

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

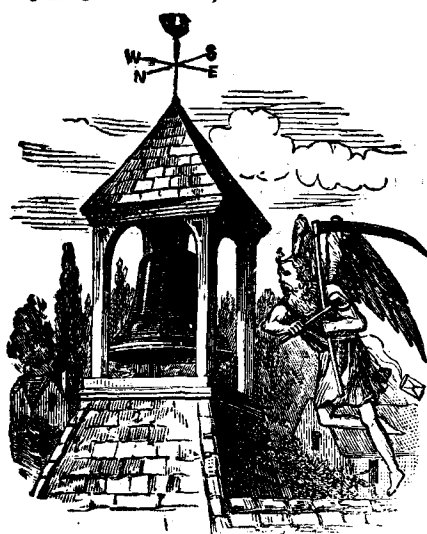
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise ; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 921.—VOL. XVIII.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1899.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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Manchester Town Hall.	Hove Town Hall.
Bradford Town Hall.	Burnley Holy Trinity Ch.
Law Courts, London.	Crawley Parish Church.
St. James' Palace, London.	Corbridge-on-Tyne, do.
Sherborne Abbey.	Pontypool (Trevethin
Sydney Town Hall,	Church).
N.S.W.	Windermere Church.
Hammersmith Parish Ch.	Eiffel Tower, Paris.
Gateshead Clock Tower.	Dunsfold Parish Church.
Duke of Albany Memorial,	Aylesford do.
Cannes.	St. Mark's Church, St.
Eiffel Tower, Paris.	Helen's.
Shanghai Custom	Royal Normal College,
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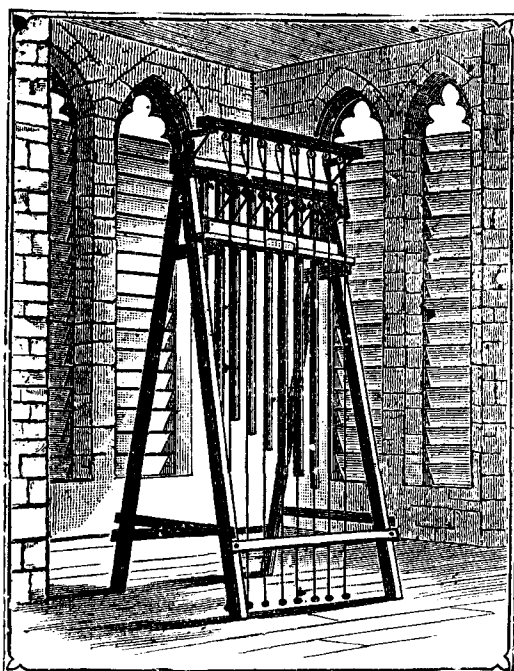
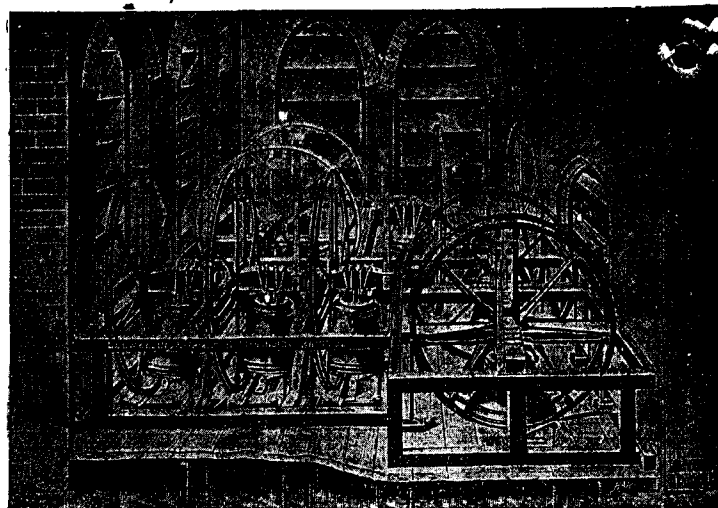
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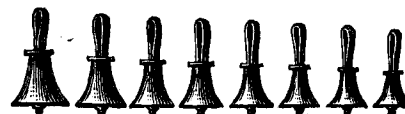
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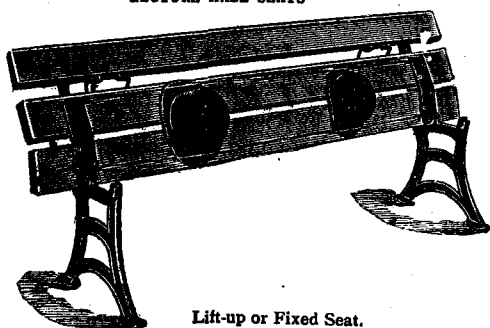
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 921.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1899.

[Vol. XVIII.]

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD OF BIRMINGHAM.

UNVEILING OF THE HENRY BASTABLE MEMORIAL PEAL TABLET.

This Guild has not hitherto had any public unveiling of peal tablets erected by its members, but so much interest attached to this, as commemorating the services of one who was so greatly esteemed by all ringers with whom he came in contact, that it was decided to have it unveiled by the Rector, and to issue the invitation which has appeared in our recent numbers. The attendance at the ceremony sufficiently justified the course adopted.

Punctually at four o'clock the ringing-chamber at St. Martin's was probably more full of occupants than ever it had been before. A company of nearly eighty, which included the churchwardens, several ladies, and Mrs. Bastable with her young son, had assembled, when the Rector—the Rev. Canon A. J. Robinson—opened the proceedings with prayer. J. S. Pritchett, Esq., M.A., vice-president of the Guild, introduced the subject by inviting the Rector to unveil the tablet, referring in most feeling terms to the many excellent qualities of the late Henry Bastable, which had so endeared him to them all, and which had made it desirable to commemorate his services in that way. His remarks evidently deeply impressed his audience, and he concluded by reminding them that the value of a good man's work was never lost, but that its influence made itself felt for all time.

The Rector then unveiled the tablet, and in a very earnest address explained how glad he was to meet such a large number of ringers in his official capacity that day, and why he had been unable to meet them at an earlier stage of his incumbency.

After concluding his address with a benediction, he remained in the belfry during a touch of Stedman Cinques. (It may here be mentioned that all the ringing throughout the afternoon and evening was with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Lady Salisbury.)

Before leaving the belfry the presiding ringing master, Mr. John Day, on behalf of the members of the Guild, presented a nice bouquet to Mrs. Jones, explaining to her at the same time how deeply grateful the ringers always felt towards her husband, Mr. Churchwarden Jones, for the kindly feeling he had ever shewn to the ringers.

In order that an opportunity might be afforded to the members of the Guild to more freely associate with himself and the assistant-clergy and wardens, the Rector invited them to tea at Dean Street Schools. This sort of thing certainly does catch on with ringers, and they were shortly, in an unmistakable manner, made to feel how kind and sympathetic a host they had. Tea ended, Mr. Day proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector, which was most enthusiastically tendered. In doing so he referred to this being the first instance of the kind he had known at St. Martin's during his fifty-five years' career in the ringing world, and prophesied favourably for the future result of such a meeting.

From the outset the Rector's earnest and kindly greeting had so won its way that a very attentive and sympa-

thetic audience was given to his address in reply. Tersely he gave them the keynote of enthusiasm which ought to underlie all their parish work and organisation, instancing his serious and by no means uninteresting experiences in other parishes. He then explained what he thought might be done by the members of the Guild for the services of the Church, and invited them, after well considering the matter, to lay their views before the wardens and himself, assuring them that a hearty goodwill and consideration would be extended to their suggestions. In a very clear and business-like manner Mr. W. S. Pritchett, a vice-president of the Guild, then explained that the matter had already received some amount of attention from the members, and that he was then empowered to indicate some broad lines on which a mutual understanding might be based, such lines being fully endorsed by his own experience as churchwarden for many years in a neighbouring parish.

With some further explanations from Mr. Churchwarden Jones, the matter was referred for further consideration. and after thanks were tendered to the assistants at the tea, the company were regaled with a course of Cinques and a tune upon the handbells.

Ringling at the tower, in which many of the members from a distance participated, was then indulged in. A very enjoyable hour was afterwards spent at The Tamworth Arms, where indefatigable steward Painter had made such arrangements with the obliging landlord, Mr. Clift, as enabled the members to have a comfortable reunion devoted to social converse and harmony. As usual at such gatherings Mr. Painter presided at the piano, our old friend, Mr. S. Reeves, in the chair. Every one appeared to vie with each other in making the time pass cheerfully and pleasantly.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(BRISTOL BRANCH.)

A meeting of this branch was held on Saturday, November 25th, at Wootton-under-Edge. Short service was held at the parish church, conducted by the Rev. Canon Sewell. A business meeting was afterwards held at the Mill House, presided over by the Rev. H. A. Cockey, chairman of the branch. Four new members were elected. The next meeting will be held at Corsham on the first or second Saturday in January. A resolution was passed that a sub-branch be formed for Wootton-under-Edge and district. It was also resolved that Mr. F. E. Webb be elected Secretary of the new sub-branch.

A hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon Sewell for the use of the bells etc., ended a very pleasant meeting. Touches of Stedman Triples and Bob Major were rung during the afternoon and evening.

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.

FEERING, ESSEX.

The condition of the churchyard in this village had for some time been a cause of anxiety to the Vicar (Rev. W. J. Packe), as it was almost impossible to dig a grave without disturbing the bones of others buried previously. As no land immediately adjoining the churchyard was suitable, the Vicar offered to purchase and present to the parish an acre of ground. His offer was accepted, and it was ultimately decided to build a little chapel on the ground. The Vicar, who has given £200 towards the erection of the chapel, has also given a magnificent St. Martin's Cross, which is to all intents a copy of the famous cross on the island of Iona.

The consecration ceremony by the Bishop of St. Albans took place Saturday, November 11th. At the commencement of Evensong the two new bells which have been erected to complete the octave were solemnly dedicated by the Bishop. In his address, which was based on Psalm cxix. 73, he said that the bells he had dedicated were to be a call to prayer, praise, and thanksgiving, and also a call to be taught as well as a call to receive grace to be taught.

A collection at the close realised £5 4s. 1d. There is upwards of £100 still needed to defray the expenses of the chapel, etc., and the new bells.

On Tuesday, November 21st, the pleasant ceremony of opening the newly-augmented ring took place. First the local company rang some good rounds, and then the following touches were brought round: 576 of Oxford Treble Bob Major. D. Elliott, F. Day (conductor), W. Dyer, H. Evers, J. Sadler, W. Elliott, E. W. Beckwith, J. Newman. Also a course of Bob Major, and a 224. W. Hunwick, H. T. Pye, G. Hum, H. Evers, E. W. Beckwith, W. Elliott, W. E. Hunwick, J. Newman. The whole concluded with a well-struck 400 of Double Norwich by H. T. Pye, D. Elliott (conductor), W. Dyer, F. Day, J. Sadler, W. Elliott, E. W. Beckwith, J. Newman.

The inscription on the second bell bears the following: "Every day sincerely pray"; and the treble—"To God's Praise me raise," in addition to the names of the Vicar and churchwardens. The "go" and tone of the bells (which were supplied by Warner's), is perfect, and leaves nothing to be desired.

GRINTON, SOMERSET.

On Sunday, November 12th, the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells dedicated to the use of St. Michael and All Angels' church, Grinton, Somerset, two new bells which have just been added to the old ring of four. The complete ring of six has been hung in an iron cage by Mr. T. Blackburn, of Salisbury. The old bells have been re-clappered and quarter-turned, and all the stocks and fittings are new, the work throughout being beyond praise. The only thing wanting now is to ring a 720 on them.

The two new bells weigh respectively 5 and 5½ cwt. The tenor is just 12 cwt. She is a most remarkable bell and bears the inscription:—"Philip Watts, Thomas Winiat, caused mee to be made 1586." Evidently the outer mould of this bell cracked in the casting, and there are two or three very rugged seams down the outside which have been roughly touched up with a hammer. In consequence of this cracking she is a good half-inch thicker one side than the other. However, her tone is good, and equal to that of a far heavier bell. She has never been turned at all. The 5th bell has:—"Richard Mogg, Church Warden 1788 Wm. Bilbie Chew Stoke

fecit," and is a beautiful bell. The 4th has:—"R. Clarke, Winniard Bilbie 1707," and is also a splendid bell. The 3rd, the old treble, is a pre-Reformation bell, and rather thin, though a very good casting. She bears the inscription:—"Sancte Paule ora pro nobis," in very fine old English characters. The 2nd, cast by Blackburn:—"E. B. Barter dedit. 1899. When mirth and joy are on the wing, I ring." The treble:—"Ad gloriam Dei et in mene. Sarah and Mary Barter, R. B. Barter, Rector, 1861, dedit 1899. To call the folk to church in time, I chime." The 3rd was of course the earliest bell in the tower. Then three others were added in 1586, of which two were re-cast by two of the Bilbies. The whole peal now is as fine as could be wished, and go to perfection.

THE LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this society was held at Holbeck on Saturday, November 25th, when the following towers were represented: Armley, Bramley, Calverley, Headingley (St. Michael's), Leeds, Wakefield, and the local company; also Mr. C. D. Smith, of Bradford, and Mr. J. F. Mallaby, of Barnby Don. A few touches of Grandsire Triples were rung before the meeting on the tower bells by mixed bands, and all seemed satisfied with the "go" of the bells.

The business meeting was held at The Foundry inn, the vice-president, Mr. T. Mars, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. It was then agreed to alter the date of the Armley meeting from December 30th to January 6th, owing to the Christmas holidays. The secretary had to make another complaint about the members being backward with their contributions. A vote of thanks to the Rev. Father McAuliffe for the use of the bells, and the local company for their kind arrangements, was carried unanimously and responded to by

Mr. R. Binns, who stated that they were always pleased to have some ringing friends among them, and hoped some of them would be trying to score a peal there, as the bells were nearly always at liberty.

A vote of thanks to the chairman brought the business meeting to a close, and the rest of the evening was spent in ringing handbells until it was time for the visitors to wish the local company a hearty good-night.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(CANTERBURY BRANCH.)

A meeting of this branch was held at Elham on Saturday, November 18th, when ringers attended from Bra-bourne, Canterbury, Elham, Lyminge, and Ospringe. Ringing commenced at 5.30, when touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major were rung. The meeting closed at 9 o'clock.

Situations Vacant.

WANTED.—First-class Shoeing and General Jobbing Smith, capable of taking charge of yard. Good wages and constant place to the right man. Change-ringer, eight bells.—Particulars to A. RICHARDSON, Bathwick Carriage Works, Bath.

WANTED, A GOOD JOINER.—Preference given to one accustomed to making bell-wheels.—Apply, M. & S. 34, Whitechapel Road, London E.

WANTED.—Steady young man to look after small out-door garden, pony and trap. One with a knowledge of the seed trade (or willing to learn) preferred, and able to handle a bell.—Apply by letter to R. H. HAYWARD, Marlesford, Suffolk.

THE EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The quarterly meeting of this Association was held at Ashover on Saturday, November 25th, and was well attended by members from the following towers: Ashover, Bolsover, Clay Cross, Norton, South Normanton, North Wingfield, Ripley, Tibshelf, and Shirland.

The Rector (Rev. J. B. Nodder) kindly entertained the ringers to tea in the schoolroom, to which twenty-four sat down. The Rector was heartily thanked for the tea, and for the use of the schoolroom and bells for the day, the ladies who waited at the tea not being forgotten. The Rector suitably replied, and expressed his pleasure at meeting the ringers once more at Ashover.

By an unanimous resolution, the Secretary was instructed to write to all towers in union, and ask the local secretaries to make a collection among their members, and forward the amounts received to the Secretary on or before Saturday, December 16th. The sum so received by the Secretary to be forwarded to the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of our soldiers now fighting in the Transvaal. The money to be sent up in the name of the E.D.A.

The Secretary trusts that all who feel so disposed will contribute their mites, and be good enough to forward the same to him on or before the date named.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL BRANCH.—A meeting was held at Mitcheldean on Saturday, November 18th, members being present from Gloucester, Newnham, and Ruardean. Ringing was indulged in till six o'clock, after which a meeting was held, Mr. A. E. Brain kindly undertaking the duties of chairman. The minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read. Sixteen new members were elected. It was proposed that the next meeting be held at Newnham towards the end of January. This being the whole of the business, the members again adjourned to the tower, where several touches were brought round.

THE REV. F. E. ROBINSON'S 600 PEALS.

	Conducted.	
Grandsire Triples	52	8
Grandsire Caters	*27	1
Stedman Triples	275	138 (one uncondacted.)
Stedman Caters	†62	30
Stedman Cinques	2	
Union Triples	1	
College Single Triples	2	
Bob Major	2	
Duffield Major	1	
Double Oxford Major	1	
Double Norwich Major	†73	5
Oxford Treble Bob Major	3	
Kent Treble Bob Major	13	2
Kent Treble Bob Royal	9	
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	2	
Duffield Royal	1	
Superlative Surprise Major	45	6
Cambridge Surprise Major	16	4
London Surprise Major	†13	3
	600	197

* Including a peal of 13,247 changes. † Including a 12,041 and a 15,041 (record). ‡ Including a 10,080 and a 12,096. a Including an 11,328 (record).

Handbells Wanted.

WANTED A Peal of Eight Handbells.—Address—MOLINEUX, Harford Outry St. Mary.

Obituary.

THOMAS WHITFIELD.

The death of the above-named ringer occurred at his residence, Stockton-on-Tees, on Sunday, November 19th, at the age of seventy. He joined, or rather re-joined, the ringers at Stockton when a regular system of weekly practices was inaugurated in 1872, with a view of establishing the art of change-ringing in the belfry of the parish church. In due course he became fairly efficient in hunting the treble, and in that capacity took part in a 5040 of seven methods of Minor rung on the Stockton bells on September 15th, 1883. When the Durham Diocesan Association was formed in 1877, he joined it and attended several of the meetings of its early years, and at one time was a vice-president. His attendance at the Stockton belfry had ceased some years ago, and his death did not become known to his former colleagues in time to ring a muffled peal on the day of the funeral of their genial associate of former days.

HENRY LANGDON.

It is with deep regret that we have to report the death of the above-named, aged fifty-six, who passed away at his residence on Thursday, November 23rd, after a long and painful illness of upwards of ten weeks. Deceased first learned to ring at Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Square, Borough, London, S.E., nearly thirty years ago, and had been a most reliable and energetic ringer in and around London ever since. He had during his career rung numerous peals, of which unfortunately he kept no record. On Wednesday, November 29th, the under-mentioned members of the Waterloo Society rang the usual whole pull and stand as a mark of respect in which he was held by the society, who wish to tender through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS" their heartfelt sympathy and regret to the bereaved widow and family on behalf of the society. W. H. Pasmore, T. H. Taffender, F. G. Perrin, G. E. Symonds, A. Hardy, E. Frazer, W. H. Webber, H. Barton (conductor).

HENRY FREEMAN.

By the death of the above-named on the 16th inst., a very old inhabitant of Henfield (Sussex), has been removed. Deceased passed his early years at Ashurst, and died at Woodmancote, but he always considered himself to belong to Henfield, indeed he lived at Wantleigh for more than thirty years, and during that time he was a very constant member of the bell-ringers. He never lost his interest in the bells, nor in the parish. His special desire was that his last resting-place should be in the cemetery, and he now lies there, having being buried on the 20th inst., within a few months of his wife's interment there. Mr. and Mrs. Freeman lived many years together, and we trust are re-united where parting is unknown. The Henfield ringers rang several touches, half-muffled, after the funeral in memory of their old comrade. A course of Grandsire Triples was rung over the grave on handbells. On the tower bells, half-muffled, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples and several other shorter touches were rung.

M.

LAYER MARNEY, ESSEX.

The three old bells in this church have been silent for years, owing to the 2nd being badly cracked and the old stocks so decayed as not to be safe to chime. The cracked bell has been recast, and the three rehung with new stocks, and a chiming apparatus attached, the whole of the work being successfully carried out by Messrs. Bowell and Son, Bell Founders, Ipswich.

MARLESFORD, SUFFOLK.

A new treble bell has been cast and hung by Messrs. Bowell and Son, of Ipswich, in the above church, thus making a nice ring of five. Tenor about 11 cwt.

A BRIEF CONSIDERATION OF A FEW POINTS CONNECTED WITH THE HISTORY OF RINGING.

By R. A. DANIELL.

(Continued from page 314.)

I will pass by the use of bells at weddings and deaths, as I do not think they are material for my purpose. Bells for weddings are obviously joybells for individuals. The use of bells for deaths is an interesting subject, but it is concerned with private and personal cases and not with public worship. I will close my remarks on the whole question with some allusion to the history of Sunday Ringing as I understand it, which will require a further allusion to the holy days of the medieval church. Sundays and holy days were of old festival days, and what was permissible on holy days was permissible on Sundays. Holy days were days of recreation as well as of religious observance, and so were Sundays. The Sabbatarian doctrine, turning the first day of the week into a day of repression and declaring pleasure, except in its carnal form of eating and drinking, to be wrong on Sundays, had not yet been proclaimed. And that there was ringing on these days for pleasure can hardly, I think, be doubted. The direction in the canons of 1604 for prohibition of superstitious ringing on festivals and eves formerly observed but then abolished, appears to me to refer to secular ringing. One can hardly suppose that if the ringing had originally been for some religious service a band would come together to ring for it for nearly half a century after the service had ceased to be held, while on the other hand the holiday traditions of the holy day would naturally be the more permanent. As a matter of fact in some cases they last till this day, the dates of country fairs, for instance, being still sometimes fixed by them. The feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, on the 15th of August, is one of these abolished days, and it is hardly conceivable that so late as 1604 a band should be meeting to ring for a service never then held. But undoubtedly the day had been a holiday, and it is quite intelligible that the memory of that fact was then green, indeed in many parts of the country it may very well still have been a holiday to some extent.

Holiday ringing then, on this (and on other such days) would be natural at the beginning of the 17th century. But the festival had been abolished by the English Church, because it celebrated a doctrine which this Church rejected as fabulous. Therefore it was undesirable that the memory of the day should be kept alive in the popular mind. But to ring because the day came round, no matter with what absence of reference to the doctrine it had celebrated, was a way of keeping this memory alive. Therefore the ringing was objectionable, and, in the language of the canon, superstitious.

If, then, the observance of Sundays and Holy Days was in early times pretty much the same, and if there was secular ringing on holy days, we should expect to find that there was also secular ringing on Sundays, and as a matter of fact we may, I think, find in the practice of Sunday ringing down to our own day evidence of that early secular ringing. When we find a long continued practice whose origin cannot be dated, we must look out for the most probable origin we can find, and the more general we find the practice to be, the further back must we be prepared to find that origin. When I was in Exeter in the autumn of 1897, there was some ringing at St. Sidwell's on a Sunday morning early, but the bells were lowered in order that the parishioners might be chimed into church, and I was told that this was always done when there was early Sunday ringing. This seems to be the same thing as the early Sunday ringing to which Mr. Ellacombe alludes in some of his early writings, which seems to have been common, and which he regarded as secular and did not like. It also seems to have been the practice in the seventeenth century. Our old friend, R. H. in the passage I extracted from the *School of Recreation* "BELL NEWS," June 24th, 1899, says:—"Do not let the Sunday morning's peal engage thy presence then, and the ale-house have thy company afterwards. Be as quick in hearing the chiming for prayers as thou art in the notes for pleasure. . . . And should'st thou not be as nimble when the Saint's Bell of the Church sounds in thy ears, and calls thee to attend the Priest, who now signifies his entrance into the holy place and invites thee to join with him in the sacrifice of prayer

and praise." This clearly shows that in R. H.'s time the Sunday morning peal was prior to and entirely distinct from the chiming for prayers, and was a secular performance. But if the prayers were chimed for, when did this Sunday ringing come into existence? The probabilities are against its introduction as a novelty during the Puritan ascendancy. Ringers, to be sure, as a body, were no more likely to have Puritan leanings then than now, but bearing in mind the opposition of the Puritan Party to relaxation on the Lord's Day it seems hardly likely that secular ringing would have been started on Sunday at that period as something new. On the other hand the general observance of Sunday, except in the form of the religious offices, underwent little change from the early Tudor period to the middle of the seventeenth century or later, and we know from the canons of 1604 that medieval ringing traditions were not extinct at that date. Then there is what is known as "The Book of Sports," really a declaration issued by James I. in 1617, allowing certain sports after Divine Service, or rather allowing sports except those forbidden. Ringing is not mentioned, but dancing and other games, and maypoles and other things were permitted, and these were old recreations; and if these were old and permissible the probability is the same of ringing. In 1625 was passed a Sunday observance Act which recognises these sports, and in 1633 Charles I. directed the republication of the "Book of Sports." Then we come to the ordinances of the Long Parliament, one of which in 1644, deals with Sunday. This of course is of a repressive nature and forbids—"ringing of bells for pleasure or pastime," on Sunday, together with the other things previously allowed. There was another ordinance about Sunday passed in 1650, but this deals mainly with work rather than play. But the Parliamentarians grew more morose with time, and in 1656 Cromwell's second parliament passed yet another ordinance dealing with Sunday. In this, ringing of bells for pleasure on Sunday is again specially forbidden together with those other sports.*

For breaches of this ordinance men became liable to a penalty of ten shillings, a considerable sum in those days. They were also liable to pay one shilling in respect of each of their children under fourteen years of age who offended; but they might escape this latter fine, the ordinance allowing them the alternative of "correcting," that is, chastising, the kiddies to the satisfaction of the churchwardens or other parochial officers. A perusal of these Lord's Day ordinances is sufficient without anything further to enable us to understand how opposed Puritan policy was to the habits of the time and how natural it was that Englishmen should resent the parliamentary government and be ready to welcome back royalty. But the thing to note for our purpose is that Sunday ringing for pleasure was in the seventeenth century a well-known practice, that it was persistent, and that it was legislated against in the same way as practices then still existent and undoubtedly of medieval origin; and that the persistency of this Sunday ringing seems much more consistent with its being an old and rooted habit than with its being of then recent introduction. I therefore come to the belief that this Sunday morning ringing came down from the middle ages as a relic of the secular side of the weekly Christian festival. And if this be so, it is equally probable that Sunday ringing later in the day has a similar origin. We have learned incidentally from Stow about the evening peal-ringing on St. James's Day, and at least it is more probable than not that there was ringing of a similar kind on Sunday. But at any rate there seems no room for doubt that Sunday ringing after afternoon service was an established practice at least two centuries ago, and like the morning peal its most probable origin is medieval. Out of these secular Sunday ringings were gradually evolved, as the art of change-ringing developed, Sunday peals

* I may note as a matter of curiosity that there is also included in the prohibition of this ordinance "vainly and profanely walking on the Lord's Day." "Vainly" means without definite object or necessity, that is, walking for pleasure, which is a pastime as old as human nature, and as pleasure was in the view of these men necessarily profane on Sunday, it followed that taking a walk for enjoyment on Sunday was made an offence against the laws of the land. What a distorted view of Christianity must have been that of men who deliberately enacted an ordinance in such terms that a man who took his children for a stroll in the fields on Sunday rendered himself liable to be apprehended and brought before the justices as a law breaker!

in the technical sense, *i.e.* 5000's, so that if my surmises are correct, the Sunday peal of to-day is the legitimate descendant of early English custom.

Before passing to the consideration of my next question, I desire to assure my readers that they cannot be more sensible than myself of the incompleteness of what I have put before them. I can only plead that this paper is only meant as an endeavour in the direction of historic truth, according to my means and opportunities for research. Definite information is hard to come at, and dictionaries and such works are well nigh useless in consequence of the ignorance of their learned writers about the use of technical terms in connection with ringing. I doubt if this question can be solved—if at all—without concerted action in gathering ringing traditions and customs throughout the country; but so far as I can grasp them, the indications seem to point to the historical secularity of ringing from its very nature and origin. However, it may be that some learned person knows all about it, and if so it is to be hoped he will kindly enlighten us.

(To be continued.)

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."

THE HISTORY OF RINGING.

SIR,—Will you allow me to express my appreciation of the articles by Mr. Daniell which you are publishing, and especially to thank him for rescuing from oblivion the beautiful poem by Bunyan which appeared in last week's issue. Lest it should be forgotten, might I suggest that you publish as one of your artistic illustrated supplements, a process block of the tower in which Bunyan rang, together with the extracts Mr. Daniell has referred to, and this poem. It might then be framed and hung in every belfry for the edification of future generations of ringers.

With regard to the remarks on the curfew in this week's article, it is to be remembered that the curfew was rung at eight every night. Now-a-days what is called the curfew is rung at nine in every instance I am acquainted with, but one. I have heard it stated by antiquarians that this is really not the curfew but the Compline bell. That when the curfew was abolished, the name (and style of ringing?) was transferred to the bell for the last of the offices said daily in church. Mr. Daniell has also omitted to note that besides the tenor being rung at St. Mary's, Cambridge, from 9 to 9.15 p.m., it is also rung at from 6 to 6.15 a.m. each day. This does not seem to be the old *Angelus*, as it is not rung in the style appropriate for that devotion—when the bell is necessarily chimed. For in many places it is rung at 5 a.m.—*c.f.* the "Hammersmith Ringing Case." It would seem as if the bell for the Monastic Prime and Compline, the first and last of the day offices, had become so useful for rousing people in the morning and sending them to bed at night, that they were kept up after the destruction of the monasteries, and disuse of the public prayer in church at those times. I do not know if this consideration would modify Mr. Daniell's argument.

Another similar custom on which ecclesiastical antiquaries do not seem able to throw much light, is the ringing at 6 a.m. on St. Thomas' Day (December 21st). In the church where I know it, all the bells are rung for a quarter or half-an-hour. The dedication is St. Michael's, so it cannot be the Patronal Festival. I thought however it might be the ancient anniversary of the dedication; but I hear that it is a custom in other churches as well. I should be glad to hear if this is so.

H. DRAKE.

BARNSBURY COURT BOB MAJOR.

SIR,—Mr. Cartwright in your issue of the 18th ult., gives three methods in the Court Bob system placed side by side, with advice that they have before been produced.

No. 2 is a reprint from Shipway.

No. 3 is a reverse to the same method. In each places are made exclusively in 3-4 and 5-6. Now, Sir, in No. 1 the places are exclusively made in 3-4, there are none whatever in 5-6, and

cannot be classed either by method or diagram, with examples No. 2 or No. 3. In further illustration I give another method, Canonbury Court, an exact counterpart of Barnsbury, wherein places are exclusively made in 5-6.

Mr. Cartwright's further advice is to have No. 1 rung as a double method. The question then comes forward as to what is a double method. Shipway seems to define this when a bell makes places immediately before and after passing the treble in her path both up and down, and if this proposition holds good, then both Barnsbury and Canonbury methods conform, as Mr. G. Baker correctly says, to the rule. But, Sir, by recent expositions in the science of method building, I think something more is wanted, and in fact it is not till we arrive at Double Norwich Court do we find a truly constructed double method. This is the method which stands out far away and above all others of the Court Bob systems.

Will Mr. Cartwright kindly point out to me the difference between the methods given on pages 28 and 29 of *Standard Methods*.

CANONBURY COURT BOB MAJOR.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	1	4	3	6	5	8	7
2	4	1	6	3	8	5	7
4	2	6	1	8	3	7	5
4	6	2	8	1	3	5	7
6	4	8	2	3	1	7	5
4	6	2	8	3	7	1	5
6	4	8	2	7	3	5	1
6	8	4	7	2	5	3	1
8	6	7	4	5	2	1	3
6	8	4	7	5	1	2	3
8	6	7	4	1	5	3	2
8	7	6	1	4	5	2	3
7	8	1	6	5	4	3	2
7	1	8	5	6	3	4	2
1	7	5	8	3	6	2	4

Plain 1 5 7 3 8 2 6 4 Lead

Bob 1 5 7 3 8 6 4 2 Lead

Single 1 5 7 3 8 6 2 4 Lead

H. DAINS.

SIR,—I am not aware when, or who laid down the constitution of a double method as given by Mr. Baker; it might be method building up to date, but I don't give much for it. I always understood that a double method was one in which the bells worked the same from the back as from the front (the same as Double Norwich, Superlative, etc.), and also one that is capable of making two bobs in one lead, and that could be rung backwards and forwards the same, or the bobs made with the treble at the back instead of the front. This cannot be done in the above, and therefore I am still of opinion that it is not a double method.

In attempting method building I always started from the last change of the course, counted the places from 8, 7, 6, 5, the same as from 1, 2, 3, 4, and took the position between 4-5 as the centre of the double, and placed the working position of the bells 1-2 equal to 8-7, and 3-4 equal to 6-5.

In reply to Mr. John Carter's ingenious query, I should think there is no difference with a distinction. R. CARTWRIGHT.

THE HENRY BASTABLE MEMORIAL PEAL TABLET.

SIR,—On Saturday last I was privileged to be present in St. Martin's belfry at the unveiling of the peal tablet, and should like through your columns to express my heartfelt gratitude to all his fellow-members of the St. Martin's Guild, and other ringers, who have thus honoured the memory of my dear husband, and have shewn their appreciation of his loss, and sympathy with me, in this and other ways.

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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, DECEMBER 2, 1899.

THE Rev. F. E. ROBINSON has just recorded his Six Hundredth peal! The announcement of this amazing fact is given in our peal records this week, and on another page will be gathered detailed information of such performances. These details will be perused with wonder and close interest by all. It is supposed that the rev. gentleman will not—if his health holds out—stop peal-ringing until his list reaches four figures. Every one will hope that he will continue hale and hearty sufficiently to reach such a point as his one thousandth peal.

We are also able to place before our readers the results of the ringing tour by ten members of the Sussex Association, previously announced in our columns. We may suppose that the usual good fortune of this celebrated ringing company did not attend them on this occasion;

four peals only out of eight attempts not being up to the usual mark. But these performances were of the most elaborate and intricate character, and fully show the high talent of those gentlemen who achieved them.

The members of the East Derbyshire Association have felt it their duty to assist as far as they are able, the fund for the relief of the widows and orphans of our soldiers who may fall in the South African conflict at present raging. A patriotic fund like this deserves the utmost encouragement, and it is hoped that such a worthy attempt as is about to be made by our East Derbyshire brethren will not be singular. The contest is unfortunately a severe one, and it is to be feared that an immense number of lives will be lost before the conflict is at an end. Our gallant soldiers are hourly getting nearer the foe, and though they will no doubt conquer in the end, there is some terrible work indeed before them.

The Metropolis.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY AND ESSEX ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR, WALTHAMSTOW.

A PEAL OF BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 16½ cwt.

ALBERT O. D. ABRAHAMS .. Treble.	FREDERICK W. J. BUTLER .. 5.
JOSEPH WAGHORN, SEN. .. 2.	RICHARD ELLIOTT .. 6.
ERNEST D. LILLYWHITE* .. 3.	GEORGE B. LUCAS .. 7.
FRANK HULL .. 4.	ARTHUR T. KING .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by GEORGE B. LUCAS.

*First peal in the method.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK .. Treble.	GEORGE H. BARKER .. 5.
JOHN ARMSTRONG .. 2.	WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE .. 6.
FREDERICK C. FORDHAM .. 3.	JOHN E. MILLER .. 7.
FRANK C. NEWMAN .. 4.	SIDNEY WADE .. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by SIDNEY WADE.

First peal of Treble Bob by all except the ringers of the 4th and tenor, and first peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

The Provinces.

KIDDERMINSTER, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, KIDDERMINSTER.

On Wednesday, November 22, 1899, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

JOHN SMITH* .. Treble.	ERNEST C. HUNT .. 5.
NOAH DAVIS .. 2.	THOMAS BENNETT .. 6.
WILLIAM H. SMITH .. 3.	JAMES PAGETT .. 7.
THOMAS J. SALTER .. 4.	RICHARD E. GROVE .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by R. G. GROVE.

*First peal. It was the intention to have rung the above on Saturday, November 18th, in honour of the wedding of the only daughter of the Editor, but it was unavoidably postponed until this date.

YATELEY, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, November 22, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. J. PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 17 cwt.

HERBERT WATTS .. Treble.	MAURICE STEER .. 5.
GEORGE HAWKINS .. 2.	ALFRED E. COUSINS .. 6.
SYDNEY RIDDLE .. 3.	BARZILLAI HAWKINS .. 7.
CHARLES SMART .. 4.	FREDERICK MUSTOW .. Tenor.

Conducted by B. HAWKINS.

First peal of Triples by H. Watts. The ringers wish, through this paper, to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells.

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM

On Wednesday, November 22, 1899, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

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

Tenor 14½ cwt.

HENRY MIDDLETON .. Treble.	WILLIAM H. BARBER .. 5.
JOHN BARBER .. 2.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER .. 6.
FREDERICK CLAYTON .. 3.	WILLIAM SHORT .. 7.
THOMAS MILLER .. 4.	*CHARLES H. WATTS .. Tenor.

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

*First peal in the method, and was rung as a birthday compliment to J. Barber.

TAUNTON, SOMERSET.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 23, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 20 cwt. in E.

JOSEPH MADDOCK .. Treble.	FRANK MILLARD .. 5.
HENRY PEARCE .. 2.	EDGAR E. BURGESS .. 6.
SIDNEY WYATT* .. 3.	†HENRY J. POOLE .. 7.
ALEXANDER EVANS .. 4.	THOMAS DOBLE .. Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY J. POOLE.

*First peal of Stedman. †First peal of Stedman as conductor.

BRIDGNORTH, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, November 23, 1899, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.

J. E. GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 20 cwt.

ERNEST FOXALL* .. Treble.	*WILFRED OVERTON .. 5.
ALBERT BAKER* .. 2.	JOHN OVERTON .. 6.
JOHN ELCOCK* .. 3.	JAMES E. GROVES .. 7.
BERTRAM HEAD* .. 4.	HARRY JONES .. Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

*First peal.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, November 23, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Bocking Treble Bob, London Scholars' Pleasure, College Exercise, Superlative Surprise, Oxford Delight, Oxford Treble Bob, and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 13 cwt.

THOMAS JORDAN .. Treble.	GEORGE GRAY .. 4.
GEORGE JORDAN .. 2.	JOHN LUCKEY .. 5.
THOMAS J. WATTS .. 3.	WILLIAM WATTS .. Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM WATTS.

Rung on the tenth anniversary of the first peal on the bells. This is the conductor's 1700th 720.

OXHEY, HERTS.—THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 28, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' ONE-PART.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM .. Treble.	*JOHN B. BATES 5.
HUBERT EDEN* 2.	GEORGE N. PRICE 6.
HERBERT MARTIN 3.	ERNEST E. HUNTLEY .. 7.
CHARLES GEORGE 4.	FRANK A. SMITH Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE N. PRICE.

*First peal of Stedman.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, November 24, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

GEORGE MARTIN Treble.	RALPH H. BIGGS 5.
REV. H. C. BELL* 2.	F. BOREHAM 6.
JOHN EVANS 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
WALTER E. YATES 4.	ARTHUR G. JAMES Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

*First peal of Stedman.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, KIDDERMINSTER.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

JOHN SMITH* Treble.	ADOLPHUS ROBERTS 5.
WILLIAM H. SMITH 2.	THOMAS J. SALTER 6.
ALBERT E. PARSONS 3.	JOHN CRANE 7.
NOAH DAVIS 4.	RICHARD E. GROVE Tenor.

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by R. E. GROVE.

*First peal in the method.

FRAMLINGHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5216 CHANGES.

Tenor 19 cwt.

HORACE BEDINGFIELD .. Treble.	DAVID G. WIGHTMAN .. 5.
STEPHEN WIGHTMAN, JUN. 2.	WILLIAM G. CRICKMER .. 6.
GEORGE WIGHTMAN 3.	ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN .. 7.
WILLIAM WIGHTMAN 4.	HENRY W. BALDREY Tenor.

Composed by EDGAR WIGHTMAN, and Conducted by G. WIGHTMAN.

First peal in the method on the bells, and first in the method by Messrs. Crickmer and Bedingfield.

NEWBURN-ON-TYNE, NORTHUMBERLAND.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Double Oxford, College Single, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob.

Tenor 16 cwt.

JAMES LEIGHTON* .. Treble.	FREDERICK SHERATON .. 4.
JOSEPH A. GOFTON* 2.	JOSEPH PATTISON 5.
THOMAS T. GOFTON 3.	ANTHONY MEYERS Tenor.

Conducted by T. T. GOFTON.

First peal on the bells. *First peal.

SANDHURST, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(SONNING BRANCH)

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s' each called differently.

JOSEPH BRINN Treble.	HERBERT WATTS 4.
ARTHUR WOODERSON 2.	CHARLES SMART 5.
SAMUEL PAICE 3.	ALFRED E. COUSINS Tenor.

Conducted by ALFRED E. COUSINS.

FINEDON, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 22 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 lb.

ARTHUR SMEATHERS† .. Treble.	THOMAS R. HENSHER .. 5.
JAMES HOUGHTON, JUN. .. 2.	†WALTER PERKINS 6.
GEORGE LINES* 3.	*WILLIAM B. MEADOWS .. 7.
JAMES GARRATT 4.	WILLIAM R. HENSHER .. Tenor.

Composed by YORK GREEN, and

Conducted by JAMES HOUGHTON, JUN.

*First peal of Bob Major. †First peal in the method. Rung as a wedding peal to W. B. Meadows. First peal in the method on the bells. Taken from the Central Council Appendix, 1895.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5057 CHANGES.

Tenor 18 cwt.

FREDERICK ALCOCK .. Treble.	GEORGE HAYWARD 6.
JABEZ EADES 2.	JOHN MASON 7.
OLIVER JAMES 3.	ALFRED MOORE 8.
THOMAS ALBUTT 4.	GEORGE BOURNE 9.
ALBERT JACKSON 5.	JAMES PARRY Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HAYWARD.

This is the quickest peal of Caters on the bells. First peal of Caters by Messrs. Eades and Alcock.

APPLETON, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5075 CHANGES.

Tenor 14½ cwt. in E,

F. S. WHITE Treble.	HARRY HOLIFIELD 6.
FREDERICK WHITE 2.	ERNEST BISHOP 7.
ALFRED LAWRENCE 3.	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 8.
REV. C. W. O. JENKYN .. 4.	RICHARD WHITE 9.
JAMES H. SHEPHERD 5.	R. BENNETT Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by GEORGE HOLIFIELD.

MITCHELDEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor about 13 cwt.

DR. N. F. SEARANKE .. Treble.	THOMAS HART 5.
ALBERT E. BRAIN 2.	FREDERICK BLANTON .. 6.
JOHN MORGAN 3.	JOHN AUSTIN 7.
HENRY GARDNER 4.	THOMAS BALDWIN Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

First peal of Grandsire Triples by all except the conductor.

GODALMING, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 25 cwt.

SEPTIMUS RADFORD Treble.	FRANK BLONDELL 5.
JOHN J. JONES 2.	WILLIAM W. THORNE .. 6.
CHARLES WILLSHIRE .. 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
JAMES HUNT 4.	EDWARD RADDON } Tenor.
	ALFRED PULLING }

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

First peal of Stedman on the bells. This is the conductor's 600th peal.

GREAT GRIMSBY, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, November 27, 1899, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 18 cwt.

JOHN W. CHAPMAN Treble.	ARTHUR B. SHEPHERD .. 5.
GEORGE WELDON 2.	WILLIAM H. HEYHUE .. 6.
GEORGE T. MARSHALL .. 3.	CHARLES JACKSON 7.
HERBERT P. HARMAN .. 4.	JAMES LAMB Tenor.

Conducted by HERBERT P. HARMAN.

The conductor was made a member of the Guild previous to starting for the peal, which was rung to commemorate the 50th birthday of Mr. Jackson, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

TIPTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Monday, November 27, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,
T. THURSTAN'S FIVE-PART.

WILLIAM H. GODDEN .. Treble.	THOMAS HORTON 5.
SAMUEL REEVES 2.	JOHN C. ADAMS 6.
WILLIAM R. SMALL 3.	THOMAS J. ELTON 7.
WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT .. 4.	ERNEST BROWN Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

WITNEY, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, November 28, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
TAYLOR'S SIX-PART.

FREDERICK POUNDS .. Treble.	FRANCIS P. POWELL .. 5.
HARRY BROOKS 2.	JOHN MONK 6.
GEORGE ROOM 3.	REV. CYRIL W. O. JENKYN 7.
THOMAS BALL 4.	JESSE BROOKS Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN MONK.

KIDSGROVE, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 28, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of New London Pleasure, Violet, College Pleasure,
Woodbine, Duke of York, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob,

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOSEPH MASON Treble.	FREDERICK DEAN 4.
GEORGE BUCKLEY 2.	HARRY DEAN 5.
ARTHUR ARCHER 3.	GEORGE SIDDONS Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE SIDDONS.

First peal on the bells, also first peal by the ringers of 1, 2, 4, 5, and first peal on six by the ringers of 3 and 6, also first peal as conductor.

The following four peals are the result of eight attempts for peals in eight Surprise Methods by ten members of the Brighton Church Branch of the Sussex County Association.

BOLNEY, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, November 18, 1899, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF NEW CUMBERLAND SURPRISE MAJOR,
5088 CHANGES. Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE A. KING Treble.	EDWARD C. MERRITT .. 5.
GEORGE F. ATTREE 2.	GEORGE SMART 6.
ROBERT DAWE 3.	KEITH HART 7.
FRANK BENNETT 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Composed by FRANK BENNETT, and Conducted by GEO. WILLIAMS.

This is the first peal of New Cumberland on the bells.

HEENE, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, November 22, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF GLOUCESTER SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056
CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt.

FRANK BENNETT Treble.	EDWARD C. MERRITT .. 5.
KEITH HART 2.	GEORGE F. ATTREE .. 6.
ROBERT DAWE 3.	GEORGE A. KING 7.
GEORGE BAKER 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Composed by the REV. E. BANKES JAMES, and
Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

This is the first peal of Gloucester on the bells.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, November 25, 1899, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF WESTMINSTER SURPRISE MAJOR,
5088 CHANGES. Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs.

GEORGE A. KING Treble.	EDWARD C. MERRITT .. 5.
GEORGE F. ATTREE 2.	KEITH HART 6.
FRANK BENNETT 3.	JAMES N. FROSELL .. 7.
ROBERT DAWE 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

This is the first peal of Westminster on the bells.

BRIGHTON.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 27, 1899, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,
5024 CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt.

GEORGE BAKER Treble.	FRANK BENNETT 5.
GEORGE F. ATTREE 2.	GEORGE A. KING 6.
KEITH HART 3.	GEORGE SMART 7.
ROBERT DAWE 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Miscellaneous.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

§ HUGHENDEN (Bucks).—On Saturday, October 28th, at St. Michael and All Angels, 504 Stedman Triples. A. G. Jones, 1; J. H. Taffender (conductor), 2; J. Evans, 3; F. Biggs, 4; F. Boreham, 5; C. Green, 6; R. H. Biggs, 7; E. Brown, 8.

LONDON.—On Tuesday, November 21st, at St. George's-in-the-East, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Haley's variation of Thurston's), in 50 mins. J. H. Taffender (conductor), 1; E. Wallage, 2; W. Truss, 3; H. Torble, 4; J. Scholes, 5; E. Hall, 6; H. Alford, 7; *J. Jones, 8. *First quarter-peal.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

HADLEY (Middlesex).—On Wednesday, November 22nd, for practice, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. S. Roberts, 1; A. Glass-

cock, 2; E. Marshall, 3; G. Godfrey, 4; T. Marshall, 5; J. Armstrong (conductor), 6. First 720 as conductor. Also 360 in the same method. W. Dell, 1; A. Glasscock, 2; E. Marshall (first 360 as conductor), 3; A. Chidwick, 4; J. Armstrong, 5; G. Godfrey, 6. And recently for practice, 720 Plain Bob, conducted by W. J. Dell. H. Baldwin, 1; A. Chidwick, 2; E. Marshall, 3; G. Godfrey, 4; T. Marshall, 5; W. J. Dell, 6.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CREWS (Cheshire).—On Sunday evening, for Divine Service, at Christ church, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples, in 46½ mins. J. Simon, 1; R. T. Holding, jun., 2; R. T. Holding, sen., 3; G. Crawley, 4; R. Langford, 5; J. Dentith, 6; W. F. Hartshorn (composer and conductor), 7; A. Crawley, 8.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WOBURN (Beds).—On Saturday, October 21st, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1264 changes, in 47 mins. W. Brown, 1; Cyril Herbert, (conductor), 2; Chas. Herbert, 3; M. Matthews, 4; S. Avis, 5; W. Smith, 6; D. Harris, 7; E. Herbert, 8. On Monday, October 30th, 1024 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 38 mins. W. Smith, 1; M. Matthews, 2; Chas. Herbert, 3; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 4; S. Avis, 5; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 6; E. Herbert, 7; M. Lane, 8.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

LONDON.—On Saturday, November 4th, at St. John's Waterloo Road, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (Thurstans), in 42 mins. W. H. Fussell, 1; B. Langdon (first quarter-peal in the method, 2; H. Barton, 3; F. G. Perrin, 4; C. Charge, 5; G. E. Symonds, 6; T. Langdon, 7; R. Charge, 8. This quarter-peal was conducted by G. E. Symonds and H. Barton, calling each alternate course.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

STOWMARKET (Suffolk).—At the parish church a 1008 of Bob Major was rung. W. Welham, 1; C. Souter, 2; C. Alderton, 3; W. G. Melbourne, 4; J. Souter, 5; W. Souter, 6; J. G. Wade, 7; W. Rouse, 8. On Sunday, October 1st, 1008 Bob Major. W. Welham, 1; W. G. Melbourne, 2; C. Alderton, 3; F. Allard, 4; C. Souter, 5; W. Symons, 6; J. G. Wade (conductor), 7; W. Rouse, 8. On Monday, October 2nd, 1040 Bob Major. W. Welham, 1; C. Souter, 2; C. Alderton, 3; W. G. Melbourne, 4; W. Souter (conductor), 5; W. Symons, 6; J. G. Wade, 7; W. Rowse, 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Mr. J. Jeffries, an old and esteemed member of this company, whose death occurred on September 28th. On Sunday, November 5th, for morning and evening services, 2960 changes were rung, comprising touches of Oxford Major, Bob Major, and Grandsire Triples, the following taking part: W. Welham, T. Diaper, A. Moss, W. Morris, C. Alderton, W. Souter (conductor), C. Souter, J. G. Wade, W. G. Melbourne, F. Allard and W. Rouse.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

HIGH WYCOMBE (Bucks).—For Divine Service, on All Saints' Eve, 120 Grandsire Doubles. P. W. Wilkins, 1; J. W. Wilkins (conductor), 2; R. Atkins, 3; G. Twitchen, 4; C. Page, 5; R. Wheeler, 6. Also on All Saints' night, for service, another 120 in the same method. P. W. Wilkins, 1; R. Atkins, 2; F. Hayes, 3; G. Twitchen, 4; J. W. Wilkins (conductor), 5; R. Wheeler, 6.

BEACONSFIELD (Bucks).—On Wednesday, November 8th, for practice, 532 Grandsire Triples. P. W. Wilkins, 1; R. Buckland, 2; J. Batting, 3; L. Bagley, 4; A. Bagley, 5; J. Bagley, 6; J. W. Wilkins (composer and conductor), 7; G. Bagley, 8. Also 336, with T. Buckland in place of J. Bagley, and conducted by R. Buckland. Also 112 and 97, with J. W. Wilkins (conductor), 1; P. W. Wilkins (first with a bob bell), 2; J. Batting, 3; F. Bagley, 4; A. Bagley, 5; T. Buckland, 6; R. Buckland, 7; J. Bagley, 8.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHATHAM.—On Sunday, October 1st, at St. Mary's church, on the occasion of the harvest festival, 360 Bob Minor, was rung before the morning service. A. Duncan, 1; F. Moore, 2; W. Haigh (conductor), 3; W. Hunt, 4; W. Easter, 5; A. Lilley, 6; F. Shedd, 7; H. Hinkley, 8. Also 504 Grandsire Triples, with C. Fryatt, 6; the rest as before, conducted by W. Easter. On Saturday, October 14th, an attempt was made for a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 3 hrs. 1 min., it unfortunately came to grief. P. Taffs, 1; W. Mannering, 2; Rev. E. W. Carpenter, 3; Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, 4; W. Easter, 5; W. Haigh, 6; W. Hunt, 7; A. Palmer (conductor), 8. On Monday, October 16th, 350 Grandsire Triples. W. Haigh, 1; A.

Duncan, 2; W. Beaumont, 3; C. Fryatt, 4; W. Hunt (conductor), 5; C. Winsor, 6; F. Shedd, 7; A. Lilley, 8. Also two 168's, conducted by W. Haigh. On Wednesday, November 8th, in honour of the outgoing Mayor, several 120s Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 behind, were rung. F. Moore, 1; A. Duncan, 2; C. Fryatt, 3; H. Hinkley, 4; W. Hunt, 5; A. Lilley, 6; F. Shedd, 7; C. Smith, 8. Conducted by F. Shedd and W. Hunt. Tenor 25 cwt. in E flat.

BLETCHLEY (Bucks).—On Saturday, October 28th, the Woburn company with other friends from Leighton paid a visit to this tower and rang several touches as follows, Messrs. Sear and Hedges, of Bletchley, also taking part kindly having the bells ready: 420 Bob Triples. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1; E. Herbert, 2; M. Matthews, 3; S. Avis, 4; M. Lane, 5; D. Harris, 6; W. Chibnall, 7; V. Sear, 8. And 336 Grandsire Triples. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1; F. Hedges, 2; — Nash, 3; M. Lane, 4; J. Nicholls, 5; S. Avis, 6; E. Herbert, 7; W. Smith, 8. And 224 Bob Major. F. Hedges, 1; S. Avis, 2; M. Matthews, 3; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 4; W. Smith, 5; E. Herbert, 6; M. Lane, 7; W. Chibnall, 8. And 168 Grandsire Triples. V. Sear, 1; E. Herbert, 2; M. Matthews, 3; M. Lane, 4; J. Nicholls, 5; W. Chibnall, 6; G. Bonfield (conductor), 7; G. Archer, 8. Also various other touches.

CHEPSTOW (Monmouthshire).—On Sunday, November 5th, for Divine Service in the evening, at St. Mary's church, 504 Darlaston Bob Triples. E. Williams, 1; G. Hobson, 2; J. Prickett, 3; J. Smith, 4; W. Freestone, 5; R. Thompson (conductor), 6; J. Morley, 7; F. Bye, 8.

EMBERTON (Bucks).—On Sunday evening, October 29th, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor, ten bobs and six singles. J. Lett, 1; J. Lovell, 2; S. Sharp, 3; W. Freeman (conductor), 4; T. Wright, 5; H. Lett, 6. After service, 720 Bob Minor, thirty-two bobs and two singles. J. Robinson, 1; J. Lett, 2; T. Wright, 3; J. Lovell, 4; H. Lett, 5; W. Freeman (conductor), 6. On Sunday evening, November 5th, 720 Bob Minor, four bobs and fourteen singles. J. Lett, 1; S. Sharp, 2; W. Mynard, 3; J. Lovell, 4; W. Freeman (conductor), 5; H. Lett, 6. Also after service, 360 Bob Minor. C. Crouch, 1; J. Lett, 2; J. Lovell, 3; H. Lett, 4; S. Sharp, 5; W. Freeman, 6.

GREENSTEAD GREEN (Essex).—On Thursday evening, November 9th, at St. James' church, 720 of Bob Minor. Morice Root, 1; H. Newman, 2; E. Ridgewell (conductor), 3; W. Root, 4; A. Saunders, 5; W. Burst, 6.

GOSPEL OAK.—On Sunday, November 4th, for morning service, 360 Bob Minor. H. Ellis, 1; G. Hollis, 2; E. Young, 3; J. Nixon, 4; N. Alderman (conductor), 5; R. Beavan, 6. Another 360. H. Ellis, 1; H. Sear, 2; E. Young, 3; G. Hollis, 4; W. Nudds, 5; R. Beavan (conductor), 6. For evening service 720 Bob Minor. H. Parsons, 1; G. Hollis, 2; N. Alderman, 3; J. Nixon, 4; W. Nudds, 5; R. Bevan (conductor), 6. On Thursday, November 9th, for practice, 300 Bob Minor. H. Parsons, 1; G. Hollis, 2; E. Bonfield, 3; R. Bevan, 4; J. Nixon, 5; W. Burrows (conductor), 6. Another 360, standing as before. On Saturday, November 11th, 720 Bob Minor. H. Ellis, 1; G. Hollis, 2; E. Bonfield, 3; J. Nixon, 4; E. Young, 5; R. Bevan (conductor), 6. These bells have just been rehung by Messrs. Warner, the go of them being excellent. Any ringing friend will be welcome, Thursdays at 8 o'clock, Sundays 10.30 and 6.30.

HALSTEAD (Essex).—On Saturday evening, November 11th, at St. Andrew's church, 720 Bob Minor. H. Newman, 1; W. Ward, 2; W. Cooper, 3; W. Root, 4th; Nelson Hawkins (conductor), 5; A. Abiss, 6. Also 360 Oxford Treble Bob. H. Newman, 1; W. Spurgeon, 2; W. Cooper, 3; W. Ward (conductor), 4; N. Hawkins, 5; W. Root, 6.

LONDON.—On Sunday, November 12th, at St. Michael's Star Street, 504 Grandsire Triples. H. Ellis, 1; G. Hollis, 2; E. Bonfield, 3; J. Nixon, 4; E. Young, 5; N. Alderman (conductor), 6; R. Bevan, 7; W. Burrows, 8.

MATERN (Monmouthshire).—On Wednesday, November 1st, 360 Grandsire Doubles. W. Richards (conductor), 1; E. Newman, 2; J. Morley (Chepstow), 3; W. Newman, 4; J. Prewett, 5; G. Daniels, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. The bells are in good going order. This church is said to be one of the oldest in Monmouthshire and bears the date 600. The bells are by W. Evans, Chepstow, 1745.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, November 12th, at All Saints church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. A. Arnold, 1; A. P. Hensman, 2; H. Rainbow, 3; H. Blundell, 4; H. Sear, 5; A. More, 6; W. Farey (conductor), 7; C. Fennell, 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

Sheffield and District Society.—The next meeting will be held at Rotherham parish church to-day, Saturday, December 2nd. Meeting house—The White Hart.

R. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of the above Association will be held at Stoke to-day, Saturday, December 2nd.

W. TWIGG, *Hon. Sec.*

The Kent County Association.—Rochester District.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at St. Michael's church, Hartlip, to-day, Saturday, December 2nd. Tower open for ringing at 4 p.m. Business meeting in belfry at 5.30. A. OSBORNE, *Hon. Dis. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Warrington, to-day, Saturday, December 2nd. The tower will be open for ringing at 4 o'clock; meeting at 6 o'clock. The Vicar has expressed his desire to give all the ringers a most hearty welcome to his church. The bells have been rehung, and the Vicar will also give a tea, and it is hoped that members will try and attend, as it is very disheartening to the Vicars after they have provided tea for so few to turn up.

G. WOODHALL, *Branch Sec.*

St. Thomas' Guild, Dudley.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Tipton to-day, Saturday, December 2nd. Tower open for ringing at 4 o'clock.

W. MICKLEWRIGHT, *Hon. Sec.*

Halifax and District Association.—The next meeting of this Association will be held at Todmorden on Saturday, December 9th. Bells ready from dinner-time. Business meeting in schoolroom at 6 o'clock.

WRIGHT INGHAM, *Sec.*

The Heavy Woollen District Association.—The monthly meeting of the above will be held at Liversedge on Saturday, December 9th. Meeting at 5 o'clock at The Albion inn.

WALTER IDLE, *Secretary.*

The Chester Diocesan Guild.—A meeting of the Bowden, Stockport, and Mottram branch of this Guild will be held at St. George's, Stockport, on Saturday, December 9th.

H. LEIGH MALLORY, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Philip's church, Hulme, on Saturday, December 16th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Business meeting in the schoolroom at 7 p.m. Annual Reports ready.

W. BROWN, *Branch Sec.*

KIRDFORD, SUSSEX.

The six bells in the above church have recently been entirely rehung and quarter-turned. A new English oak frame has been erected on six massive steel joists, and the whole peal put in first-class order by Messrs. Bowell and Son, Church Bell Founders, of Ipswich. The weight of the tenor is about 14½ cwt.

WOULDHAM, KENT.

On Thursday week two new bells were added to the four old ones, one of which had also been recast, thus forming a peal of six. A Diamond Jubilee clock with Cambridge chimes was also placed in the tower, and a chiming apparatus. The church is particularly interesting as having the grave of Walter Burke, purser of His Majesty's ship Victory, and in whose arms the immortal Nelson died. The dedication service took place at 11 a.m. The Rev. W. H. Addison read the prayers, the Rev. A. E. Bourne, Vicar of Burnham, the lesson, and the Rector, the Rev. R. W. Taylor, gave an address on the invention and use of bells. The date on the old bells is 1624, "Joseph Hatch made me," the Rector at that time being Dr. Cacott. Mrs. Henry Peters started the clock. The Aylesford ringers rang touches during the day; 500 children and all the old people over sixty years of age had tea. There was a display of fireworks in the evening, after which the Jubilee Committee and bell-ringers of the two parishes had supper. It was necessary to have a new roof to the tower. The whole cost £670, of which Mr. Henry Peters and the Rector each gave 200 guineas. The Royal Engineers had their chief pontooning station in this village, and there are many navy and army pensioners residing there; this fact prompted a telegram to be sent to Her Majesty expressing the parishioners' loyalty and devotion. A gracious reply was received by the Rector.

WALKLEY, SHEFFIELD, YORKS.

On November 14th, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob was rung by the local band to celebrate the wedding of Mr. Reaney, one of the ringers. Selections were given on the handbells, and songs were rendered by several lady friends. Afterwards a few tittums and some firing was indulged in, and the bells were lowered in peal. The ringers then adjourned to the Walkley Cottage hotel, where a splendid dinner was provided by the bridegroom, which was greatly enjoyed by all.

Tea was partaken of at five o'clock, after which the company went to the bride's home, where a most enjoyable evening was spent. Songs, recitations, cornet and pianoforte solos and handbell selections were rendered, Mr. Stainforth being very prominent at the piano and cornet. The following rung the 720 of Oxford Treble Bob: W. Horsfield, 1; W. Reaney, 2; R. Renshaw, 3; A. Stainforth, 4; J. Duke, 5; G. O. Dixon (conductor), 6.

DEATH OF AN OLD RINGER.

Mr. Thomas Hussey, one of the oldest of bell-ringers, has died at the age of eighty-seven. He had a notable career. He was born on a Glazebury farm on February 1st, 1812, and came to reside in Leigh when a boy of nine. He worked as a hand-loom weaver when that industry was at its prime in Leigh. He was one of the first scholars to attend the first Sunday School in connection with Leigh parish church. His memory was very retentive, and it was very interesting to hear him speak of the "Leighth Feight," as the Chartist riots in 1839 were termed. He will, however, be known to posterity by his connection with bell-ringing. He commenced as a ringer in Leigh parish church in 1827, when fifteen years old, and for upwards of seventy years he filled that position. For forty-one years he rang the 7th bell. In 1830 he rang in the peal for the funeral of George IV., and he rang for the coronation and burial of William

IV., and the accession, coronation, 1887 Jubilee, and 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. He was the last of the ringers who rang at the birth of the late Lord Lilford. He rang peals at the funerals of old Squire Withington, father of the present Squire, and Lord Frederick Cavendish, who was murdered in Phoenix Park, Dublin, fifteen years ago. In fact he took part in almost all the noted events which were celebrated by ringing peals. It is also a strange coincidence he resided in the same house where he died for fifty-four years, and had been a tenant of the same landlord for sixty-three years.

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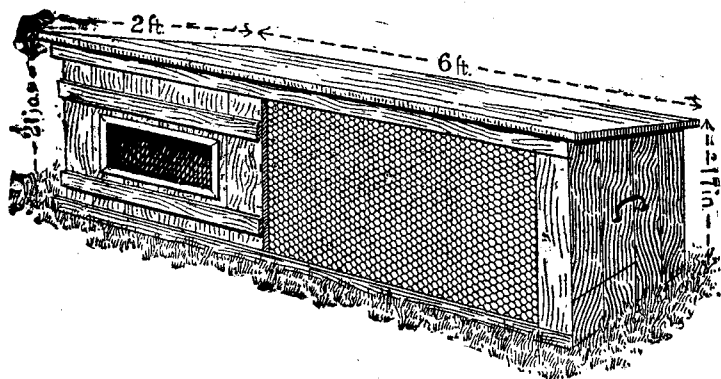
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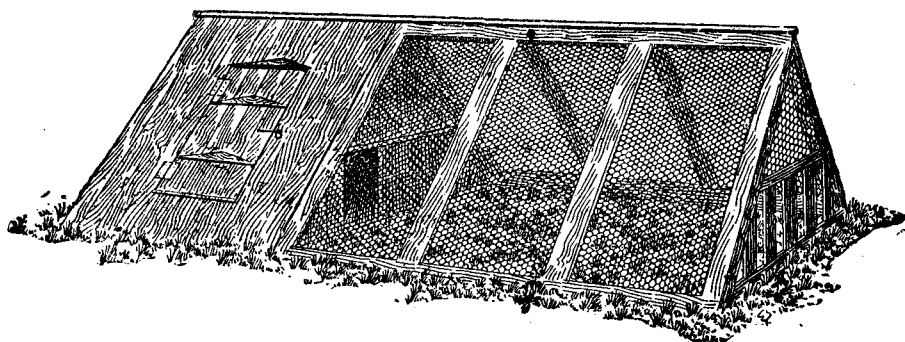
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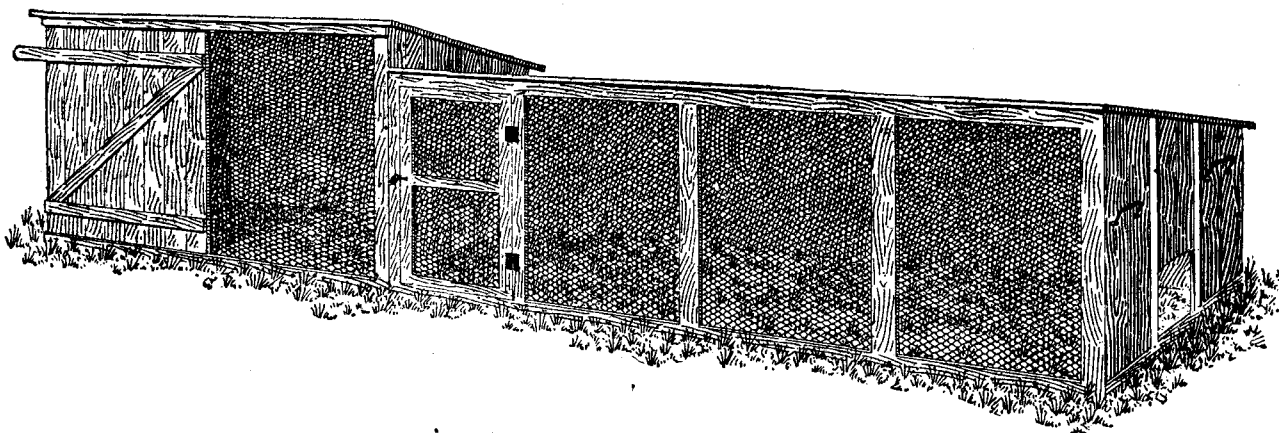
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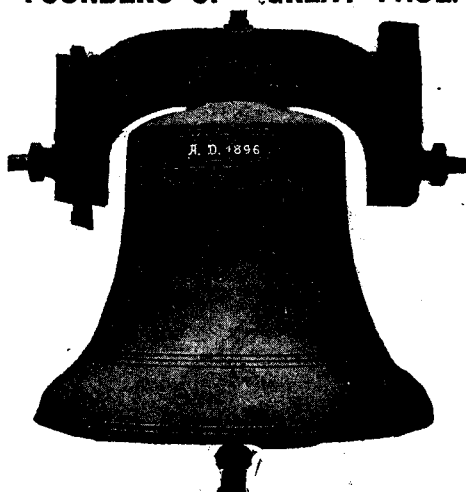
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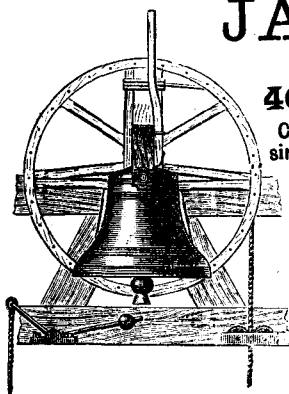
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