THE

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 960.—*VOL.* XIX.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1900. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

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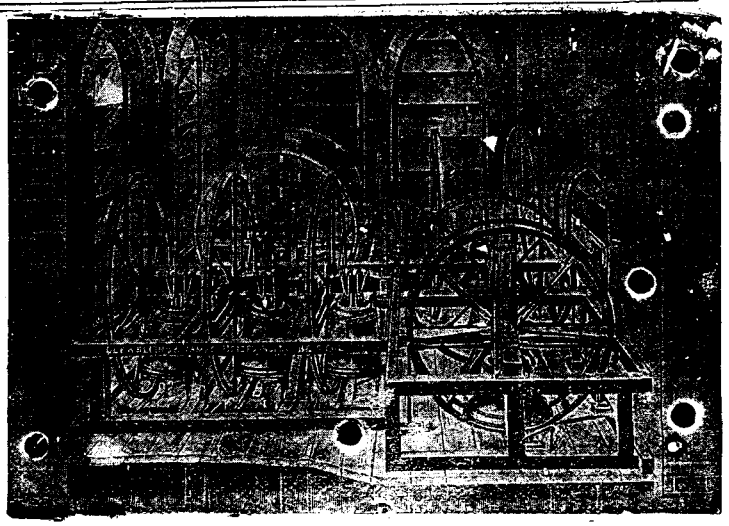

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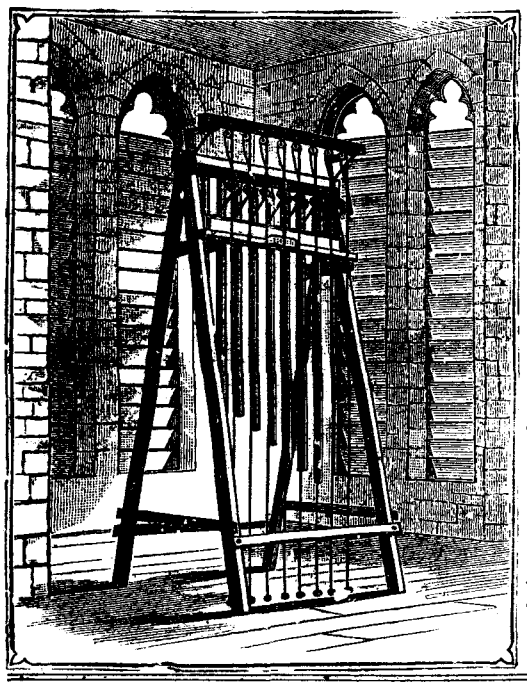

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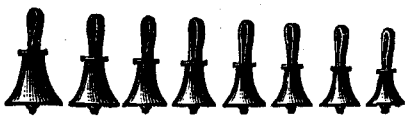

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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 960.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1900. [Vol. XIX.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

Annual Meeting at Leatherhead.

The Annual Festival of the above Guild took place on Monday, July 16th. In spite of the great heat and the rather awkward journey to Leatherhead, some 120 to 130 members attended from various parts of the diocese. The Bournemouth band, finding they could not reach Leatherhead by 10 a.m., journeyed to London on the previous Saturday with their enterprising churchwarden, Mr. Scott-Evans (who always accompanies them on these occasions), and made their way to the place of meeting early on Monday; while the Master (Rev. R. C. M. Harvey), after cycling some fifteen miles and preaching three times on Sunday, reached Portsmouth after midnight, and came up to Leatherhead with his old friends the members of the St. Mary Portsea company, the next morning. No ringing was done before the annual meeting, which was held in the parish room punctually at 10.30 a.m. J. P. Stilwell, Esq., President, occupied the chair, being supported by the Master and Hon. Secretary. The minutes of the last quarterly meeting were read and passed, and as usual the minutes of the preceding annual meeting were re-read. The officers of the Guild then retired. The Master took the chair until the President was placed into it again amidst much applause. He returned thanks to the meeting for their renewed confidence in him, and then followed the re-election of the Master and Hon. Secretary, who in their turn thanked those present for the honour they had been accorded.

The Standing Committee was re-elected, as also were the various hon. district secretaries, with the exception of one vacancy—Winchester. The Rev. H. Wheat, curate of Hursley, was proposed and seconded, provided he would accept the office.

The Rev. Stanhope Rashleigh was elected a Life Member, and the Rev. R. Home an hon. member. Four compounding and nine performing members were added to the society.

Mr. Scott-Evans requested that a notice of the quarterly meetings should be sent to the members of the Standing Committee. This was agreed to.

The balance-sheet was then passed without discussion, on the motion of Mr. T. W. Fairey, seconded by Mr. Harper.

The Hon. Secretary moved "That a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to Mr. H. White for his renewed kindness in auditing the accounts." He said that Mr. White had rendered him valuable assistance in this matter, and saved him much time.

Mr. Hunt (Guildford) seconded—carried unanimously.

Mr. White replied in a few graceful words.

The Hon. Secretary then brought forward the question of a memorial of to the late Mr. James Hewett. After briefly referring to his career, and to his long connection with the Guild, he proceeded to read letters from Messrs. H. Dains and A. Jacob. These were answers to his question—whether the Cumberland Society would join the Winchester Guild in erecting some memorial to Mr. Hewett. From these communications he gathered that they had better proceed alone, and hoped that the meeting would decide to do something at once, as their old friend had gone to his rest some ten months ago.

Mr. J. W. Whiting proposed that the Guild should take the matter in hand without the Cumberland Society. He thought they could well afford to do so.

The Master suggested that an estimate be procured for a brass to be placed eventually in the church of Holy Trinity, Gosport, and also an estimate for a cross or memorial for the grave. He thought that the former would be the more permanent memorial of the two.

Mr. Grist (Bournemouth), said that some memorial, if only a curb, should be erected at the cemetery to mark the grave.

Mr. Scott-Evans (Bournemouth), spoke concerning the cost of a brass tablet, and after some discussion it was proposed by Mr. Pearce (York Town), seconded by Mr. Hill (Fareham), "That estimates of the cost of brass tablets be obtained and sent round to the captains of bands." Carried.

A discussion on the day of the week for the annual meeting was then opened by the Hon. Secretary. At the last quarterly meeting held at Chiddingfold only five members present had voted upon the subject, three in favour of Saturday, and two of Monday. He commenced to make arrangements at Leatherhead for Saturday, but was informed that it was a very awkward day for feeding purposes, there being so many excursions, etc. He then wrote to the Master, who replied that he would "back up" Monday instead. Consequently he had altered the day. He felt that an apology was due to the proposer and seconder of the proposition which had been carried in favour of Saturday; at the same time their annual meetings had been held for some years past on a Monday, and it did not seem fair that a single vote at a small meeting should effect such an alteration for so many ringers in the diocese. He knew that some inconvenience had been caused by changing the day, which he was sorry for; but he hoped that the question would now be thoroughly thrashed out. He concluded his remarks by reading a letter from Mr. S. Radford, secretary of the St. Nicolas Guildford band, which he had been requested to make public.

Mr. Hunt (Guildford) said he had been sent by his company to place their feelings on this matter before the meeting. The Guildford men thought that the day should not have been altered, and he considered that some thirty-five men had stayed at home, who would have attended on a Saturday. He proceeded to give a list of the various members in the Guildford district, and spoke about their performances, etc., which he contended showed that they were worthy of consideration.

The Master said that ever since he had been connected with the Guild, first as Hon. Secretary, and then as Master, he had always tried to advance its interests as a corporate body. He was delighted to hear how well the Guildford district was doing, and he hoped other districts would copy their example. At the same time they must

consider other districts and other towers, and do what would benefit the Guild as a whole. It was quite evident that they were divided upon the day; some found Monday suit them, others liked Saturday best. It was for them to decide, they could not possibly please everyone and on such a matter there would have to be "give and take."

Various propositions were then made: Mr. Hunt—"That quarterly meetings be held in the Guildford district." Mr. Grist—"That all quarterly meetings be held in the various districts in alphabetical order." Neither of these propositions, however, found a seconder.

Mr. Le Clercq (Farnham), spoke in favour of Saturday. It was very difficult to leave home on a Monday. Most employers of labour disliked their men taking a holiday on that day.

Mr. T. W. Fairey (York Town), said that the members of his band could attend as a rule on either day of the week. He was glad to have the matter thoroughly discussed. Several others have spoken in favour of either day. The President thought they should conclude the discussion. Mr. Fairey then moved, Mr. Harper (Portsea), seconding, "That in future the Annual Meeting be held on a Monday."

Mr. E. Hull (Leatherhead) proposed, Mr. Le Clercq seconding, "That the Annual Meeting be held on a Saturday."

The Master expressed a hope that they would not make a permanent fixture of the day. It could be decided by votes from year to year at their Annual Meetings.

Messrs. Fairey and Harper agreed to alter their proposition: "That the Annual Meeting next year be held on a Monday." The amendment received twelve votes, while the amended proposition received forty, and was therefore carried.

For the place of the next Annual Meeting to be held in Hampshire, Ryde and Bournemouth were duly proposed and seconded respectively by Messrs. Hill (Fareham), and Batts (Hambledon), and Grist (Bournemouth), and F. Kemp (Leatherhead). Ryde received forty-five votes, and Bournemouth ten. It was decided to hold the next quarterly meeting at Bournemouth.

A vote of thanks to the President and the other officers of the Guild was proposed by Mr. H. White, and the business terminated.

The Annual Service was held in the grand old church of SS. Mary and Nicolas at twelve o'clock. The usual service was sung by the Rev. S. N. Sedgwick, curate, the lesson being read by the Viear, the Rev. Canon Utterton. The sermon was preached by the Rev. C. E. Matthews, Vicar of Bursledon, and Hon. Secretary of the Guild, from 1 Corinthians xii. 27: "Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular." He said in the course of his remarks that St. Paul tried to show the Corinthians how God the Holy Ghost had disposed and arranged the order of workers in the church, how He influenced them all both collectively and individually. There was special work for all the members of the natural body, and for the members of the spiritual body. Everything could not be raised or lowered to one standard or one level in the natural body or in the church. Had the Apostle lived in later times he would probably have included ringers amongst his various orders of church-workers. As they met year by year it was well that they should look back and look forward, and remind themselves of their responsibilities; because there were plenty of good change-ringers who could not be called good churchmen. The numerous ringers' guilds and associations all over the country had accomplished much in raising the tone and work of the ringer, but the ringer had not always raised his spiritual or religious tone and work. There were plenty of men about who put up change-ringing *first*, and church membership *last*. There were those who took up ringing as a sort of pastime, and turned it into a secular amusement. There were those who rang, calling others to worship, and who seldom worshipped themselves. There were some members of their own Guild who attended their annual business meeting, and who did not worship with them at the annual service. What was wanted in these days was a more consistent life, a life which showed that they rang the bells to the honour and glory of God, and not for their own glorification. They desired to see a more brotherly feeling abroad; there was far too much selfishness, narrow-mindedness, "cliquism," party-spirit, and pride amongst some of them. He asked them to remember that day and always that they were brethren, members of the body of Christ, that they had corporate duties as churchmen, not merely as members of their Guild. They should strive after a higher and more devoted service, whether they rang in the simpler or in the more advanced methods of their Art; because at the last great day their work would be judged, not by the number of peals or intricate methods they had mastered, but by the quality, tone and character of the service they had offered to God's glory.

At the conclusion of the service an excellent dinner was served in the Victoria Hall by Mr. W. Messam, of the Crown Coffee Tavern, and a member of the local band. Some sixty-five members sat down with the President, who subsequently gave the toast of "The Queen." The Master moved a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the kind welcome which had been extended to the Guild, and Canon Utterton having responded, the company dispersed to ring at the several towers in the neighbourhood.

P.S.—The Rev. H. Wheat having declined the office of Hon. Secretary of the Winchester District, the Rev. Vere Awdry, Vicar of Ampfield, Romsey, has kindly consented to act as Hon. Secretary.

We are asked to add to the above the following account of a very gratifying proceeding:—

At the annual meeting of members of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, held at Leatherhead on July 16th, an interesting presentation took place. The President, J. P. Stilwell, Esq., on behalf of the members of the Guild, at the request of Mr. H. White, presented the Hon. Secretary (Rev. C. E. Matthews), with an address of congratulation and a purse of £20 on the occasion of his marriage. The President expressed the great pleasure it gave him to make the presentation, and assured the Hon. Secretary how deeply the members appreciated his arduous labours for the welfare of the society during the five years that he had been its secretary. On behalf of the members he wished him and his bride a bright and prosperous future.

The Secretary said the presentation had come upon him as a great surprise, and he really could not find words to express his gratitude to the members for this splendid present. He was glad if he had been able to do anything to help on the work of the Guild. It was a work that was to him a labour of love, and he only hoped that now that he had charge of a parish, he would not

find that it would prevent him from continuing to take an active interest in a work which had brought him so many valued friends. He could only conclude by again thanking the members for their extremely generous and highly appreciated gift. We may add that the work in connection with the gift was most admirably carried out by Mr. H. White, of Basingstoke, and that Mr. J. J. Jones, of Guildford, most kindly supplied gratuitously the necessary circulars and receipt cards.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 6th, the above-named Guild had its thirteenth annual meeting at Liscard. Owing to the inclemency of the weather there were only about 140 ringers present. About 10 o'clock the bells of St. Mary's church, Liscard, gave notice that the first batch of ringers had arrived, but owing to its being Bank Holiday, and the train service not of the best, and Liscard not being the easiest place to find, ringers did not arrive so fast or so punctually as usual at an annual meeting. The service was held in the parish church at 11 a.m.; the organist was present at the organ, and the choir was in full force. The special Psalms for the day were the 149th and the 150th. To the great delight of all present the Rev. J. H. Elsee, President of the Lancashire Association, preached the sermon, taking his text from the 4th chapter of St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, verse vii. After the service the annual meeting was held in the mission room, and was well attended. The Venerable the Archdeacon of Chester, Master of the Guild, presided, and there were also present the Revs. Canon Holme, H. Leigh Mallory, J. H. Elsee, T. Pemberton. A letter of apology was read from the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, the Rev. R. Greenall, who was unable to attend owing to illness. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Treasurer's statement of accounts for the year 1899, which had been previously approved by the general committee were taken as read and passed. From this it appears that the balance in the bank for the year above mentioned amounted to £66 3s. 6d., as against £62 13s. 9d. for the previous year. The Venerable the Archdeacon of Chester was unanimously re-elected Master of the Guild. The Rev. Richard Greenall was unanimously re-elected Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, but on a resolution proposed by Mr. Holding, seconded by Mr. J. Mainwaring, it was decided that Mr. F. T. Spence be elected assistant Hon. Secretary. Mr. Langford proposed, and Mr. Geo. Lewis seconded, that the Revs. Canons Blencowe and Holme, Revs. S. A. Boyd, H. Leigh Mallory, G. J. Howson, J. H. Thorpe and Hatt Cook, Esq. be re-elected honorary members to serve on the general committee. This was carried unanimously. The Master proposed, and Mr. Hammond seconded, that Messrs. R. T. Holding, F. T. Spence, T. J. Bethell, J. Dillon, W. Walmsley, Wm. Gordon and Jos. Ashmole be re-elected change-ringing members to serve on the general committee. This was carried unanimously. Mr. Langford then read an invitation from the Rev. G. F. Howson, of Crewe, for the Guild to hold their next annual meeting at that place on August Bank Holiday, 1901. The Rev. H. Leigh Mallory then proposed, and the Rev. Canon Holme seconded, "That the Guild accepts the very kind invitation of the Rev. G. J. Howson to visit Crewe next year," which was carried unanimously. The Master then proposed, and Mr. H. Dew seconded, that the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Rev. J. H. Elsee, for so kindly attending, and for his very excellent, interesting and instructive sermon. Mr. Holding proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, who, notwithstanding the very wet day, was present in the chair, and had so ably discharged the duties of Master, and this being seconded by Mr. Gordon, was put to the meeting and carried by acclamation. All then wended their way to the village club, where an hot dinner was provided, and, needless to say, ample justice was done to it. S.

LYDNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

On the occasion of the dedication of two new bells at St. Mary's church, Lydney, by the Hon. and Very Rev. Dean Leigh, of Hereford, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, composed by Morris J. Morris, of Bangor, North Wales, was rung by a band of ringers belonging to the Llandaff Diocesan Association. J. Morley, 1; J. Prickett, 2: W. Freestone, 3; J. Butler, 4; R. Thompson (conductor), 5; J. Jones, 6; F. Attwell, 7; F. Bye, 8. Messrs. Butler, Jones, and Attwell hail from Newport, Monmouthshire; the remainder from Chepstow. Tenor about 17 cwt. The two new bells were cast by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, and are excellent specimens of bell founding. The octave goes well, but as might be expected from the up-to-date metal fixings, the two new ones are conspicuous by their crispness and clearness, and it is very probable that the parishioners will make a move towards putting the last six on an equal footing with the new trebles. The ringers were entertained at supper at the vicarage by the Vicar (the Rev. J. C. E. Besant), and the churchwardens, Messrs. F. S. Hockaday and H. P. Turner.

THE LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The monthly ringing meeting of the above society was held at Woodlesford on Saturday, August 25th, the following towers being represented: Armley, Bramley, Pudsey, and the local company. A peal was successfully rung during the afternoon, the report of which will be found on another page. The business meeting was held at The White Hart hotel, the president, Mr. J. W. T. Holgate, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read on the motion of Mr. J. Abbishaw, seconded by Mr. J. Haigh. It was then arranged to attempt a peal at the Drighlington meeting on Saturday, September 29th. No other business being forthcoming, Mr. J. Thackray moved, and Mr. W. Chapman seconded, that the best thanks of the meeting be given to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells, and also the local company for their kind arrangements which were carried unanimously. Mr. J. Haigh briefly responded, thus bringing to a close another successful meeting.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—A writer in *The Guardian* says: "In walking into Westminster Abbey I have often felt that a very unchurchlike tone pervades the place. This impression is notably induced when one comes upon the photograph and bookstall established in the ambulatory, or hears the repeated vociferations of the custodians with reference to the guide being about to start to 'go round the tombs.' Of course, the things may be regarded as insignificant, *per se*, but at the same time one cannot help thinking that it is just such little things as these that encourage in visitors irreverence and disregard for the sacredness of the building."

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."

"WHO WAS SYMONDSON?" ETC.

SIR,—Owing to some slip of yours or mine, the word "and" appears at the bottom of the first column of page 194, in your last issue. It ought not to be there at all, and there should be a full stop instead. It is a small point, but I am not sure that, as the passage stands, my meaning is as plain as I meant it to be.

Now as to Symondson. Henry Symondson was a member of the Junior Cumberland Youths. As that Society had no list of members, we cannot tell when he joined it, and their peal-book is written up in so careless a manner, and with such a disregard of chronological order, that it would be unsafe to conclude that it shows all his performances. In the following, however, he took part:—

5264 Grandsire Major at Lewisham, 6th October, 1793.
5111 Grandsire Caters at St. Sepulchre's 10th December, 1793.
5453 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary-le-Bow, 2nd January, 1794.
6003 Stedman Caters at Spitalfields, 13th November. 1797.
5040 Grandsire Triples at Camberwell, 18th January, 1798.
5016 Grandsire Cinques at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 25th February, 1799.
5040 Stedman Triples at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, 22nd May, 1799.
6112 Treble Bob Major at Camberwell, 3rd November, 1801.
5280 Treble Bob Major at St. George's-in-the-East, 12th November, 1802.
5040 Grandsire Triples at Lambeth, 10th March, 1809.

On the 27th January, 1812, Symondson was elected a member of the old Society of Cumberland Youths, and on the 8th February following he rang the ninth in a peal of 5424 Treble Bob Maximus at St. Martin's. After this he seems to have given up peal-ringing, but his name appears as one of the signatories on behalf of the Cumberlands to a petition addressed by the College Youths and them to the ratepayers of St. Martin's in support of the application of a Mr. Clay for the post of steeple-keeper, then vacant by the death of Mr. Palmer. There is a print of this petition in Osborne's collections, but it is undated. I am inclined to think that its date is somewhere in the thirties, and at any rate prior to 1843.

The post office directory for 1840 notes Henry Symondson as a maker of musical bells, at 1, Tottenham Court Road. In 1841, his address is given as 21½ Clipstone Street, Fitzroy Square. In 1842, both addresses are given, and his name appears for the last time. In 1843, Philip and James Symondson were carrying on the business at both addresses, and in 1844 Philip alone. In 1846, Philip Symondson was located at 32, Wellesley Street, Somers Town, whence he moved, apparently in the following year, to 30, Clerkenwell Close, where he remained up to 1854, after which year his name disappears from the directory.

I proceed now to notice some of the points in Mr. Eyre's letter, appearing in your issue of the 18th August. But first I wish to set out two passages from Stedman—the former from the *Tintinnalogia*, the latter from the *Campanalogia*. The latter I quoted in your columns last year, but it will probably be more convenient if I set it out again. The last section of the *Tintinnalogia* is devoted to the subject of hanging bells, and the last paragraph is as follow:—

> 'Tis very convenient (if the frame will permit) to fasten a piece of timber about half a foot long on the end of the main spoke at the top of the wheel (whereon the end of the bell rope is fastened) with a notch on the end of it; so at the setting of the bell the rope will hit into that notch from the rowle, and this will make the bell lie easier at hand when it is set, and flie better.

The passage from the *Campanalogia* runs thus:—

> Whole pulls was the general practice in former times; and indeed, considering the manner of the hanging of the bells in those days, they could not well have been rung at half pulls; but since the improvement in the art of bell hanging, that is with round wheels, trussing them up in the stock, and placing the roll at right angles with the sole of the wheel, the bells go much better and are managed with more ease at a set pull than formerly; therefore the changes are now generally rung at half pulls.

Now it is evident that Stedman, in the former passage, was speaking of bells without stays, and he suggests a method by which the bell may lie easier at hand when set; in other words, a method whereby the ringer may the more easily hold a bell, as long as he likes, on the balance. It follows from this, I think, that it was customary to hold bells on the balance. No doubt round-ringers found great pleasure in continually raising and falling bells; but change-ringers would be mainly bent on producing changes in ringing. Hence they would not want to lower the bells after every touch and their bells would "lie in hand when set," till they were ready to start again. Stedman suggests a method whereby this would the more easily come about, and the fact that he does so shews that it was then a practice to so hold the bells up. It is, moreover, to be remembered that Stedman does not use the word "handstroke," though he uses "backstroke." What we now call "handstroke" he calls "forestroke." Again it is neither usual nor necessary to "set" a bell when actually ringing by means of the stay and slider, nor could it have been necessary in Stedman's time to "set" in the way he describes while ringing was going on. Therefore at present I can only understand this passage as recognising the fact that before stays and sliders were invented is was a common practice to hold the bells in hand, that is, by the hand at forestroke, when not being actually at the moment rung.

The latter passage seems to mean that before the round wheels were used and the other improvements spoken of were made, a bell rung could not be balanced at back-stroke sufficiently well to allow of holding up. In fact a bell could not be held up at backstroke; only at handstroke. Will some bell hangers or others tell us how this would be? Someone, I think Mr. Kelly, told me once there were some bells in Devon still hanging on less than whole wheels. If so, will he or some other practical ringer, go and try them and see whether it is the case that they cannot be well held up at backstroke, and let us have the result of his experience.

Now all this may seem somewhat remote from Mr. Eyre's letter, but I connect them in this way. The first passage I have quoted seems to me to take away Mr. Eyre's point that it would not be very practicable for the sexton to hold a bell without a stay long enough on the balance to ring a death knell. I think the passage is an evidence of a common custom of so holding up a bell, and most of us must have had experience of something gone wrong with a stay or a slider which has not prevented a bell being held up during a whole evening's practice. The second passage seems to shew that in former days it was difficult, if not impossible, to hold a bell up at backstroke, and therefore, where the death bell was rung it had to be rung in whole pulls. Hence the ringing of a death bell in whole pulls, which Mr. Eyre cites, appears to me, in conjunction with what Stedman says, to explain what Dowe meant by "double strokes." He chose the form of the death bell for his purpose, and he was accustomed to hear it rung in whole pulls. In fact I think Mr. Eyre, without quite realising it, has explained the whole thing.

There are just two remarks I wish to add. It is not correct that I regard the revival of the passing bell as something to be aimed at. Mr. Eyre will see, if he looks again at what I said, that I left the matter entirely open. Whether a thing is to be aimed at or not must depend on whether it is likely to be practically advantageous, and I expressed no opinion one way or the other as to whether such a revival would or would not be practically advantageous. That I leave to those better qualified to judge. The other remark in answer to Mr. Eyre, is that I think at the time of the framing of the Canon the word "peal" meant anything of any description rung, as distinguished from anything chimed.

R. A. DANIELL.

SIR,—I see the question of "Who was Symondson" has been asked in "BELL NEWS" of late. I have come across the following, which I copy from the Name-Book of he Society of Royal Cumberland Youths: Henry Symondson elected 1793; Henry Symondson elected 1812; Henry Symondson, Junr. elected 1819; Phillip Symondson elected 1835; Henry Symond-

son elected 1837. The name of Henry Symondson appears on a Tablet in the steeple of Bennington, Herts, dated 1838, as having improved, retuned, &c. the bells there Perhaps some one else can tell us how many peals he or they Symondsons rang.

Glemsford, Suffolk. S. SLATER.

AN APOLOGY.

SIR,—I must apologise to the Exercise and yourself for tbe insertion of the false peal in your issue of August 18tb, and also to the band who rang it. I sent it for proof and it was returned to me as true. I should feel much obliged if anyone will show me where it is false, as knowledge of the cause of errors is the only way or preventing their recurrence. WILLIAM T. ELSON.

9, *Prince Teck Buildings, Earls' Court. S.W.*

THE PROPOSED NEW RING OF EIGHT BELLS FOR THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN, HARLOW, ESSEX.

SIR,—We should be glad to think that your readers clearly understand the circumstances under which our appeal for a new Ring of Bells has been issued. The church of St. Mary Magdalen, Harlow, originally built in the year 1837, was rebuilt entirely—chancel, nave, and tower, in the respective years of 1888, 1893, and 1894-5—the whole being a solid substantial structure. A movement has now been set on foot to place a Ring of Eight Bells in this church. The district is poor, and the local resources small. The church of St. Mary Magdalen is three miles from the ancient parish church. We feel that a grand opportunity of completing the church by the addition of bells should be carried to a successful issue. With an earnest desire to obtain the consummation of our wishes we should be glad to give prizes of two sets of handbells to the third and fourth donors of subscriptions received on the morning of November 1st next, or in any other way the Editor of "BELL NEWS" approves of. THE CHURCHWARDENS.

A RINGING HOLIDAY.

Two ringers, father and son, recently decided to score (if possible) one or more peals during a week's holiday in the celebrated district of Drayton, Berks. They were Messrs. J. W. Wilkins and P. W. Wilkins, of Maidenhead, and they depone as follows: "From Maidenhead to Abingdon, where Messrs. Short, Holifield, and Adkin were bespoke for Thursday at Drayton, and these with Mr. Thomas of Harwell, and the evergreen veteran Master—Rev. F. E. Robinson—and Mr. Hyde, the two Wilkinses (sen. and jun.) had the satisfaction of scoring Stedman, being the first attempt by the lad, the record of which has appeared in the peal columns. Another famous peal, Appleton, was then decided on for Saturday, and Messrs. Holifield, Short, Adkin, Barratt, Wilkins (sen. and jun.) met five more good men. Grandsire Caters was going for an hour, then 'stand!' says conductor Holifield. Another 1½ hours ended the attempts for first peal on ten that day. A short time was then enjoyed with the Appleton men, including the veteran Mr. F. White, who was not ringing that day. He said however that he would be pleased to stand in during the following week, so accordingly father and son again 'byked' to Appleton, and Mr. White's remark after 3 hrs. 17 mins.—'that's a capital peal'—conveyed all that the visitors required for their long journey. A peal was booked for Witney and one also for Kidlington, but the dates would not work effectively, though the writer still hopes to visit the Rev. Cyril Jenkyn at Witney and Mr. Bennett at Kidlington at a future time. Will the Abingdon and Appleton ringers accept our sincere thanks? To Mr. and Mrs. Short also, the writer feels indebted for kindness shewn during their visit. Great satisfaction is felt at the enjoyable holiday."

LATE NOTICE.

Heavy Woollen District Association.—The monthly meeting of the above-named Society will be held on Saturday, September 8th. Meeting to commence at 5.30. Meeting-house, The Beaumont Arms.

47, *Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.* WALTER IDLE, *Secretary.*

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,

Obituary.

JOHN REYNOLDS.

On Saturday, (August 18th,) there passed away, at the age of 74 years, John Reynolds, the oldest bellringer of the parish church of Chailey, Sussex. He had been a ringer for upwards of 45 years, but latterly had been obliged to seek shelter in the Union Workhouse. Through the courtesy of the officials he was allowed to attend and ring for the Sunday evening service, and on the Sunday preceeding his death he was in his usual place. He was buried on Tuesday, when he was borne to his last resting place by four of the ringers, and laid within the sound of tbe bells he had rung so long. In the evening, muffled peals were rung as a mark of respect to one who had been a member of the parish church bellringers for such a number of years. Thus runs the paragraph in a local newspaper recording the death of a veteran bellringer. "Old John," as he was known through the village, was never a peal-ringer in the present acceptation of the word, but he could hunt the treble on six bells, and no one in his tower could do it better than he. He had a notoriety, too, locally that is to say, of being a capital treble man for raising and falling in peal. When last the writer saw him not many weeks ago, he was looking as bale and hearty as possible. But now, alas, after a life exceeding the allotted span, he has gone. His place at the treble will be taken by younger men, but old John will be missed. R.I.P.

GEORGE MILES.

It is with much regret we have to record the death of the above named ringer, which took place at his residence, High Street, Epsom, on August 2nd, after a long and painful illness, aged 50 years. Deceased was the second son of the late Mr. Thomas Miles, whose death we recorded about ten months ago. He had not taken an active part in ringing for some years, owing to an affection of the heart, but was for many years connected with the St. Martin's band, and had taken part in several peals in different parts of the county. After the funeral, which took place in the family grave in Epsom Cemetery, on the 6th inst., during a drenching rain, the usual whole pull and stand was rang at St. Martin's Church, and a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 minutes, with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect. The ringers taking part were A. E. Bassett, T. Goff, H. Pederick, W. Sutton, J. Crawford, A. Gower, J. Easton, J. Wyatt, H. Kenten, T. Everett.

GREEN CHARLTON.

Wellingborough Belfry has lost one of its oldest and most respected members by the death of Green Charlton, who had been connected with the Parish Church as a chimer for about 30 years. He was a native of Wollaston, and first learnt to "handle a rope" in the old ringing loft of that village. Green Charlton was an adept at the ancient Northamptonshire practice of "ringing-in" the tenor or great bell as a variation when chiming for Divine Service. He was careful, reliable and precise in his own work, and looked to others to be equally so. For chiming he always took the present sixth bell (the old fourth, which was cast in the year 1764, Thomas Holme being Vicar, and John Pendred and Richard Barker Churchwardens). This bell was "tolled" as "sermon bell" on Sunday evening last, and the tenor in the morning. On Monday afternoon, during the time of the funeral, as a fitting tribute of respect for an old comrade, the senior ringers (in accordance with a very old custom in Wellingborough) chimed the six oldest and heaviest bells in a musical change of which deceased was particularly fond. For some time past he had not been able to attend the belfry owing to illness and infirmity. But when in good health none were more punctual than he, and no one more enjoyed the sweet chiming of the bells for service, or having called others was more regular in attendance thereat than Green Charlton.

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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.*
All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher E. W. ALLEN, *Ave Maria Lane, London.*

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1900.

IN our last number we asked if anything could be done to create a greater public interest in church bells? It was said that there had been instances known where the inhabitants of a town or village regarded their parish church bells with interest, in fact, with some degree of affection, and the question was asked, "can we, as ringers, attempt to revive such a feeling?"

If ringing history, with its accompanying tradition, may be depended on, there have been several cases where the church bells—and the ringers also—became interwoven with the life and concerns of the people. The historical ring of bells at Painswick was considered by the villagers as reflecting some sort of honour upon themselves, though the prowess of the ringers may have had something to do with this. Then we have heard of the inhabitants of neighbouring towns competing for the honour of possessing the heaviest or numerically largest peal, a competition which did not stop here, but extended to the ringers. The

towns of Ashton-under-Lyne and Oldham maintained such a rivalry, we believe. Lavenham bells to this day are regarded by many of the villagers with feelings akin to affection. The church bells were in the grand old times one of the parish institutions, and every inhabitant almost had some legend connected with them to regale the enquirer. They were part of the life of the parish, and held a most conspicuous place in public estimation.

It is a matter for great regret that such deep regard for church bells is not so prevalent. Are there any means in our power to alter this for the best? Is there any process by which we may produce a greater interest? Not merely from the side of change-ringing, or archæology, but socially, so to speak, from the fact that bells are a grand old English institution, identified as they have been, and are still, with our national life. This is a question worthy the attention of all those who have the futurity of our grand church bells at heart.

The Metropolis.

THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES, STRAND,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5004 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt.

HERBERT P. HARMAN	*Treble.*	JAMES GEORGE	6.
BERTRAM PREWETT	2.	GEORGE R. FARDON	7.
THOMAS J. SALTER	3.	CHALLIS F. WINNEY	8.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE	4.	ALFRED W. BRIGHTON	9.
GEORGE N. PRICE	5.	HERBERT F. HULL	*Tenor.*

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

Messrs. Hull, Prewett, and Salter, who hail from Kidderminster, were elected members of the above society previous to starting for the peal.

The Provinces.

DEANE, BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON AND ROSSENDALE BRANCHES.)

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 14 cwt.

TITUS BARLOW	*Treble.*	ROBERT WALLWORK	5.
JOHN DENNER	2.	THOMAS WALLWORK	6.
ALFRED POTTER	3.	JOSEPH POTTER	7.
JAMES H. BANKS	4.	JOHN POTTER	*Tenor.*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and Conducted by JOHN POTTER.

First peal in the method by all and on the bells.

OLDBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, August 23, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; HOLT'S TEN-PART.

SAMUEL ASTBURY*	*Treble.*	THOMAS HORTON	5.
SAMUEL REEVES	2.	JAMES HALL	6.
WILLIAM R. SMALL	3.	REUBEN HALL	7.
JAMES SMALL	4.	FREDERICK HARRIS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

*First peal.

CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.
THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Three Hours Three-and-a-Half Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 11¼ cwt.

GEORGE LUFF	*Treble.*	ARTHUR E. BARTLETT	5.
SEPTIMUS RADFORD*	2.	THOMAS W. RADFORD	6.
WALTER G. BROCKHURST†	3.	THOMAS ATTWELL	7.
JOHN HEATHORN	4.	ARTHUR J. BARTLETT	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SEPTIMUS RADFORD.

*First peal as conductor †First peal with a bob bell. Mr. J. Heathorn, for whom this was arranged, is in his 76th year.

WOODLESFORD, YORKS.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION AND THE LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of College Exercise, City Delight, College Pleasure, Arnold's Victory, London Scholars' Pleasure, Duke of York, and Violet. Tenor 9 cwt.

WILLIE WALKER	*Treble.*	J. W. T. HOLGATE	4.
HARRY GAYTHORPE	2.	JOHN THACKRAY	5.
GEORGE W. STEEL	3.	WALTER CHAPMAN	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WALTER CHAPMAN.

REIGATE, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 20 cwt. in E flat.

GEORGE THOMPSON	*Treble.*	JOHN HACK	5.
GEORGE HUGGETT	2.	FRANCIS F. HOAD, JUN.	6.
GEORGE F. HOAD	3.	WILLIAM ARGENT	7.
JOHN ANSELL*	4.	CHARLES R. LILLEY	*Tenor.*

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN, and Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

*First peal in the method.

BLOXWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.
SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, August 25, 1900, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES,

Tenor 14 cwt.

EDWARD J. STAFFORD*	*Treble.*	JOHN C. ADAMS	5.
JOSEPH BIRCH	2.	ALFRED TURLEY	6.
FRANK EDWARDS	3.	JOSIAH ELTON	7.
WILLIAM BARTON	4.	THOMAS J. ELTON	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and Conducted by THOMAS J. ELTON.

*First peal. First peal of Major by all except the conductor. First peal of Major as conductor.

KINGSWOOD, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, August 26, 1900, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Oxford Bob and Oxford Treble Bob, two of Kent Treble Bob, and three of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

GEORGE THOMPSON	*Treble.*	JOHN ANSELL	4.
CHARLES R. LILLEY	2.	GEORGE F. HOAD	5.
JOHN HACK	3.	FRANCIS T. HOAD, JUN.	*Tenor.*

Conducted by CHARLES R. LILLEY.

First peal on the bells. The ringers wish to thank the Rev. F. Taunton for the use of the bells, and Mr. A. Laws for having everything ready.

WALDRON, SUSSEX.

On Sunday, August 26, 1900, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

JAMES' FIVE-PART. Tenor 11 cwt.

HARRY HOBBS	*Treble.*	ALBERT REED	5.
HERBERT RANN..	2.	BENJAMIN HOBBS	6.
ROBERT J. DAWE	3.	ALFRED J. TURNER	7.
FREDERICK HARDING ..	4.	WILLIAM JENNER ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HERBERT RANN.

ALDENHAM, HERTS.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, August 27, 1900, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES. Tenor 15 cwt.

JOSEPH J. ALLEN	*Treble.*	THOMAS J. SALTER	5.
BERTRAM PREWETT	2.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM ..	6.
FRANCIS A. SMITH	3.	ERNEST HOLLOWAY	7.
WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD	4.	ERNEST E. HUNTLEY ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by ARTHUR CRAVEN, and
Conducted by W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM.

T. J. Salter hails from Kidderminster.

HEENE, WORTHING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, August 28, 1900, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt.

EDMUND LINDUP*	*Treble.*	GEORGE A. KING	5.
GEORGE BAKER	2.	THOMAS J. SALTER	6.
JOHN STEDDY	3.	KEITH HART	7.
FRANK BENNETT	4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

First peal in a Treble Bob method.

Miscellaneous.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

BENHILTON, SUTTON (Surrey).—On Saturday, August 11th, an attempt was made for a 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major, which had to be brought round five courses from home after good striking for 2 hrs. 10 mins. owing to the 6th going bad. H. Langdon, 1; H. P. Harman, 2; W. Weatherstone, 3; W. Pickworth, 4; J. Hack, 5; R. Charge, 6; G. F. Hoad, 7; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 8.

EPSOM (Surrey).—On Saturday, August 18th, at Christ Church, an attempt was made for a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, which came to grief owing to a change-course after ringing fifteen courses. J. Hunt, 1; I. G. Shade, 2; G. F. Hoad, 3; W. Pickworth, 4; J. Hack, 5; S. Radford, 6; T. W. Radford, 7; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 8

ASHTEAD (Surrey).—On August 18th, at St. Giles's church, an attempt for Stedman Triples came to grief after ringing 1008. I. G. Shade (conductor), 1; J. Wyatt, 2; C. R. Lilley, 3; G. F. Hoad, 4; J. Hack, 5; W. Pickworth, 6; A. Dean, 7; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 8.

RANMORE (Surrey).—On Sunday, August 19th, at St. Barnabas' church, an attempt for a peal of Grandsire Triples was lost five leads from home, owing to the tenor going bad. F. J. Shepherd, 1; J. White, 2; J. Ansell, 3; G. F. Hoad, 4; E. E. Dodd, 5; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 6; F. T. Hoad, 7; W. Lynch, 8. Great credit is due to the tenor man for ringing his bell so long, as it is not pealable for one man at present.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN BRANCH.)

BURNLEY (Lancashire).—On May 24th, at Holy Trinity church, in honour of Her Majesty's birthday, 704 Kent. D. Campbell, 1; R. Ashworth, 2; T. Burrows, 3; W. Walton, 4; N. Townend, 5; R. Hartley, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Sunday, May 27th, 576 Kent. R. Hartley, 1; D. Campbell, 2; T. Burrows, 3; W. Walton, 4; J. W. Stirk, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Tuesday, May 29th, 720 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; D. Campbell, 3; R. Hartley, 4; T. Mouncey, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. On Tuesday, June 5th, Pretoria Day, 720 Kent. J. R Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; N. Townend, 4; T. Mouncey, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. On Saturday, July 7th, at Colne parish church, 720 Kent. T. Redman (conductor), 1; D. Campbell, 2; N. Townend, 3; R. Ashworth, 4; T. Mouncey, 5; R. Hartley, 6. On Sunday, August 5th, 640 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; W. Walton, 3; T. Burrows, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6: T. Mouncey, 7; R. Ashworth, 8. Also 720 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; T. Burrows, 2; J. W. Stirk, 3; T Redman (conductor), 4; T. Mouncey, 5; R. Ashworth, 6. On Sunday, August 12th, 672 Kent. D. Campbell, 1; N. Townend, 2; W. Walton, 3; T. Burrows, 4; J. W. Stirk, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. Also 704 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; R. Hartley. 4; D. Campbell, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; N. Townend, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Sunday, August 19th, 720 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; N. Townend, 3; D. Campbell, 4; R. Ashworth, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ICKLETON (Cambs).—On Sunday, August 19th, on handbells, 720 Grandsire Doubles, each called differently. F. Bowtell, 1; E. Webb, 2; P. Webb (conductor), 3; A. Lilley, 4; J. Webb, 5; F. Carver, 6. Also 108 Bob Minor. F. Carver, 1; E. Webb, 2; F. Bowtell, 3; P. Webb (conductor), 4; A. Lilley, 5; J. Webb, 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

ALDERMASTON (Berks).—On Saturday, August 11th, at the parish church, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Horne, 1; A. W. Pike, 2; A. E. Reeves, 3; F. Sweetzer, 4; A. Evans, 5; C. Giles, 6; J. Tucker, 7; Alfred E. Reeves (conductor), 8. This is the first touch of Major on the bells.

READING.—On Sunday, July 29th, at St. Laurence's church, for Divine Service in the evening, 900 Bob Royal, in 35 mins. R. Sawyer, 1; A. Mayo, 2; J. E. Hern, 3; W. Horne, 4; F. Hopgood, 5; E. Bruce, 6; C. Stone, 7; A. Watmore, 8; A. E. Reeves, 9; J. Tucker (conductor), 10.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CHIDDINGFOLD (Surrey).—On Sunday, July 8th, a course of Grandsire Triples. H. Remnant, 1; G. Luff, 2; H. Mullard (Haslemere), 3; T. Attwell, 4; A. E. Bartlett, 5; W. G. Brockhurst, 6; A. J. Bartlett, 7; T. Luff, 8. In the evening three 6-scores of Bob Doubles. H. Remnant, 1; H. Mullard, 2; T. Attwell, 3; W. G. Brockhurst, 4; A. J. Bartlett, 5; T. Luff, 6. On Sunday, August 19th, 180 Bob Minor. G. Luff, 1; W. G. Brockhurst, 2; A. E. Bartlett, 3; A. J. Bartlett, 4; A. Ashdown, 5; T. Attwell (conductor), 6. On Monday, August 20th, for practice on handbells, 168 Grandsire Triples. W. G. Brockhurst, 1-2; A. J. Bartlett, 3-4; T. Attwell, 5-6; G. Luff (conductor), 7-8. First on handbells by all.

DUNSFOLD (Surrey).—On Thursday, June 28th, 360 Bob Minor. G. Luff, 1; A. J. Bartlett, 2; A. E. Bartlett, 3; W. G. Brockhurst, 4; A. Ashdown, 5; T. Attwell (conductor), 6. An attempt for a 720 failed about 30 changes from home, one of the ringers missing his rope. Also a course of Grandsire Minor. J. Mitchell, 1; B. Smithers, 2; W. G. Brockhurst, 3; G. Hayward, 4; A. Ashdown, 5; A. J. Bartlett, 6. On handbells a course of Grandsire Triples. W. G. Brockhurst, 1-2; A. J. Bartlett, 3-4; T. Attwell, 5-6; G. Luff, 7-8. Messrs. Attwell, Luff, Brockhurst, Ashdown, and Bartlett (2) hail from Chiddingfold; the rest are local ringers.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

WOBURN (Beds).—On Monday, May 21st, 1024 Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 39 mins. W. Brown, 1; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 2; C. Herbert, 3; M. Matthews, 4; S. Avis, 5; D. Harris, 6; E. Herbert, 7; M. Lane. 8. On Saturday, May 26th, 447 Grandsire Triples. W. Brown, 1; D. Harris, 2; C. Herbert, 3; E. Herbert, 4; S. Avis, 5; M. Lane, 6; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 7; M. Matthews, 8. On Thursday, June 28th, a course of Stedman Triples on handbells. D. Harris, 1-2; E. Herbert, 3-4; Cyril Herbert, 5-6; C. Herbert, 7-8. And another course, with S. Avis, 7-8. On Monday, July 30th, 336 Bob Major and 288 Kent Treble Bob Major. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1; D. Harris, 2; C. Herbert, 3; M. Matthews, 4; J. Willshire (London), 5; E. Herbert, 6; W. Chibnall, 7; M. Lane, 8. On August 7th, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. C. Herbert, 1; M. Matthews, 2; D. Harris, 3; Cyril Herbert, 4; E. Herbert, 5; W.

Chibnall (conductor), 6. A 336 Bob Major. W. Janes, 1; Cyril Herbert, 2; C. Herbert, 3; M. Matthews, 4; D. Harris, 5; E. Herbert, 6; J. Willshire, 7; W. Chibnall, 8. On handbells, 252 Stedman Triples. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1-2; C. Herbert, 3; D. Harris, 4; E. Herbert, 5; M. Matthews, 6; J. Willshire, 7-8. On August 13, 432 Bob Major. C. Herbert, 1-2; E. Herbert, 3-4; John D. Matthews (Bath, conductor), 5-6; Cyril Herbert, 7-8. And 288 Oxford Treble Bob Major. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1; D. Harris, 2; C. Herbert, 3; M. Matthews, 4; S. Avis, 5; E. Herbert, 6; J. D. Matthews, 7; W. Chibnall, 8. And 224 Bob Major.

ASPLEY GUISE (Beds). — On Saturday, August 11th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 22½ mins. W. Smith, 1; M. Lane, 2; S. Avis, 3; Cyril Herbert, 4; J. Willshire, 5; W. Chibnall (conductor), 6. A 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Brown, 1; W. Smith, 2; D. Harris, 3; J. Willshire, 4; E. Herbert, 5; M. Lane (conductor), 6. And 360 Bob Minor.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

WYLAM-ON-TYNE.—On Monday, July 23rd, with the assistance of Mr. Ferry, of Newcastle, 720 Bob Minor. A. Dodds, 1; R. Vest (first 720), 2; H. Wilkinson, 3; A. Pigg, 4; E. E. Ferry (conductor), 5; E. Weightman, 6. On Sunday, August 26th, another 720 Bob Minor (nine bobs and six singles) in 29 mins. W. Moy (first 720), 1; C. L. Routledge (conductor), 2; A. Dodds, 3; A. Pigg, 4; H. Wilkinson, 5; E. Weightman, 6. Tenor 22 cwt.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PORTBURY, NEAR BRISTOL.—On Sunday, August 19th, after Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 42 mins. M. Hedges, 1; F. Winsor, 2; S. Butchers, 3; W. Evered, 4; W. Clarke, 5; J. Winsor, 6; J. Bishop (conductor), 7; H. Trappell, 8. Rung in honour of the return of Lieutenant Gibbs, of the North Somerset Yeomanry, who has been invalided home from South Africa.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ST. FAITH'S (Norfolk).—On Wednesday, August 22nd, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. J. G. Miles, 1; J. Howes, 2; H. J. Borrett, 3; A. Howes, 4; H. W. Stanley, 5; C. E. Borrett (conductor), 6. On handbells, 224 Bob Major. J. G. Miles, 1-2; A. Howes, 3-4; J. Howes, 5-6; C. E. Borrett, 7-8. And a touch of Grandsire Triples. H. W. Stanley, 1-2; J. Howes, 3-4; C. E. Borrett, 5-6; H. J. Borrett, 7-8.

ATTLEBOROUGH (Norfolk).—On Sunday, August 26th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Bob Minor. R. Davy, 1; A. Howes (conductor), 2; R. Etteridge, 3; J. Howes (composer), 4; S. Daniels, 5; J. Lawrence, 6.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

BASINGSTOKE (Hants). — On Wednesday, August 1st, at the residence of Mr. H. White, on handbells, the last 742 of Holt's Original. H. White, 1-2; H. Barton, 3-4; W. H. Fussell (conductor), 5-6; Dora White, 7-8.

STAINES (Middlesex).—On Saturday, August 25th, at St. Mary's church, 720 Bob Minor on the back six in 26 mins. *J. Cooper, 1; A. Wicks, 2; H. Barton, 3; W. H. Fussell, 4; J. Durrant, 5; F. Richardson (conductor), 6. *First 720 of Minor. Also 300 Grandsire Triples by the above with the exception of G. Harrison, 7. Tenor 18 cwt. Rung after meeting short for a peal.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

STANSTED (Essex).—On Wednesday, July 18th, for practice at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, 720 Jubilee Court Bob. J. Luckey, 1; G. Jordan, 2; G. Gray, 3; T. J. Watts, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. Also 720 Ely Surprise. G. Jordan, 1; J. Luckey, 2; G. Gray, 3; W. Watts, 4; T. Jordan, 5; T. J. Watts (conductor), 6. On Sunday morning, July 22nd, for Divine Service, 720 Coventry Surprise. J. Cavill, 1; G. Jordan, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Luckey, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, July 25th, for practice, 720 Ringers' Surprise. T. Jordan, 1; I. Hammond, 6; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; G. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. On Sunday morning, August 5th, for morning service, 720 Rochester Surprise. G. Jordan, 1; I. Hammond, 2; T. J. Watts, 3; G. Gray, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. For afternoon service 720 Huddersfield Surprise. J. Cavill, 1; H. Little, 2; G. Gray, 3; G. Jordan, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, August 8th, 1200 Grandsire Doubles, each 6-score called differently. H. Little, 1: I. Hammond, 2; W. Watts (conductor), 3; T. Jordan, 4; G. Jordan, 5. This was rung in honour of W. Watts' thirty-fifth birthday. On Sunday afternoon, August 12th, for Divine Service, 720 Kent Treble Bob (fifteen bobs). J. Cavill, 1; G. Jordan, 2; P. Webb, 3; G. Gray, 4; J. Luckey, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. P. Webb hails from Ickleton, Cambridgeshire.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

HECKINGTON (Lincolnshire).—On Saturday, July 21st, 910 Grandsire Triples. J. Green, 1; J. Holmes, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; H. Nash, 5; T. Woods, 6; W. Dickinson, 7; F. Warrington, 8. On Sunday, July 22nd, for Divine Service, 504 in the same method. T. Woods, 1; J. Holmes, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; F. Warrington, 5; J. Clark, 6; W. Dickinson, 7; W. Houlden, 8. On Sunday, August 5th, for Divine Service, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Houlden, 1; F. Hilton, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; F. Warrington, 5; J. Holmes, 6; H. Nash, 7; W. Dickinson, 8. On Monday, August 6th, 518 Grandsire Triples. W. Woods, 1; W. H. Woods, 2; W. Dickinson, 3; E. Houlden, 4; T. Woods, 5; J. Clark, 6; H. Nash, 7; W. Houlden, 8. On Sunday, August 12th, for Divine Service, 576 Kent. J. Holmes, 1; J. Clark, 2; J. Hilton, 3; E. Houlden, 4; W. H. Woods, 5; T. Woods, 6; H. Nash, 7; W. Dickinson, 8. On Sunday, August 19th, 704 Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Houlden, 1; T. Woods, 2; W. H. Woods, 3; E. Houlden, 4; F. Warrington, 5; J. Holmes, 6; H. Nash, 7; W. Dickinson, 8. All these touches were conducted by W. Dickinson.

EALING (Middlesex).—On Sunday evening, August 29th, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, 648 Stedman Triples. T. H. Taffender (conductor), 1; E. J. Walsom, 2; E. Harris, 3; H. Langdon, 4; J. Basden, 5; A. H. Taber, 6; J. W. Golding, 7; A. Harding, 8.

EASTBOURNE (Sussex). — On Thursday, August 9th, being the annual outing of the Westerham choir and bell-ringers, and through the kindness of the Vicar of Christ Church they rang 189 and 504 Stedman Triples, 336 Grandsire, and 672 Kent Treble Bob Major. G. B. Selby, H. J. Selby, M. Whatley, G. Steer, R. Stone, J. Heath, S. Voas, S. A. Wright, and D. Wright. The company wish to thank the Vicar for the use of the bells, and also Mr. G. H. Howse for having all things ready.

PORTISHEAD (Somerset).—On Sunday, August 12th, at the parish church, for evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples. T. Wyatt, 1; L. Moore, 2; E. Knight (conductor), 3; A. Gale, 4; G. Tippit, 5; J. Nisbett, 6; W. Gillingham, 7; C. Uris, 8.

STOKE POGES (Bucks).—On Thursday, August 2nd, 720 Grandsire Doubles. W. G. Harding, 1; W. Clark, 2; G. H. Guttridge (conductor), 3; C. Hartley, 4; W. Bateman, 5; E. H. Hawkins, 6. On Wednesday, August 22nd, the Farnham Royal ringers visited this place and rang 720 Oxford Bob Minor. W. Clarke, 1; J. Eldersfield, 2; G. H. Gutteridge, 3; J. J. Parker (conductor), 4; G. Basden, 5; C. Clarke (conductor), 6. Also 216 Grandsire Minor, conducted by G. Basden. And several 120s of Doubles, in which J. Bateman, W. G. Harding and W. Bateman took part. Rung as a compliment to E. H. Hawkins, a local ringer, who was married on that day.

WANTAGE (Berks).—On Sunday morning, August 26th, for Divine Service at the parish church, 504 Grandsire Triples. H. Gregory, 1; F. Bunce, 2; A. Gregory, 3; A. Gibbs, 4; T. Bull (Witney), 5; F. May, 6; J. Monk (Witney, conductor), 7; C. Lay, 8.

WESTERHAM (Kent).—On Sunday morning, August 5th, for Divine Service, 504 Stedman Triples. H. J. Selby, 1; S. A. Wright, 2; G. B. Selby, 3; R. Stone, 4; J. Heath, 5; M. Whatley, 6; D. Wright (conductor), 7; G. Steer, 8. For evening service a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 50 mins. H. J. Selby, 1; G. B. Selby, 2; S. A. Wright, 3; W. G. Granger, 4; J. Heath, 5; M. Whatley, 6; D. Wright (conductor), 7; G. Steer, 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to H.R.H. the late Duke of Saxe Coburg.

Situations Vacant.

WANTED Clerk for Corn and Seed Trade.—R. H HAYWARD, Marlesford, Suffolk.

GARDENER, single-handed, to live in. Change ringer preferred. Apply to A. Pigot, Esq., Green Bank, Grappenhall, near Warrington.

TO BAKERS.—Wanted young man, age about 18, to assist in bake-house and deliver with horse and van. Good moulder, energetic and obliging to customers. Also lad 14 or 15, willing to make himself useful, live in, comfortable home. Apply with particulars of references, &c., to James H. Blake, General Supply Stores, Fishbourne, Chichester.

WANTED, an experienced Ringer, to instruct a band of Bell Ringers, six bells. Will endeavour to find employment for suitable man. Opening for gardeners, joiners, smiths, &c. Further particulars on application. Apply, stating terms—VICAR, Portmadoc.

Ringers' Outings.

THE ST. MARY-LE-TOWER SOCIETY, IPSWICH.—On Saturday, August 18th, the members of this society, who this year had determined to have their outing in a long drive by road, met at their meeting-house, The Halberd inn, at 6.0 a.m., for a drive to Lavenham. A start was made at 6.30, one or two of the company being the recipients of some good-natured chaffing about being delayed in bed. The first stop was at The George inn, Hintlesham, and Hadleigh was reached at 7.45, where breakfast was had. We rang for half-an-hour at the parish church some Plain Bob and Grandsire Triples, and then departed for Monks Eleigh, where there is a nice ring of six bells. Then on to the church of SS. Peter and Paul, Lavenham, with its fine ring of eight bells. Here we were met by Mr. Samuel Slater (of Glemsford) and Mr. Charles Sillitoe (of Sudbury), Mr. Symonds being busy in the tower raising the bells ready for a pull. A touch of Stedman and one of Double Norwich were rang before dinner, and after finishing with a short touch of Superlative Surprise, we left Lavenham for Boxford, where there is a ring of eight on which we rang a few short touches. Then on to Stoke-by-Nayland, where we came in contact with one of the oldest ringers in the county—Mr. Daniel Vince, and it was a treat to see the enjoyment in his face when Messrs. J. and H. Motts, H. Bowell, and W. Roughton rang a course of Bob Major upon his handbells in the street. The church contains a nice ring of six. Resuming our journey, we got back to our starting-point, The Halberd inn, punctually at ten o'clock, all having enjoyed the grand drive of about fifty miles. The members sincerely thank Mr. A. Symonds (of Lavenham) for his kindness in so well arranging for our visit. C.

THE TROWBRIDGE SOCIETY.—On a recent Saturday the Trowbridge ringers—accompanied by the veteran William Alley, and Mr. Warden (hon. sec. of the Stroud Association) proceeded by brake to the village of Bromham, and then Seend. At each place they were met by representative ringers, who conducted them to the belfry. After lowering the bells at Bromham the ringers partook of a cold collation at The Greyhound hotel, where touches on the handbells were rung. The Rector, the Rev. Edward B. Edgell, very kindly provided some bundles of choice cheroots, which were greatly appreciated. Bromham is noted as being the place where Tom Moore, the poet, lived and died. He was well known to the Rector—who later on officiated at both the funeral of the poet, and Bessie, his wife—and Bromham church bells are those immortalised by Moore, and with them all who have the honour of sounding and performing upon them. Had there been no ringers Tom Moore could not have heard "Those Evening Bells," so that a ringers' outing to Bromham seems most fitting. The poet's grave is immediately at the foot of the steps leading to the belfry, as if there to guard and inspire all who enter for ringing. Tom Moore probably has never been equalled in pathos and melody; his metaphors are more abundant, varied, and correct, and at the same time more elaborately polished than those of any other writer. His verses generally exhibit the splendour, and breathe the voluptuousness of oriental lands; and couched in language more mellifluous than that of Italy, they resemble rather strains of music than mere poems. He was to verse what Mozart was to music, ever producing yet never exhausted, ever varied, yet ever delightful. It would be fitting if other bands of ringers could, during the summer season, follow the example of Trowbridge ringers, and pay a visit to the poet's resting place, and play the music of the bells. After viewing the church, poet's grave, and other objects of interest, the Rector was thanked, not only for his kindness in granting the use of the tower bells, but for his kind generosity in providing smokes from a choice weed. Mr. Webb and others were also thanked, and the brake drove off about 7.50 p.m. for Seend belfry. Arriving there about 8.15 p.m. Mr. Joseph Willshire and others met and conducted the visitors to the tower. The bells were at once raised, and pealed forth at intervals for some time in the cool evening air. It is only fair to Seend to remark that the scenery from the elevated and well-kept churchyard is most picturesque and beautiful. From a ringer's point of view certainly so, for it appears to be a centre of ringing. On the south are the churches and bells of Potterne and Market Lavington, with Keevil Edington, Steeple Ashton, and West Lavington; on the south-west Rowde, Bromham, Devizes, Melksham, etc. After 9 o'clock, as night was drawing on, the bells were lowered, and the ringers adjourned for supper to The Bell inn. After some suitable toasting and patriotic songs—one of which was given by the veteran William Alley—Mr. Wilshire and others were thanked, and at 10 p.m. the whole company sang "God Save the Queen," and left Seend for Trowbridge, which was reached at 11.0 p.m. The visit and outing is one that has been greatly enjoyed, and will ever remembered by Messrs. W. McCaffrey (conductor), J. Hayward, F. Sidnell, H. Hulbert, W. Hill, R. Hill, F. Burbidge, W. Alley, W. Warden, and H. Stowe, for all had the honour and privilege of ringing upon the sweet bells of Bromham and Seend parish churches.

THE ST. NICHOLAS GUILD, HARWICH.—The first annual outing of this Guild took place on Monday, August 6th, to Woodbridge. Eleven members left by an early train, and arriving at Woodbridge at 9.20, a visit was speedily paid to St. Mary's church, with its splendid ring of eight, and after running home touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major we partook of light refreshment and then proceeded to the small tower of Hasketon, which is 2½ miles from Woodbridge, where we found a pretty-toned six, upon which was rung Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, Grandsire, and Double Court (the first Double Court on the bells). A move was then made to the house of G. Thompson, the home of one of the ringers, where an excellent spread was awaiting us, and to which we did ample justice. After dinner tunes and changes were rung on the handbells, being much appreciated. A visit was to have been to Ufford, but owing to the rain which set in at dinner-time, we were unable to go, all being very disappointed. Woodbridge was once more reached at 4.30, and a few touches of Grandsire Triples and Bob Major having been rung, we made our way to the station for home, which we reached at 10 o'clock, all having spent an enjoyable day. The ringers wish, through this medium, to thank the Vicars of Woodbridge and Hasketon for granting permission; and Mr. H. Cutting (of Woodbridge) and Mr. H. Burch (of Hasketon) for having the bells in readiness.

SOUTH SHORE (LANCASHIRE) SOCIETY.—The ringers of Holy Trinity church, South Shore, had their annual outing on bank holiday last, Lancaster, Morecambe, and Silverdale being the places visited. At Morcambe is a new ring of six, and after a 700 and a few touches of Bob Minor had been rung on them, a move was made for dinner. It had been intended to drive to Silverdale, where permission had been obtained for a peal, but unfortunately the weather had taken such a bad turn, that this part of the programme had to be abandoned, and the church of St. Thomas, Lancaster, was at once visited. The Vicar having kindly given permission, a 700 was rung. A journey was then made to the Lancaster County Asylum. Through the kindness of Mr. Bennet, of the Queens hotel, leave was obtained to look round the buildings, which the party found very interesting. A stroll round Lancaster, and then a start was made for home, Blackpool being reached at 11 o'clock, after a very enjoyable outing.

THE MIDDLESBROUGH SOCIETY.—On Saturday, August 25th, the ringers of Middlesbrough parish church had an outing to Robin Hood's Bay, kind permission to ring having been granted by the Vicar, the Rev. R. Jermyn Cooper. During the day a 700 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and an 18-score of Bob Minor were rung, also touches of Superlative and Bob Major. The ringers taking part were Messrs. Carter, J. and C. Hall, Howcroft, Metcalfe, McFarlane, Rudd, and Titchener, who wish to thank the Vicar for providing lunch and allowing them to visit his grounds, the outing very enjoyable.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

A movement has been set on foot to recast the 3rd bell hanging in this steeple; to rehang the 4th and tenor, and add a treble to make a ring of six.

The estimate is between £80 and £90, and £30 has been already promised, but the restoration of the church has already cost £900, and over £1,000 more is required, and we should be glad of help towards the bells. H. LAW JAMES,

BELFRY DESIGN AND BELL NUISANCE.

[From the *Illustrated Carpenter & Joiner.*]

In the present details of design of church belfries, which propogate the sound of bells, they serve to cause a nuisance. A radical change in the details which are concerned in propagating bell sound is therefore needed, which will presently be described.

The suppression of the ringing of church bells would be a national calamity in the estimation of many inestimable hosts of people and church-goers in most communities throughout the country. Yet there are growing murmurs and rumours of an ominous character, both public and private, that the continuous ringing of church bells, even for the half-hour preceeding service, is a nuisance. In some parishes the ring is only permitted during the first and last five minutes of the half-hour. What, then, is to become of the change-ringing feats of mental, moral, and physical performances involved in Treble Bob Major of 8,864 changes rung through in five hours and twenty-seven minutes? There are, besides, many other famous peals of "superlatives," &c., and various others of shorter duration, varying from about two hours to over three hours. That the "Ringing Island," as England has been fitly called, should discard the important use of her belfries by silencing her church bell ringing is hardly to be entertained. It should be remembered, too, that it would involve stopping the enjoyment of an important mental and muscular exercise, in which between 30,000 and 40,000 professional change ringers are immediately interested, besides a much larger host of their friends and sympathisers. Times, however, are changed, and the design and uses made of church belfries must keep abreast of the advance with the accompanying changes of taste of the people, but not by silencing her bells and forgetting the cunning of her change ringers, it is to be hoped. The church belfry has been for many centuries a most attractive part of the church functions. Even to this day its introduction in 404 B.C. by Paulinus, the then bishop of a most ancient city, founded by the Etruscans 800 years B.C., who first constructed the belfry and cast bronze bells for church purposes, is annually celebrated. This festival called "Giglio di Nola," takes place on the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday after June 22, at Nola, near Naples. The leading feature of the procession on the Sunday assumes an architectural display of nearly a dozen highly modelled belfry towers or steeples of different elaborate architectural styles and designs, mostly octagon, and averaging about 70ft. high. They are of six or seven storeys, of varieties of Italian Classic, Renaissance, &c., superimposed architectural orders of design. Each tower is surmounted by the erect figure of the patron saint and embellished with fitting emblems of the local trade guilds presenting them for the occasion. The towers are constructed of bright coloured papier mache upon a light braced frame-work of sawn laths, secured to a light wood platform of about 16ft. square. The platform has ten projecting arms placed equi-distant round each of the four sides, so that each tower structure may be borne in the procession upon the shoulders of forty men, wheeled platforms not being permitted for the occasion. The Italian type of entablature mitring round the capital of the column and pilaster, as in the triumphal arches of Septimus Severus and Constantine at Rome, seems to find favour with the designers of these elaborate bell towers. And not less in favour at times is the more pronounced and extravagant style of architecture, decoration, and enrichment known as Rococo or Racaille, which commenced early in the seventeenth century, accompanying the Renaissance movement. The Rococo was pretentious, sumptuous, and tasteless, and we find it repeated in furniture as well as architecture of more recent times in this country. It succeeded the first revival of Italian architecture in the time of Louis XIV. and XV. It was sinuous in elevation as well as in plan, broken and curved pediments, scroll buttresses, twisted columns, columns in front of pilasters, with the cornice mitring round them. The mouldings round panels are broken or curved at the angles into various shapes. Panels are filled with flowers, leafage, &c. Crimped and conventional shells, scrolls abound in various positions. There are birds, fishes, masks, figures, husks, marks of different forms and characters, ribbons, canopies. embossed grounds, musical instruments, and other extravagances in carving, sculpture, modelling, &c.

Though we would venture to suggest that some of the lord mayors' metropolitan "shows" should partake belfry towers, as appropriate to the "ringing island," in a somewhat similar manner they should avoid many of the extravagances of the Rococo, with its early "bizarre" and later "baroco" phases. Vast crowds of tourists and visitors from all parts of the world at its most fashionable health and pleasure resort, Naples, witness these annual festive architectural displays.

The most radical reform of the belfrey which is needed is a new phase in the sound-propagating function of the bell chamber. The louvres of the present arrangement direct the sound downwards upon the near dwellers with overpowering loudness, instead of its being scattered abroad. The louvre windows should therefore be boarded up inside and ample sound ports then be opened above them with projecting hoods to keep out the rain, &c. These sound ports should centre opposite to the level of the bells' lips when they are turned mouth upwards in change ringing. The ceiling of the bell chamber should slope upwards and outwards from the centre in a flat inverted conical form somewhat like the sound board over the pulpit of St. Paul's Cathedral. Galvanized wire netting should be spread across the sound ports to keep out birds. Sir Arthur P. Heywood, the chairman of the Central Council of Change Ringers' advocates this desirable reform. It has been successfully introduced in a belfry in Loughborough and elsewhere with satisfactory results.

Another reform in the belfry in which Sir Arthur is likewise interested is of vital importance, as it causes the dangerous dilapidation of the masonry of the belfry, so that many valuable peals of bells cannot be rung. The bell cage, being usually made of timber, shrinks and warps so that the joints of the framework get open and permit of injurous rocking of the cage, which bumps loose the stones of the belfry masonry against which it is wedged. The brasses in which the bell gudgeons work get loose, out of level, and in wind, and thus cause injurious distortions and friction which makes tiresome ringing and oftener prevents it altogether.

The neglect which causes this dilapidation to the belfry masonry, coupled with rickety and dangerous stair access up the tower to the belfry, have long been pleaded against by numerous writers from time to time. But no writer has been more assiduous for many years than the Rev. R. H. Haweis, of St. James's Chapel, Marylebone. Mr. Haweis, too, and likewise the Rev. Canon Simpson, of Chichester, have each laboured to advance the harmonious tuning of belfry bells, so as to make the ringing more acceptable to the public. Lord Raleigh has shown an interest in it by a philosophical investigation of the complexities of the sounding bell.

It should be noted that the bell is not a uniformly thin plate, as nearly all philosophical writers have treated it, but a plate of varying thickness throughout its vertical section, and hence there are various complexities involved in the sound it produces —varied too, by the manner in which it is struck.

Since the belfry is in existence for the use of bells, the bells should be musically tuned to justify the combined existence, when the belfry is properly designed to perform its function without propagating a nuisance. Then, with musically voiced bells, properly hung in a suitably designed belfry, ringing or chiming adaptable to popular melodies, there would be little cause of complaint againt the design of the belfry and its propagating pleasing bell music.

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

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The Lincoln Diocesan Guild.—Lincoln Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Caythorpe to-day, Saturday, September 1st. Tea (tickets 1s. each), will be provided at The Eight Bells inn.

R. CLARKE, *Branch Sec.*
21, *Richmond Road, Lincoln.*

St, Thomas' Guild, Dudley. The next quarterly meeting will be held at Netherton, to-day, Saturday, September 1st. Tower open for ringing at 4 p.m. Service in church at 5 p.m W. MICKLEWRIGHT, *Hon. Sec.*
39, *Vauxhall Street, Dudley.*

Stoke Archidiaconal Association —The next meeting of the above will be held at Cheadle, to-day, Saturday, September 1st.

W. TWIGG, *Hon. Sec.*

The Central Northamptonshire Association.—A Quarterly Meeting will be held at Irthlingborough, to-day, Saturday, September 1st. By kind permission of the Rev. J. K. Taylor, the bells of the church of St. Peter will be at liberty for ringing from 2.30 to 7 p.m. Tea at The Bull hotel at 5 o'clock. Visitors from other Associations will be welcome. E. J. DENNES, *Hon. Sec.*
Wellingborough.

The Lancashire Association.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Rawtenstall to-day, Saturday, Sept. 1st. Bells ready at 3.30. Meeting at 6.30.

W. CASS, *Branch Sec.*
83, *Chesham Road, Bury.*

The Lancashire Association of Six-Bell Ringers.—The quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mark's, Preston, on Saturday, September 8th. Tower open for ringing from 2.30 p.m. Refreshments in the schoolroom at 5.30 p.m. Meeting after.

JAMES HIGSON, *Secretary.*
60, *Church Street, Blackrod.*

The Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Grassendale, on Saturday, September 8th. C. A. CLEMENTS, *Hon. Sec.*

Society for the Archdeaconry of Salop.—The annual meeting will be held at Wellington on Saturday, September 15th. Ringing at 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m. Preacher—Rev. J. Cairs Brown, Vicar of Shifnal. Tea at 5 p.m.

J. MACKAY, *Hon. Sec.*
Holy Trinity Vicarage, Shrewsbury.

The Middlesex County Association.—The Annual Meeting of this Association will be held at All Saints' church, Fulham, on Saturday, the 15th of September, by kind permission of the Rev. W. C. Muriel. Service will be at 6 p.m., when the address will be given by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Middlesex. A substantial tea will be provided in the parish room at 1s. 6d. per head, and it is earnestly requested that those who are desirous of having places reserved for them will communicate beforehand with one or other of the Hon. Secretaries, in order that proper provision may be made. It is hoped that the bells of St. Mary the Virgin, Putney, may be available, as well as the bells of All Saints Fulham, from 3.30 p.m. Tea will be followed by the usual business meeting. The Hon. Secretaries hope that ringers will make a special effort to attend, and that the few outstanding subscriptions may reach them by the 8th of September.

C. EDWARDS,
ARTHUR T. KING, } *Hon. Secs.*

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting of this branch will be held at Moorside, on Saturday, September 15th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. A good attendance is requested.

JAS. JACQUES, *Hon. Sec.*

The Yorkshire Association.—The general meeting of this Association will be held at Horbury (near Wakefield) on Saturday, September 15th. By kind permission of the Rev. E. I. Lough, M.A., Vicar, the new ring of eight at St. Peter's will be available from 9 a.m. to 9.30 p.m. At 4 o'clock, meeting of the official committee. At 5 o'clock, tea in the boys' schoolroom. Business meeting to follow. The Lord Bishop of Wakefield (Dr. Eden), has kindly promised to be present. After business the Horbury handbell ringers and concert party will give a smoking concert, programmes of which will be distributed during the day. The local hon. sec. is Mr. W. H. Giggle, Queen Street, Horbury, who will be pleased to make all necessary arrangements for the comfort and convenience of visitors. B. T. COPLEY, *Hon. Sec.*
14, *Hillside Terrace, Bradford.*

The East Derbyshire Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Horsley, on Saturday, September 15th. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Meeting after tea.

T. ALLIBONE, *Sec.*
North Wingfield, Chesterfield.

The Lancashire Association. — Manchester Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at the parish church, Worsley, on Saturday, September 15th. Bells ready at 3.0 p.m. Business meeting in the schoolroom at 7.0 p.m. JOHN SMITH, *Branch Sec.*
25, *Hope Street, Pendleton, Manchester.*

The Sussex County Association.—Eastern Division.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Waldron, on Saturday, September 22nd. Bells available 3 to 9 p.m. Tea at Star inn 5.45. Members who have not already done so will oblige by remitting subscriptions for 1900 at once.

S. SAKER, *Hon. Sec. Eastern Division.*
"*Arran,*" *Baldslow Road, Hastings.*

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.—The quarterly meeting in connection with this Society will be held on Saturday, September 22nd, at the parish church, Wombourn. The bells will be available for touches during the afternoon and evening. Short service in the church at 5 o'clock. Tea will be provided for all those sending in their names on or before the 17th inst. As the reports will be ready for this meeting it is requested that all committee men will attend.

S. REEVES, *Hon. Sec.*
10, *Bull Street, Westbromwich.*

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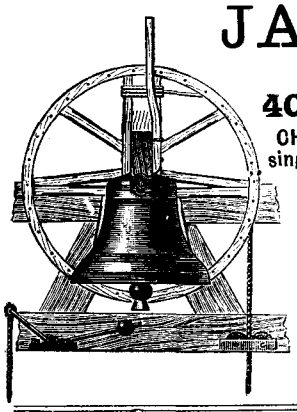

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