle of the 15th century, would be one. The second, dated 1719, is probably a re-cast of another, and the tenor bell at Badwell the other. The probable story of the Wyverstone bells is that towards the end of the 17th century a fourth bell was added and a new frame erected partly out of the old one. This frame contains a pit once occupied by a larger bell than any of the present three, this larger bell being, according to tradition, the now cracked tenor at Badwell, which, like Wyverstone third, was cast at Norwich in the 15th century. Dr. Raven gives this bell as 41½ inches in diameter, and its note F sharp. This would make it about 13 cwt. When Martin made his tour of inspection sometime last century, he found only three bells at Wyverstone, and five at Badwell, so that the removal of the larger bell must have taken place in the early years of last century, and not long after the re-casting of the Wyverstone second, probably during the rectorship of the Rev. Benjamin Brundish, 1717—43, who has left evidence of his sense of the duties of his office by wholesale omissions from the Wyverstone Register.

"As an ardent campanologist, I am always pleased to hear of any improvement in the numerous peals in which my old county of Suffolk is so rich, and would suggest that the example of Badwell Ash might well be followed at Walsham-le-Willows, where the fifth and tenor have be allowed to remain cracked for so many years.

Yours truly,

"*Stockton-on-Tees.* G. J. CLARKSON."

It is gratifying to observe in the same paper of September 26th, the following notice:—

"Mr. John Martineau has added another to his many generous and thoughtful actions towards the parish of Walsham-le-Willows, a parish which he has clearly shown is enshrined in his affections, apart from the fact of his residing there. The condition of the church bells has for some time past been a source of anxiety, several of the bells being damaged, whilst the beams supporting them exhibit marked signs of decay, and a parish meeting was accordingly held last week to consider the matter, when it was made known that Mr. Martineau had very kindly offered to bear the cost of restoration—which will doubtless be considerable—himself. Needless to say the offer was gratefully accepted, and as church bells in villages are proudly regarded as a common heritage, the thanks of the whole parish will once again go out to its generous resident landowner."

Badwell Ash and Walsham-le-Willows are adjoining parishes in the diocese of Ely.

WITNEY (Oxon).—Recently, at the residence of the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, on handbells, 336 Grandsire Triples. J. Brooks, 1; G. Bull, 2; H. Brooks, 3; M. Woodcock, 4; J. Monk, 5-6; Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, 7-8.

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."

PRINCIPLE OR METHOD.

SIR,—During the past few weeks several very interesting letters have appeared in this paper from various talented gentlemen, touching more or less upon the subjects under the above heading. I was at the Norwich Council Meeting, and heard the Rev. H. L. James comment upon the regulations introduced by the rev. hon. secretary upon method building, and I thought the former in his remarks left out the word "principle," but I see Mr. Trollope thinks differently. Be that as it may, it makes but little difference to the line of argument I am taking up.

I consider "principle" to be one thing and "method" another. Quite distinct are they from each other, as in my point of view there are several different principles, upon each of which there are built several various methods of good, bad, and indifferent qualities. The dominating factor which determines a principle I consider is the path of the treble, and I will endeavour to describe and explain these by the following illustrations:—

Principle 1 is that wherein the treble has a straight path from lead to behind and back again to lead, with an attendant bell, viz.: in the hunt. This is a plain hunt principle, and upon which we have built the Grandsire method and several others.

Principle 2 also has a straight path both up and down, but without a bell in the hunt, and is known as the plain hunt principle, upon which we have such methods as Plain Bob, Court Bob, Double Norwich Court Bob, and others.

Principle 3 has a zig-zag path for the treble. It is known by the term dodging hunt, in contrast from the plain, and also as Treble Bob hunt. Upon this principle we have several and various methods constructed, such as Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Superlative, New Cumberland, Cambridge, Norfolk, and London Surprise, with many others.

Principle 4 is one wherein the path of the treble is the same as the other bells, without any distinction, in fact. Upon this principle we have such methods as Stedman, Duffield, Shipway's, Forward, etc.

Principle 5 is a combination of the plain and dodging hunts, the dodging of the treble being in front—1-2, and behind in 7-8, with a straight path between these positions. Upon this principle methods have been published; and I expect a friend will soon publish several other new and interesting methods, both upon the lengthening lead and others.

I think if we can only look at this question in this light we shall see Stedman as a method as well as a principle, and also see when speaking of a method what principle it belongs to.

In a very excellent letter the Rev. E. B. James correctly, I thought, said that adjoining places should not occur in a Court method. Certainly not; as Court Bob is the superb method of the plain hunt principle. I think and hope he will agree with me in saying that Surprise Court will have a tendency to confuse matters. Drews Court Surprise one would say is all right, but how will Superlative Court Surprise sound, and how are we to distinguish this from Superlative Surprise? let me suggest Drews Surprise for that method published in your issue of the 9th ult. My allusion is, I confess, rather brief, but I think it will be understood that if we allow Drews Court Surprise to stand anyone has a right to claim the title Superlative Court Surprise, then who can distinguish the one from the other? I consider the term and title of Court to belong to the Plain Bob principle as previously stated.

Concerning the Plain Bob lead-ends several letters have passed between my friend G. Baker and myself upon this question. I am inclined to those above-mentioned until some one invents a new method with equal music to what has already obtained, with a new set of lead-ends, then I give way, but not until then.

HENRY DAINS.

"BOB MAJOR LEAD-ENDS."

SIR,—I must take exception to the second paragraph of Mr. Baker's letter wherein he hints that I, by my argument, have placed London Surprise above Superlative from a musical point of view. To condemn a method for one great fault is one thing; to place it above another on account of a slight superiority in one particular, while ignoring the beauties of the Superlative double dodging is another; and he, not I, has drawn an erroneous conclusion. As to the rest, I have said my say, and must leave the Exercise to decide whether they will be guided by Mr. Baker's contention, or the old established rules for musical effect.

But I now have another mongrel method to contend with. Canterbury Pleasure has been put forward by Mr. Trollope. While granting all that he says in favour of the method I shall endeavour to show that it is all in favour of my side of the argument. Canterbury Pleasure does keep the tenors well together, but I will ask the Exercise to consider how it does it.

For this purpose let us compare the plain course of Canterbury with the course of Bob Major that comes from the course-end 24356. I give the first lead of each, which will be sufficient for my purpose.

CANTERBURY.	BOB MAJOR.
12345678	12435678
21346587	21346587
23164857	23164857
32618475	32618475
36281745	36281745
63827154	63827154
68372514	68372514
86735241	86735241
87653421	87653421
78564312	78564312
75846132	75846132
57481623	57481623
54718263	54718263
45172836	45172836
41527386	41527386
14523768	14253768
14257386	14527386
41253768	41253768
etc.	etc.

Now a glance will show that the plain course of Canterbury is got from Bob Major, by the ingenious process of tacking in-course lead-ends, which are mongrels, on to an out-of-course course of Bob Major.

This process might be carried out in any good method, in which 2nds place is made at the treble's lead; for instance, make 5ths and 6ths in Double Oxford, and we have another method with mongrel leads and the tenors well together. I hardly think that Mr. Trollope will advocate the retention of mongrel leads that they may be spliced into good methods already existing, and which work far better from their own Bob Major lead-ends.

There is one other point in Mr. Trollope's article that I must touch on, his note on symmetry. He says: "The first essential is that each row shall be produced from that preceding it by the maximum number of changes." If this be meant as a counsel of perfection for those who are striving after very high-class music, I agree with him; but if as an arbitrary rule, I do not. For it is not necessary for scientific accuracy, and it cuts away many methods that are valuable (Cambridge Surprise for instance), and prevents us from getting many more points that would be most useful. Take for instance a place made the wrong way: as in the start for London:—

12345678

21354768
12537486

We have here the quadruple change made between the hand and the backstroke, and the lead comes to take off the effect of the place-making. Or again take the question of double methods. We have put few Double methods on eight bells, and of these Double Norwich is the only one that receives any attention, it would be difficult to obtain another good one if we kept to Mr. Trollope's rule, yet the two that I give below are interesting, musical, and amusing, besides being scientifically accurate; and there are many more to be had well worthy of

attention. But what when we come to Royal? If this rule is carried out it is *impossible* to get a double method on the Treble Bob principle. I give four changes with the treble dodging in 5-6, and it is obviously impossible to let her dodge there in a double method, unless four places are made. Let us keep to what is scientifically accurate. If we fall short of it we get rubbish. If we go beyond it to lay down arbitrary rules, we land ourselves in hopeless restrictions grievous to be borne. I was very pleased to see Mr. Bulwer's letter last week, and to find that he supports my view. I only omitted New Cumberland from my table of methods because I have not got, and have never seen a copy of it. I should be much obliged to any one who would forward me one. My apologies to you, Sir, for the amount of your valuable space I am monopolising.

Churchdown, Gloucestershire. E. BANKES JAMES.

1.	2.
12345678	12345678
21435768	21436587
24137586	24135678
42315768	42315768
24351786	24351786
42537168	23457168
24357618	32547618
23456781	23456781
32547681	24365871
35246718	42638517
53426178	24368157
35241687	23461875
53214678	32416857
35126487	23146587
31524678	21345678
13254768	12436587
13527486	14263857

Fourth's place bobs for each.

A DOUBLE ROYAL METHOD,

With treble in 5-6.

4263158709
2436517890
2346157980
3264519708

[We have received from the Rev. H. Law James part of a letter on this subject, the first page missing.—ED.]

SIR,—I do not know Mr. Trollope personally, neither have I ever corresponded with him, but I tender him my hearty thanks for his most excellent exposition on Methods contained in your last issue, his arguments cannot *with truth* be refuted.

GEORGE BAKER.

THE LATE JAMES HEWETT.

SIR,—By the request of Mrs. Hewett I beg to thank the many correspondents to her and myself for their kind sympathies in her recent bereavement. Little was it thought, that within six months of Mr. Hewett's extent of Grandsire Caters being written in full, the extent of his life on earth would have arrived. May his endeavours in fostering change-ringing reap him a heavenly reward. A. E. TOMLINS.

[We shall be glad to comply with Mr. Tomlins' request conveyed in another letter.—ED.]

RINGERS, YET NOT RINGERS.

SIR,—It would afford me great pleasure if you would allow me through your valuable paper, to express a few remarks in regard to the ringers of Speen tower, which is situated just outside Newbury. It has struck me for some considerable time why the ringers of this tower do not interest themselves in the grand Art of rope-sight or method ringing. If it was a tower where there was only a peal of five bells. there would then perhaps be some excuse, as it is a well-known fact that very little rope-sight ringing can be done on less than six bells. Seeing that Speen tower has a peal of six bells, all of which are in good going order, there can be no excuse on this point, and I can say that the tower in every respect is suitable for change-ringing. As this is the case I must pronounce the ringers as an indolent lot of men, who take no interest in ringing, and are content with going on in the same old jig-jog trot. They have a system—quite one of their own—of ringing changes at full pull from a card which is placed on the floor. I have heard them ring Stedman Doubles, Bob Doubles, and Grandsire Doubles on this system, and I must say they rung these changes well, good striking being a conspicuous feature. But, Sir, I contend that this is not the thing. Now it is true that ringing changes from a card like this is easy to learn, and a system which can be easily taught to a new hand, but when this has been achieved they can get no further. If the Speen ringers would only dispense with these cards and take up rope-sight ringing, they could always be learning. After they had learnt the various methods of Doubles, they could then turn their attention to Minor ringing, in which there are a good number of methods sufficient to make up a peal of 5040 changes. Then they could term themselves ringers, but at the present standard they can do nothing, and they surely must feel very small when they go into another tower and cannot take part in the ringing because they cannot ring any method. I must say that it would take them some time to pick it up at first, but once they got into the way in which the bells worked and the quickness in sighting the ropes, they could soon make rapid strides. As they are at the present time they do neither one thing or another, but keep on in the same old ding-dong style. I suggest to them that they should join the Oxford Guild and have a qualified instructor, showing that they take an interest in ringing. If any of your readers, Sir, can give me a reason or suggest a reason to this subject, which remains a riddle to me, I shall feel greatly obliged. A MEMBER OF THE OXFORD GUILD.

CANTERBURY, KENT.

SIR,—Ashford is not the only district of the Kent County Association where stoney ringing takes place, as the following will show: Having detached themselves from the Canterbury Cathedral company and their President, the two worthy brother conductors of a well-known Canterbury six-bell tower, have with the valuable assistance of an old call-change ringer, formed a band of about twenty to practise the most pleasing Art (?) of stoney ringing, with the first two changes of a popular change-ringing method thrown in by way of variety. Their practices take place weekly (there is no need to give the day, you are sure to know when they are at it), at an eight-bell tower a short distance from the city, and no Cathedral or other change-ringers are allowed to take part, unless, I suppose, they should fail to throw their bell over when "stand" is called. Change-Ringers! is this the spirit of Association?

ROBERT CALLER, SEN.

THE LATE JAMES HEWETT.

On Friday evening, the 29th ult., at the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields, London, some members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths rang, with the bells half-muffled, the usual whole pull and stand, as a mark of respect to the memory of the above-named old member of this society. Mr. Hewett had not enjoyed robust health for several years, let alone the fact that he was eighty-one years of age. He suffered greatly for rather more than a week before he succumbed, which event happened peacefully on Wednesday, the 6th ult., particulars of which appeared in a previous number.

It may be said that the sad event has quite prostrated his companion in life, who survives him, at the advanced age of ninety-one. Mrs. Hewett is, we are sorry to hear, confined to her bed, and in an helpless condition. We hear that a movement is on foot for the benefit of the old lady, which it is hoped may be successful. We shall refer to the career of Mr. Hewett later.

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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 Wednesday 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, OCTOBER 21, 1899.

AT the present time there appears to be a great upheaval in the bell world. The restorations and so forth are certainly now in full swing, the bell founders seeming to be very well occupied. The sister country, as it is called, by which of course is meant "Ireland," is doing well indeed, and if all we hear be true, the tide there is still flowing. Those directly concerned look forward to the erection of a ring of twelve in the proposed Belfast Cathedral as a certainty. We hope so; and not only this, but that other churches in the island may be furnished with bells.

The late REV. H. T. ELLACOMBE used to assert, and in his day the assertion was true, that change-ringing was unknown West of Bristol. Of course he would see the difference now. Belfry reform in its truest sense has progressed in the West; and we congratutate the inhabitants

of the historic town of Bridgwater on the grand restoration they have just carried out upon their bells.

There has been, in a small place in Cambridgeshire named "Woodditton," a splendid and liberal restoration of the parish church. The edifice has only five bells, and these have been restored also. But what a pity it is that those principally concerned in this noble work did not see their way clear to augment the number of these bells. We hope it is not too late for such a desirable increase to be effected.

NOTICE OF PEAL.

On Saturday, October 28th, eight members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association will attempt a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Hereford Cathedral, starting at 5.15 p.m.

The Metropolis.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK	*Treble.*	†GEORGE H. BARKER	5.
WILLIAM J. DELL†	2.	JOHN E. MILLER	6.
JOHN ARMSTRONG*	3.	ARTHUR MILLER	7.
FREDERICK C. FORDHAM*	4.	SIDNEY WADE	*Tenor.*

Composed by CHARLES H. MARTIN, and Conducted by SIDNEY WADE

*First peal. †First peal of Major.

The Provinces.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

On Thursday, October 5, 1899, in Three Hours and Thirty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES. Tenor 26 cwt.

WILLIAM C. WAKLEY	*Treble.*	EDWARD I. STONE	5.
WILLIAM J. SMITH	2.	GEORGE ROBINSON	6.
JOHN BENSTEAD	3.	LEONARD BULLOCK	7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN	4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY	*Tenor.*

Arranged by SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, Bart., and Conducted by WILLIAM WAKLEY.

EMBERTON, BUCKS.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 7, 1899, in Two Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Oxford, Double Court, Oxford and Plain Bob.

Tenor about 9 cwt.

JOSEPH CHURCH	*Treble.*	JAMES A. SMITH	4.
CHARLES D. SMITH	2.	CHARLES CHASTY	5.
CHARLES WM. CLARKE	3.	WILLIAM J. BARKER	*Tenor*

Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

This is the first 5040 on the bells, which have lately been overhauled and a new treble added. The ringers take this opportunity of thanking the Rector for the use of the bells, and for entertaining them to tea after the peal.

PENDLETON.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(MANCHESTER BRANCH.)

On Monday, October 9, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES. Tenor 14 cwt.

FRANCIS SMITH	*Treble.*	SAMUEL GREENHALGH	5.
GEORGE E. TURNER	2.	W. HENRY SHUKER	6.
JOHN SMITH	3.	ALFRED CROSS	7.
JOSEPH WINTERBOTTOM	4.	HENRY CHAPMAN	*Tenor.*

Composed by C. MIDDLETON, and Conducted by HARRY CHAPMAN.

First peal in the method by all, first by the above Association, and the first in the county.

QUORNDON, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, October 11, 1899, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES.

Tenor 14 cwt. 2 qrs. in F sharp.

JOHN C. HILL	*Treble.*	ALFRED MILLIS	5.
WILLIAM H. INGLESANT	2.	JOHN H. GRUNDY	6.
ROBERT H. COBBIN*	3.	SAMUEL WESLEY	7.
ROBERT CHRISTIAN	4.	CHARLES R. LILLEY	*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

*First peal in the method.

QUEDGLEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER.

On Thursday, October 12, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

GEORGE CONDICK, JUN.	*Treble.*	JESSE GILLETT	5.
WILLIAM T. PEGLER	2.	THOMAS NEWMAN	6.
RICHARD A. JUDD	3.	HARRY FORD	7.
CHARLES COX	4.	ARTHUR DADGE	*Tenor.*

Composed by the REV. E. BANKES JAMES, and Conducted by WILLIAM T. PEGLER.

The above is the first bachelors peal by the St. Michael's Juniors, and is believed to be the first by the Association.

CHELTENHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.
THE CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Thursday, October 12, 1899, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5129 CHANGES.

Tenor 22 cwt. 2 qrs. 16 lbs.

F. WADE	*Treble.*	F. WARD	6.
G. PHILLOTT	2.	F. MUSTY	7.
E. MENDAY†	3.	W. DYER	8.
W. T. PATES	4.	T. PENDRY	9.
W. BRINKWORTH	5.	*J. BALLINGER	*Tenor*

Conducted by W. DYER.

This peal was rung to oblige Mr. Menday, of Caversham, who has been at work in the neighbourhood of Cheltenham. The composition will be found in Hubbard's change-ringing.

WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, —— CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 13¾ cwt.

WILLIAM DENNER	*Treble.*	SAMUEL OAKES	5.
ALFRED POTTER	2.	RICHARD RIDYARD	6.
JOSEPH POTTER	3.	JOHN POTTER	7.
JOSEPH BROOKES	4.	TITUS BARLOW	*Tenor.*

Composed by W. ROYLE and Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

First peal in the method by Messrs. Denner, Brookes, and Oakes.

COLWALL, HEREFORDSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES THE GREAT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

HUBBARD'S FIVE-PART.

JAMES THOMAS	..*Treble.*	FREDERICK SMITH	5.
CHARLES THOMAS	2.	THOMAS WILLIAMS	6.
HARRY W. ALLEN	3.	JAMES FEILD	7.
WALTER S. EVANS	4.	CHARLES LAYTON ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by CHARLES LAYTON.

First peal in the method by all the band, and is supposed to be the first peal of Bob Major rung in the county of Hereford.

HAWLEY, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 16¼ cwt.

FREDERICK MUSTOW*	..*Treble.*	MAURICE STEER	5.
GEORGE HAWKINS	2.	BARZILLAI HAWKINS ..	6.
CHARLES SMART†	3.	SYDNEY RIDDLE	7.
ALFRED PULLING*	4.	WILLIAM BOYLES ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by B. HAWKINS.

*First peal. †First peal of Grandsire. C. Smart was elected a member of the Guild previous to starting.

BURNHAM, BUCKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 16 cwt.

ALFRED DAY	..*Treble.*	*GEORGE BASDEN	5.
GEORGE GUTTRIDGE	2.	REUBEN FLAXMAN	6.
JOSEPH J. PARKER	3.	GEORGE ALLDER	7.
JOHN BASDEN	4.	†RICHARD LANE	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOHN BASDEN.

*First peal in the method. †First peal.

ECKINGTON, DERBYSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 16¼ cwt.

ARTHUR CRAVEN	..*Treble.*	CHARLES SEVERN	5.
ARTHUR KNIGHTS	2.	SOLOMON ROBINSON, JUN.	6.
WILLIAM LAMBERT	3.	WILLIAM H. TURTON ..	7.
THOMAS BETTISON	4.	HERBERT P. HARMAN	..*Tenor*

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR CRAVEN.

This peal which was rung as a birthday compliment to W. Lambert, has the 6th her extent wrong, and the 4th, 5th, and 6th their extent in 6ths place, the 6th at six course-ends in the minimum number of courses, and is the first peal rung containing these properties

HARROW-ON-THE-HILL, MIDDLESEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qrs.

FRANCIS HEDGES* ..	..*Treble.*	GEORGE R. FARDON	5.
WILLIAM E. MOSS	2.	WILLIAM FOX	6.
ALBERT V. SELBY	3.	WILLIAM E. GARRARD ..	7.
SIDNEY H. GODFREY ..	4.	*VALENTINE SEAR ..	..*Tenor*

Conducted by W. E. GARRARD.

*First peal, and hail from Bletchley, Bucks, for whom this peal was arranged. The ringers wish to thank the Rev. F. W. Joyce for having given permission to ring, also for the interest he took in the ringing, and his kind words at the conclusion of the peal.

LLANDAFF, SOUTH WALES.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 23 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE WATKINS	..*Treble.*	ALLEN ROWLEY	5.
RICHARD C. BALCOMBE ..	2.	JOHN CLUTTERBUCK	6.
WILLIAM B. BISS	3.	WILLIAM COOMBES	7.
JOHN HARRIS	4.	JOHN H. ALDRIDGE ..	..*Tenor.*

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD, and Conducted by WM. COOMBES.

First peal of Major on the bells. First by all the band, and the first by the Association. Rung as a birthday compliment to J. H. Aldridge, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns. The band wish to thank the Very Rev. the Dean for granting them the use of the bells.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL	..*Treble.*	JOHN C. TRUSS	5.
GEORGE MARTIN	2.	THOMAS TAFFENDER	6.
HARRY BARTON*	3.	*GEORGE E. SYMONDS* ..	7.
FREDERICK RICHARDSON*	4.	JOHN EVANS	..*Tenor.*

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN, and Conducted by G. E. SYMONDS.

*First peal in the method.

NEWBURY, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR PART. Tenor 22 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES ..	..*Treble.*	WILLIAM NEWELL	5.
ALFRED LAWRENCE	2.	WALTER E. YATES	6.
FREDERICK WHITE	3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	7.
RICHARD WHITE	4.	REUBEN SAWYER ..	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

Rung on the occasion of the quarterly meeting of the Guild.

PRESTBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE CHELTENHAM AND DISTRICT GUILD.

On Saturday, October 14, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' COMPOSITION. Tenor 15 cwt.

A. W. HUMPHRIS	..*Treble.*	W. T. PATES	5.
G. H. PHILLOTT	2.	W. DYER	6.
F. E. WARD	3.	*T. PENDRY	7.
W. BRINKWORTH	4.	†J. BALLINGER	..*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM DYER.

*First peal of Stedman Triples. †First peal of Triples.

BURNLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN BRANCH.)

On Sunday, October 15, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 11⅞ cwt.

WILLIAM WALTON* ..	..*Treble.*	NOAH TOWNEND	5.
DAVID CAMPBELL	2.	RICHARD ASHWORTH ..	6.
JOHN WILLIAM STIRK ..	3.	THOMAS MOUNCEY	7.
RENNIE HARTLEY	4.	TOM REDMAN	..*Tenor.*

Composed by JNO. R. WERRING, and Conducted by TOM REDMAN.

First peal in the method on the bells by the branch, and by all the band. *First peal. This composition has the 4th, 5th, and 6th exclusively in 6ths place, and is now rung for the first time.

SHEFFIELD.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, October 17, 1899, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN MULLIGAN	*Treble.*	HERBERT P. HARMAN ..	5.
HARRY BOWER	2.	THOMAS SILVESTER	6.
THOMAS HATTERSLEY ..	3.	WILLIAM BURGAR	7.
FRANK BURGAR	4.	WILLIAM MIDGLEY	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HERBERT P. HARMAN.

HELMSHORE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, October 17, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 10 cwt.

H. STEFF*	*Treble.*	R. WALLWORK	5.
T. P. BRANDWOOD*	2.	T. WALLWORK	6.
J. H. ENTWISTLE*	3.	*W. HASLAM	7.
J. BANKS*	4.	J. H. BANKS	*Tenor.*

Composed by J. PATRICK, and Conducted by J. H. BANKS.

*First peal in the method. First peal of Major on the bells.

Date Touch.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL (Yorks).—On Wednesday, October 4th, at the church of The Holy Trinity, a date touch of Grandsire Caters in 1 hr. 25 mins. W. Southwick, 1; T. Stockdale, 2; W. T. Verity, 3; J. Highfield, 4; G. T. Marshall, 5; D. W. Brown, 6; J. W. Stickney, 7; G. T. Miller, 8; C. Jackson (composer and conductor), 9; J. W. Dale, 10. Tenor 26 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHGATE (Middlesex). — On Thursday, September 14th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. A. Glascock, 1; E. Marshall, 2; J. Armstrong, 3; A. Miller, 4; W. H. Lawrence, 5; J. Miller, 6; S. Wade (conductor), 7; J. Howard, 8. On Thursday, September 28th, 560 Double Norwich. P. J. Darlington, 1; J. Miller, 2; W. Ward, 3; A. W. Darlington, 4; A. Miller, 5; L. J. Darlington, 6; J. Parker (conductor), 7; S. Wade, 8.

WOOD GREEN (Middlesex).—On Sunday morning, October 8th, for Divine Service at St. Michael's church, 720 Kent Treble Bob. *A. Glasscock, 1; *J. Armstrong, 2; *F. C. Fordham, 3; J. Miller, 4; A. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Treble Bob. For evening service 720 Canterbury Pleasure. J. Armstrong, 1; F. W. Ford, 2; E. Marshall, 3; F. C. Fordham, 4; J. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. And 720 Plain Bob. A. Glasscock, 1; J. Armstrong, 2; E. Marshall, 3; W. Pickworth, 4; J. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. After evening service 720 Canterbury Pleasure. E. Marshall, 1; J. Miller, 2; J. Armstrong, 3; F. C. Fordham, 4; W. Pickworth, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. And 720 Plain Bob with F. W. Ford, 2; the rest as before. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Glasscock, 1; J. Armstrong, 2: E. Marshall (first 720 of Treble Bob), 3; W. Pickworth, 4; J. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. First 720 of Canterbury Pleasure by Messrs. Marshall, Miller, Armstrong, Fordham, and Pickworth.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(SUDBURY BRANCH.)

FELSHAM (Suffolk).—On Sunday, September 10th, 720 Violet Treble Bob. J. Horrex, 1; H. Gladwell, 2; T. Levitt, 3; A. Symonds, 4; A. Horrex, 5; W. Kinsey (conductor), 6. And 720 Kent Treble Bob (fifteen bobs). E. Kinsey, 1; H. Gladwell, 2; A. Horrex, 3; T. Levitt, 4; A. Symonds (conductor), 5; W. Kinsey, 6. — Also 720 New London Pleasure. E. Kinsey, 1; T. Levitt, 2; H. Gladwell, 3; A. Symonds, 4; A. Horrex, 5; W. Kinsey (conductor), 6. And 720 Woodbine Treble Bob. E. Kinsey, 1; H. Gladwell, 2; T. Levitt, 3; A. Symonds, 4; A. Horrex, 5; W. Kinsey (conductor), 6. These touches were rung during the day for the Harvest Thanksgiving Services.

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Saturday, September 16th, 720 Violet Treble Bob. A. Symonds (conductor), 1; H. Gladwell, 2; T. Levitt, 3; J. Fayers, 4; W. Kinsey, 5; A. Horrex, 6. On Sunday, September 16th, 720 New London Pleasure. E. Newman, 1; C. Levitt, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; A. Symonds, 4; J. Fayers, 5; W. Hollocks (conductor), 6. On Sunday morning, September 24th, for Divine Service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. E. Newman, 1; C. Levitt, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; J. Fayers, 4; A. Symonds, 5; W. Hollocks (conductor), 6. On Saturday, September 30th, 720 Violet Treble Bob. E. Newman, 1; H. Gladwell, 2; A. Symonds, 3; J. Fayers, 4; W. Kinsey (conductor), 5; A. Horrex, 6.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

TETTENHALL (Staffordshire). — On Sunday evening, October 1st, on the occasion of the Harvest Festival, 720 Bob Minor. I. Purser, 1; B. Dalton, 2; J. F. Simpson, 3; R. C. Burrow, 4; R. Pickering (conductor), 5; W. G. Hall, 6.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—On Monday, October 2nd, for practice at St. Peter's church, 482 Stedman Caters. R. Pickering, 1; J. Purser, 2; H. J. Balcombe, 3; B. Dalton, 4; R. C. Burrow, 5; W. G. Hall (conductor), 6; H. Knight, 7; E. S. Hodges, 8; R. Cartwright, 9; E. J. Graham, 10. Also three courses of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. F. Jones, 1; H. J. Balcombe, 2; R. C. Burrow, 3; W. G. Hall, 4; E. S. Hodges, 5; R. Pickering, 6; H. Knight, 7; R. Cartwright (conductor), 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—On Thursday, October 5th, at St. Hilda's church, for the Harvest Festival, 504 Grandsire Triples. R. Hopper, 1; F. Scrafton, 2; R. Scrafton, 3; R. Miller, 4; J. Hopper, 5; W. C. Hunt (conductor), 6; H. Peveral, 7; J. Crawford, 8. First 504 by F. Scrafton. On Sunday, September 3rd, 360 College Single. R. Hepper, 1; F. Scrafton, 2; R. Scrafton, 3; J. Crawford, 4; J. Hopper, 5; W. C. Hunt (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BARKING (Essex).—On Sunday morning, October 18th, for Divine Service, 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major in 49 mins. A. C. Hardy, 1; *E. G. Fenn, 2; G. W. Faulkner, 3; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 4; A. J. T. Carter, 5; E. Andrews, 6; R. Fenn, 7; C. Fenn, 8. *First quarter-peal in the method.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

SHERE (Surrey).—On Saturday, September 30th, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples, 504 Grandsire. C. Willshire (conductor), 1; J. J. Jones, 2; E. Allen, 3; G. Foster, 4; S. Radford, 5; J. Hunt, 6; H. Fellowes, 7; F. Blondell, 8.

GUILDFORD (Surrey). — On Sunday October 1st, 518 Grandsire Triples. S. Radford (conductor), 1; E. Radden, 2; G. Gunner, 3; A. Pulling, 4; G. Foster, 5; E. Allen, 6; J. Hunt, 7; F. Blondell, 8. For evening service 504 Stedman Triples. S. Radford, 1; G. Foster, 2; J. J. Jones, 3; C. Willshire, 4; A. Pelling, 5; J. Hunt, 6; F. Blondell (conductor), 7; E. Heather, 8. On Sunday, October 8th, for Matins, 720 Treble Bob Minor, with tenor covering. C. Willshire, 1; G. Foster, 2; J. J. Jones, 3; S. Radford, 4; J. Hunt, 5; F. Blondell, 6; E. Heather, 7.

THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HECKINGTON.—Recently, at St. Andrew's church, 560 Bob Major: H. P. Nash, 1; J. Clark, 2; J. Hilton, 3; F. Hilton, 4; F. Warrington, 5; J. T. Holmes, 6; W. Dickinson (conductor), 7; W. Houlden, 8. On October 8th, 588 Bob Triples. T. Woods, 1; J. T. Holmes, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; H. P. Nash, 5; J. Clark, 6; W. Dickinson (conductor), 7; W. Honlden, 8. Also 720 Bob Minor. H. P. Nash, 1; J. Hilton, 2; E. Houlden, 3; J. Clark, 4; J. T. Holmes, 6; W. Dickinson, 6; W. Houlden, 7. On October 9th, 630 Oxford Bob Triples. T. Woods, 1; J. Clark, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; H. P. Nash, 5; J. T. Holmes, 6; W. Dickinson, 7; T. Taylor, 8. First touch on the bells and by the whole of the band.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

SELLY OAK.—On Sunday evening, September 24th, for Divine Service, 504 Stedman Triples. C. H. Watts, 1; H. Withers, 2; F. Clayton (conductor), 3; W. Ellis, 4; J. Porter, 5; A. Walker, 6; H. Middleton, 7; E. Bryant, 8. On Sunday, October 1st, five courses of Stedman Caters. J. Austin (conductor), 1; F. Flowers, 2; T.

Reynolds, 3; W. Pegler, 4; J. Barber, 5; A. Walker, 6; J. Porter, 7; H. Middleton, 8; A. E. Pegler, 9; H. Withers, 10. And three courses of Grandsire Caters. J. Austin, 1; F. Flowers, 2; T. Reynolds, 3; H. Withers, 4; H. Middleton, 5; F. Cooks, 6; W. Short, 7; W. Pegler, 8; A. E. Pegler, 9; J. Barber, 10. Also 880 Treble Bob Royal. T. Reynolds, 1; W. Short, 2; W. Pegler, 3; J. Austin, 4; J. Barber, 5; F. Flowers, 6; A. Walker, 7; H. Middleton, 8; F. Clayton, 9; A. E. Pegler, 10. And 395 Grandsire Caters. T. Reynolds, 1; W. Short, 2; F. Flowers, 3; H. Withers, 4; H. Middleton, 5; F. Cooks, 6; A. Walker, 7; J. Porter, 8; F. Clayton, 9; J. Barber, 10. The last three touches were conducted by W. Short.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

HALESWORTH (Suffolk).—On Sunday evening, September 10th, for Divine Service, three courses of Stedman Triplhs. T. L. Wilson, 1; W. Pierce, 2; F. Lambert, 3; R. Tracy, 4; A. Took, 5; A. Lee, 6; C. Kerrison, 7; W. Lee, 8. On Thursday, September 14th, three courses of Oxford Treble Bob Major. A. Fuller, 1; F. Cullum, 2; F. Lambert, 3; J. O'Neill, 4; A. Lee, 5; J. Howard, 6; C. Kerrison, 7; R. Tracy, 8. Also 672 Bob Major by the same company.

PEASENHALL (Suffolk).—On Sunday, October 8th, 720 Bob Minor in 25 mins. E. P. Foreman, 1; W. Bacon, 2; F. Lambert (conductor), 3; W. Nichols, 4; R. Tracy, 5; A. Lee, 6. Also 360 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Nichols (conductor), 1; W. Bacon, 2; F. Lambert, 3; A. Lee, 4; E. Rowe, 5; R. Tracy, 6. These bells were rehung last year, and a new tenor added, and now go well, making a very pretty peal of six.

THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

DUBLIN.—On Monday, October 9th, for practice at St. Patrick's Cathedral, 1260 Grandsire Triples in 1 hr. G. Salter, 1; G. Lindoff (conductor) 2; H. Greene, 3; R. Greene, 4; C. Murray, 5; R. T. Greene, 6; R. R. Cherry, 7; A. W. Coady, 8. On Saturday, October 14th, 1871 Grandsire Caters in 1 hr. 35 mins. G. Salter, 1; J. Lambert, 2; G. Lindoff (conductor), 3; G. Lambert, 4; H. Greene, 5; R. Greene, 6; C. Murray, 7; R. T. Greene, 8; R. R. Cherry, 9; A. W. Coady, 10. Tenor 45¼ cwt.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—On Tuesday, October 10th, 504 Grandsire Triples. R. Alcock, 1; T. Burdon, 2; J. Clarkson, 3; G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 4; J. Waller, 5; T. W. Waller, 6; T. Stephenson, 7; W. Newton, 8.

THORNABY-ON-TEES.—On Wednesday, October 11th, a course of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major. *T. Beckwith, 1; *W. C. Hardy, 2; G. J. Clarkson, 3; R. Alcock, 4; W. Newton, 5; T. Metcalf, 6; T. Stephenson, 7; *N. Kidd, 8. *Members of the Thornaby band, and first attempt beyond Minor. On Saturday, October 14th, 1088 Kent Treble Bob Major. R. Alcock, 1; W. Newton, 2; T. Metcalf, 3; T. Burdon, 4; F. P. Howcroft, 5; T. W. Waller, 6; J. H. Blakiston (conductor), 7; T. Stephenson, 8. Rung to afford the donors of the bells (Mr. and Mrs. Wrightson, of Neasham Hall), their first opportunity of hearing them. The ringers were afterwards entertained to light refreshments by the Vicar of Thornaby.

THE NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

EAST MARKHAM.—At the Quarterly Meeting on October 14th, 720 Violet. D. Taylor, 1; D. Russon (conductor), 2; J. Fitzjohn, 3; E. Rnsson. 4; B. Hall, 5; H. Stenton, 6. Also a 6-score of Stedman Doubles. Rev. H. F. deLisle, 1; J. B. Joynes, 2; H. Haigh, 3; G. Clarke, 4; G. R. Winter (conductor), 5; C. Crawford, 6. And 720 Oxford. A. B. Crawford, 1; H. Haigh, 2; G. F. Clark, 3; T. Smith, (conductor), 4; G. R. Winter, 5; C. Crawford, 6.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHOVER.—On Thursday evening, October 5th, at Christ Church, on the occasion of the Harvest Festival, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. E. Mallard, 1; G. H. Howse. 2; J. Eastman, 3; J Hunnisett, 4; J. S. Goldsmith, 5; C. Harfley, 6; G. W. Head (conductor), 7; F. Elms, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BROMLEY.—On Sunday, October 8th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples. A. Humphrey, 1; F. Sanders, 2; E. Dunn, 3; J. Craft, 4; G. Durling, 5; G. Simpson, 6; W. J. Smith (first quarter-peal as conductor), 7; W. James, 8. On Tuesday, October 10th, for practice, 630 Oxford Bob Triples. G. J. Taylor, 1; E. Dunn, 2; G. Durling, 3; J. Town, 4; W. Smith, 5; F. Sanders, 6; W. J. Smith, 7; W. James, 8. Also 640 Kent Treble Bob Major. E. Dunn, 1; G. J. Taylor, 2; J. Harford, 3; J. Craft, 4; J. Town, 5; W. Smith, 6; G. Durling (conductor), 7; W. J. Smith, 8.

ARELEY KINGS (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, May 28th, 720 College Single. W. Bowen, 1; T. Griffiths, 2; T. Elcox, 3; J. Reynolds, 4; C. Beaman, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, July 5th, 720 Oxford Bob. D. Mapp, 1; T. Elcox, 2; T Griffiths, 3; J. Reynolds, 4; C. Beaman, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Sunday, July 23rd, 720 Plain Bob. C. Beaman, 1; E. Mapp, 2; W. Martin, 3; W. Bowen, 4; J. Reynolds, 5; T. Griffiths (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, July 26th, 720 College Single. W. Bowen, 1; J. Reynolds, 2; J. Griffiths, 3; J. Earp, 4; C. Beaman, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Sunday, August 20th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. E. Mapp, 1; W. Martin, 2; T. Elcox, 3; J. Reynolds, 4; T. Griffiths, 5; C Beaman, 6. On Wednesday, August 23rd, 720 Oxford Bob. W. Bowen, 1; E. Mapp, 2; J. Reynolds, 3; C. Beaman, 4; T. Griffiths, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, September 6th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure Minor. W. Martin, 1; E. Mapp, 2; T. Elcox (conductor), 3; J. Earp, 4; C. Beaman, 5; T. Griffiths, 6. On Wednesday, September 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. E. Mapp, 1; W. Martin, 2; T. Elcox, 3; J. Reynolds, 4; T Griffiths, 5; C. Beaman (conductor), 6. And 720 Canterbury Pleasure Minor. T. Griffith, 1; E. Mapp, 2; J. Reynolds, 3; W. Martin, 4; J. Earp, 5; C. Beaman (conductor), 6.

BLETCHLEY (Bucks).—On Sunday, September 17th, Messrs. Bradley, Garrard, Judd, Richardson and H. Sear, of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington, and H. Shepperd, of Hatfield, paid a visit to Bletchley, at the invitation of Mr. H. Sear, who is a native of this place, for the purpose of ringing a peal with two of the local band standing in. All having met at the church an inspection was made of the same, and afterwards an adjournment to the house of Mr. V. Sear, who very kindly entertained the visitors to dinner, at the conclusion of which another move was made to the church to attempt the peal. The Vicar, the Rev. W. Bennett, met them in the belfry, and after some very interesting conversation, a start was made for Holt's Original. F. Hedges, 1; W. E. Judd, 2; H. Sear, 3; H. Shepperd, 4; A. E. Bradley, 5; F. Richardson, 6; W. E. Garrard (conductor), 7; V. Sear, 8. After ringing an hour one of the band had the misfortune to miss the sallie. There being a long draught, this, though disappointing was somewhat excusable. Another visit to the house of host Sear, and a touch on the handbells brought on tea time. Then another move to the church, where a well-struck quarter-peal was rung for evening service, the ringers standing as in the attempt for the peal. This was the first quarter-peal by F. Hedges and V. Sear, who are to be congratulated on the manner in which they rang. After an enjoyable hour together, and supper with Mr. Hedges, the visitors returned to town. They wish to thank Mr. V. Sear for his kindness in providing for them, and for the great pains he took in having everything in readiness.

BURY (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, October 10th, for practice, the second half of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples. F. Rothwell, 1; W. R. Duckworth, 2; H. Woodcock, 3; W. Mirkhell, 4; W. Cass, 5; S. Greenhalgh, 6; C. Bradbury, 7; J. Ramsbottom (conductor), 8. The above is the longest by all with the exception of J. Ramsbottom and H. Woodcock. It is also the longest length with a bob bell by H. Woodcock.

SHEPSHED (Leicestershire). — On Tuesday, October 10th, after meeting short for a peal of Triples, the last 742 of Holt's Original. W. Whitworth, 1; R. Christian, 2; W. Johnson, 3; T. Start, 4; H. Hoyes, 5; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 6; W. H. Inglesant, 7; S. Briers 8. And 336 Bob Major. S. Briers, 1; W. Whitworth, 2; R. Christian, 3; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 4; H. Hoyes, 5; W. Johnson, 6; T. Start, 7; W. H. Ingleasant, 8.

WYMSWOLD (Leicestershire).—On October 6th, 720 Bob Minor. J. Wilson, 1; W. H. Inglesant, 2; H. Whittle, 3; R. Baker, 4; G. Doughty, 5; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD PEAL-BOOK.—A RECORD of Five Hundred and Twenty Peals rung by this Guild. Paper covers, 6d.; cloth do., 9d.—Blackwell, Reading; or the Hon. Sec. of the Guild—the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Dunsden Vicarage, Reading Berks.

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C. Peach & Sons, Lister-gate Nottingham, Established 1857

"BELLRINGERS AT PRESTON."

[From *The Preston Herald.*]

"That Canon Rawdon considered the occasion of the visit of the Lancashire Association of Change-Ringers worthy of the holding of a special service, and the delivery of a very interesting sermon, last Saturday, at the Preston Parish Church, will come somewhat in the nature of a surprise to most people. Few persons have any idea of the remarkable change which has been effected in the status, within the past few years, of those who are the successors of the men entrusted with the tolling of the curfew bell 'over some wide watered shore, swinging slow, with sullen roar.' We fear that among many the tradition is still maintained as a pious belief that the belfry is too often in close communion to the vaults of low public-houses, and that the character of the surroundings in belfries are well in keeping with the moral and mental furniture of their bodies. If these people had been present in the Preston Parish Church on Saturday, they would have been surprised at the spectacle of the high intelligence and great respectability presented there by the members of the association in question. That scene would have shattered all delusions of the kind under notice. The wonder is that such an opinion could have been so generally held in a generation when the term of 'revival' can no longer be applied to the art of change bell-ringing. The word has long been erased by those who are familiar with the subject. Change-bell-ringing is now an accomplished fact; it is just as much a feature of our social system as the Church service is itself. Calling, as it manifestly does. for the exercise of patience, perseverance, concentration, sobriety, and, above all, keen intelligence, it is, as we have said, surprising that the belief is so widespread that the bellringer as a man is to be regarded as a necessary evil, and only to be tolerated as a church officer, not because his morale is as good as any of the worshippers, but because of his indispensability. Those who peruse this article will at all events know better for the future. It will come as news to many to learn that the bellringers have formed an effective organisation, numbering some thirty thousand, having its own literary organ and council, and that each year a congress, is annually held for 'the dissemination of knowledge respecting the proper care of bells and of belfries, and particularly of well ascertained means of diminishing, without entirely silencing, the sound of bells in close proximity to houses.' It would appear that the bell-ringers in communion have so well studied their art that the reproach can no longer be laid to their doors that they are responsible for the 'bell nuisance.' Superficially they may be, but in strict fact they are not. They have discovered that it is possible through certain arrangements of the bell-chamber to so soften and modify the sound of the noisy peals as to create a minimum of annoyance in the neighbourhood. In future those who may be inclined to direct uncomplimentary objurgations against the toller of the bell would be more just if they fixed the responsibility on those who neglected to provide the precautions ascertained by the association of bell-ringers. As a matter of fact there is no reason, we believe, why 'the distant sounds of bells at evening pealing' should not be a literal fact, instead of the 'jangling, hammering crash of the church-going bell,' as many so unfortunately know it. One of the cardinal objects of the association of which the members who met at Preston form a branch is the encouragement of public interest in the condition of church towers. It is a singular fact that in all schemes of church restoration little, if any, interest is taken in the belfries and church towers; and that, more often than not, they are so neglected that it is with the greatest difficulty those responsible for their maintenance can be induced to lay out funds even when it is rendered imperative. Were a more intelligent interest taken in this matter, we think there would be little room left for the complaint of Canon Rawdon that bellringers as a body hardly show that close attention to religious duties which their association with the Church leads one to expect. He pleaded with them that the excuse of no time 'to change clothes' is one that ought not to prevail. However much we may deplore the existence of the complaint it cannot be said of bellringers that the excuse is a novel one, or one confined to their body. It unfortunately is common to a much wider circle. Who has not heard, who has not said of himself or herself, 'I haven't clothes nice enough to go to church?' But in the case of the bellringers there is some palliation at least for his plea. Hung as the bells are, far away out of sight in windy towers, access to which is only gained by climbing dusty and badly-kept ladders, is the ringer to blame if he elects to wear the shabbiest of his garments? On the face of it he would be improvident if he wore clothes suited to 'decent assembly' in the work of summoning the faithful to divine exercise. The remedy in great part lies to the hands of the parson himself. The allegiance of a body of 30,000 men to the Church is not to be despised, and we trust as the fact becomes more recognised, and the status of the Church bellringer in this generation better realised that the requirements of a sober and respectable body of men will be better attended to. Canon Rawdon, during the course of his very interesting address, referred to the introduction of church bells, which he ascribed to the middle of the seventh century. We wished that he had pursued this part of the matter further and communicated some information on their history out of his well stored brains. The theme is an interesting one, but we presume that the worthy Canon would argue that the occasion was more appropriate to the impressing of spiritual truths than one for the tracing of the many uses that they have been put to. Bells once upon a time were something more than masses of metal, for superstition often beautiful and poetic in its imaginings bestowed upon them varied and supernatural gifts. At Dawlish and Devizes they are still rung to ward off thunder and drive away the evil spirits that are supposed to accompany it. There are also many other evils for which they are supposed to be efficacious. Here and there the curfew survives, and the practice has not yet disappeared of calling the labourers and gleaners to the harvest fields. Not many years ago it was the custom to take the tolling of the bell as a signal in the markets to commence buying and selling. The custom still exists at Dundee. We are all familiar with the fire bell, but it is not so well known that the oven bell used to be rung to announce that the manor oven was heated, to which tenants had to bring their bread; or that the pancake bell was formerly a reminder to housewives to use up all their grease and dripping before the Lenten fast. There was also the washerwoman's warning. Bellringers have a long and interesting history. and in an age where reverence for antiquity still subsists it is to be hoped that where that obtains a place this article will be productive of enlisting the impulses common to it to the appeal of the ringer for more consideration to his comforts and his aims. If it does this the meeting of the branch noticed at Preston will not have been in vain, and Canon Rawdon's appeal will perhaps bear important fruit."

VISIT TO BRISTOL.

On Saturday, September 23rd, the ringers of the Frome (Somerset) parish church visited Bristol. They arrived in the old city about 10.30, being met at the railway station by Mr. J. Hinton. They first proceeded to St. John's church, and rang several 6-sores of Grandsire Doubles, and while here Mr. C. D. E. Boutflower put in an appearance. The crypt, built on the old city walls, was inspected with much interest. The party afterwards dispersed, spending the afternoon in different ways, but re-assembled at All Saints' church in the evening where various touches of Triples were rung, and Bob Major. They returned home by the last train well pleased with their day's excursion, and greatly satisfied at the welcome met with.

THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MRS. GEORGE.—The funeral of this lady (who would have reached the age of 70 had she lived till Sunday next) took place on Saturday last at the parish church of Pinner, amid manifestations of public sorrow. Among the many wreaths sent to place on the coffin was one "from the St. Andrew's Society of Change-Ringers, Rugby," having upon it also the words "With our sympathy; October 13th, 1899." Much feeling, very widespread, is shown for the family, particularly for Mr. George, sen., who is in his 79th year.

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.

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

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—The 262nd anniversary dinner will be held at The Bridge House hotel, London Bridge, on Saturday, November 11th, at 6 30 p.m. Tickets (3s. 6d. each), may be bought of Messrs. W. H. L. Buckingham, E. A. Davies, Dawe, Garrard, Horrex, Hughes, Newton, O'Meara, Pettit, Prime, Rowbotham, Sharman, W. D. Smith, Springall, Taffender, Winney and

WILLIAM T. COCKERILL, *Hon. Sec.*
37, *Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, S.W.*

Kent County Association. — Tonbridge District.—The next meeting of this District will be held at Seal Chart (6 bells) to-day, Saturday, Oct. 21st. Tower open at 5 o'clock. Business meeting in the Schoolroom at 6.30. The bells of St. Peter s, Seal, are also available. W. LATTER, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*

The Hertfordshire Association.—District Meeting at Bushey, to-day, Saturday, October 21st. E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association. — Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Oldham parish church to-day, Saturday, October 21st. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 J. JAQUES, *Branch Sec.*
17, *Samuel Street, Middleton.*

The St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.—The usual quarterly meeting will be held at The Tamworth Arms, Moor Street, on Tuesday, October 24th, when some important business will come under consideration. Chair will be taken at 8.30 p.m.

W. H. GODDEN, *Hon. Sec.*
61, *Roland Road, Handsworth.*

Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Midsomer Norton, on Saturday, October 28. Short service at 3.30 p.m., in the parish church, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. W. E. Newling). Tea at The Greyhound hotel, and business meeting to follow. It is hoped that as many as possible will attend. Will tower Secretaries please send a post card not later than Thursday, October 26th, to Thos. T. Hayward, Esq., the Bank, Midsomer Norton, Bath, informing him how many from their towers will be present.

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

Sussex County Association. — Central Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Lower Beeding, on Saturday, October 28. A conveyance will leave Horsham station at 3.15 for members who let me know by Saturday, October 21st. Tea at 6 p.m.

GEO. WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec.*
2, *Grove Street, Brighton.*

N.B.—Members who have not paid their subscriptions for 1899 will oblige by doing so as early as possible.

The Middlesex County Association.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at Hayes by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Godding, on Saturday, October 28th. Bells ready at 4 30.

C. EDWARDS, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*

The Kent County Assoiation.—Lewisham District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Crayford on Saturday, October 28th. The tower will be open from 3 p.m. Tea will be provided for members advising the Secretary not later than Wednesday, October 25th. Half railway fares up to two shillings will be allowed, and paid out at 5.30 p.m. in the parish room, where tea will be held at 6 p.m. sharp. Business meeting will follow tea. A short service and address will be given in the church at 7.30 p m.

W. J. JEFFRIES, *Hon. Dis. Sec.*
27, *Embleton Street, Lewisham.*

The Middlesex County Association.—North and East District. — The annual meeting of this district will be held on Saturday, October 28th, at Christ Church, Southgate, by kind permission of the Rev. J. Beardall. Tea will be provided. The bells will be raised about four o'clock. It is requested that members will do their utmost to attend. ARTHUR T. KING, *Hon. Sec.*
18, *Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.*

The Liverpool Diocesan Guild. — The next meeting of this Guild will be held at Halsall on Saturday, October 28th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 6 p.m.

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

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The next monthly ringing meeting of this society will be held at Bramley (six bells) on Saturday, October 28th. Meeting-house—The Cardigan Arms. A peal will be attempted at 2.30 Business meeting at 7.0. Handbells provided. The secretary will be glad to receive all arrears of contributions.

HY. GAYTHORPE, *Hon. Sec.*
1, *Elm Avenue, Bramley, Leeds.*

Lancashire Association. — Manchester Branch.—A meeting of the above will be held at the parish church, Radcliffe, on Saturday, October 28th. Bells ready at 4.0 p.m. Business meeting in the schoolroom at 7 p.m.

WALTER BROWN, *Branch Sec.*

Lancashire Association. — Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Christ Church, Bacup, on Saturday, October 28th. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 6.30 prompt.

W. CASS, *Branch Sec.*

Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.—Bristol Branch.— The next meeting will be held at Stapleton, on Saturday, October 28th. Short service at 4.30 p.m. at parish church. Towers open for ringing during afternoon and evening—Stapleton (6), St. Werburgh's (6).

C. H. GORDON, *Branch Sec.*

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—The 22nd Annual Festival will be held at Durham on Monday, October 30th. The bells of the Cathedral open to members after 1 p.m.; St. Nicholas (6) and St. Oswald's (6) all day. Committee meeting at The Three Tuns hotel, 12 noon; Service in cathedral choir stalls 1 p.m. (preacher Rev. Dr. Randell, Rector of Sunderland). Dinner 2 p.m., at The Three Tuns hotel, 1s. 6d. to members, 2s. 6d. to non-members. Intending visitors kindly notify before October 25th.

C L. ROUTLEDGE, *Hon. Sec.*
18, *West Parade, Newcastle-on-Tyne.*

St. Mary's, Woolwich.—Practice night has been changed from Thursday, to Tuesday, at 8 p.m. E. O. MASTERS, *Hon. Sec.*

The Heavy Woollen District Association.—There will be no meeting of the above-named Society this month.

WALTER IDLE, *Hon. Sec.*
47, *Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.*

Obituary.

JOHN DICKENS.

It is my painful duty to record the death of the above-named ringer, which took place at his residence Sharnbrook, Beds., after a long and painful illness, on October 7th, aged 67 years. He joined the Bedfordshire Association some years ago, and served on the Committee, and was also local secretary to that district, working very hard some years ago, and was successful in getting the Sharnbrook bells, at that time 5, rehung, and also later on in getting a new treble put in. Although not very far advanced in the Art, for he began late in life, nevertheless he was a great lover of bells and ringers. On the 11th inst. he was carried to his last resting place, followed to the grave by some of the company that he was the chief means of forming. In the evening a half-muffled 720 of Plain Bob was rung by F. Bird, F. Webb, A. Allen, C. W. Clarke, I. Hills and W. Page. Also 360 in the same method by F. Bird, I. Hills, A. Allen, W. Barcock, C. W. Clarke, F. Webb. J. H.

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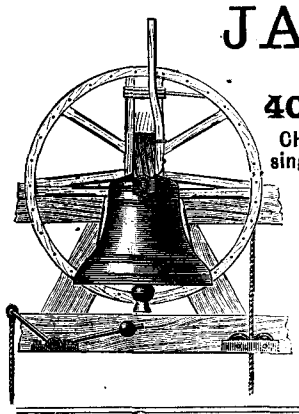
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