

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

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

No. 932.—VOL. XVIII.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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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.	
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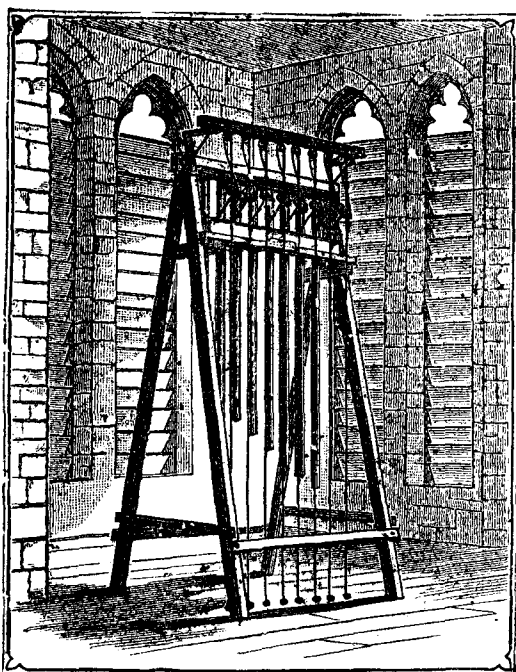
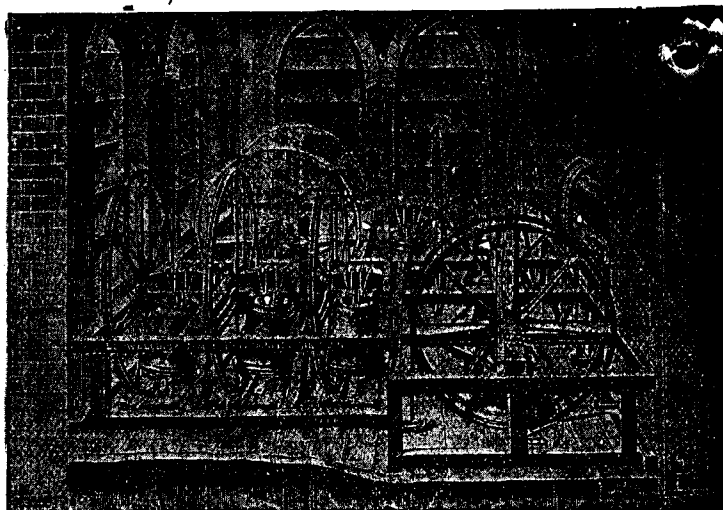
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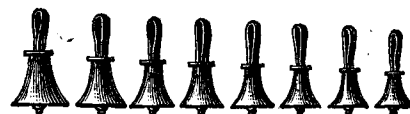
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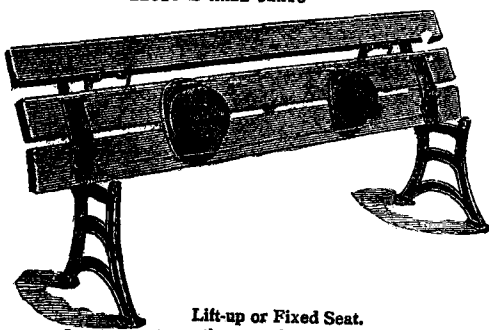
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No. 932.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

[Vol. XVIII.]

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of this Association was held at East Harling on Tuesday, February 6th. There was but a poor attendance of members from Norwich, Quidenham, Attleborough, Pulham Market, and East Harling, the prevalence of influenza no doubt interfering to prevent others coming who might otherwise have been expected. The six-bell towers of East Harling, Garboldisham, and Quidenham were open to members during the day, and each received a share of attention from the visitors.

At 1.30 p.m. dinner was served at The Swan inn, the Rev. B. H. Grigson, Rector of East Harling, being in the chair, supported by the Rev. C. L. Kennaway, Rector of Garboldisham and Secretary for East Harling district; Edward Mornement, Esq., churchwarden; and the Hon. Secretary.

The Chairman gave the usual loyal toasts, and that of "The Association," with an expression of hearty welcome on behalf of himself and the churchwardens, and a hope that though this was the first, it would not be the last meeting of the Association in East Harling. The Hon. Secretary replied, offering the thanks of the Association to Mr. Grigson and Mr. Mornement for the welcome accorded, and for their presence on that occasion. He also desired to thank Mr. Kennaway for giving the use of his bells, for his presence at the dinner, and for the assistance he had for some years afforded as Secretary for the East Harling district.

The Association was progressing he was glad to say, for though their numbers did not increase as they ought, yet there were signs that several new towers might become affiliated before long; and their financial position was stronger than it had been for many years, so much so that the time had come when they could quite well, and without any inconvenience, commence the formation of a reserve fund, the interest of which could be devoted annually to the furtherance of objects connected with ringing and the welfare of ringers, which hitherto they had been unable to help. Amongst other things there was one which he had much at heart, and which in his opinion the Association would be amply justified in undertaking with the approval of the whole Exercise, viz.: the restoration of the historic peal-records in the tower of St. Peter Mancroft. It was a work which ought to be done, as the preservation of these old records was a matter of great importance to the history of the Art of change-ringing. They would be invited to pass a resolution that day authorising the investment of a portion of their available balance in the names of Trustees whom they would also nominate.

The Rev. C. L. Kennaway expressed his thanks for the way in which the Hon. Secretary had spoken of his humble efforts in the service of the Association. His experience was that nearly all the work was done by the Hon. Secretary himself, and that the district secretary had only to do the little that was left. With regard to the investment of a part of their balance he considered it to be most desirable, and would move—"That £50 of the balance be invested as a reserve fund in some stock to be selected

by the Trustees." Mr. C. E. Borrett (Norwich) seconded. The motion was carried.

Mr. C. E. Borrett moved, and Mr. Philip Sadler seconded, and it was carried—"That the Revs. C. L. Kennaway, A. G. Blyth, and H. Earle Bulwer be requested to act as Trustees."

Two honorary, four non-resident life, and ten performing members, with two probationers, were then elected, and the members separated to proceed to the various towers for more ringing. The weather, though cold, being delightfully fine, contributed to the enjoyment of a successful meeting.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

The third quarterly meeting of the year was held at Birmingham on Saturday, February 3rd, and considering the inclement weather there was a fairly good muster. The towers of St. Chad's, St. Philip's, and St. Martin's were open for ringing from 2.0 p.m. until 9.0 p.m. excepting during the holding of the tea and meeting, which took place in St. Martin's schools, kindly lent by the Rector for the occasion.

After an excellent tea the President, Sir Arthur P. Heywood, Bart., took the chair, supported by the Rector of St. Martin's and the Rev. H. Drake, and about forty members. The minutes of the previous meeting having been passed and signed, and several new members elected, the Chairman read a list of the peals rung during the past quarter, eleven in number. He considered that a fair record, and thought they were much indebted to the Burton men, who had rung five of them. He felt sure they all appreciated the support given to the Association by the Burton company.

Mr. J. W. Taylor proposed a vote of thanks to the Rector of St. Martin's for his attendance at the tea and meeting, and to the other clergy and churchwardens for the use of the bells. Mr. Wakley having seconded, it was carried unanimously. The Rector briefly responded. He was very pleased indeed to welcome the members of the Association to Birmingham.

Mr. A. Wakley and Mr. J. Griffin were elected auditors.

Mr. W. Wakley proposed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Birmingham ringers, specially mentioning Mr. W. H. Godden, who had been put to no small amount of trouble in arranging this meeting. Mr. J. George seconded, and it was carried unanimously.

Mr. A. Wakley proposed a vote of thanks to Sir A. P. Heywood for his presence, and the Rev. H. Drake seconded. In replying, Sir Arthur Heywood said it always gave him great pleasure to do all he could for the Association and for ringing generally. But for that meeting he would have gone to Southampton to bid good-bye to his son, who was sailing that day for South Africa with his regiment.

The meeting being over the church bells were again set going in various methods until 9 o'clock, when an adjournment was made to the meeting-house, to indulge in the feast of reason and the flow of soul. Mr. Samuel Reeves made an excellent chairman at the social board.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(TONBRIDGE DISTRICT.)

The Annual Meeting of this district was held at Tonbridge on Saturday, January 27th, and was attended by members from Chiddingstone, Charing, Edenbridge, Headcorn, Ospringe, Penshurst, Seal Chart, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells, Tenterden, Westerham, and the local ringers. Ringing commenced about 3.30, and was kept up with great spirit in various methods by mixed bands during the afternoon and evening. The committee meeting was held at four o'clock, when several new members were elected. At five o'clock over fifty members sat down to an excellent meat tea in the Church Room. The Vicar of Tonbridge (Rev. C. G. Baskerville), presided, supported right and left by Miss Macalpine-Leny and her sister, Mrs. Mackinnon, and B. Wadmore, Esq., of Tonbridge. Grace before and after meat having been said by the Vicar, the business meeting followed. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The district secretary read his annual report, in which he said he regretted that there had been a slight falling off in the number of both honorary and practising members, and he appealed to the members to do their best to get some new honorary members. There had not been so many peals rung in the district by members as in the previous year, but a good many in some of the higher methods had been rung in towers outside the district in which members of this district had taken part. Three district meetings had been held during the year, and had been fairly well attended. Mr. W. Latter (Tunbridge Wells), and Mr. T. Groombridge (Sevenoaks), were re-elected respectively to the offices of district secretary and representative on the Central Committee, with the thanks of the members for their past services. Both briefly returned thanks for their re-election.

It was decided that the meetings during the year should be held at Speldhurst in May, Sundridge and Brasted in September, and the annual meeting at Staplehurst in January 1901.

Miss Leny here asked permission to say a few words. She said it would give herself and Mrs. Mackinnon and the Rector the greatest pleasure to welcome the members to Speldhurst, and the belfry, the rectory, and the garden would be placed at their disposal to enjoy themselves, and that they would feel themselves honoured by a visit of the members of the Association.

Mrs. Mackinnon heartily re-echoed her sister's words, and said that she was very sorry her husband the Rector of Speldhurst was unable to be present that evening, but he had been ordered for a sea voyage for his health, and she hoped he would be back quite restored to health to welcome the members on their visit to Speldhurst.

The ladies words were greeted with applause. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Miss Leny, Mrs. Mackinnon, and the Rev. — Sumner for attending the meeting, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells and room, and for presiding.

The Rev. — Sumner briefly returned thanks for himself and the ladies.

The Vicar, in replying, said it had given him the greatest pleasure to be present that evening, and he was sure that if any member came to reside at Tonbridge they would always be welcomed by the ringers. He concluded by speaking a few earnest words to the members on their duties as workers of the church.

A vote of thanks to Mr. G. H. Stonestreet, of Tonbridge, for making the necessary arrangements for the meeting concluded, the business.

Afterwards in the belfry in the presence of a good number of members, an interesting ceremony took place, consisting of a presentation to Mr. J. Smith, formerly a member of the Tonbridge branch, but who had recently removed to Tunbridge Wells. Mr. G. H. Stonestreet, in making the presentation, said that it had been intended to ask the Vicar to make the presentation at the meeting, but the recipient unfortunately missed his train, and did not arrive until the meeting was over. The Tonbridge ringers desired to show in a practical manner their appreciation of one who had always been a good member, who had stuck to them through thick and thin, and who had always been ready to help them over any difficulty, and while regretting the loss to Tonbridge, he congratulated Tunbridge Wells on the addition to their ranks; he therefore on behalf of his brother-ringers and himself asked Mr. Smith to accept a slight token of their esteem in the shape of a handsome silver-mounted ebony walking stick, together with their good wishes for the future.

Mr. J. Smith, who was taken completely by surprise, briefly expressed his thanks for the handsome gift, saying it would always remind him of the many happy hours they had spent together, and as he was not very far away he hoped to often have the pleasure of meeting them and having a pull together.

A writer in *The Guardian* says that on Wednesday, January 31st, there passed away, after a few minutes of pain, one whose memory will long live in the hearts of many friends. Born on March 3rd, 1848, at Knowl Hill Vicarage, near Henley, Herbert Court Sturges, M.A., spent a singularly blameless youth at Bradfield and University College, Oxford. He had from an early age resolved to take holy orders, and in 1871 he went to Wells Theological College, intending, while there, to take honours in the Oxford School of Theology. Bad health, however, prevented this hope from being realised, and it was not till 1873, after travelling abroad in search of health, that he was able to present himself for his degree. In the following year he was ordained as curate of the parish church, Leeds, under Dr. Gott, and there for three years he laboured earnestly in pastoral work and, latterly, as Precentor. Then, again, ill-health compelled him to take a lighter sphere, and he became Vicar of Erle-Stoke, near Devizes, for some months. In 1878 he accepted work with his father, the Vicar of Wargrave—himself a truly admirable specimen of what a parish priest should be. From Wargrave Bishop Mackarness called Herbert Sturges, after three years, to take charge of the parish of Filkins, near Lechlade, where he was very happy as Vicar for six years. In 1889 he removed to Bodenham, near Hereford, and died Vicar of that place. There he did much by his earnest and humble-minded character to influence the people, showing in his simple, unaffected life an excellent example of a country parson. He was a man who won and maintained many friendships, and in every place where his lot had been cast there will be those who will long lament the loss of his genial sympathy and transparent purity of heart. To him Seneca's description of his own brother might well be applied—"Quem nemo nou parum amat etiam qui amare plus non potest." The deceased gentleman was connected with ringing, and had been a member of the Oxford Guild.

OPENING OF NEW BELLS AT WOODFORD, WILTSHIRE.

The Bishop of Salisbury held special services recently at All Saints' Church, Woodford, for the purpose of consecrating an addition to the churchyard and dedicating the tower and bells. In spite of miserably wet weather a considerable number of people attended. The Bishop was met at the church gate by the Vicar (Rev. J. H. Twining), accompanied by the Rev. C. S. Ruddell, Vicar of Durrington, and Rural Dean; Rev. L. Selby, Vicar of Durnford; and the Rev. A. S. Carr, Vicar of Stratford-sub-Castle, who acted as Bishop's Chaplain, together with the choir and congregation. The Vicar presented and read the petition for consecration and dedication, and upon the Bishop signifying his assent to the same, a procession to the church was formed, led by the choir singing a special psalm. Upon reaching the tower Mr. E. Beauchamp, sidesman, who represented Mr. E. Pickford, the Vicar's warden (absent through illness), handed to the Bishop the keys of the tower and the belfry. After the special service authorised by the Bishop to be used in the diocese had been said, the bells rang out a short peal, and the service for consecration was proceeded with, the Vicar reading the prayers and the Rural Dean the lessons. The Bishop, having consecrated the new ground, returned to the church, and having signed the sentence of consecration, gave an address suitable to the occasion. After the address a collection amounting to £11 5s., was made on behalf of the funds.

The bells dedicated consist of a ring of six. Originally there were but three bells in the tower, two of which were so badly cracked as to be useless for ringing. It was therefore decided, at a parish meeting held in 1897, to endeavour to raise sufficient funds to re-cast the old bells, and with additional metal place in the tower in their stead a ring of six, in commemoration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. This has now been happily accomplished, and is recorded on the tenor bell. The new bells vary in weight from about 12½ cwt. to 4½ cwt., and are of a particularly beautiful tone; and Mr. T. Blackburn, of Salisbury, to whom the work was entrusted, is to be very heartily congratulated upon having brought it to such an excellent finish. The cost of recasting and rehangings the bells was £231 7s. 9d.

The rebuilding of the south and east sides of the tower was admirably carried out by Mr. E. Beauchamp, of Middle Woodford, at a cost of £120. Mr. C. E. Ponting, of Marlborough, was the architect and surveyor. The additional ground for the churchyard was given from the vicarage site by the Vicar, with the Bishop's consent, and by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and is about half an acre in extent.

THE ST. JOHN'S SOCIETY, HANLEY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

An interesting ceremony took place in the belfry of St. John's Church at the end of the morning service, on Sunday, December 10th. Mrs. Knowles expressed a desire to give badges to the members of the belfry, and, accordingly, the Rector obtained suitable ones, and Miss Adams accompanied Mrs. Knowles and the Rector up to the belfry, together with Mr. Barlow, Messrs. sidesmen Acres, Millington, and Billingsley, in the absence of Mr. Churchwarden Daniel. The Rector formally admitted Mr. William Casey a new member, and after a few preliminary remarks, Miss Adams was asked to make the

presentation in the name of Mrs. Knowles, which she did by fastening the badges on the coats of the bellringers. Messrs. Barlow, Billingsley, Acres, and Millington made a few remarks, all tending to one point, their extreme pleasure at being present on that occasion, and their still greater pleasure at the fact that Hanley Old Church possessed such a body of bellringers, men who not only summoned people to worship, but came themselves.

Messrs. Landon (leader of the belfry) and Underwood proposed and seconded a vote of thanks to Mrs. Knowles for the gift, and to Miss Adams for making the presentation. They also said they desired to do their utmost for the best interests of the church, as members of the belfry.

The badges are silver mounted, bearing the inscription: "Ring out the False, Ring in the True," and also the words: "Ad Gloriam Dei," and underneath, the word: "Veritas."

Mrs. Knowles entertained the bellringers at supper in the schools, on Tuesday evening, January 30th. Mr. churchwarden Birchall and Messrs. sidesmen Millington and Holdcroft, with Mr. J. Coxon, joined the party. The verger and organ-blower were also among the guests of the evening. After supper a most enjoyable time was spent, and just before the close.

The Vicar said how thankful he was that the Hanley Old Church had such a splendid body of men as members of the belfry, and that it was a continual source of joy to him to know that not only were they becoming more and more efficient in bell-ringing, but also they had so readily fallen in with the spirit and position of church-workers. He wished to thank Mr. Holdcroft for his valuable help to the ringers.

Messrs. Birchall and Mullinger in a few remarks said how gratified the congregation were to see the recognised position of the ringers as church-workers, and they were equally pleased to see how well they were progressing.

Mr. Holdcroft responded for himself and belfry, and said he was sure before long they would have the best ringers in the district. Mr. A. Latham also spoke.

A hearty vote of thanks was proposed and seconded by Messrs. Landon and S. Derbyshire to Mrs. Knowles, which was carried unanimously. The Rector responded, then all dispersed to their homes with very pleasant recollections of a most enjoyable evening.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, January 31st, eight members of the above Association belonging to the Folkestone and Hythe bands, paid a visit to St. Mary's Church, Dover, where, in company with Mr. E. Potter of the Dover band, a quarter peal of Grandsire Triples was rung. The ringers were: W. Seeley, 1; W. Bourne, 2; A. R. Manning, 3; C. Potter, 4; S. Binfield, 5; F. Finn, 6; S. Gower (conductor), 7; J. Upton, 8. This is the first quarter-peal on the bells for sixty years.

The go of the bells is very unsatisfactory, and the noise so great that when a call is made it has to be passed from the conductor round.

NEEDWOOD, STAFFORDSHIRE.

A large clock with two dials and chiming the Westminster quarters, has just been erected in the church tower. It has all the latest improvements, and generally to the designs of Lord Grimthorpe. The work has been carried out by John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, who are also making a similar clock for Cardington Church, near Bedford.

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

By R. A. DANIELL.

(Continued from page 449.)

In "THE BELL NEWS" of December 23rd last, I referred to drinking in steeples. I then said that I was convinced that this had never been the practice of the London Companies. It is not of any practical importance whether it was or not, because if it was, there is no ground for reproaching people for acting in accordance with the habits of their time, as to which I have already spoken at length. So I am not going to make laborious efforts in the unsatisfactory endeavour to prove a negative, but merely to indicate how I have arrived at my opinion on the subject.

To begin with, the question arises—Is there any evidence that the London Companies ever did drink in their steeples? and the answer to that, so far as I know, is in the negative.

Now to work backwards: no senior member of the London Exercise, of whom I have inquired, ever knew or heard of such a practice. Osborn never mentions it, a fact which, from the nature of his collections and writing, seems wholly irreconcilable with its existence. Shipway says nothing directly about it, but incidentally he makes a remark which is all the more valuable because it is indirect. He is dealing with an absurd suggestion that ringing was productive of habitual drunkenness, and says that if a man be addicted to drink he will obtain it, let his amusements be what they may.

"But," he says, "far from producing a practice so ruinous and detestable, ringing can afford no entertainment to individuals of this character; it is generally performed in a place where liquor cannot be readily procured, and the intellects of the performer must be perfectly unclouded to enable him to practise with any degree of credit." These words are obviously inconsistent with any practice of having drink in the steeple, and as Shipway became connected with London ringing in the year 1785, we have, as it seems to me, continuous and overlapping evidence on this point, going back beyond a century.

Let us now see what we can find farther back still.

The Union Scholars, founded in 1713, had a code of rules, but nothing is therein contained on this head. I give two of their rules as showing that they aimed at keeping their society respectable.

"Ordered—That, as gaming is considered a growing evil, and tends manifestly to the prejudice not only of this but all other societies, Resolved therefore, whosoever shall be found guilty thereof shall forfeit for the first offence one shilling, and if afterwards the person so found guilty commits the same fault, he shall be expelled the society."

"Ordered—That, since no society, whether for gain or pleasure, can well last without having due regard to the Divine Being, whereby 'tis presumed things may be better regulated for the reputation of this fraternity, it is resolved that if any member at any meeting of ringing or other assembly shall curse, swear, or vainly utter the Name of God, whether 'tis owing to his ebriety or any other unseemly quality, for every such fault he shall pay two-pence, and if by too frequent a practice of the same, he shall be deemed a corrupter and expelled the society."

The London Scholars apparently had some rules, but what they were we do not know. The Eastern Scholars, London Youths, both societies of Junior College Youths, and the Junior Cumberlands had no rules. The only old rules of the College Youths that I know of, are contained in a print in Osborn, and stated to be revised in 1735. They make no reference to drink in the steeple.

I take the following from the original rules, dated 1747, of the Cumberland Youths.

"That if any member of this society shall swear, curse, abuse or challenge any of his brothers to ring in the society, or shall be disguised by liquor, he shall forfeit one penny."

"That if any member shall presume to smoke tobacco in the steeple when the society is ringing or going to ring, he shall forfeit threepence."

"That if any member shall go out of the steeple to drink before the society hath done ringing, without it be with a friend, he shall forfeit twopence."

A steeple is as convenient a place as any other to swear in, and if a man has had too much to drink previously to entering one, he is a nuisance; also a smoker generally has in his pockets the materials for a smoke. But a man does not carry drink with him in the same way. Hence the rules naturally forbid that which might readily occur, but do not notice that which was not likely to occur. For that drink was not to be found in the steeple seems to me a necessary inference from the last of the rules I have quoted. It must, I think, have been because there was no drink there that there was a tendency for men to slip out to have some, and thus not be present when wanted for the next touch, and therefore this slipping out was forbidden as a rule, the exception allowed being in the case of a member having a friend with him.

But rules as to drink in the steeples are rendered superfluous by a reference to Laughton. This is one of the respects in which his manuscript illustrates the habits of ringers of his time. Throughout the book he mentions eating and drinking with the utmost frankness. If his club had drunk in steeples it is inconceivable that he should never have mentioned it. But he never did, and we learn beyond doubt what their actual practice was. When they arranged to go anywhere to ring they appointed a tavern for meeting, and when they were met enough they went to the steeple to ring, and afterwards returned from the steeple to the tavern. They drank before and after ringing, but there is not a hint of any liquor ever being taken in the steeple. And when we remember that the Ramblers were composed of members of the London Ringing Societies of the time, the absence of rules against drinking in steeples is made plain to us by this illustration that none were wanted to provide against a practice which did not exist.

We have, then, no evidence that drink ever was consumed in London change-ringing steeples. There is no reason to suppose that it was, and everything that we can gather on the subject concurs to show that it was not. Therefore though I cannot, of course, prove a negative, I have not the slightest doubt that the London members of the Exercise did not drink within the limits of consecrated buildings, as the clergy and other classes appear to have done. What a strange instance is it of the force of prejudice and ignorance that clergy should still be found within the metropolitan district who, regardless of the general changes in manners and overlooking the practice of their own predecessors, coolly assume that London change-ringers who seem never to have participated in it, are to this day likely to indulge in it if they could have their own way.

There is nothing further within my knowledge which occurs to me as needful to add to enable us to form our judgment of the old ringers as a class.

How then shall we answer the question at the head of the last section of my subject? What view are we justified on knowledge and common sense in taking of the characteristics of change-ringers of the past as a body in contradistinction to the flap-doodle of such writers as Mr. Tyack? I have endeavoured to set out the facts about the old ringers, their times, and the habits and manners of their contemporaries. So far as I have been able to collect and understand them they show nothing more to the disadvantage of ringers in their degree, than similar facts show to the disadvantage of Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, the Lords of the Council and all the Nobility and Commons of the Realm, in their respective degrees. And when any churchman picks out the old ringers as persons worse than others, I can only attribute his doing so either to profound ignorance of what he is talking about or to a contemptible state of self-righteousness. I assert that history shows us that the old ringers were always as a body respectable men, quite as good as ourselves, of whom we may well be proud as of those whose brains have conceived and hands executed those methods and performances which alone have made the science and art of change-ringing a living fact for our age. Against this what is brought? Nothing; not a scrap of anything which by the utmost indulgence can be called evidence. And though round-ringers have naturally left less history behind them, and did not need the ability necessary to change-ringers, yet they are not shown on any reliable ground to have been inferior in respectability of life to their fellow-parishioners of the same class. Do persons who write or preach in a manner defamatory of the old ringers exercise any care to ensure their speaking the

truth? Not the least. If they did and made any attempt to understand the matter, they would give themselves pause.

It is no more to the point for a man to say that he knows of a place or places where to his knowledge the ringers used to be, or still are, a very bad lot, than to say that he knows of a place or places where to his knowledge the benefice was, or is, under sequestration on account of the misconduct of the parson. When we come to speak of classes of men, we must be careful to distinguish between exceptions and rules, otherwise our generalisations will probably be false; and in order to ascertain what are the rules and what the exceptions, we must be prepared to take a little trouble to investigate *facts* sufficiently to enable us to form our judgment from proper materials. This I have endeavoured to do to the best of my ability and opportunities,—imperfectly I know—but still, I think, sufficiently to enable us to say that in the light of what we so far know, the old ringers as a class come well out of the inquiry.

And now that I have arrived at the end of my subject, the question arises—Was it worth while to have begun upon it? This is a question for my readers who will answer it as they deem best. We are never the worse for learning anything about past times, and although members of the Exercise cannot have needed anything to show the absurdity of Mr. Tyack's statements, it may be that I have been able to bring the other side before them in a more handy form than it is elsewhere, so far as I know, to be readily found. But the use of historical inquiry is not merely to get information about days and habits that are gone; its higher use is to direct us to truths which underlie the history of the past, and which should clear our minds for the realisation of the present and the future. Now with again going into such debateable matter as the origin of ringing a bell at all, a subject on which I am sorry Mr. Drake has not continued his comments, I assert that historical investigation shows us change-ringing as a pursuit secular in its origin and in its history. Is there any truth underlying this which is instructive to us not merely as to the past, but also as to the present and future? To me it appears that there is. It seems to me that this secular origin and history point us to the true relations between on the one hand, the nature of change-ringing in itself and the conditions essential to its existence, and, on the other hand, its ultimate destination as an offering of praise to the Almighty in connection with Divine worship, and the consideration of this subject next week will conclude my present articles.

(To be continued.)

Correspondence.

THE BRISTOL PEAL.

SIR,—With reference to the peal at St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, I am surprised at the tone of W. R.'s letter in this week's issue of "THE BELL NEWS," and think that if he was aware of all the circumstances he would not have penned what is evidently meant to disqualify the peal, which is to say the least of it, is unjust, as W.R. was not a listener; and on the other hand we have the unbiased opinion of a qualified ringer who not only heard the peal throughout but also had the figures. Now Sir, I will start by correcting W.R. In the first place Redcliffe tenor is not 52 cwt. but 48 cwt., and consequently there is nothing like the difference stated between it and Ipswich tenor. Has W.R. every rang at Bristol or with Bristol men? I hold no brief for them, neither have I had any communication whatever about this peal, but knowing as I do that their ringing is very fast and also accurate, I am bound in justice to the band all of whom are known to me (as well as their abilities) to say I believe the peal was a good one, and true and complete. Why does W.R. doubt the peals that have been rang at St. Stephen's, Stedman Caters in less than 3 hrs. with a 21 cwt. tenor? I think that if any question was to be raised it should have been raised by one of W.R.'s company who had rang with the men in point, and who know how they ring. I have not the pleasure of knowing Mr. May, but putting that gentleman's testimony on one side for the moment, I should have thought the names of James Hinton, Henry Porch, and George Daltry, ringers and conductors of renowned capability, who would scorn to permit their names to appear appended to a performance which was not a true peal, would have been sufficient guarantee of its

genuineness. What would W.R. say if I had questioned the two great performances of his company some time since? I am inclined to think had they been quick peals, W.R. would not have liked it to see such a letter as his denouncing them. Why not utilize superfluous energy in beating Mr. Pye's Double Norwich, W.R.? This in my opinion and also that of the majority of ringers which I have come in contact with, has yet to be done. I hope we shall see some letters from some of the band, but as a non-listener like W.R., I think my testimony must be that it was a peal, and I will sign myself,
EDWARD P. O'MEARA.

SIR,—W. R.'s reply to Mr. May *re* peal of Stedman Cinques at Bristol contains many assertions that he should have supported by proof. Mr. May asked him for his name and address, and promised to give him the information he asked in his first letter. Why did not W.R. give it and save any further letter-writing. He says "I don't doubt Mr. May heard the peal and has the composition, but how can Mr. May vouch to its being a true peal if he did not listen to it all, and tick off the part-ends." How does W.R. know Mr. May did not hear it all? Mr. May did not say he had not heard it all. Who told W.R. there were any part ends to tick off, and if there were how does he know Mr. May did not tick them off? W.R. evidently is one who jumps at conclusions. He says he is a member of a society that have rung peals on twelve bells, and his society does not believe the peal was rung. His bare word is not sufficient and he should confirm what he says by publishing the name of the society. He compares the times his society took to ring their peals with the time of the Bristol peal. As their peals were not rung at St. Mary Redcliffe, the comparison is no use as an argument. W.R. says his society "rings fast," but that is no reason the Bristol men could not ring faster. He asks a "little question," gives his own answer, and tells us that all twelve-bell ringers would refuse to believe a peal was rung at St. Paul's under 4 hrs. This is an amazing assertion for one to make who commenced by asking what time it would take to ring a peal of Cinques with a tenor 52 cwt. How W. R. got to know the exact minimum of time ringers allow for a peal at St. Paul's passes comprehension, but probably he possesses some occult power that tells him the time it takes to ring peals, and his query was only veiled sarcasm. He says "it is time some of these things were shewn up." Show them up and his name and address along with them and he will have the credit of such action. W.R. proceeds to inform us that a good many people would like to say something about peals that are published, but don't like to. He seems to be well informed about other people's opinions and beliefs, he may know what the Bristol people think of him. To conclude, if W.R. can prove by publishing their names and addresses, that twelve men of his society are so foolish as to believe as he does, and he will come to Bristol, the ringers here will undertake to ring a quarter-peal of Cinques, clean and clear, in his hearing, in 52 mins. on St. Mary Redcliffe bells.

GEORGE THOMAS DALTRY.

THE BOGUS PEAL OF TREBLE TEN AT DUBLIN CATHEDRAL.

SIR,—In your issue of January 27th, a letter appeared concerning the above peal-proving it beyond all doubt to be false. With the exception of two, the band have given up all claim, these two being Messrs. Washbrook and Willson, one the conductor and the other the publisher of the peal. Myself like many others have been waiting for the past two weeks for an explanation from these men, and as I think they have had plenty of time to reply, it is time someone else had something to say on the subject, especially as Mr. Willson made his name so prominent some time ago as a correspondent. The Exercise are now I should think convinced as to what sort of person he is. They will now understand why he stood up so in Mr. Washbrook's defence some time ago. It will be remembered some months back Mr. Willson accused me of trying to purge the Exercise. The boot however proves to be on the other foot, for while he was accusing me of purgery which he failed to prove, he knew well that the Dublin peal was false. Oh, Mr. Willson! how do you like your own medicine; how bitter it must be. Like the rest of the great Q.C.'s he is unable to defend himself and at present no one seems inclined to take it up for him. It is to be hoped that ere long either himself or Mr. Washbrook will muster up courage enough to reply, as at present things are far from satisfactory on their behalf.
W. PYE.

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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, FEBRUARY 17, 1900.

At the meeting of the Norwich Diocesan Association, reported on another page, a very interesting and practical suggestion was made by the rev. Honorary Secretary. This was no less than devoting a portion of its funds, upon trust, for the purpose of restoring ancient historical tablets recording peals of excellence or of great antiquarian interest. Those on the walls of the belfry of St. Peter Mancroft are the first to be so treated by the great Eastern Association, and we cannot help congratulating the members upon the alacrity and readiness which they exhibited in responding to the Rev. H. EARLE BULWER's proposals. That such restorations will be effected in a durable and proper manner need not be doubted for one moment.

We have on several occasions called attention to the necessity there exists for measures of this sort. Many of those readers whose acquaintance with the Exercise covers four or five decades, know full well that many an interesting and historical tablet has gone to the bad, and in some cases disappeared altogether. A few years ago, the condition of those unique tablets in the steeple of

St. Leonard, Shoreditch, were almost in a state of total obliteration; the one recording the 12,000 of Treble Ten was missing altogether for a time, and at last discovered in a coal-hole! This tablet was of copper, and therefore it may have excited the cupidity of some one or other. We have heard that the Cumberlands had this tablet restored, if so, honour be to them for the act.

It is to be hoped that the example of the Norwich men may be extensively followed without delay. There is a great deal of this kind of work required in various parts of the country.

The Metropolis.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 8, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

HARRY MILLER.. .. Treble.	ERNEST W. MARSHALL .. 5.
ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK .. 2.	JOHN E. MILLER 6.
WILLIAM TEGG 3.	ARTHUR MILLER 7.
JOHN ARMSTRONG 4.	SIDNEY WADE Tenor.

Composed by CORNELIUS CHARGE, and Conducted by SIDNEY WADE.

Rung as a birthday compliment to J. Miller, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns. This composition, which contains the full combinations of 4-5-6 without the 2nd in 5-6 or 3 in 6, is now rung for the first time.

THE ALL SAINTS' SOCIETY, FULHAM.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, FULHAM,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5093 CHANGES.

Tenor 21 cwt.

JAMES W. DRIVER Treble.	WILLIAM PICKWORTH .. 6.
JOHN HINTON* 2.	WILLIAM T. ELSON 7.
REUBEN CHARGE 3.	CORNELIUS CHARGE 8.
JOSEPH HERBERT† 4.	LANCE-CPL. J. R. MACKMAN 9.
WILLIAM CHARGE‡ 5.	ROBERT BURGESS Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM T. ELSON.

*First peal of Caters. †First peal. ‡First peal away from the tenor. This peal has the 5th and 6th their extent behind the 9th in alternate blocks of three courses each, and is now rung for the first time. This is J. W. Driver's rooth peal.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty-seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

Tenor 28 cwt.

ALFRED W. BRIGHTON .. Treble.	HARRY FLANDERS 5.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM .. 2.	JOHN H. CHEESMAN 6.
CHARLES WILKINS 3.	JOHN R. SHARMAN 7.
CALEB FENN 4.	WILLIAM PYE Tenor.

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and Conducted by ALFRED W. BRIGHTON.

A reference to this peal will be found elsewhere.

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

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Forty-four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, CORNHILL,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 41 cwt.

JOHN N. OXBORROW .. Treble.	JOHN W. GOLDING 5.
HARRY R. PASMORE 2.	JOHN M. HAYES 6.
WILLIAM H. PASMORE .. 3.	CHARLES T. P. BRICE .. 7.
HENRY S. ELLIS 4.	HENRY R. NEWTON Tenor.

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW, and Conducted by HENRY R. NEWTON.

Rung to commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the marriage of Queen Victoria; also as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WILLESDEN,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720s of Kent Treble Bob, two of Oxford Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 9½ cwt.

F. SIDE* Treble.	W. BURROWS 4.
G. HOLLIS* 2.	A. TENNANT 5.
T. LANGDON* 3.	†A. PITAM Tenor.

Conducted by A. PITAM.

F. Side was made a member of the above Society before starting for the peal
*First peal. †First peal as conductor.

The Provinces.

SMETHWICK, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Wednesday, February 7, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,
AT THE OLD CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; THURSTANS' ONE-PART.

WILLIAM R. SMALL .. Treble.	JOHN C. ADAMS 5.
WILLIAM ELLIS 2.	HARRY MILLS 6.
THOMAS HORTON 3.	SAMUEL REEVES 7.
THOMAS J. ELTON 4.	ERNEST BROWN Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

This peal has a single in each of the last two courses, and was rung at the first attempt.

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

On Wednesday, February 7, 1900, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICOLAS,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM PALMER .. Treble.	WILLIAM S. PRITCHETT .. 5.
JOHN WITHERS* 2.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 6.
JOHN S. PRITCHETT .. 3.	WILLIAM H. BARBER .. 7.
THEODORE PRITCHETT .. 4.	WILLIAM SHORT Tenor.

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON, and Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

*First peal of Cambridge with a bob bell. First peal in the method by the Guild.

GREAT BENTLEY, ESSEX.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 8, 1900, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

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

Tenor 8 cwt.

DAVID ELLIOT Treble.	WILLIAM MOTTS 5.
WILLIAM J. NEVARD* .. 2.	CHARLES SILLITON 6.
WILLIAM PYE 3.	ERNEST W. BECKWITH .. 7.
JAMES MOTTS 4.	*WILBY HAZELL Tenor.

Composed by the REV. H. EARLE BULWER, and Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

*First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells. Rung to celebrate the birthday of Mr. W. J. Nevard, his brother-strings wishing him many happy returns. The company were entertained at dinner by Mr. Nevard after the peal, to whom they wish to tender their best thanks.

NESTON, CHESHIRE.—THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. (WIRRAL BRANCH.)

On Thursday, February 8, 1900, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE.

JOHN TILLEY† .. Treble.	†WM. WILLIAMS 5.
WM. BRISCOE 2.	JAS. DILLON 6.
JOHN MEALOR 3.	*CHARLES GRUNDY 7.
EDWIN BREEZE 4.	*CHARLES GRIMES Tenor.

Conducted by JAS. DILLON.

*First peal. †First peal away from the treble. ‡First peal away from the tenor. Rung to celebrate the birthday of Canon Turner, President of the branch, and Vicar of Neston.

RAYNE, ESSEX.

On Thursday, February 8, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 168 plain courses of Grandsire. Tenor 7 cwt.

G. WILLIAMS Treble.	E. GENTRY 3.
E. RICHARDSON 2.	E. EASTER 4.
F. NEWMAN Tenor.	

OLD WINDSOR, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 11 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES Treble.	FRANK HOPGOOD 5.
CHARLES GILES 2.	WILLIAM NEWELL 6.
JOSEPH J. PARKER 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON 7.
REV. H. C. BELL 4.	REUBEN SAWYER Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

SONNING, BERKS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

(ST. PETER'S SOCIETY, CAVERSHAM.)

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR;

5088 CHANGES. Tenor 22 cwt. in E flat.

H. SIMMONDS Treble.	E. W. MENDAY 5.
E. J. MENDAY 2.	H. W. SMITH 6.
J. HANDS 3.	T. NEWMAN 7.
G. ESSEX 4.	R. T. HIBBERT Tenor.

Composed by J. CARTER, and Conducted by R. T. HIBBERT.

First peal in the method on the bells.

DAGENHAM, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 13 cwt. in F.

GEORGE HAYDEN Treble.	WILLIAM KEEBLE 4.
WILLIAM MILLER 2.	JOHN MOULE 5.
ACLAND J. PERKINS 3.	JOHN DALE Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

This is the first peal on the bells.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REV. E. B. JAMES'S TEN-PART. Tenor 32 cwt.

CHARLES J. GARDINER .. Treble.	SIDNEY HILLIER 5.
OWEN W. LAYNG 2.	THOMAS RICKETTS 6.
ALFRED LAWRENCE 3.	JAMES S. SHEPPERD 7.
THOMAS BLACKBOURN .. 4.	WILLIAM W. GIFFORD .. Tenor.

Conducted by THOMAS RICKETTS.

This is the first that has been rung on the bells by one set of men, and reflects credit upon W. Gifford who rang the tenor; also the rest of the band who took part in the peal.

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.

WALTHAM, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE FRAMLAND AND MELTON MOWBRAY SOCIETIES

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight 6-scores of Canterbury, four of Plain Bob, and thirty of Grandsire. Tenor 12 cwt.

ALBERT VICTOR POTTER* Treble.	WALTER JAMES 4.
CHARLES DALBY 2.	†R. HENRY BARTRAM 5.
ERNEST J. GALE 3.	*THOMAS H. GILLET .. Tenor.

Conducted by R. H. BARTRAM.

*First peal. †First peal as conductor. First peal by the Framland Society.

ISLIP, NORTHANTS.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s each called differently.

Tenor 12 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs. in G.

WILLIAM SHAW* Treble.	JAMES HUDSON 4.
DANIEL REDHEAD 2.	JAMES NICKERSON 5.
LEWIS CHAPMAN 3.	REGINALD LOVEDAY .. Tenor.

Conducted by REGINALD LOVEDAY.

*First peal. First peal of Minor by all.

ASTON-JUXTA-BIRMINGHAM.—THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt.

FRED G. MAY Treble.	JOHN BARBER 6.
WILLIAM SHORT 2.	HENRY MIDDLETON 7.
ALBERT WALKER 3.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 8.
CHARLES DICKENS 4.	THOMAS MILLER 9.
WILLIAM H. BARBER .. 5.	WILLIAM PAINTER .. Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by FRED G. MAY.

This peal was arranged for F. G. May, who hails from Bristol.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 10, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.

ROBERT S. STORY Treble.	JOHN J. LEIGHTON 5.
JAMES LEIGHTON† 2.	THOMAS T. GOFTON 6.
WILLIAM C. BENNETT† .. 3.	WILLIAM STORY 7.
FRED. SHERATON* 4.	JOSEPH PATTISON .. Tenor.

Composed by the late WILLIAM SOTTANSTALL, and

Conducted by THOMAS T. GOFTON.

*First peal of Major. †First peal of Oxford. ‡First peal away from the treble.

CRAYFORD, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 12, 1900, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAULINUS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN SAXBY* Treble.	CHARLES WILKINS 5.
GEORGE CONYARD 2.	*WILLIAM BOND 6.
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN.* .. 3.	†WALTER J. SMITH 7.
EDWARD AUDSLEY* 4.	EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. .. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by EDWIN BARNETT, SEN.

*First peal of Major. †First peal in the method

Date Touches.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

FELSHAM (Suffolk).—On January 29th, at the parish church, a date touch of Bob Minor, 1900 changes, in the following methods, in 1 hr. 8 mins.: 460 Plain Bob, 720 each of Double Court and College Single. C. Adams, 1; J. Horrex, 2; H. Kinsey, 3; H. Gladwell, 4; H. Horrex, 5; W. Kinsey (conductor), 6.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Thursday, January 25th, at St. Paul's church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. *J. Sear, 1; S. Cullip, 2; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 3; *B. Jealous, 4; C. Chasty, 5; I. Hills, 6; F. Webb, 7; D. Thompson, 8. *Longest length in the method.

Miscellaneous.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

EASTBOURNE (Sussex).—On Saturday, January 20th, on the occasion of a district meeting being held at the Old Town, Eastbourne, 504 Stedman Triples was rung at the church of All Saints. R. J. Dawe, 1; G. Penfold, 2; S. Saker, 3; G. Williams (conductor), 4; E. C. Merritt, 5; J. Sharp, 6; B. Hobbs, 7; T. Price, 8. Also a course of Treble Bob Major in which G. Howes took part. Tenor 18 cwt.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTHGATE (Middlesex).—On Saturday, December 22nd, at Christ Church, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples. W. Tegg, 1; F. C. Fordham, 2; A. R. Glasscock, 3; J. Armstrong, 4; E. Marshall, 5; J. Miller, 6; S. Wade (conductor), 7; C. Bale, 8. On December 25th, another quarter-peal in the same method. J. Miller, 5; A. Miller, 6; H. Balaam, 8; the rest as before.

WOOD GREEN (Middlesex).—On November 12th, at St. Michael's church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. A. R. Glasscock, 1; J. Armstrong, 2; E. Marshall, 3; F. C. Fordham, 4; W. H. Lawrence, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. On January 2nd, 720 College Single. A. R. Glasscock, 1; J. Armstrong, 2; E. Marshall, 3; W. H. Lawrence, 4; J. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. On January 14th, 720 Double Oxford. A. Glasscock, 1; J. Armstrong, 2; E. Marshall, 3; F. C. Fordham, 4; J. Miller, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6. And 720 Bob Minor. A. Glasscock, 1; F. W. Ford, 2; E. Marshall, 3; J. Armstrong, 4; F. C. Fordham, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

SOUTHGATE (Middlesex).—On January 14th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. H. Miller, 1; A. R. Glasscock, 2; F. C. Fordham, 3; J. Miller, 4; J. Armstrong, 5; S. Wade (conductor), 6; A. Miller, 7; H. Childs (first quarter-peal), 8.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

PENN (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, January 20th, meeting one short for a peal, 720 Bob Minor was rung. F. Jones, 1; B. Dalton, 2; H. Sadler, 3; G. Burrows, 4; J. Purser, 5; R. Pickering (conductor), 6. And a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. I. Purser, 1; B. Dalton (conductor), 2; R. Pickering, 3; H. Sadler, 4; G. Burrows, 5; E. J. Graham, 6.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

BLOXWICH (Staffordshire).—On Friday, November 24th, for practice, 720 Grandsire Minor, on the back seven. E. J. Stafford, 1; J. Birch, 2; A. Painter, 3; A. Turley, 4; F. Edwards, 5; J. C. Adams (conductor), 6; J. Elton, 7. On Sunday, November 26th, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples. J. Birch, 1; W. Barton, 2; F. Edwards, 3; A. Painter, 4; J. C. Adams (conductor), 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. For evening service, 546 Grandsire Triples. J. C. Adams (conductor), 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Painter, 4; F. Edwards, 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. On Sunday, December 3rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 42 mins. E. J. Stafford (first quarter-peal), 1; A. Painter, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Turley, 4; F. Edwards, 5; J. C. Adams, 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. Composed by John S. Goldsmith, and conducted by J. C. Adams. On Christmas Eve, 527 Grandsire Major. A. Painter, 1; T. J. Elton (conductor), 2; J. Birch, 3; W. Barton, 4; F. Edwards, 5; A. Turley, 6; J. Elton, 7; J. C. Adams, 8. On Sunday, December 31st, 672 Grandsire Triples. F. Edwards, 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Painter, 4; A. Turley, 5; J. C. Adams (conductor), 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. On Friday, December 29th, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. A. Painter,

1; J. Birch, 2; W. Barton, 3; A. Turley, 4; J. C. Adams (conductor), 5; J. Elton, 6. On Saturday, January 20th, an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples came to grief after ringing 2835 changes, in 1 hr. 30 mins. A. Painter, 1; W. Barton, 2; J. Birch, 3; A. Turley, 4; F. Edwards, 5; J. C. Adams (conductor), 6; J. Elton, 7; R. W. Frost, 8. The band were afterwards entertained at supper by Mr. A. Turley.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ROCHESTER (Kent).—On Saturday, January 20th, at St. Margaret's church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 45 mins. J. Tullett, 1; W. Hobbs, 2; W. Easter, 3; W. Hollier, 4; R. Staines, 5; W. Tassell, 6; C. Millway (conductor), 7; J. Kidd, 8.

SITTINGBOURNE (Kent).—On Sunday, January 21st, at St. Michael's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. G. Honeysett, 1; T. W. Jarrett, 2; W. Golding, 3; H. E. Simpson, 4; C. R. Millway (conductor), 5; E. J. Bottle, 6; W. Tassell, 7; F. Belsey, 8. First quarter-peal by Messrs. Golding and Belsey.

FAVERSHAM (Kent).—On Saturday, January 20th, at the church of St. Marie of Charity, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 43 mins. H. Wallis, 1; E. Bridges, 2; H. Foster, 3; A. Biggs, sen., 4; A. Biggs, jun., 5; F. Hunt, 6; E. E. Foreman (conductor), 7; G. Wood, 8. Also 672 in the same method standing as before.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Wednesday, January 17th, on handbells, retained in hand, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 35 mins. G. R. Pye (conductor), 1-2; W. Pye, 3-4; E. Pye, 5-6; H. F. Dawkins, 7-8. At St. Edward's church, on Sunday, January 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. L. W. Copsey, 1; E. Vyse, 2; G. Roughton, 3; W. Pye, 4; G. R. Pye, 5; W. Watson, 6; E. Pye (conductor), 7; H. P. Vyse, 8.

LEYTONSTONE (Essex).—On January 14th, 720 Bob Minor. J. Philpot, 1; J. Moule, 2; H. Bottrell, 3; F. Withers, 5; W. Miller (conductor), 5; G. Hayden, 6. On January 28th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. F. C. Newman, 1; W. Miller, 2; W. Doran, 3; W. Keeble (conductor), 4; G. Hayden, 6; J. Moule, 6. On January 31st, 720 York Surprise. W. Doran, 1; J. Moule, 2; J. Mardell, 3; W. Keeble, 4; W. Miller, 5; T. H. Beams (conductor), 6.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BUSHEY (Herts).—On Wednesday, January 4th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples. W. H. L. Buckingham, 1; J. Steddy, 2; W. G. Whitehead, 3; E. Holloway, 4; W. I. Oakley, 5; W. E. Oakley, 6; E. E. Huntley (conductor), 7; J. J. Allen, 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the clerk and sexton (Mr. J. Dack), who died suddenly on Monday.

KINGS LANGLEY (Herts).—On Saturday, January 27th, at All Saints church, 720 College Single. W. H. L. Buckingham, 1; B. Prewett, 2; B. Martin, 3; E. Holloway, 4; E. E. Huntley, 5; G. N. Price (conductor), 6.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Thursday, January 25th, at St. Paul's church, 504 Stedman Triples. F. Webb, 1; S. Cullip, 2; E. Tingey, 3; B. Jealous, 4; C. Chasty, 5; I. Hills, 6; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 7; W. Ellis, 8. On Sunday, January 28th, 216 Stedman Triples. S. Cullip, 1; J. Church, 2; W. Hall, 3; B. Jealous, 4; C. Chasty, 5; I. Hills, 6; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 7; J. Sear, 8. Also a course of Grandsire Caters. F. Webb, 1; W. Barker, 2; S. Cullip, 3; J. Church, 4; W. Hall, 5; B. Jealous, 6; C. Chasty, 7; I. Hills, 8; C. W. Clarke, 9; J. Sear, 10. Also 408 Stedman Triples. S. Cullip, 1; W. Barker, 2; W. Hall, 3; B. Jealous, 4; F. Webb, 5; I. Hills, 6; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 7; J. Sear, 8. And 168 Grandsire Triples. S. Cullip, 1; J. Sear, 2; W. Hall, 3; I. Hills, 4; B. Jealous, 5; W. Barker, 6; F. Webb (conductor), 7; C. W. Clarke, 8. On Thursday, February 1st, two courses of Grandsire Caters. C. W. Clarke (conductor), 1; S. Cullip, 2; E. Tingey, 3; W. Hall, 4; —. Sheppard, 5; B. Jealous, 6; C. Chasty, 7; I. Hills, 8; F. Webb, 9; J. Sear, 10. On Sunday, February 4th, 216 Stedman Triples. F. Webb, 1; S. Cullip, 2; W. Hall, 3; B. Jealous, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; I. Hills, 6; C. Chasty, 7; J. Sear, 8. Also a course of Grandsire Caters. W. Barker, 1; F. Webb, 2; S. Cullip, 3; J. Church, 4; W. Hall, 5; B. Jealous, 6; C. W. Clarke, 7; I. Hills, 8; C. Chasty, 9; J. Sear, 10. And 223 Grandsire Triples. J. Sear, 1; S. Cullip, 2; W. Hall, 3; F. Keech, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; I. Hills, 6; F. Webb, 7; D. Thompson, 8. Also two courses of Grandsire Caters. J. Sear, 1; F. Webb, 2; E. Tingey, 3; S. Cullip, 4; W. Hall, 5; F. Keech, 6; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 7; I. Hills, 8; W. Barker, 9; D. Thompson, 10. And 252 Stedman Triples. F. Webb, 1; E. Tingey, 2; W. Hall, 3; W. Barker, 4; I. Hills, 5; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 6; W. Valentine, 7; D. Thompson, 8.

CROYDON BELLRINGERS AT DINNER.

The annual dinner of the Ancient Society of Croydon Bellringers was held on Tuesday evening at The Rose and Crown, Church Street.

In the absence of Sir Frederick Edridge, the chair was occupied by Mr. Howard Houlder (churchwarden), who was supported by the Rev. T. G. Hill, Mr. Pates, and others.

In proposing the toast of "The Queen," the chairman referred to the deep shadow which was now cast over the country, and observed that everyone would extend their sympathy to the Queen, whose aversion to war was so well known.

The toast of "The Vicar and Churchwardens" was proposed by Mr. Pates, who, in a brief speech, pointed out that it was a matter for regret that Canon Pereira and Sir Frederick Edridge were unable to be amongst them in consequence of prior engagements. If all bellringers had two such churchwardens as they had at the parish church, they would have very little to complain of. He regretted they did not see quite so much of the Vicar as they would have liked, but still they had one in the person of the Rev. T. G. Hill, who took a deep interest in the doings of the bellringers.

The Rev. T. G. Hill responded on behalf of the Vicar and assistant clergy, and pointed out that even clergymen were shy, and were no different to other people in that respect. He had noticed that workmen when introduced to each other were at a loss for words, and so it was with the clergy, and he had no doubt that if they only made themselves more at home with the clergy, the clergy would naturally feel more at home with the men. The bellringers' society was a most necessary body, and all that could be done for their welfare would be.

On behalf of the churchwardens Mr. Howard Houlder responded.

The toast of "The Ancient Society of Croydon Bellringers" was proposed by the Chairman, who was sure that everyone in Croydon admired the magnificent peal of bells which hung in the parish church, and he was quite positive that it would be a matter for great regret if any possible circumstance should cause those bells to hang dumb in the belfry. They were all under a deep debt of gratitude to those who rang the bells. He believed change-ringing was peculiar to England; although beautiful chimes were to be heard on the continent, there was that boldness about English bell-ringing which was in a measure so characteristic of its people. The war which at the present time was waging would tend to wake up in them that spirit of boldness. Mr. Pates had mentioned that he should like to have seen more of the Vicar, and, as one who was so closely associated with Canon Pereira, he could assure them that he had extraordinary calls upon his time. He (the speaker) would not like it to be supposed for one moment that the Vicar had not the same interest in the bellringers of the parish church as he had in all men in the parish. Possibly, if the bellringers were more regular in their attendance at the services, the Vicar would evince more interest in them.

Mr. Pates said the duty of response had devolved upon him in consequence of the absence of Mr. States who was unfortunately suffering from influenza and bronchitis. With regard to the past year, he could not say it had been a successful one, as they had not been able to ring a peal. The addition of two bells would prove an attraction to bellringers for miles around, and would be of great service. On behalf of those present he was desirous of returning thanks for the manner in which the toast had been proposed and received.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. Hill, and responded to by Mr. Bance.

Mr. Pates proposed "The Chairman and Vice-Chairman."

Mr. J. W. Ellis, the host, supported, and observed the Chairman was one of the oldest and most esteemed friends of the bellringers. Mr. Hills, too, was an old friend to them. He had been in Croydon for about the same period as the latter gentleman, and he regretted that the company was from various causes not so numerous as it had been. Some time since there was something wrong with the tenor, but he believed it had since been put in proper order. Now, he understood, the bellringers were in need of two more bells, and he should be pleased to subscribe five guineas to any fund which they might organise for that purpose. The Chairman and the Rev. T. G. Hill had shown their appreciation of the services rendered by

bellringers in their attendance, and their hearty co-operation with them in making their annual dinner a success. He coupled with the toast the names of Mr. Howard Holder and the Rev. T. G. Hill.

Mr. Houlder expressed appreciation of all that had been said and the kind manner in which it had been received. The desire of the bellringers for two additional bells ought not to be frustrated, but he thought the time hardly opportune for starting a fund.

The Rev. A. Reeve then addressed a few remarks to the meeting, and expressed the hope that he should have the pleasure of again meeting the bellringers at dinner.

In most eulogistic terms the toast of the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Ellis, was proposed by the Chairman, who observed that much of the success of the evening was dependent upon them. Mr. Ellis briefly replied.

During the evening Messrs. Hills, Pope, Bance, Holder, Felton, Webb, Bray, and the Rev. A. Reeve contributed songs, whilst Mr. Easton presided at the piano.

THORNHAM MAGNA, SUFFOLK.

On Wednesday evening, February 7th, the annual supper was kindly given by the Rector, the Rev. Colin Cambell, to the bellringers of the parish, to which ample justice was done, everyone thoroughly enjoying themselves. After supper other amusements were indulged in, the handbells were brought into use and touches of Grandsire and St. Simon's Plain Bob Minor were rung, then a selection of music on the piano by the Rector, and also some good songs were sung by H. Symonds. After the repast the Rector extended a hearty welcome to his bellringers, and expressed the pleasure it gave him to meet his fellow church-workers, and he trusted that they would ever keep the highest principles before them, which alone would keep them together. He thanked the ringers for what they had done, and for the efficient way in which they had carried out their work; he hoped the good feelings which existed in the belfry would continue. Mr. E. Youngs thanked the Rector on behalf of the company for his kindness in providing such good things for them and trusted that one and all might be spared to meet many more times. The evening was very pleasantly spent, and the Rector's kindness most thoroughly appreciated.

WEST HAM, ESSEX.

On Friday the 9th instant, a half muffled peal was rung as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. H. Randall, who for sixteen years was steeplekeeper of West Ham, and was respected by all who knew him. The usual whole pull and stand was rung by the following members of the West Ham company:—C. Dempsey, 1; J. T. Bradley (conductor), 2; G. Pearl, 3; G. Waits, 4; R. Searl, 5; G. Potter, 6; W. Doran, 7; A. Torble, 8; F. Searl, 9; G. Hayden, 10. Also a touch of Grandsire Triples with the assistance of Messrs. Keeble and Mole.

Peals rung by the late Mr. H. Randall:—Grandsire Triples, 4; Grandsire Caters, 8; Stedman Triples, 2; Stedman Caters, 5; Stedman Cinques, 5; Bob Major, 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 12; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 4; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 3; Double Norwich, 1. Total 45.

On Friday, February 9th, the bells of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields were rung half-muffled, the usual whole pull and stand, followed by a touch of Grandsire Cinques, as a mark of respect to the late Harry Randall, who for many years was a prominent member of the Royal Cumberland Society. Mr. G. Flavell of Kingsthorpe took part in the above.

NORTHAMPTON.—Recently at St. Giles' church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1259 changes. W. Farey, 1; T. Harris, 2; H. Sear, 3; F. Wilford, 4; H. Rainbow, 5; A. Arnold, 6; A. Moore, 7; W. Roberts, 8; A. Stewart (conductor), 9; H. Blundell, 10. Composed by C. Charge. Also 540 Bob Royal. J. Nickerson, 1; T. Harris, 2; A. Stewart (conductor), 3; R. Loveday, 4; L. Chapman, 5; J. Hudson, 6; F. Wilford, 7; W. Farey, 8; A. Moore, 9; E. Haxley, 10. And 672 Grandsire Triples. W. Harris, 1; T. Harris, 2; H. Key, 3; F. Wilford, 4; E. Haxley, 5; W. Roberts, 6; A. Stewart (conductor), 7; J. Freeman, 8.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

THE WIRKSWORTH SOCIETY.

The third annual dinner of the above society was held at The Hope and Anchor inn on Friday evening, February 2nd.

About twenty members and friends accepted the invitation of their esteemed Vicar (Rev. W. H. Arkwright), and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

On the removal of the cloth the Vicar took the chair, and proposed the health of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, which was heartily received, the company singing the National Anthem.

Mr. Gandy then gave "The Bishops and Clergy," and expressed the regret which all would feel at the severance of Mr. Meyer's connection with Wirksworth; at the same time wishing him every success in his new sphere of labour, he having accepted the living of Clophill, Bedfordshire. The Rev. H. R. Meyer felicitously responded.

Dr. Broster very ably proposed the Army, Navy, and Reserve forces, referring to the war in South Africa and paying a warm tribute to those local men who were fighting for their Queen and country in that distant quarter of the globe.

Captain Symonds and Lieutenant Arkwright replied.

The toast of the churchwardens and sidesmen was in the hands of the Vicar, and again brought Dr. Broster and Mr. Gandy to their feet. Mr. A. de M. Severne then proposed the ringers in a humorous speech, acknowledging the progress made by the band in the art of change-ringing during the past year, and was thanked for his encouraging words by Messrs. Gell and Fox. The next toast, given by Mr. Preston, was "The Clergy who are practical Ringers," coupled with the names of the Rev. R. Stowell, of the Wirksworth band, and the Rev. A. T. Beeston, of New Mills; and elicited from those gentlemen a suitable reply.

Mr. M. Gandy in a few well chosen words asked the company to drink the health of the Vicar, and a successful gathering was brought to a close by Mr. Arkwright's brief reply.

The toasts were interspersed with songs by Messrs. Gandy and Bowmer, and touches on the handbells by the ringers.

THE SOCIETY OF FRAMLAND RINGERS.

This peal rung at Waltham, recorded in its proper place, is the first one ever achieved by the above society, which has been in existence close upon a quarter-of-a-century. That the proper meaning shall be conveyed this society consists of the church bellringers in the Framland or Eastern division of Leicestershire. Towers affiliated are Melton Mowbray 10 bells, Waltham 6, Hardy 5, Eaton 6, Buckminster 6, Croxton Kerrial 6, Wymondham 6, Bottesford 6, Barkstone 4, and Long Clawson 5. The society has for its President His Grace the Duke of Rutland, K.G.; Patron, The Bishop of Peterborough; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Rev. F. E. Nugee, Croxton Kerrial, Grantham. Honorary members included The Right Hon. the Earl of Dysart, Mr. W. Willson of Leicester (hon. member and instructor), and eighteen other important personages, and it has also about eighty-four performing members. The society was formed for that most important feature, belfry reform, together with the cultivation of the Art of change-ringing. The Rev. A. M. Rendall was formerly a Hon. Secretary and Treasurer until his removal to St. Margaret's, Leicester, when the Rev. C. H. Lacon, of Branstone, came into office who, through his energy and untiring perseverance worked the tone and the finances of the society up so much that a balance was in hand that afforded provision for an instructor in the Art, each company receiving three lessons in change-ringing. This was a thing unheard of in most of the towers of the district at that time. Mr. Wm. Willson was accordingly engaged to carry out this work, but unfortunately ere the latter gentlemen had completed his duties, Mr. Lacon was removed to a living near to Cambridge, and this gentleman upon his removal was the recipient of a beautiful dinner gong, made in the shape of a church bell with inscription round its waist, presented to him by members of the society as a token of the esteem and respect in which he was held. The gong was the work of Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, and was got up most beautifully. Through his removal

the office next fell to the lot of the present Hon. Secretary, the Rev. F. E. Nugee of Croxton Kerrial, who proves also to be a most indefatigable secretary. The society has therefore done good work for 25 years, and it is the earnest wish of the writer that with such a good company of brother-strings, still further good feeling may exist and an advance may be made in the right direction in the future, and that we may be crowned with success. This peal is one of small importance, but it is the first, and should be considered a stepping stone to even greater success, by our brethren.

The society has up to last year held only yearly meetings in May, but last year half-yearly meetings were commenced to be held in November. G.

Obituary.

WILLIAM NOWELL.

I regret to have to record the death of the above named who was for many years a ringer at the Isleworth parish church. He commenced to ring at the age of twelve years, and had rung several peals in the Grandsire method, notably at Richmond, Kingston, and Isleworth, where there are two tablets recording the same; one was conducted by the late John Cox, in which the name of Mr. George Cole appears, who was a brother of the late Mrs. Nowell. The other tablet records the last peal he rung, on November 8th, 1879, for the Waterloo Society, conducted by H. Hopkins. Deceased was a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Waterloo, and the old West Middlesex. His son has his certificate of membership of the College Youths, a copy of which may be interesting to some of the older members, it states that:—

"Mr. William Nowell was elected a member on January 17th, 1854. Mr. Charles Balle, Master; Mr. Samuel Austin, Hon. Sec.; Mr. Robert Jameson and James Clarke, Stewards. No. 2,300."

The remains of the deceased were interred in the family grave in Isleworth churchyard, on Wednesday, February 7th, being carried to the grave by four of the Isleworth ringers. There were also several ringers at the graveside and the bells were rung muffled. In the evening, for the service, and on Thursday evening, February 8th, eight members of the Middlesex Association attempted a muffled peal of Oxford Bob Triples, which unfortunately collapsed after one hour. The band were E. V. Beadle, J. Basden (conductor), H. Chandler, F. Goddard, T. Beadle, C. Edwards, G. A. Ransom, and A. Sheard. B.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Sunday, December 16th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples, in 42 mins. W. Clark, J. Parker, J. J. Parker, J. Eldersfield, G. Guttridge, G. Basden, C. Clarke. This was a seven-bell performance. On December 19th, 720 Grandsire Minor, in which the Rev. H. C. Wilder rang the treble, conducted by G. Basden. On Wednesday, January 24th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Court Bob Triples, in 45 mins. J. Bovington, 1; G. Guttridge, 2; J. J. Parker (composer and conductor), 3; W. Clark, 4; J. Elderfield, 5; G. Basden, 6; C. Clarke, 7; W. Bovington, 8.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

LONDON.—On Sunday evening, January 14th, at St. John's church, Waterloo Road, for Divine Service, the last 742 of Holt's Original. E. Oxenham, 1; H. Langdon, 2; F. G. Perrin, 3; A. Hardy, 4; W. H. Fussell (conductor), 5; H. Barton, 6; G. E. Symonds, 7; H. Walker, 8. Afterwards at 40, Catherine Street, Buckingham Gate, S.W., on handbells, an attempt was made for a peal of Bob Major, but after ringing 4240 changes "stand" was called owing to a change-course. W. H. Fussell, 1-2; G. E. Symonds, 3-4; R. Charge, 5-6; H. Barton (conductor), 7-8. Umpire—A. Hardy.

IPSWICH.—On Saturday, January 6th, an attempt for a peal of Double Norwich came to grief after ringing 3 hrs. 6 mins. A. Gillingham, 1; A. Durrant, 2; C. Gillingham, 3; W. Motts, 4; W. Nevard, 5; W. Roughton (conductor), 6; J. Motts, 7; ———, 8. Longest length by A. Gillingham.

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 Waterloo Society, London.—The 32nd Anniversary Dinner of the above Society will be held at The York Hotel, Waterloo Road, S.E., to-day, Saturday, February 17, at 6 p.m. sharp. Tickets, 3s. 6d. each, may be had from Messrs. Barton, Webber, Fussell, Perrin, Hardy and G. E. SYMONDS, 4, Dockley Road, S.E. Hon. Sec. P.S.—Ringling at St. John's, Waterloo Road, from 3.30 till 6 o'clock.

The Essex Association.—A district meeting of the above will be held at Romford to-day, Saturday, February 17. A brake will leave the parish church at 2 p.m. for Dagenham and Little Heath. Tea and business meeting will be held at The Woolpack inn at 5 p.m. HENRY T. W. EYRE, Asst. Sec. Great Totham Vicarage, Witham.

The Lancashire Association.—Rossendale branch.—The next meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, to-day, Saturday, February 17th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. W. CASS, Branch Sec. 83, Chesham Road, Bury.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild.—A Quarterly Meeting will be held at Hawley (eight bells), near Blackwater Station, S.E.R. to-day, Saturday, February 17th. Tea will be provided for members. CHARLES E. MATTHEWS, Hon. Sec. Bursledon Vicarage, Southampton.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—East Berks and South Bucks Branch. The next monthly meeting will be held at Bray, to-day, Saturday, February 17, beginning at 3 o'clock. Tea will be provided. H. C. BELL, Branch Sec.

The Midland Counties Association.—Derby District.—The Annual Meeting for election of officers will be held in All Saints' belfry, Derby, on Monday, February 19th. Ringing from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. Meeting to follow. T. ANTHONY, Local Hon. Sec.

Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Bridgwater on Saturday, February 24th. Short service at 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m. H.V. TOMKINS, Hon. Sec. and Treas. The Cottage, Old Cleeve, Washford.

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—A General Meeting will be held at Heighington, on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing at St. Michael's, six bells, tenor 16 cwt. Meat tea at Bay Horse at 5 p.m., 1s. to members, 1s. 6d. to non-members. Committee meeting same place 4 p.m. Will intending visitors kindly send names before February 20th to Hon. Secretary? Both Heighington (Bishop Auckland and Darlington line) and Aycliffe (main line) stations, are convenient for intending visitors. C. L. ROUTLEDGE.

Tynedale House, Wylam-on-Tyne.

The Kent County Association.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at Wrotham on Saturday, February 24th. Tower open at 3 o'clock.

Tea will be provided at 5.30. Half railway fares not exceeding 2s. will be paid. All subscriptions are now due, and may be paid at or before the meeting. Members intending to be present must notify me not later than Tuesday, February 20th.

A. PALMER, Hon. Dis. Sec. 7, Knightrider Street, Maidstone.

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Middleton parish church on Saturday, February 24th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Business meeting at 6.30. Important business. All ringers welcome. JAS. JACQUES, Branch Sec. 48, Church Street, Middleton.

Lancashire Association.—Manchester Branch.—The next monthly ringing meeting will be held at St. Thomas's church, Pendleton, on Saturday, February 24th. Bells ready at 3.30 p.m. Unveiling of the new peal-board at 5.0 p.m. Tea will be provided for all members sending in their names or numbers to Mr. John Smith, 25, Hope Street, Pendleton, Manchester, not later than Thursday the 22nd inst. Tea at 5.30 p.m. in the Broughton Road Schoolroom. Business meeting immediately after tea. Members not having paid their subscriptions are reminded that they are now due. W. BROWN, Branch Sec. 54, Wenlock Street, Hulme, Manchester.

St. Thomas's Guild, Dudley.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing to commence at 3 p.m. Service in St. Thomas' church at 5, tea and business meeting to follow. All members intending to be present at tea must send their names to me not later than Monday, February 19th. W. MICKLEWRIGHT, Hon. Sec. 39, Vauxhall Street, Dudley.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The monthly meeting of the above society will be held at St. Michael's church, Headingley (eight bells), on Saturday, February 24th. Meeting-house—The Skyrack hotel. Business meeting at 6.30. Handbells provided. All nominations for officers (as per rule 7) will be due at this meeting. H.V. GAYTHORPE, Hon. Sec. 1, Elm Avenue, Bramley.

The Archdeaconry of Salop Guild.—The next Quarterly Meeting will be held at Shifnal, on Saturday, February 24th. Ringing at 4 o'clock. Business meeting at 5 o'clock. Train leaves Shrewsbury at 2.50 p.m. J. MACKAY, Hon. Sec. Holy Trinity Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

The Midland Counties Association.—Nottingham District.—The annual meeting for the election of officers for the ensuing year will be held in St. Peter's belfry on Saturday, February 24th, at 6 p.m. Ringing afterwards. JOHN HICKMAN, Dis. Sec.

St. Martin's Guild.—The Anniversary Johnson Commemoration will be held as usual on Saturday, March 3rd. Ringing at St. Martin's from 3 to 5 p.m. Dinner will be served at "Ye Old Royal," Temple Row, at 6 p.m. Dinner tickets free to full subscribing members, and to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each; may be obtained by application not later than Wednesday, February 28th, to W. H. GODDEN, Hon. Sec. 61, Roland Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

The Midland Counties Association.—Preparation of Annual Report.—Members

whose addresses are incorrect in last annual report, or who have changed their addresses since election are requested to notify me without delay. Notice of alteration of practice nights and names of correspondents should also if necessary be sent at once; also obituary notices. W. E. WHITE, Hon. Sec. Cotgrave, near Nottingham.

The Middlesex County Association.—North and East District.—Owing to the sickness now so widely prevalent, it has not been possible to secure a suitable place of meeting for the monthly meeting proposed to be held in February. There will therefore be no further meeting of the members of this district till March, or possibly April.

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

NOTES TO PEALS.

THE PEAL AT ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.—This peal of Superlative Surprise Major is the first in the method on this fine ring of bells, and is believed to be the first peal in any method on the bells for upwards of twenty years. It was rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor, and at the third attempt. The first attempt after excellent ringing was lost within five minutes of its completion, entirely through the illness of one of the band. The second attempt fell through owing to a change-course after three hours' ringing. At the close of the peal the ringers were most hospitably entertained by the rector, the Rev. Dacre Craven, and Mrs. Craven, who congratulated them on their well-deserved success.

MR. J. W. DRIVER'S 100 PEALS.—Grand-sire Triples, 24, conducted 6; Caters, 26; conducted 10; Stedman Triples, 9; Caters, 21, conducted 3; Bob Major, 3, conducted 2; Royal, 2, conducted 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 1, conducted 1; Koyal, 9, conducted 1; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 2; Superlative Surprise Major, 1; Westminster Surprise Major, 2; total—100; conducted 24.

Situation Wanted.

PERMANENT Appointment required as Surveyor or Manager of Works (on Estate or otherwise). Good Accountant, Draughtsman, Timber and Land Surveyor, Drainage, Sanitary Work, preparation of Plans, Specifications, Quantities. Well educated. Photo if desired. Know Standard Methods. "STEDMAN," Hatchgate, Cold Ash, Newbury, Berks.

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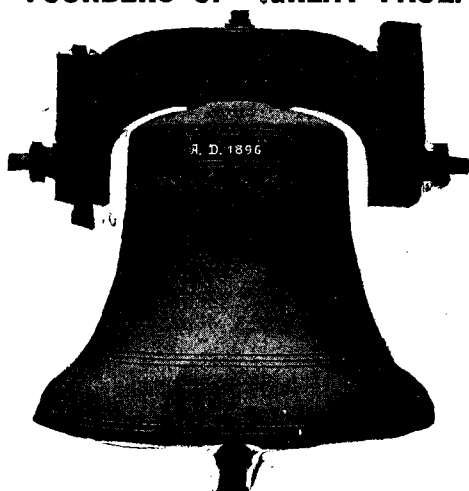
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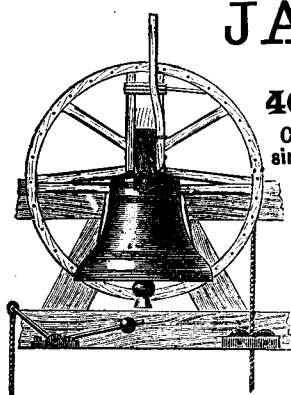
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