

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

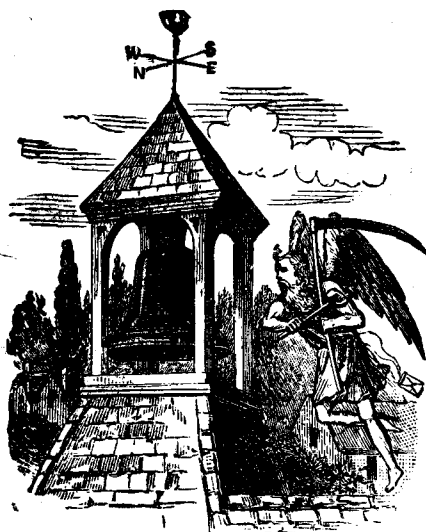
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise ; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 944.—VOL. XIX.]

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1900.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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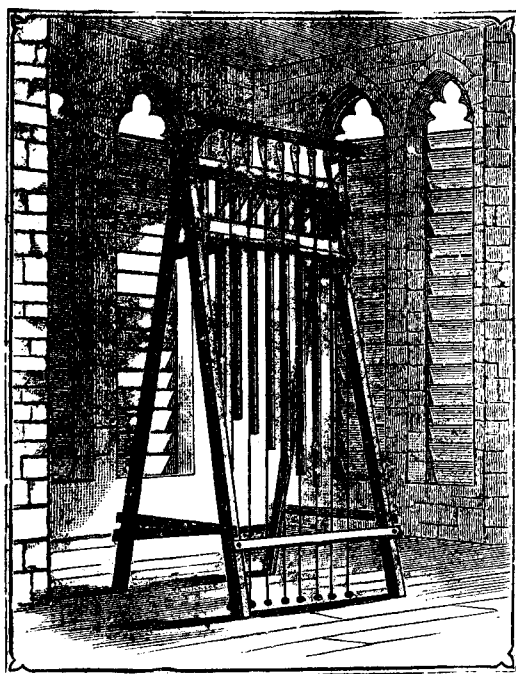
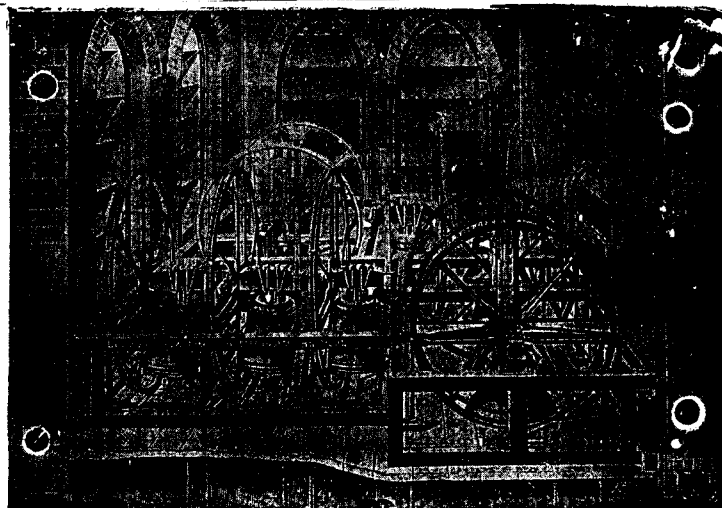
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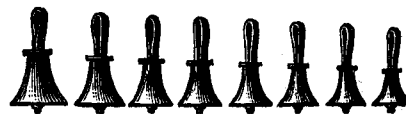
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 944.]

SATURDAY, MAY 12, 1900.

[Vol. XIX.]

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

There are few more delightful occasions than the Spring Meetings of the Guild in some country village in really spring-like weather, and when a hospitable welcome awaits the ringers. Both these conditions were amply fulfilled on Saturday, April 28th, at Haddenham, near Thame, in Buckinghamshire. There was unbroken sunshine throughout the day, cherry and blackthorn were in their richest bridal beauty, the views from the Chilterns were gloriously blue, making the journey, whether by carriage or cycle, a "thing of joy." Haddenham, with its festival flag flying from the tower, was reached at 12.30, when the hospitable Vicar entertained the Master and some of his band who were to attempt a peal of Stedman Triples on the bells. In half an hour there was an adjournment to the fine old church, where preparations were at once made to start the peal. A visit had previously been made by one of the band to test the "go" of the bells, when individually little fault could be found. But it is quite another matter when all the eight are set to work together, and though every device was tried, nothing could keep some of the bells in due control, and the peal had reluctantly to be abandoned. "We thought the gentlemen would find our bells too heavy for them," said a knowing villager with a chuckle. No time was lost in securing a waggonette, and the six bells at Stone, four miles off, were soon sending forth their melodious voices. Two touches were accomplished, 720 of Kent Treble Bob and a 6-score of Stedman Doubles. Evensong was held at Haddenham at 5, the Hon. Secretary of the Guild saying the prayers, the Master reading the lesson, and the Vicar, the Rev. G. B. Rhind, presiding at the organ and preaching a most excellent, practical sermon on the words "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God;" 1 Cor. x. 31. The rev. gentleman said:—

I have been asked by the committee of your Guild to preach to you a sermon on this, the occasion of your spring meeting; but at the very outset of my remarks I venture to claim your kind indulgence for three principal reasons, first, what I have to say must be very short; second, I have never in my life hitherto preached a sermon to bell-ringers; and thirdly, I do not know whether what I am going to say to you has not already been said to you on perhaps a score of other occasions. At any rate, I shall not go wrong in saying I very heartily welcome you all to this service of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers in this my parish.

Of course you all know that there is no mention of church bells in the Bible. In fact there are only two biblical references to any sorts of bells. In the book of Exodus, in the description we have there of the high priest's dress, we read that upon the bottom hem of the robe of the ephod there were to be fastened golden bells and pomegranates alternately, so then when Aaron went into the holy place to minister unto God, and when he came out, the bells on the hem of his robe made a sound. And then, in the book of Zechariah, we have a prophecy that a time should come, when the commonest things shall be consecrated to God's glory and be holy, even though they were not contained or used in the Temple, when there shall be on the bells of the horses, Holiness unto the Lord. That is absolutely all we read about bells in Holy Scripture, but as I turn these two passages over in my mind, they seem after all to say something to me about church bells, and what they say to me is this: If in the

olden days of the Jewish Church God ordained that in the service of His holy habitation the sounds of bells should be heard, it surely cannot be displeasing to Him that amidst the larger privileges and fuller blessings of the Christian Church, the sound of bells should be associated with our worship and service; and further, that if one mark of the good time coming, when the knowledge of the glory of God should cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, was to be that even the bells on the horses' trappings were to be holy to the Lord, how much more should those dear bells, which call us to God's house, which may be said to rejoice with them that do rejoice, as in wedding peals they ring out their joyful tones, and weep with those who weep, as when a soul has passed away the great tenor tolls forth its solemn tidings—O how much more should these dear bells be counted holy, and everything connected with their use be reverent and devout, seeing they are parts of the sacred equipment of the House of God in which everything should be holy, and every ministration a consecrated one?

The use of bells for Church purposes is about 1500 years old, if anything a little less. Of course, as long as the Christians were obliged to meet in private and secretly, there could be no possible use for a bell, which would only draw attention just when it was not wanted. But as the Christians gained liberty of worship, so the use of bells came in. As far back as the 5th century, Gregory of Tours mentions a bell calling French monks to morning prayer, and a little later our own historian, the Venerable Bede, relates that at the death of St. Hilda, the Abbess of Whitby, the passing bell was heard by her nuns at a great distance. In the 10th century St. Dunstan, who restored the Abbey of Abingdon in King Edred's days, and who afterwards became Archbishop of Canterbury, is known to have hung many bells in various parts of England. From that time their use became quite general.

You may perhaps be surprised to hear that many of the very oldest bells extant were not round, but four-sided, quadrangular, as we say, and were made of iron. Such is the bell of St. Patrick, which is still preserved in Ireland. But you must not think of it as a fine great bell. It was only 6 ins. high, 5 broad, and 4 deep. It dates from the 6th century. But our modern bells, so graceful from their incurving shape and full trumpet mouth, are not older than the 16th century. I believe the first regular peal of bells in this country was sent in 1456 (just 444 years ago) by Pope Calixtus iii. to King's College, Cambridge, and was for 300 years the largest peal in England.

A very great deal more might be said about church bells, but I must not forget that this is not to be a lecture but a sermon. Another day, when perhaps the Guild may give us the pleasure of welcoming you again, I may have the pleasure of telling you something more.

Meanwhile, before we close, I must find time for a word or two of affectionate and earnest counsel to all church bell ringers. I am thankful that the state of belfries nowadays is far superior to their state in years gone by, when irreverence and the temptation to intemperance were not uncommon things. In many a parish I have heard it was almost the exception for any of the bell ringers to attend the services of the Church. They rang the bells to call the people to prayer and praise, but they seldom if ever came in themselves to join in Litany, canticle, or hymn. What should we think of a parson who never practised what he preached? And you are preachers, my brothers. You are messengers of glad tidings. To you is committed the beautiful and honourable office of smiting the silent air with those diatonic peals which in town and country call your brethren to worship in God's house. Why should you ring, if worship be not good? And if it is good for others, why should it not be good for you? All church bell ringers should be Churchmen, baptized and confirmed men, devout men, clean living and clean mouthed men, temperate men, men who love the Church, and

long to see it grow and prosper. And although I like to hear a man say, I love my tenor, or 5th, or what not, I do like a good deal more to know of that man that his own heart knows what it is to feel—Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house, and the place where Thine honour dwelleth. The belfry is a part of the church, as much a part as the vestry. And the belfry should be holy, holy to the great God. Every thought of a belfry should be upwards, skywards, heavenwards. Up above you are the bells; up above you hang the ropes; up above you floats away into the startled atmosphere the sweet and mellow clangour of those glorious metal-throated heralds. Why you all raise your arms aloft to begin the very first notes of your ringing. If ever there was a Latin motto that suited a church bell ringer it should be "Excelsior." And when at practice men are learning to grow more apt, more sure, more steady, more skilled, let them raise their hearts upwards and think—Lord, dear Lord of my hope and my salvation, accept, we pray Thee, the vigour of our strong arms, for Thine own glory and the glory of Thy holy Church. And when they are ringing for service, let them feel, as the grand sonorous notes go crashing forth, or gently wooing in persuasive tones, let them feel—Lord, dear Lord, let our call bring some, bring many to Thy holy house, it is to Thee we are calling them, and when our peal is done, we will come down and enter into Thy Sanctuary, to worship in Thy presence, and adore and and praise Thee there.

So, my brothers, my fellow-helpers in this true Church work, God bless you, and bless my simple and homely words, that we may all rise to a truer and higher view of the blessedness of all Church work and Christian duty, and whether we eat or drink, whether we work or rest, whether we practise or ring, we may do all in the name of the Lord Jesus—do all to the glory of God.

Tea was served at The White Hart at 6 o'clock, when thirty-nine sat down to the tables. The Master expressed the thanks of the Guild to the Vicar, choir, and Haddenham ringers for their hospitable welcome. He acknowledged the disappointment felt at the failure of the bells, but trusted that the visit might not be wasted if it led in time to their being rehung and put into good working order. He assured the Vicar that the Guild would be ready in any way to help the matter forward.

The Hon. Secretary reminded the Haddenham men that their tower had been in union with the Guild from 1892 to 1890, and urged the advantages of membership. He thanked Mr. Rhind very heartily for his assiduous efforts to make the meeting enjoyable, and congratulated him on his complete success.

The Vicar, in reply, said that he intended to get to work at once to raise funds for the restoration of the bells, and hoped that in no long time the Guild would pay Haddenham another visit, when a good peal would be safely brought home.

Amongst others present besides the Master, the Hon. Secretary, and the Rev. G. B. Rhind, Vicar of Haddenham, were the Rev. J. L. Challis, Vicar of Stone and Rural Dean; the Rev. W. Edward, Vicar of Great Haxley; the Rev. H. C. Bell, of Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, and Hon. Secretary of the East Berks. and South Bucks. Branch; the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, of Witney; Messrs. R. Annot, W. Bennett, J. Evans, J. Sturch, T. H. Taffender, A. W. Truss, J. C. Truss, R. White, S. White, J. W. Wilkins, and W. E. Yates. The whole party numbered over fifty, and the following towers were represented: Appleton, Boyne Hill, Drayton, Haddenham, Great Haxley, Hughenden, Kidlington, Great Marlow, Stone, Thame, and Witney.

THE NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

The Annual General Meeting of this Association was held at Retford on Saturday, May 5th. The day was fine and favourable for the opening of the cricket season even

more than for change-ringing, which was no doubt one reason for the scanty attendance of members; anyhow this was the smallest gathering at the annual meeting for several years. Only fifteen members were present at the service in East Retford church at 3.15 p.m. The service was choral and was conducted by the Rev. Canon Ebsworth, the Vicar; the sermon, a very interesting and helpful discourse, being preached by the Rev. H. de Lisle, who is a performing member of the society. A few more men turned up for the business meeting which was held in the adjoining parish room after service, about a score in all. The Rev. S. R. Elliston, Vice-President, was voted to the chair, and after the minutes had been confirmed, called upon the Hon. Secretary to present the annual report and balance-sheet. The former showed an increase of twenty-three upon the membership roll of 1899, and also a slight increase in the number and quality of the performances during the past year; whilst the latter showed a balance of £3 2s. 6d. to the good. During the meeting eleven new members were added to the roll. The retiring officers were all re-elected, and the meeting concluded with the usual votes of thanks to the clergy, churchwardens, and others who had opened their towers to the members, and had otherwise contributed to the success of the meeting.

A later train brought an accession of members just in time for a capital tea, which was partaken of in the Odd-fellows Club Room at 5 p.m., but still the attendance was not large, only forty-four members sitting down to table, representing 7 of the 11 towers comprised in the society.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The quarterly meeting in connection with this society was held on Saturday, April 28th, at the parish church, Harborne, members attending from the following places: Wolverhampton, Walsall, West Bromwich, Lichfield, Handsworth, Tipton, Harborne, and Smethwick. The bells were rung during the afternoon, when some touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were brought round. A short service was held in the church at 5 p.m., and a committee meeting followed in the vestry, when two new members were elected, and it was decided to hold the annual meeting at Lichfield on Saturday, June 23rd. Tea was provided in the school-room, and ample justice was done to the good things provided by all present, after which a vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar for the use of the bells and schoolroom, and for the tea; also to the Rev. E. J. Cullwick for kindly giving the address in the unavoidable absence of the Vicar. Another visit was made to the tower when some Grandsire Triples and three courses of Kent Treble Bob Major were successfully brought round, the veteran John Day ringing the 4th with his usual skill.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LEICESTER.

The curious antique clock which for about 200 years did service on the front of this church, but which was taken down about twenty-five years since when the church was restored, has now been re-fixed, and the two little automaton figures strike the quarters. The old figures and case have been carefully restored, but entirely new clock works and mechanical actions had to be supplied. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, have carried out the work.

THE ST. MARY ABBOTTS (KENSINGTON) SOCIETY. UNVEILING OF A RECORD.

On Tuesday evening last the 8th May, the Rev. Canon S. E. Penefather, Vicar of St. Mary Abbots, attended at the belfry, to unveil the record of the first peal of Grandsire Caters by the Kensington Society. There were also present R. A. Daniell, Esq., W. S. Penefather, Esq., Messrs. A. E. Bradley, G. R. Fardon, W. Fox, F. Edwards, W. E. Garrard, J. George (Rugby), S. H. Godfrey, W. E. Golby, A. F. Harris, W. Harding, W. E. Judd, J. Judd, J. Lucking, H. G. Miles and H. Sear. The peal was a composition by J. George, of Rugby, and conducted by W. E. Garrard, the Kensington instructor, and duly reported in our pages.

Canon Penefather said he had great pleasure in coming there to unveil the record, as he understood it was a great event accomplished by the ringers. He felt very grateful to the ringers for the great work they rendered to the parish and the Church, and he heartily congratulated them on accomplishing the peal, and hoped shortly to hear that they had rung a peal in honour of the relief of Mafeking. He then unveiled the record, which was beautifully executed by A. F. Harris.

Mr. R. A. Daniell, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Vicar, highly eulogised the art of bell-ringing, and said that ringers formed a band of union between the churches everywhere. There would be no good ringing on Sundays unless the bells were allowed to be practised for a peal. Not only did he thank the Vicar for coming there that evening, but also for the kind manner in which the rev. gentleman had always met the ringers. He also referred to the presence of Mr. J. George, the composer of the peal, who he was sure, all were delighted to see.

Mr. W. E. Garrard heartily endorsed Mr. Daniell's words, and looked forward to the ringing of a peal for the relief of Mafeking.

Mr. J. George (Rugby), thanked Mr. Daniell for his words in reference to himself, and said he was very pleased to be present, and felt highly honoured to have his name on the record.

Some Treble Bob and Stedman Caters brought a pleasant evening to a close.

OTTERY ST. MARY, DEVON.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. MAITLAND KELLY.

The Rev. Maitland Kelly, President of the Devonshire Guild, after ten years' residence, has vacated the vicarage of the very pretty little town of Ottery St. Mary, with its renowned church and most excellent peal of bells, on his succession to the Kelly Estates. Owing to the wonderful perseverance of Mr. Kelly, the Ottery St. Mary band are well initiated into the mysteries of Grandsire, Stedman, Treble Bob, and Double Norwich, and for thorough good striking it would be difficult to find their equal in the south-western counties. The rev. gentleman was always ready to train any one and every one in the very initial stages of bell-ringing. The Ottery ringers' loss will be great, and a few weeks ago they met together to present their Vicar with a gong and an illuminated address, as a small token of their great appreciation of his unremitting efforts in forwarding the Exercise. The Secretary of the Devonshire Guild (Rev. G. E. F. Molineux), was among those present.

Mr. George Godfrey, in making the presentation, thanked the rev. gentleman for the great courtesy he had always shewn to the ringers, and also for the valuable help he had rendered in the Art of change-ringing. He expressed the deep regret of all the ringers that they were so soon to lose such a generous friend and so capable an instructor, and he was sure they all hoped that Mr. Kelly would be spared many years to respond to the call of the gong.

The Vicar thanked the ringers for their generous and most appropriate gift. He spoke of the great harmony which had always existed between himself and the ringers, and said he should miss nothing more than the bells.

A photo was taken of those present. The illuminated address was designed and executed by Mr. Sidney H. Godfrey, and was framed in carved oak by Mr. Arthur E. Pike, both of whom are members of the Devonshire Guild.

F. K. HOWELL.—Mr. Lindoff's address is 2, Mount Brown, Dublin.

THE STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

The monthly meeting of this Association was held at Audley, on Saturday, May 5th, and was very well attended, upwards of forty members being present. The following towers were represented: Audley, Bucknall, Fenton, Kids Grove, Lawton, Newcastle, Norton, Tunstall and Stoke. During the afternoon, touches of Minor were rung in the following methods: Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Woodbine, College Pleasure, Grandsire and Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. At six o'clock the members adjourned to The Butchers' Arms, where a bountiful tea was partaken of. In the absence of the Vicar, who was away from home, Mr. Twigg (Lay Secretary) presided. After tea, to which the members did ample justice, the Chairman proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Audley ringers for the kind manner in which they had received the Association, and for the excellent tea which they had provided, and at the same time expressing the pleasure it gave him to see such a good number of the members present. Mr. Page (Stoke), seconded the proposition, which was heartily carried.

THE ST. PETER'S (THETFORD) SOCIETY.

The ringers of St. Peter's, Thetford, visited Brettenham on Sunday, April 26th, and by permission of the Rev. T. Robinson, rang after the afternoon service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles. E. Carter, 1; E. R. J. Dunk (conductor), 2; J. Grindling, 3; W. Everett, 4; C. Carter, 5.

Also on Tuesday evening, May 1st, at St. Peter's, Thetford, the newly formed band rang their first touch of 168 Grandsire Triples in good style. E. Carter, 1; J. Robbins, 2; J. Grindling, 3; E. R. J. Dunk (conductor), 4; E. Hunt, 5; W. Everett, 6; C. Carter, 7; J. Deeks, 8. Tenor 19 cwt.

THE HENFIELD (SUSSEX) SOCIETY.

The bellringers of the Henfield parish church had their annual outing on May 1st. The party accompanied by the Rev. H. J. Boyd (assistant-curate), who himself is a probationer bell-ringer, and Messrs. Tyler (captain) and W. Markwell (secretary) left Henfield at 7.21., and arrived at Godalming (via Horsham and Guildford) at 9.15., here they rang a 504 of Grandsire Triples. Returning to Guildford, luncheon was partaken of at The Castle hotel, and then Farnham was reached about 3, when another 503 of Stedman Triples was rung at this parish church. Guildford was again reached by tea time, and the party was joined by the Vicar of Henfield (Rev. W. Wakeford). After tea the tower of St. Nicholas was visited, when touches of Stedman Triples were rung for an hour, and the party being fairly tired, but very happy, reached home by 9.30 p.m. Thanks are due to the Vicars of Godalming, Farnham, and St. Nicholas', Guildford, for their permission to ring the bells, and also to the officials who attended and had the belfries in readiness. The touches were rung at the parish church, Godalming, as follows: W. A. J. Ives, 1; L. Payne (conductor), 2; S. Burt, 3; C. Tyler, 4; G. Payn, 5; H. Markwell, 6; A. Heasman, 7; W. Markwell, 8. At the parish church, Farnham: W. A. J. Ives, 1; L. Payne, 2; S. Burt, 3; H. Stringer, 4; H. Markwell, 5; G. Payne (conductor), 6; C. Tyler, 7; A. Hodges, 8.

NOTICE.—During the meeting of the A.M.C. of the Manchester Unity of the Independent Order of Oddfellows at Portsmouth, if any delegates of Districts or Lodges are here to represent the same, and are change-ringers in Standard methods, and would like to ring peals, the Portsea parish church tower will be available for all officers and brothers of of the said friendly society. Full particulars can be obtained the foreman of the band, Mr. J. Harper, 69, Brompton Road, Landport, Portsmouth, Hants.

BRADBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Tuesday, April 17th, for practice, 720 Plain Bob, in 25 mins. J. Lomas, 1; B. Greator, 2; Rev. A. T. Beeston (conductor), 3; J. H. Midlane, 4; G. Gerrard, 5; H. Baldry, 6. Another 720 in 27 mins. J. Mellor, 1; B. Greator, 2; H. Baldy, 3; G. Gerrard, 4; Rev. A. T. Beeston, 5; Rev. A. Gamble (conductor), 6.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Hertford County Association was held as usual at St. Albans, on Easter Monday when the members visited the various towers of the city, and made the air resound with merry peals upon the bells. Service was also held in the Cathedral, and the members afterwards adjourned to the town hall, where tea was served, and a business meeting followed. The Rev. Canon Wigram presided over a large assembly, which included the Mayor of St. Albans.

The president announced apologies for non-attendance from the Rev. Lord William Cecil, Mr. F. W. Silvester, Mr. J. Staples (Hertford), and from members at Hitchin and Sawbridgeworth. Commenting upon the letter from Hitchin, Canon Wigram said they had fallen of very much in that part of the county, as there were now only three members at Hitchin, and the bells were in such a sad plight that they were pronounced unringable. He regretted very much that that was the case, but he must say that he never had been at a gathering of ringers where there was such a good muster, and he felt convinced that even if some branches of the Association had broken up, and some of the towers were silent, it was perfectly evident that there was many a company which was true to the Exercise, and that there were many other towers coming to the front.

The Hon. Secretary then presented the report for the year. The balance-sheet showed that whereas the year opened with a balance of £3 19s. 4d., it ended with an increased amount to the credit of the Association of £4 16s. 4d.

The President, commenting upon the report, said the chief matter for congratulation was the number of conductors of which they could boast. It was a fact of great importance that there should be such a considerable number of conductors, and especially of men who were able to conduct in so many different methods; from the prince of them all, "Superlative," and the queen of odd bell-ringing, "Stedman." He was glad that the Association could boast of a good many members who were able to ring these methods and to take a band through them. The report and balance-sheet were then adopted.

Mr. H. J. Toulmin proposed that Canon Wigram should be re-elected to the office of President for the year, as well as their excellent hon. sec. Mr. E. P. Debenham, and their hon. auditor, Mr. E. E. Huntley. Alluding to the letter received from Hitchin, the Mayor expressed his regret at the declining interest in campanology there. He said he was very sorry to hear that the bells there had not been rung so long, and added, amidst much laughter, that he never yet knew a belle who was not ready to have a ring.

Mr. Waller seconded the re-election, which was agreed to, and the President, responding, said whatever he was able to do in the cause of change-ringing and in the interests of the County Association, he should be delighted to perform. He took his re-election to the Presidency as a great compliment, and accepted the office again with great pleasure. Touching the secretary he hoped the hint with regard to his retiring from the office might be considered as an expression thrown out only as a suggestion. Mr. Debenham might not have a good master in the Association, but the Association had in him a good servant, and they knew his worth too well to part with him one moment before they were forced to do so.

Mr. Debenham returned thanks for the kind words which had been uttered with respect to himself. He had stated in his report what his feelings were with regard to his duties as secretary. His time was now much more occupied than it was when he first took office, and he had not the spare time to go round to the various towers in the district and see for himself what progress was being made, and to give some encouragement to those engaged in the somewhat uphill work of teaching change-ringing. He should be willing on the present occasion to serve again, but he should like to retire another year. He had not got tired of the Association, but he felt that the time had arrived when, after serving some thirteen years, it would be well for a change to be made.

Mr. King spoke of the work of the Middlesex Association, to which the Barnet tower was attached. In that Association they had nearly 500 members who had joined of their own free will and who considered it a privilege to belong to such an Association. These Associations, he said, were like the London societies, secular; but they were secular and something

more. Their members tried to subordinate their secular knowledge to the work of the Church. They should never lose sight of the fact that they were Church workers and that they should strive to make themselves efficient so as to help in the services of the Church.

Mr. W. H. L. Buckingham was chosen as a representative of the Association on the Central Council.

Mr. Huntley proposed that the county should be divided into districts, advancing as an argument in favour of such a step the inconveniences of travelling from one part of the county to the other. The report showed that the ringing had been nearly all done in the western half the county. He suggested that the various towns should be consulted with a view to sending representatives to a meeting with the object of considering the suggestion. If this were done he saw no reason why the Association should not be doubled in numbers.

The President thought the matter too complex to deal with off hand, and suggested the appointment of a committee. The President and Messrs. E. P. Debenham and E. Huntley were finally chosen as a committee, with power to call together representatives from every town within the Association to discuss the matter.

Hatfield was chosen as the place for the next district meeting, and in the event of the Hatfield tower not being available, then they should go to Baldock.

THE ST. THOMAS'S SOCIETY, BELFAST.

On Monday evening, April 23rd, the members of the above society met in the church vestry in order to pass the following vote of thanks to Mr. J. H. B. Hesse for his presentation to the Society of eight handbells by Taylor and Co., in order to facilitate the study of change-ringing. It was proposed by Mr. A. G. Ward, seconded by Mr. W. G. Macoun, and passed unanimously:—

That the best thanks of the St. Thomas's Hon. Society of Bell Ringers be given to Mr. J. H. B. Hesse for his handsome and generous gift of a peal of eight handbells, by John Taylor and Co.; and the members desire to place on record their appreciation of his interest in the Society, and his desire to assist in every way the acquirement by the ringers of the Art of Change-Ringing.

That this resolution be entered on the minutes of the Society and forwarded to Mr. Hesse by the Secretary.

Also the following:—

That an inscription in the following terms be placed on the tenor bell of the peal presented by Mr. Hesse:—"This peal was presented by Mr. J. H. B. Hesse to the St. Thomas's Hon. Society of Bell Ringers, March 1900."

The President of the Society (Rev. W. Dowse, M.A.), occupied the chair, and in conveying to the donor the resolution just passed, said he fully endorsed all that had been expressed by the previous speakers regarding the interest Mr. Hesse took in the belfry, and the prominent part he had taken in getting the Art of change-ringing brought into practice in the society.

Mr. Hesse, in replying, referred to the pleasure it had been to him to make the presentation, and in concluding his remarks said he hoped before long that his favourite project of having the tower bells recast would be taken in hand by the churchwardens and vestry, and brought to a successful termination.

NOTICE OF PEAL.—Eight members of the Bristol branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Association will attempt a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major at St. Mary Redcliffe, at 6 o'clock in the evening on the day the relief of Making is announced officially. W. A. CAVE.

The Hon. Secretary of the Central Council has recently secured a number of spare copies of the Pamphlet embodying the Report of the Committee on the Preservation of Bells, Frames and Fittings, etc., which he is prepared to dispose of by sale, on reasonable terms.

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.

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."

PEAL DISPUTES.

SIR,—Everyone who has the dignity of the Exercise at heart must be grateful to the Rev. T. L. Papillon for his letter in your issue of April 28th. It is perfectly certain that abuse is no argument, and the indecent violence of too many of the communications to which Mr. Papillon alludes, not only renders no assistance to outsiders to form any opinion on the question or questions in dispute, but tends to obstruct the chances of anything worth calling evidence being produced by those who could produce it, owing to the vitiated atmosphere of personality set up. After all, if the devil got up a band of his retainers to ring a peal, the same question would arise as if a peal was rung by a company of angels, namely, was the peal a true performance? This in each case must be settled by facts, not by personalities. And it must be borne in mind that the objection to personalities applies in the case of men defending a performance as much as in that of men attacking it.

If, then, we get rid of personalities, how are we to get at the facts? Until this question is settled, it is idle to ask what tribunal is to decide disputes. The question is not any easy one to settle, but possibly we may approach to a condition of mind more favourable for settling it if we realise something as to the functions of fair criticism.

The tendency of some of your correspondents within the last year has been, as it seems to me, to regard a peal recorded as something that is so much the personal affair of those who have rung in it, or their society, that it is presumptuous for any one to criticise it. One writer, for instance, objected to criticism on the ground that it reflected on the honour of the conductor. This view seems to me incorrect. A peal recorded is a matter which concerns the whole Exercise, because if for no other reason it goes into Mr. Attree's calculations, and if any member of the Exercise has any objection to make, he is perfectly entitled to make it, provided he does so in reasonable terms; and, I think, also within reasonable time; and conductors owe it to the Exercise to recognise this, and deal with reasonably expressed criticism in a reasonable manner, and give all the information they can. Instead of this, when a peal is criticised some conductors seem to treat it as a personal grievance. One writer in your paper some time since quoted as applicable the legal maxim that it is for the plaintiff to prove his case. So, as a general rule, it is; but the law gives him every means of proving it by, among other things, extracting everything material to the issue out of his opponent. If legal analogy is to be used and a critic is to be deemed in the case of a plaintiff and a conductor as a defendant, then he and all the band and everyone else having knowledge ought to give the critic all the information he could get by cross-examination in court, or discovery of documents or other legal means. The fullest information should, for instance, be given in reply to questions about the composition and the calling, for unless these be known how is any one to know whether the performance should be noticed by Mr. Attree? The question of striking, of course, presents greater difficulties, because affording room for wider differences of opinion. But if men will conduct their criticism in the rational manner in which they transact the ordinary affairs of life, and those criticised will recognise the rights of the critic, subject only to his avoidance of personalities, and the rights of the Exercise at large, it may be possible to arrive at some method of getting at facts and settling disputes.

R. A. DANIELL.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

SIR,—In his recent communications to you respecting the "silent" peal of Stedman Triples rung at Drayton, the Rev. F. E. Robinson omits any mention of the only previously recorded silent peal of Stedman Triples on tower bells, viz.: that rung by members of the Midland Counties' Association at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886. There is no need to remind the older members of the Exercise of this performance, the truth and honesty of which was vouched for from within the

belfry by the late Mr. Henry Johnson and the late Rev. J. H. Fish, and from outside by Sir Arthur Heywood. But there must be many of your younger readers who have never heard of the peal, and for the information of these I may venture to point out that the honour of ringing the first "unconducted" peal of Stedman Triples on tower bells rests with the Midland Counties' Association. The only difference in the peals is that in one case Thurstans' four-part, and in the other a variation of the same peal was rung. Strangely enough in his description of the Drayton performance Mr. Robinson uses the exact words uttered by Mr. Johnson in the Burton belfry fourteen years ago. "Gentlemen," said Mr. Johnson, "this performance may be equalled, it can never be excelled."

W. WAKLEY.

CROWN BOB.

SIR,—In last week's "BELL NEWS" the writer of the account of "A week-end in Surrey" mentioned the method of Crown Bob. This method can be found in *Campanologia, or the Art of Ringing*, by J. Monk, 1702, being a composition of three methods. The first lead is Oxford Treble Bob; the second College Pleasure; the third College Treble Bob, four times repeated. This method with several more, including London Surprise, was rung by the Wilby company of six Chenerys in

1792.

Earl Soham, Suffolk.

W. G. CRICKMER.

Obituary.

GEORGE MURRELL SAYER.

The Canterbury Cathedral ringers have sustained a very sad and serious loss by the death of this most promising member of their company, at the early age of 25. He had been a member of the Cathedral band and of the Kent County Association for about eight years, but owing mainly to his hours of duty at the post office he could seldom get away for peal-ringing. His record in that time is only four, viz.: two of Grandsire Triples, one of Stedman Caters, and one of Stedman Triples. Modest, unassuming, cheerful, willing, he had gained the confidence of his superior officers at the post office and the esteem of his equals, while to his brother-ringers he was endeared by his unflinching exhibition of good temper, and readiness to attend when he was wanted, as well as by his many other good qualities. He was a good and faithful son of the Church, mindful alike of religious and home duties. On Tuesday, April 24th, he had to go on duty at 3.0 a.m. Returning home in the course of the day, he complained of the cold having got right into him. Inflammation of the lungs set in, and on Saturday, April 28th, he breathed his last.

The funeral took place at St. Dunstan's, on May 2nd, the service being taken by the Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, President of the Cathedral Ringers. There was a large congregation, the post office being strongly represented by the postmaster and chief clerk, and others, as well as by the whole staff of postmen in uniform. Two hymns were sung—"Thy way, not mine, O Lord," and "Jesus lives," the organ being played by one of the postmen.

In the evening, the "whole pull and stand" was rung on the Cathedral bells half-muffled by the following: W. Andrews, H. G. Fairbrass, F. Davison, P. Paine, A. Andrews, Rev. F. J. O. Helmore, C. Luery, W. Pierce, P. H. Pierce, and W. D. Smith. Two courses of Stedman Caters were afterwards rung in which C. F. Turner took part, and a short touch of Grandsire Caters in which J. H. Small rung the 2nd.

We shall be much obliged to those Secretaries who will send us all names and addresses of clerical ringers they may know of. Those gentlemen who have already done so have our thanks. A great many more must be received before the intended list is anything like complete. The trouble or expense of sending the particulars on a post-card is not great; and the courtesy would be appreciated.

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ROPE-SIGHT : 1s. 6d. NEW FIFTH EDITION,
Commences by explaining how to manage a bell; deals with Change-Ringing on three, four, five, six, seven and eight bells in the PLAIN BOB METHOD, giving touches and peals in each case; and closes with chapters on conducting, striking, and the splicing of bell-ropes; 147 pages.

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TREBLE BOB. PART I. out of print and under revision.
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All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher E. W. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

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, MAY 12, 1900.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

[SECOND NOTICE.]

The meeting of the Central Council will be held on Whit-Tuesday, June 5th, at 11 a.m. at the Church House, Westminster. There will be two sittings—morning and afternoon—to be followed by a social gathering of members and friends in the evening at 9 p.m. at the Inns of Court hotel, Holborn.

Nominations for the offices of President and Secretary, and also all notices of motion, must reach the Hon. Secretary of the Council before Tuesday, the 8th of May.

Hon. Secretaries of Societies whose subscriptions are not yet paid, are respectfully requested to forward them without delay, with the names and addresses of Representatives.

H. EARLE BULWER, Hon. Sec.

Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn,
24th April, 1900.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.

A meeting of the above branch was held at St. Peter's, Congleton, on Saturday, April 28th, when there were about sixty ringers present, the following places being represented: Macclesfield, Bollington, Prestbury, Sutton, Gawsorth, Prestwich, Kildgrove, Lawton, and Congleton. An excellent knife and fork tea was partaken of in the schoolroom, to which ample justice was done. After tea the business meeting was held, the Vicar, the Rev. T. T. Higgins, being in the chair, supported by the Rev. W. T. Warburton, Vicar of St. James', Mr. Farrington (vicar's warden), Mr. Walter Sherratt and Mr. T. Kennedy (sidesmen), Mr. J. Norbury (Secretary of the branch), and Mr. J. Perry (Secretary of local company).

The chairman in a very humorous speech welcomed the ringers to Congleton, and hoped they would all enjoy themselves, and find everything satisfactory. He said he did not know much about music, especially about bell music, but he did know when he saw a fine hearty set of fellows, which reminded him of a commando, who ought to be out in South Africa; if they did as much slaughter as they had done to the loaded tables that afternoon the result would be very disastrous to the enemy.

It was proposed that a letter of condolence be sent to the Bishop, as President of the Guild, on the death of his son in the war. In proposing a vote of thanks to the Vicar the Secretary said that they had found everything satisfactory except the bells, and advised the Vicar and wardens to have them examined by a competent bell-hanger. Several touches were rung on the tower bells during the day. Great credit is due to Mr. J. Perry, for his great exertions in making this the record meeting of the branch.

The Metropolis.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WALTHAMSTOW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES.

Tenor 19 cwt.

RICHARD ELLIOTT* Treble.	GEORGE B. LUCAS 6.
ROBERT MAYNARD, JUN.† 2.	ROBERT J. MAYNARD 7.
CHARLES T. HOPKINS 3.	FRANK HULL 8.
CHARLES S. BURDON 4.	FREDERICK A. NUNN 9.
WILLIAM B. MANNING 5.	WILLIAM CROCKFORD Tenor.

Composed by the late JOHN COX, and
Conducted by FREDERICK A. NUNN.

*First peal of Caters. †First peal.

The Provinces.

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, May 1, 1900, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FIVE-PART. Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOSEPH PENNINGTON Treble.	†RICHARD HEALD 5.
GEORGE PINCOFF 2.	JOHN MAKIN 6.
TITUS BARLOW 3.	HENRY MOSS 7.
JOHN MOSCROP 4.	*THOMAS H. ROBINSON Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY MOSS.

*First peal. †First peal in the method.

BACUP, LANCASHIRE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, May 2, 1900, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. SAVIOUR,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 9½ cwt.

F. HOWORTH Treble.	A. W. WHITWORTH 5.
JOHN SHEPHERD 2.	Z. LORD 6.
J. A. BROWN 3.	J. JACKSON 7.
T. KAY* 4.	W. ASHWORTH Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN SHEPHERD.

*First peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to Messrs. Howorth and Ashworth.

WICKHAM SKEITH, SUFFOLK.

On Thursday, May 3, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

HARRY CATTERMOLLE .. Treble.	ALEXANDER SYMONDS .. 4.
THOMAS DAVY 2.	FREDERICK POTTER .. 5.
GEORGE KEMP 3.	GEORGE CATTERMOLLE .. Tenor.

Conducted by G. CATTERMOLLE.

ABINGDON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Friday, May 4, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

FREDERICK WHITE Treble.	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 5.
THOMAS SHORT 2.	WILLIAM NEWELL 6.
W. H. ADKIN 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
REV. H. C. BELL 4.	RICHARD WHITE Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

Rung on the anniversary of the Dedication Festival of the church.

THORNHAM MAGNA, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 Grandsire and Bob Doubles, 360 each of St. Simon's, Canterbury Pleasure, St. Dunstan's, Fortune, April Day, Evening Star, Morning Star, The Dream, Gog Magog, and London Doubles.

ALBERT BERRY* Treble.	WILLIAM ROSE 3.
CHARLES NUNN 2.	HARRY SYMONDS 4.
ALEXANDER W. SYMONDS Tenor.	

Conducted by ALEXANDER W. SYMONDS.

*First peal, and rang at the first attempt. He was proposed and seconded as a member of the above Association previous to starting.

WOKINGHAM, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(READING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
A VARIATION OF THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 17½ cwt.

G. L. BODDINGTON Treble.	AMBROSE OSBORNE 5.
H. COFFEE 2.	JOHN TUCKER 6.
F. SWEETZER 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
ALBERT E. REEVES 4.	REUBEN SAWYER Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

HURSTPIERPOINT, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,
5184 CHANGES.

Tenor 13 cwt. 2 lbs.

WILLIAM PALMER Treble.	HERBERT P. HARMAN .. 5.
KRITH HART 2.	GEORGE A. KING 6.
EDWARD C. MERRITT .. 3.	JAMES N. FROSSELL .. 7.
ARTHUR A. FULLER .. 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and Conducted by G. WILLIAMS.

This is Mr. Harman's first peal of London Surprise, and for whom it was arranged.

HAZEL GROVE, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(STOCKPORT AND BOWDEN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two 720s of Oxford Treble Bob, 720 College Single, two 720s of Kent Treble Bob, and Two 720s of Plain Bob, each called differently.

Tenor 9 cwt.

J. DEAN* Treble.	*A. FERNLEY 4.
J. FERNLEY* 2.	†S. FERNLEY 5.
S. RUTTER* 3.	G. D. WARBURTON Tenor.

Conducted by S. FERNLEY.

*First peal. †First peal as conductor. First peal of Minor by all the band. First peal on the bells, and first peal of Minor by any company in connection with the Stockport and Bowden branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

FREDERICK HUNT Treble.	ARTHUR SYMONDS 5.
HARRY E. KINSEY 2.	GEORGE LILLEY 6.
HUGH GLADWELL 3.	*WILLIAM KINSEY 7.
GEORGE DEBENHAM 4.	HARRY TURNER Tenor.

Composed by J. E. BURTON, and Conducted by WILLIAM KINSEY.

First peal of Major by Messrs. Hunt and H. E. Kinsey. *First peal of Major as conductor.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Three Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5000 CHANGES.

Tenor 20 cwt. in E flat.

WILLIAM H. FUSSELL .. Treble.	CHARLES R. LILLEY .. 6.
HARRY BARTON 2.	CHARLES WILLSHIRE .. 7.
HERBERT LANGDON .. 3.	WILLIAM W. THORNE .. 8.
REUBEN CHARGE 4.	ARTHUR DEAN 9.
HENRY WOOD 5.	ARTHUR HARDY Tenor.

Composed by FREDERICK J. PITTS, and

Conducted by HARRY BARTON.

Reference to this peal will be found on another page.

BURSTOW, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

(THE REIGATE SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, May 5, 1900, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being eight 6-scores each of Oxford, College, Canterbury, and Plain Bob, and ten 6-scores of Grandsire. Tenor 11½ cwt.

GEORGE THOMPSON .. Treble.	JOHN BEAMS 3.
HENRY REEVES 2.	FRANCIS T. HOAD .. 4.
GEORGE F. HOAD Tenor.	

Conducted by HENRY REEVES.

First peal on the bells. The ringers wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells and for kindly providing refreshments after the peal; also Mr. Strip for making the arrangements.

RANMORE COMMON, SURREY.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Sunday, May 6, 1900, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 22 cwt. in E.

CHARLES WILLSHIRE .. Treble.	WILLIAM W. THORNE .. 5.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL .. 2.	JOHN HOYLE 6.
HARRY BARTON 3.	ARTHUR DEAN 7.
HERBERT LANGDON .. 4.	CHARLES R. LILLEY .. Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES WILLSHIRE.

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Monday, May 7, 1900, in Two Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE.

Tenor 14 cwt.

HARRY COOPER* Treble.	RICHARD HEALD 5.
THOMAS PEERS 2.	TITUS BARLOW 6.
WILLIAM DUCKWORTH .. 3.	†WILLIAM BARLOW .. 7.
JOHN MOSCROP 4.	THOMAS ROBINSON .. Tenor.

Conducted by TITUS BARLOW.

*First peal. †First peal away from the tenor. First peal in the method by the local company.

MIDDLESBROUGH, YORKS.

CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, May 7, 1900, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HILDA,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 12 cwt.

WILLIAM J. TITCHENER .. Treble.	WILLIAM NEWTON 5.
ROBERT ALCOCK 2.	FRED. P. HOWCROFT .. 6.
RICHARD H. FENWICK .. 3.	JOHN H. BLAKISTON .. 7.
NORMAN KIDD* 4.	THOMAS METCALFE .. Tenor.

Composed by TOM LOCKWOOD, and Conducted by J. H. BLAKISTON.

*First peal and hails from Thornaby. This composition is now rung for the first time.

BASINGSTOKE, HANTS.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, May 9, 1900, in Two Hours and Forty-six Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 15 cwt.

HENRY WHITE Treble.	JOHN E. BALLARD 5.
ALICE WHITE 2.	HENRY G. ROWE 6.
DORA WHITE* 3.	CHARLES GILES 7.
GEORGE C. HAMMOND .. 4.	FRANK REDGATE Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY WHITE.

*First peal with a bob bell. Rung to commemorate the marriage of the Rev. C. E. Matthews, Vicar of Bursledon, Hants, and Hon. Secretary of the above Guild, with Miss Edith M. Castellain, daughter of Alfred Castellain, Esq., of Bathwick, Bath, which was solemnized at St. Mary's, Bathwick, Bath, on that day.

Bangbell Peal.

SPROUGHTON, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(SPROUGHTON BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, April 25, 1900, in Two Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. H. J. MEE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES.

WALTER BROWN Treble.	EDGAR RIVERS 5.
GEORGE W. MEE 2.	ALFRED G. RIVERS .. 6.
FRANK ROLFE 3.	CHARLES MEE 7.
HARRY J. MEE 4.	FREDERICK MEE Tenor.

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and Conducted by CHARLES MEE.

Umpire—Mr. David Southgate

Date Touches.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

RAINHAM (Kent).—On Sunday morning, April 15th, a date touch of Doubles, being 820 Grandsire, 600 Canterbury Pleasure, and 480 Plain Bob, in 1 hr. 15 mins. C. Croucher, 1; F. Ockwell, 2; A. Vaughan, 3; E. Dunster (conductor), 4; J. H. Champion, 5; C. Belsey, 6.

Miscellaneous.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

UPCHURCH (Kent).—On Thursday, March 15th, 720 Grandsire Minor. E. J. Hyland, 1; T. Wraight, 2; W. J. Walker, 3; H. Shipp, 4; G. Dennis, 5; W. T. Hyland (conductor), 6. On Tuesday, March 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. E. J. Hyland, 1; A. J. Day, 2; W. T. Hyland (composer and conductor), 3; H. Shipp, 4; G. Dennis, 5; W. J. Walker, 6. On Thursday, March 29th, 720 Bob Minor. E. J. Hyland, 1; T. Wraight, 2; Rev. A. L. Brine, 3; H. Shipp, 4; W. T. Hyland, 5; W. J. Walker (conductor), 6. Also 720 Kent Treble Bob. E. J. Hyland, 1; H. Shipp, 2; W. T. Hyland (conductor), 3; Rev. A. L. Brine, 4; G. Dennis, 5; W. J. Walker, 6. On Saturday, April 7th, 720 Double Oxford. J. E. Grensted, 1; E. J. Hyland, 2; W. T. Hyland (conductor), 3; A. J. Day, 4; W. H. B. Wilkin, 5; W. J. Walker, 6. Also 720 Superlative Surprise. E. J. Hyland, 1; W. T. Hyland, 2; J. E. Grensted, 3; A. J. Day, 4; W. J. Walker, 5; W. H. B. Wilkins (conductor), 6. On Sunday, April 8th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. T. Wraight, 1; E. J. Hyland, 2; W. T. Hyland (conductor), 3; H. Shipp, 4; G. Dennis, 5; W. J. Walker, 6.

FAVERSHAM (Kent).—On Sunday evening, April 15th, after Divine Service at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. H. Wallis, 1; H. Foster, 2; W. B. Pitman, 3; A. Biggs, sen., 4; A. Biggs, jun., 5; F. Hunt, 6; E. E. Foreman (conductor), 7; G. Wood, 8. And 854 in the same method standing as before.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

RYDE (Isle of Wight).—Recently for practice at the parish church 630 Grandsire Triples. S. V. Salisbury, 1; G. H. Coombes, 2; A. J. Earl, 3; J. G. Norris, 4; E. Hatcher, 5; P. Long, 6; H. Jennings (conductor), 7; E. G. Brett, 8. Also 672 Grandsire Triples standing as above. This touch contains the twelve 6-7s. On Tuesday, April 17th, for practice, 742 Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. S. V. Salisbury, 1; G. H. Coombes, 2; A. J. Earl, 3; J. G. Norris, 4; C. Stainer, 5; E. Hatcher, 6; H. Jennings (conductor), 7; E. G. Brett, 8.

BASINGSTOKE (Hants).—On Wednesday, May 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. A. Knight, 1; H. White (conductor), 2; Dora White, 3; G. Hammond, 4; F. Wilson, 5; H. G. Rowe, 6; J. E. Ballard, 7; F. Redgate, 8. Also 377 Grandsire Triples. F. Mills, 1; Dora White, 2; C. Holdaway, 3; G. Hammond, 4; F. Wilson, 5; J. E. Ballard, 6; H. G. Rowe (conductor), 7; H. White, 8.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

LONDON.—On Sunday, April 8th, for evening service, at St. John's church, Waterloo Road, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 41 mins. Composed by E. Cook, of Cardiff. E. H. Oxenham, 1; F. J. Shepherd, 2; F. G. Perrin, 3; H. Langdon, 4; T. Langdon (conductor), 5; W. Pickworth, 6; W. H. Webber, 7; W. Longley, 8. On Monday, April 9th, at the residence of Mr. C. Charge, on a new peal of handbells by G. Welch, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters, 1259 changes, composed by H. N. Davis. W. H. Fussell, 1-2; H. Barton, (conductor) 3-4; R. Charge, 5-6; C. Charge, 7-8; W. Charge, 9-10. First quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters on handbells by all.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BARKING (Essex).—On Sunday, April 8th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major, 1280 changes, in 48 mins. J. Cottis, 1; A. J. Perkins, 2; E. G. Fenn, 3; A. C. Hardy, 4; A. J. T. Carter, 5; J. Dale, 6; R. Fenn, 7; C. Fenn, 8. Composed and conducted by A. J. Perkins.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BULMER (Bucks).—On Easter Day, April 15th, for morning service, 720 Grandsire Doubles. E. Elderfield, 1; T. Toombs, 2; W. Clarke, 3; E. Harding, 4; G. H. Gutteridge (conductor), 5; C. Jeffery, 6.

WOODSTOCK (Oxon).—On Monday, April 16th, an attempt for Holt's

ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples came to grief after ringing 2 hrs. 3 mins., owing to the clumsy ropes and the heavy going of the tenor. F. Webb, 1; H. G. Judge, 2; H. Walters, 3; W. Thorpe, 4; J. Matthews, 5; F. Webb, 6; N. Spindlow, 7; W. Franklin, 8.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

CAERLEON (Monmouthshire).—On Monday, April 16th, on the occasion of the quarterly meeting of the Association, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins., composed by J. George, of Rugby. T. Butler, 1; J. W. Jones, 2; W. T. Compton, 3; F. Atwell, 4; W. B. Biss (conductor), 5; J. Butler, 6; J. Morley, 7; A. Luffman, 8. Also 518 Grandsire Triples. F. Atwell, 1; E. Davies, 2; J. Pitcher, 3; W. T. Compton, 4; W. B. Biss, 5; T. H. Jones, 6; J. Morley, 7; A. Luffman, 8. Also 504 Grandsire Triples. T. Butler, 1; J. Pitcher, 2; S. Rogers, 3; W. T. Compton, 4; W. B. Biss, 5; J. Butler, 6; J. Morley, 7; F. Atwell, 8.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—On Saturday, May 5th, at St. Mary Matfelon, White-chapel, with the bells deeply-muffled as a last mark of respect to the late J. M. Hayes, the usual whole pull and stand was rung followed by a 420 of Stedman Triples. H. Springall (conductor), 1; F. Hall, 2; W. Truss, 3; E. Wallage, 4; W. Pasmore, 5; H. Torble, 6; A. Barkus, 7; J. Scholes, 8. Also a course of London Surprise by the Westminster band. The above was rung after meeting one short for a peal of Stedman Triples.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, April 1st, at All Saints' church, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples. J. Basden, 1; C. Edwards, 2; E. V. Beadle, 3; J. Howes (conductor), 4; H. Chandler, 5; T. Beadle, 6; G. A. Ransom, 7; A. Sheard, 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to A. Sheard, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns. On Sunday, May 6th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. H. Curtis, 1; F. Geddard, 2; H. Chandler, 3; E. V. Beadle, 4; C. Edwards, 5; G. A. Ransom, 6; T. Beadle, 7; A. Sheard, 8.

THE ST. THOMAS'S SOCIETY, BELFAST, IRELAND.

BELFAST.—On Sunday May 6th, at St. Thomas's church, for afternoon service, 720 Bob Minor, on the front six. R. J. Walsh, 1; J. H. B. Hesse, 2; A. C. D. McNeice, 3; F. S. McNeice, 4; N. Jackson, 5; P. A. Jackson (conductor), 6; A. G. Ward, 7; De V. Croseley, 8. For evening service 720 Bob Minor by the same, except the 7th, which was rung by J. Patterson. First 720 by all the band, by the Society, and on the bells.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DUNSTER.—On Sunday, April 15th, for morning service at St. George's church, 252 Stedman Triples. E. Hole, 1; G. Stacey, 2; R. Hole, 3; J. Jones, 4; T. Elliott, 5; W. Thrush, 6; J. Grabham (conductor), 7; J. Payne, 8. For evening service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. J. Hole, 1; G. Stacey, 2; R. Hole, 3; J. Jones, 4; T. Elliott, 5; W. Thrush, 6; J. Grabham (conductor), 7; J. Payne, 8.

TAUNTON.—On March 25th, 1368 Grandsire Caters. E. B. Kite, 1; J. Routley, 2; C. Summers, 3; S. Wyatt, 4; W. Eveleigh, 5; J. Burge (conductor), 6; F. Ladd, 7; C. Macey, 8; E. Wyatt, 9; E. Poole, 10. On March 28th, 720 Grandsire Minor. E. Poole, 1; J. Routley, 2; B. Van Tromp, 3; F. Ladd, 4; J. Fowler, 5; J. Burge (conductor), 6. On April 1st, 1259 Grandsire Caters. E. B. Kite, 1; J. Routley, 2; C. Summers, 3; S. Wyatt, 4; W. Eveleigh, 5; J. Burge (conductor), 6; F. Sadd, 7; C. Macey, 8; E. Wyatt, 9; E. Poole, 10. On April 15th, 503 Grandsire Caters. B. Van Tromp, 1; J. Routley, 2; C. Summers, 3; A. Walker, 4; J. Maddock (conductor), 5; J. Burge, 6; S. Wyatt, 7; C. Macey, 8; E. Wyatt, 9; J. Fowler, 10. On April 15th, 701 Grandsire Caters. B. Van Tromp, 1; J. Routley, 2; C. Summers, 3; F. Sadd, 4; J. Fowler, 5; J. Burge (conductor), 6; T. Radford, 7; C. Macey, 8; E. Wyatt, 9; E. Poole, 10.

BIRCHINGTON (Kent).—At the Waterloo Tower, Quex Park, on Easter Sunday morning, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. A. Pointer, 1; L. Willshire, 2; S. Twyman, 3; H. Sayer, 4; G. Wilson, 5; T. B. Reed, jun., 6; G. Willshire (conductor), 7; T. Lees, 8. Also 168, with T. B. Reed, sen., standing in.

BOURNEMOUTH (Hants).—On Easter Sunday, for morning service at St. Peter's church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 49 mins. A. Grist, 1; G. Colbourne, 2; E. T. Green, 3; A. H. Sayer, 4; E. Waters, 5; J. J. Bristow, 6; C. W. Goodenough (conductor), 7; C. Forfitt, 8. For evening service, 672 in the same method. F. Phillips, 1; E. T. Green, 2; C. Forfitt, 3; A. H. Sayer, 4; E. Waters, 5; C. W. Goodenough (conductor), 6; J. J. Bristow, 7; C. Merryfield, 8.

CHRISTCHURCH.—On a recent Thursday, at the Priory, 504 Grandsire Triples. H. Bagshot, 1; E. Waters, 2; T. Best, 3; E. Hinton, 4; A. H. Sayer, 5; J. J. Bristow, 6; C. W. Goodenough (conductor), 7; C. Firfit, 8. Also 336. H. Bagshot, 1; A. H. Sayer, 2; C. W. Goodenough (conductor), 3; F. Phillips, 4; E. Waters, 5; S. Best, 6; J. J. Bristow, 7; W. Saffery, 8.

CHESTER.—On Sunday, April 15th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 49 mins. A Wilcox, 1; J. Sconce, 2; C. Sconce, 3; H. Jones, 4; H. Dew (conductor), 5; W. Sconce, 6; J. Tomlinson, 7; E. Smith, 8. For Divine Service in the evening, 742 Grandsire Triples, taken from Holt's Original. E. Smith, 1; J. Swainson, 2; W. Sconce (conductor), 3; H. Jones, 4; H. Dew, 5; J. Tomlinson, 6; W. Moulton, 7; C. Sconce, 8.

COLCHESTER.—On Thursday, April 10th, at 18, Middleboro, on handbells, 720 each of Grandsire and Bob Minor. W. Giddings, 1; W. Schofield, 2; J. Kittle, 3-4; G. Rashbrook, 5-6. Conducted by G. Rashbrook and J. Kittle.

GREAT MARLOW (Bucks).—On Sunday, April 15th, at the residence of J. C. Truss, 504 Stedman Triples. T. H. Taffender, 1-2; J. C. Truss, 3-4; H. R. Pasmore (conductor), 5-6; J. W. Golding, 7-8. Also two courses of Bob Major and a touch of Grandsire Triples. On Monday, April 16th, whilst travelling by train between Wooburn Green and Loudwater, Bucks, 168 Grandsire Triples. T. H. Taffender, 1-2; H. R. Pasmore (conductor), 3-4; J. W. Golding, 5-6; E. P. O'Meara, 7-8.

GOSPEL OAK.—On Sunday, April 8th, at St. Martin's church, 720 Bob Minor. H. Ellis, 1; G. Hollis, 2; E. Young, 3; N. Alderman, 4; W. Nudds, 5; G. Smith (conductor), 6. On Friday, April 13th, 360 Kent Treble Bob. E. Turle, 1; J. Nixon, 2; G. Hollis (conductor), 3; N. Alderman, 4; W. Nudds, 5; R. Bevan, 6. Also 360 Plain Bob. G. Hollis, 1; E. Turle, 2; A. Holmes, 3; N. Alderman, 4; W. Nudds, 5; R. Bevan, 6. Also 360 Plain Bob. G. Hollis, 1; E. Turle, 2; A. Holmes, 3; N. Alderman, 4; W. Nudds, 5; R. Bevan (conductor), 6. On Sunday, April 15th, for evening service, 480 Plain Bob. H. Parsons, 1; G. Hollis, 2; A. Holmes, 3; N. Alderman, 4; W. Nudds (conductor), 5; R. Bevan, 6. And 216 Plain Bob, standing as before, conducted by G. Hollis.

HORNSEY.—On Sunday, April 8th, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. E. King, 1; W. Dixon, 2; G. Hollis, 3; A. Miller, 4; T. Langdon, 5; A. Jacobs (conductor), 6.

RUGBY.—On Wednesday, May 2nd, 1900, at St. Andrew's church, 588 Grandsire Triples. A. Coleman, 1; R. Watson, 2; A. J. Gillings, 3; S. Hope, 4; A. Dubber, 5; A. Bramall, 6; J. George (conductor), 7; T. Holmes, 8. The above was rung specially preceding the annual dinner.

STOWMARKET (Suffolk).—On Easter Sunday, at 6 a.m., 504 Bob Major. W. Welham, C. Souter, C. Alderton, G. Melbourne, E. E. Diaper, W. Souter (conductor), J. G. Wade, W. P. Rowse. For morning service touches of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob, by the same band. For evening service touches of Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major. G. Melbourne, C. Souter, C. Alderton, E. E. Diaper, J. Souter, W. Tydeman, J. G. Wade (conductor), W. P. Powse. On Easter Monday, 1008 Bob Major, in 41 mins. F. Allard, W. Souter (conductor), G. Melbourne, A. Symonds, E. Diaper, W. Tydeman, J. G. Wade, W. P. Rowse.

STONY STRATFORD (Bucks).—On Sunday, April 15th, for evening service at St. Giles's church, seven 6-scores of Doubles, each called differently. A. Clarke, 1; R. Valentine, 2; E. Yates, 3; G. Cowley (conductor), 4; W. Tucker, 5; R. Tucker, 6. On April 17th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor. W. Benham, 1; G. Valentine, 2; R. Valentine, 3; W. Tucker, 4; E. Yates, 5; G. Cowley (conductor), 6.

STANTON HARCOURT (Oxon).—On Tuesday evening, April 10th, 720 Grandsire Minor. A. Mitchell, 1; A. Pimm, 2; J. Trinder, 3; H. Brooks, 4; F. P. Powell, 5; J. Monk, 6. Another 720 in the same method. A. Trinder, 1; H. Brooks, 2; C. Allen, 3; J. Monk, 4; W. Pimm, 5; F. P. Powell, 6.

WALDRON (Sussex).—On Easter Sunday, for Divine Service, at All Saints' church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. W. Burgess, 1; E. Jennings, 2; H. Hobbs, 3; T. Ades, 4; A. Reid, 5; J. Burgess, 6; B. Hobbs, 7; W. Jenner, 8. On Easter Monday, for practice, 720 Bob Minor, in 30 mins. H. Hobbs, 1; A. Hobden, 2; B. Hobbs, 3; J. Burgess, 4; E. Jennings, 5; A. Reid (conductor), 6.

WHITWICK (Leicestershire).—On Easter Sunday, at the parish church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. G. Harwood, 1; S. W. West, 2; B. West, 3; A. Whitmore, 4; J. Rawson, 5; J. A. Moulton (conductor), 6; L. Partridge, 7; T. Belcher, 8. This is T. Belcher's first quarter-peal and first attempt.

THE ST. LUKE'S SOCIETY, CHELSEA.

The members of this excellent society held their annual dinner at The Wellesley Arms hotel, Sydney Street, on Wednesday evening, the 18th ult., the function being attended with much success. The chair being taken by Mr. T. E. Barber, the vice-chair being occupied by Mr. W. K. Humphreys.

"The Queen and the Royal Family" was the first toast on the list, and that having been duly honoured, the Chairman next submitted the toast of "The Rector of Chelsea and Churchwardens." In doing so, he said he had no doubt there were some gentlemen present that evening who did not know the Rev. Gerald Blunt. He had had the privilege of knowing the Rector for twenty-five years, and all he could say was that he hoped the rev. gentleman would remain Rector of Chelsea so long as he (the speaker) remained in the borough. The Rector and Churchwardens had assisted them to a great extent on many occasions, and consequently they had spent many happy evenings together. He hoped they would have many other such happy evenings. It was with very great pleasure that he submitted the toast. The toast having being duly honoured, the chairman said he was sorry to have to announce that the Rector was unwell. But for that unfortunate fact he might have been with them that evening. He was sure they would all agree with him when he said they sincerely wished him a speedy recovery.

Mr. Humphreys next gave the toast of the "St. Luke's Bell-ringers," remarking that he hoped they had spent a very pleasant evening. The toast was very cordially received.

The Chairman alluded to the bells of St. Luke's, and expressed the opinion that they had been a joy and a blessing to many. The bells had been rung on many joyful occasions. They were rung on the relief of Ladysmith, and he hoped they would soon be rung for the relief of Mafeking—and again when peace was proclaimed. Tolling the bells was one of their mournful duties. However, bell-ringing was a good old English custom, and he hoped it would never die out. He could not expect to be with them another twenty-five years, but he hoped they would have the pleasure of ringing the bells on many joyous occasions in the future. The Chairman concluded by proposing the toast of "The Visitors," remarking that they were delighted to see so many friends present.

Mr. C. White acknowledged the compliment, and said it was always a pleasure to him to listen to St. Luke's bells.

Mr. J. Pryer proposed "The Health of the Chairman," and said that the work of Mr. Barber was too well-known to need mentioning. He was sorry that the Rector was unwell, and trusted that he would speedily recover. The toast was duly honoured and the chairman replied. He agreed with what had been said concerning the success attending that dinner, and added that their thanks were due to the Rector, Earl Cadogan, the churchwardens of St. Luke's, and the members of the Rector's family, for the assistance rendered.

During the evening a capital musical programme was gone through, Mr. W. Christie ably officiating at the piano.

The dinner was an unqualified success.

AN APPEAL.

The ringers of England will have read with regret of the lamented death of Mr. John M. Hayes. At a meeting of the Ancient Society of College Youths held on Tuesday, May 1st, it was resolved that a subscription list be opened on behalf of Mrs. Hayes. The following elected committee will be pleased to receive contributions in aid of the widow of one whose name has been prominent in the Exercise for the last thirty-eight years: C. T. P. Brice, 41, Ranelagh Road, Pimlico, S.W.; W. T. Cockerill, 37, Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, S.W.; W. E. Garrard, 21, Peel Street, Kensington, W.; E. Horrex, 55, Ashbury Road, Shaftesbury Park, S.W.; G. Muskett, 55, Sewardstone Road, Victoria Park, E.; H. R. Newton, 43, Lillington Street, Pimlico, S.W.; E. P. O'Meara, 39, Goring Road, Bowes Park, N.; J. Pettit, 3, St. Thomas' Cottages, Hackney, N.E.; W. D. Smith, 70, Median Road, Clapton, N.E.; H. Springall, 35, Huddleston Road, Forest Gate, E.; C. F. Winney, 13, Harbledown Road, Parsons Green, S.W.; M. A. Wood, 41, Church Row, Bethnal Green, E.

A GOLDEN WEDDING.

Mr. and Mrs. John Cordingley, of Tong, near Bradford, Yorks., celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding day on Saturday week. The event aroused considerable interest in the village, and the weather being fine a large number of friends from a distance foregathered and offered their congratulations to the couple.

Mr. Cordingley was for many years a constable at Calverley, before the West Riding Constabulary was inaugurated, but he is best known as a bellringer, campanology having been his hobby for fifty-four years, and it was this fact which was accountable for the presence at Tong on Saturday of ringers from Birstall, Liversedge, Cleckheaton, Mirfield, Pudsey, Bramley, Armley, Calverley, Bradford, Headingley, and Wakefield. For forty-nine years Mr. Cordingley was the captain of the ringers at Calverley Church. That was the time when he was in the habit of going prize-ringing with many of his old friends who turned up at Tong on Saturday. It was at Skipton in 1850 that he first shared prize money. Another of his early experiences was at New Church in Rossendale in November, 1851, in company with Mr. Oddy and others. He also took part in a contest at Batley in April, 1852, when his team had to begin ringing at 4 a.m., but one of his principal successes, and one he likes to talk of, was that at Mirfield in 1855, when he and another ringer from Calverley, two from Tong and two from Pudsey, distinguished themselves in a contest which was open to all England, and in which sixteen companies took part. Suspended from the top of the tower was a small bag trimmed with ribbons of red, white, and blue, and containing nine sovereigns—the first prize. Mr. Cordingley's team captured that trophy, and though the money has long since gone the way of all coin, the bag with its brightly-coloured trimmings is still in the possession of Mr. Cordingley, and when our reporter called at his house on Saturday, his wife fetched it downstairs for him to have a peep at. The Calverley ringers were "at the top of the tree," to use Mr. Cordingley's own words, for twenty years, and in all he has, in conjunction with others, won 42 prizes, including twelve firsts and thirteen seconds.

There were so many ringers at Tong on Saturday afternoon, that the bells in the fine old church were kept almost continuously in motion. Amongst the companies which ascended the tower was one of five veterans of whom Mr. Cordingley was the captain. They were all ringers of over fifty years' experience, but John Longstaffe, of Pudsey, who should have made up the half-dozen, was unavoidably absent, and his place was taken by Thomas North, of Liversedge. The company took up their places as follows:—John Cordingley, aged 73, 1; John Oddy, 70, (Cleckheaton), 2; Wm. Smith, 73 (Birstall), 3; Thos. North, 59 (Liversedge), 4; Nathaniel Hepworth, 78 (Mirfield), 5; and John Haley, 66 (Tong), 6.

Later in the afternoon, a tea was provided in the village schoolroom—and nearly all the village seemed to be there. At any rate, some fifty to sixty persons sat down with Mr. and Mrs. Cordingley to a very enjoyable meal, the Vicar (the Rev. C. Farrow) and Mrs. Farrow being amongst those present. The day's arrangements had been in the hands of Mr. Thos. Maude and Mr. Geo. Bolland, and everything passed off most agreeably.

In the evening, a meeting was held in the schoolroom, presided over by Mr. Thos. Maude.

Mr. Maude called upon the Vicar to propose a vote of congratulation, and to offer a hearty welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Cordingley, who that day celebrated their golden wedding.

The Vicar, in proposing the vote, said they were all glad of the opportunity of meeting Mr. and Mrs. Cordingley, and congratulating them on the fact that they had lived together happily for fifty years as man and wife. A great many changes had taken place during those fifty years, for when Mr. Cordingley "popped the question" there were not so many railways to convey ardent lovers to their mistress' feet as there were now, and they had often to sigh at a distance in vain. It would have been difficult for them then to have sent ardent messages of love by telegraph or telephone, and the motor car was, he believed, at that time, not even thought of. But still, though the outward and visible aspect of the world had been greatly changed, and they were now no longer young, time having laid his relentless hand upon them, making the eyes dim, and the hair grey, still

their affection for one another had undergone no change whatever, and was as strong now as it was in the days of their youth. The Vicar then said he hoped they might be spared for many years to come, and that Mr. Cordingley might live, not only to ring himself, but also to teach others that most difficult Art.

The vote of congratulation was seconded by Mr. John Oddy, of Checkheaton, an old ringer, and a native of Tong. He spoke of his long friendship with Mr. Cordingley, and of the many times they had rung together, and what a pleasure it was to him to be present at the celebration of his golden wedding.

Mr. John Cordingley made a suitable reply, and thanked every one in his own name, and in that of his wife, for their kindness to them that day.

Mr. Geo. Bolland next proposed a vote of thanks to the visitors, and to the ladies who had helped with the entertainment. He said he was always glad to see ringers from other churches at Tong; and he was also pleased to see so many ladies there. He said that Mrs. Cordingley had always helped her husband in every way for the past fifty years, and had been a pattern wife. He desired to thank all who had joined them in these congratulations. Mr. Henry Oddy, of Farnley, seconded this vote. He thought the visitors ought especially to be thanked, since many of them had come from a distance to honour Mr. and Mrs. Cordingley. And he also thought the ladies would be thanked for the help given, especially with the tea, towards making the gathering a success. This vote was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Holgate, of Bramley, in returning thanks, said he was only a young ringer, and he had wished the company to be thanked for their vote by an older man. He had known Mr. Cordingley since he had become a ringer, and he could endorse all that had been said about him. He took a deep interest in the gathering, because he hoped to be spared to celebrate the golden wedding of his own parents, if they lived until the month of June next. He begged to thank the Tong ringers for their hospitality, and the Vicar for his presence and support. Mr. Charles Pratt, of Calverley, seconded.

Mr. George Bolland, of Tong, returned thanks for the Tong ringers. He said these social gatherings were sure to do good, as they brought ringers and the friends of ringers together, and made them acquainted with one another, and enabled them to compare notes, and to show their proficiency in the Art they all loved so well.

The Vicar also responded to the vote thanking him for his presence. He said that, though Saturday night was rather an inconvenient night for him to be out of his study, he was glad to be present with them then. He thought they ought not to separate without a hearty vote of thanks to their chairman, Mr. Thomas Maude. Mr. Maude was really the life and soul of that gathering, because it had been, mainly owing to his indefatigable energy and untiring zeal that it had succeeded so well. It was an astonishing thing to him that Mr. Maude, who took such a deep interest in silver and golden weddings, had never entered into the bonds of wedlock himself. He advised him speedily to wipe out this reproach.

Mr. Maude made a humorous reply. He said he was much obliged to them for their vote of thanks. It was always a pleasant thing to be helping others, and if they had enjoyed themselves at Tong that day, he felt he was well repaid for all the trouble he had taken in the matter. He thought the Vicar's advice was good, but he had not yet met with any one who was willing to share the joys and sorrows of life with him ("nonsense,") and even if he was to get married to-morrow he would hardly expect now to be able to celebrate either his silver or golden wedding.

Between the speeches, a course of Grandsire Triples was rung on the hand-bells by John Thackeray, John Whitaker, John Clayton, and John Wilson. Other courses were also rung.

An amusing incident took place during the Vicar's speech. When, with a meaning look at Mrs. Cordingley, he spoke of Mr. Cordingley "popping the question," the old lady rose up from her seat, and shaking her fist at the Vicar, said amid loud laughter, "He niver popped t' question at all—all he said was, 'Is'e bahn ta hev thee lass.'"

The happy gathering broke up after the National Anthem, and the old chorus "For he's a jolly good fellow."

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 Lancashire Association.—Rossendale Branch.—Next Meeting at Waterfoot (St. James's), to-day, Saturday, May 12. Bells ready at 4 o'clock, meeting at 6.30.

WM. CASS, Branch Sec.

83, Chesham Road, Bury.

The Kent County Association.—Tonbridge District.—The next meeting of this District will be held at Speldhurst, to-day, Saturday, May 12th. Tower open at 3.30. The rectory gardens and grounds will be open to members by kind permission of the Rector, and Miss Macalpine Leny has kindly undertaken to provide tea to all members at 6 o'clock.

W. LATTER, Hon. Dist. Sec.

Salisbury Diocesan Guild.—The annual meeting will be held at Marlborough on Monday, May 14th. Service at St. Peter's church at 11.30, when an address will be given by the Rev. Canon Wordsworth. Meeting in the Town Hall immediately after the service to elect officers and transact business. Dinner (2s. each) in the Town Hall at 1.15.

THOMAS BLACKBOURN.

"Ringwell," Exeter Street, Salisbury.

Middlesex County Association.—North and East District.—A Meeting of members of this Association will be held at St. Margaret's, Westminster, to-day, Saturday, May 12th, by kind permission of the Rev. Canon Robinson, when all members who can make it convenient to do so are requested to attend. The bells will be raised about 4 o'clock.

ARTHUR T. KING, Hon. Sec.

18, Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.

The Heavy Woollen District Association.—A committee meeting of the above will be held to-day, Saturday, May 12, at 4.30, at The Park hotel, Earlsheaton, when the method for the six-bell contest will be chosen and judges for the same. Afterwards the usual monthly meeting will be held at the same house; meeting to commence as near 5 o'clock as possible.

WALTER IDLE, Secretary.

47, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.

The Norwich Diocesan Association.—A Quarterly Meeting will be held at Eye, on Thursday, May 17th. Dinner at The White Lion at 1.30 p.m., 2s. 3d. Hon., and 1s. 3d. company members. Notice to be sent to the Hon. Secretary before Saturday, 12th May.

H. EARLE BULWER, Hon. Sec.

Stanhoe Rectory, Kings Lynn.

The Lancashire Association.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the parish church, Flixton, on Saturday, May 19th. Bells ready at 4.0 p.m. Business meeting at 7.0 p.m.

W. BROWN, Branch Sec.

Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of the above will be held at Leigh on Saturday, May 19th. Members intending to be present are requested to give notice to Mr. J. Alcock, sen., Leigh, not later than Wednesday, May 16th.

W. TWIGG, Hon. Sec.

The Yorkshire Association.—The next general meeting will be held at Wortley, near Sheffield, on Saturday, May 19th. Bells at liberty from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. Official headquarters for the day at the infants school. Local headquarters, The Wharncliffe Arms hotel. Tea at 5 o'clock in the

school. Business meeting immediately afterwards. The local hon. secretary is Mr. W. T. McKegg, waterworks plumber, Wortley, Sheffield, to whom all communications respecting the day's arrangements should be sent.

B. T. COPLEY, Hon. Sec.

14, Hillside Terrace, Bradford.

Society for the Archdeaconry of Salop.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, May 26th. Ringing at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 4.30 p.m.

J. MACKAY, Hon. Sec.

Holy Trinity Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

St. Thomas's Guild, Dudley.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Brierley Hill, on Saturday, May 26th. Service in church at 5 o'clock.

W. MICKLEWRIGHT, Hon. Sec.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The monthly meeting of the above Society will be held at Rothwell (8 bells) on Saturday, May 26th. Meeting house The White Swan hotel. A peal will be attempted at 2.15. Business meeting at 6.30. Handbells provided. Contributions are now due.

HY. GAYTHORPE, Hon. Sec.

1, Elm Avenue, Bramley.

NOTE TO PEAL.

THE PEAL AT LEATHERHEAD.—This composition, in five equal parts, has the 5th in 2nds place throughout. It was Mr. Lilley's rooth peal, made up as follows: Doubles in twelve methods, 3; Minor in seven methods, 22, conducted 2; Union Triples, 1; Oxford Bob Triples, 1, conducted 1; Grandsire Triples, 19, conducted 15; Bob Major, 10, conducted 6; Kent Treble Bob Major, 9, conducted 2; Double Norwich Court Bob Major (including a 17,024), 6; Superlative, 1; Bob Royal, 7; conducted 3; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 4; Grandsire Caters, 8; Stedman Caters, 5. Total rang 100; Conducted 29. Rang in 69 towers. Mr. Willshire hails from Guildford, and was elected a member of the Waterloo Society previous to starting, and it is his first peal of Stedman Caters.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ASHFORD DISTRICT.—A Meeting of this District was held at Charing, on Saturday, March 31st, when members attended from Hythe, Ashford, Tenterden, Headcorn, Ospringe and Charing. The following ringing was done: 720 Plain Bob. E. Waghorn, 1; W. E. Pitman, 2; W. Blaxland, 3; P. Hodgkin, 4; C. Tribe, 5; W. Spice (conductor), 6. Another 720. E. Waghorn, 1; W. Blaxland, 2; E. Archer, 3; C. Tribe, 4; P. Hodgkin (conductor), 5; W. Spice, 6. Several 120s of Stedman Doubles. E. Waghorn, 1; W. Blaxland, 2; E. Pitman, 3; C. Tribe, 4; W. Spice, 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. A 6-score of Stedman Doubles, J. Willis ringing the 2nd.

On Saturday, April 21st, after an unsuccessful attempt for a peal in seven methods, 720 College Single. C. Tribe, 1; W. Spice, 2; J. Grensted, 3; A. J. Day, 4; W. J. Walker, 5; W. H. B. Wilkins (conductor), 6. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. J. Grensted, 1; C. Tribe, 2; W. H. B. Wilkins, 3; A. J. Day, 4; W. J. Walker, 5; W. Spice (conductor), 6.

DEATH OF A FEMALE CHURCH BEADLE.—On the 29th ult., the death of Mrs. Martha Kendall took place at her residence at the advanced age of 75 years. The deceased, who was believed to be the only female beadle

and sexton in England, was laid to rest in Willesden parish churchyard, where she so long officiated, on Saturday, May 5th. She had held the singular position for twenty-four years. Mrs. Kendall took over the place on the death of her husband, and for a considerable time was keeper of the parochial pound. The District Council demolished that ancient landmark five years ago. The usual whole pull and stand was rung after the burial by — Kirby, 1; A. Hill, 2; F. Side, 3; A. Tennant, 4; W. Steggall, 5; A. Pittam, 6. And 360 Plain Bob. W. Neal, 1; A. Hill, 2; F. Side, 3; A. Pittam (conductor), 4; W. Steggall, 5; A. Tennant, 6.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—The address of Mr. H. Barton and Mr. W. H. Fussell is 18, Hencroft Street, Slough, Bucks.

Situation Vacant.

WANTED for North Wales two Improvers to the House Decorating trade. Youths preferred who have been on estate work and are anxious to learn the house painting. Apply to the Editor.

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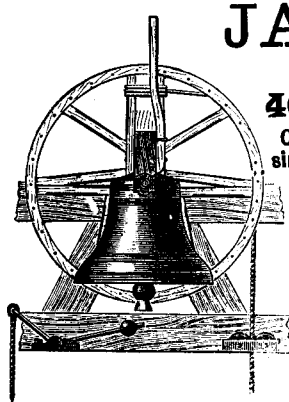
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The above are for 6 ringers with 13 bells thus—C.D.E.F.G.A.B.C.D.E.F.G.A.				
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