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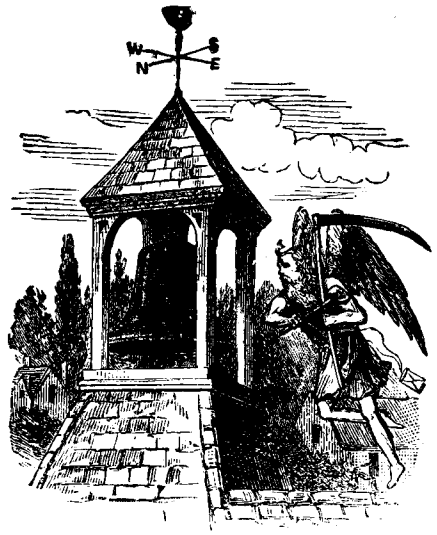
BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 980.—*VOL.* XIX.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1901. [PRICE ONE PENNY.

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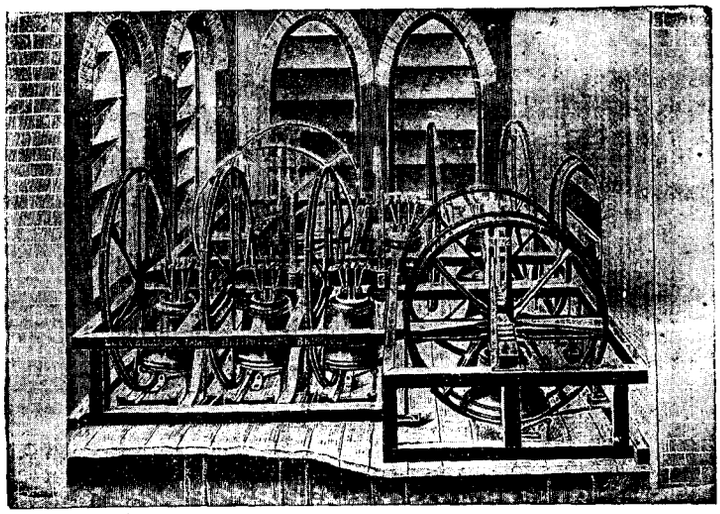
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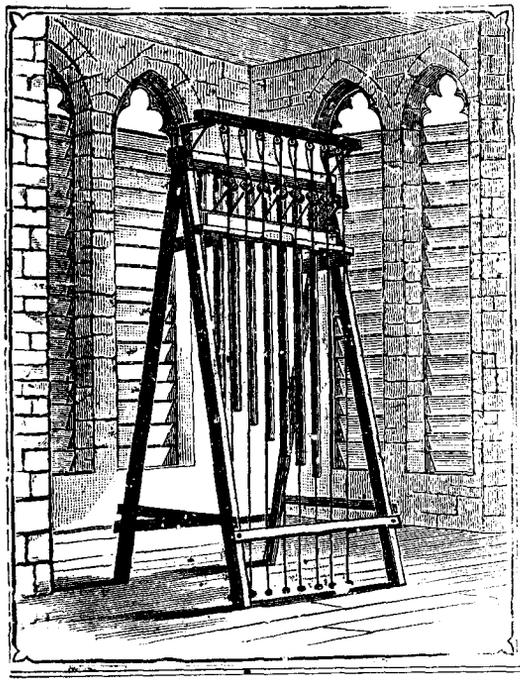
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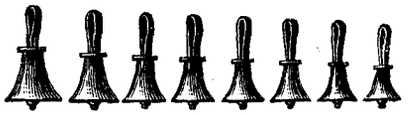
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 980.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1901. [Vol. XIX.

THE CLEVELAND AND NORTH YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Meeting at Whorlton-in-Cleveland.

In accordance with the arrangements made at the Bedale meeting last year, an informal meeting of this Association was held at Whorlton on Saturday, January 5th, where there is a musical little ring of six bells by Messrs. Warner. For some little time these bells have been getting out of order, and the task of putting them right has been entrusted to Mr. J. Metcalf, of Middlesbrough, who recently did some good work of a similar nature at Bedale. He has certainly made matters very different at Whorlton, as those who rang there on January 5th can testify.

About twenty members turned up in the afternoon, representing Middlesbrough, Stockton, Stokesley, Thornaby, and Thirsk, by whom five 720s of Minor were rung in different methods, a sixth failing to come out through a trifling mishap to one of the ropes. At five o'clock an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where an excellent tea had been provided by the Vicar of the parish (an hon. member of the Association). The members present thoroughly appreciated this act of kindness, and on the motion of the Secretary, the Rev. W. P. Wright, passed a very hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. J. C. Fowler, the Vicar, and the kind ladies who assisted in helping at the tea.

The Vicar, in responding, welcomed the visitors, and hoped before long to see a change-ringing band established in the parish, the desirability of which was strongly urged by the president, Mr. Clarkson. The outing was favored by the finest of sunshine during the afternoon, followed by the brightest of moonlight and clear frosty air, and was thoroughly appreciated by all.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

The Sonning Deanery Branch of this Guild held its Annual Meeting at Wokingham, on Saturday, January 12th, when seventy-four members attended. After a short service at St. Paul's church, with a very stirring and practical address by the Rev. R. P. Newhouse, Vicar of St. Laurence's, Reading, the members adjourned to the parish room. Here a substantial tea was served, and the business meeting held afterwards. The branch continues to prosper, in point of numbers and financially, and we hope it may shortly show a more rapid advance in the attainment of peal ringing.

GREAT MARLOW BELFRY SUPPER.

The members of the above Belfry recently held their usual New Year's Eve Supper at The Two Brewers. Mr. Alfred H. Cocks (who, until his departure from the parish some few months back, was foreman of the belfry) occupied the chair, and was supported by the Rev. H. O. F. Whittingstall (Vicar), the Revs. A. W. Rainey and S. M. Winter, Messrs. H. Collins (foreman) and W. E. Yates (deputy-foreman), and a full muster of the members including Messrs. E. Jones and Charles Smith, who will be remembered as former members. Letters of apology were announced from the Rev. L. W. M. Green and the church wardens, who were unfortunately prevented from attending. An excellent repast was provided by Mrs. Truss.

After the usual loyal toasts had been duly honoured the chairman proposed "The Health of the Vicar and Clergy," to which the Vicar replied, commenting on the fact that two of his curates had recently become recruits to the belfry.

The Vicar next proposed "The Health of The Belfry," coupled with the name of the foreman (Mr. H. Collins), which Mr. H. Collins duly acknowledged.

Mr. E. Jones then proposed "The Health of The Bob-callers," to which Messrs. W. E. Yates and J. C. Truss both suitably replied.

The last toast honoured was "The Steeplekeeper," which afforded Mr. Jones an outlet for his well-known fund of wit; Mr. A. W. Truss responded.

During the evening two very interesting presentations took place. One took the form of a handsome illuminated address on vellum, and a silver match-box, presented to Mr. Alfred H. Cocks as a mark of esteem for his services to the belfry for many years.

The Vicar, in making the presentation said he had to ask Mr. Cocks to accept the address and match-box as a mark of their regard and a testimony of the value in which they had held and appreciated him in the past. It was, he said, intended to tell the recipient how much help they had received under his guidance and from his constant work with them and his unremitting care of the highest interest of the belfry.

Mr. Cocks, in reply, said words failed to express his feelings for such a beautiful gift which they had so kindly presented to him. He had always taken a great interest in bell ringing, and he hoped to meet them on many future occasions.

The other interesting event of the evening was the presentation of a clock, by the members of the belfry, to Mr. W. E. Yates, as a memento of their goodwill in connection with his recent marriage. This presentation was duly made by Mr. Cocks.

Mr. Yates, who was taken by surprise, thanked the members heartily for their kindly recognition of that important event on behalf of himself and wife.

At intervals songs were sung by Messrs. W. E. Yates, W. E. Taylor, E. Brown, L. E. Collins, E. Jones (recitation), and J. C. Truss, and Rev. A. W. Rainey, and handbells by Messrs. Chas. Smith, W. E. Yates, J. C. Truss, and J. S. Hawkins. After singing "Auld lang syne" and the National Anthem, the party adjourned to the belfry, where the bells were set going and the old century was rung out and the 20th century welcomed with a touch of Grandsire Triples.

NORTH'S ENGLISH BELLS AND BELL LORE. Illustrated. Price 12s., Postage 6d. Should be in the hands of all Bell lovers.—W. H. Eaton, Publisher, Leek, Staffs.

ST. DAVID'S SOCIETY, BANGOR.

On Thursday evening, January 10th, the ringers and choir of the above church were entertained by the Vicar, the Rev. Lewis Jones and Mrs. Jones at the vicarage. An excellent repast was provided, which was done full justice to by the members present, numbering thirty-six. After supper the tables were cleared, and the rest of the evening was passed in social enjoyment. The toast of "The Queen" was proposed by the Vicar, and was received by the whole of the company rising and singing "God save the Queen." Songs were sung by Messrs. Turnbull, Jones, Maddocks, Whitlock, and Gayton. Mr. Sam Taylor gave an excellent rendering of "The Owa Spinner," and for an encore sang a topical Welsh song. The toast of "Our absent friends" was given, the company rising and joining hands round the tables, all singing "Auld lang syne." The toast of "The Vicar and his wife" was proposed by Mr. J. Gayton in a very neat speech, which was suitably acknowledged. A most enjoyable evening was brought to a close by the whole of the company again singing "God save the Queen."

SHAW, LANCASHIRE.

Messrs. Potts and Sons, Clock Manufacturers, Leeds, and Newcastle-on-Tyne, have just completed a fine new hour striking clock for the Crompton Co-operative Industrial Society, Limited, which shows the time upon four external illuminated dials six feet each in diameter, with Lord Grimthorpe's double three-legged gravity escapement and compensation pendulum, and all latest improvements inserted, to commemorate the fifty years Jubilee opening ceremony. The members and committee have spared no expense in its erection, being determined upon having nothing but a first-class clock.

Messrs. Potts and Sons are also erecting a new large clock with three external illuminated dials for the Leeds Corporation at their new Free Library and Fire Brigade Station, Woodhouse Moor, Leeds, and new church clocks at Dingley, Northants, and Wykeham, Yorks., for the Right Hon. Lord Downe; new clock at Grimsby Ice Stores, Lincolnshire, and Cambridge quarter-chime clock for private gentlemen near Leeds, and a new illuminated hour striking clock for Burley-Wharfedale, Yorkshire.

REDENHALL, NORFOLK.

On Monday, January 14th, the Redenhall company held their 165th anniversary after a lapse of three years, when about thirty ringers assembled from Norwich, Diss, Pulham Market, Pulham St. Mary, Alburgh, Bungay, other places. At 1.30 a substantial dinner was provided at The Yew Tree by the President of the Norwich Association, Sancroft Holmes, Esq., of Gawdy Hall, Harleston, who occupied the chair, supported by the Ven. Archdeacon Perowne, C. Candler, Esq., and Mr. F. R. Borrett. After dinner the health of "The Queen" was heartily drunk, as was that of the President.

The President in reply said he was pleased to meet them that day, and he would do all he could to help the work of the Association.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded him for his kindness, and to Archdeacon Perowne for the use of the grand peal of bells, who suitably responded.

Some excellent touches of Superlative Surprise, Double Norwich, Oxford Treble Bob, Stedman, Grandsire, and Plain Bob were brought round during the day, and all seemed to have spend a most enjoyable time.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

(LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Tuesday evening, January 1st, by the kind invitation of the churchwardens (Messrs. H. Deane and W. James), the ringers of the parish church (All Saints), sat down to a bountiful spread of old English fare, viz., roast beef, turkey, plum pudding, etc. Mr. Deane presided, whilst Mr. Jones occupied the vice-chair. Amongst others present were the Rector (Rev. T. Pitts), Rev. W. Fowler (curate), Dr. C. H. Briggs, Mr. J. W. Taylor, and others. Full justice being done to the good things provided, the chairman gave the toast of "The Queen." He said what a great pleasure it gave him to meet the ringers on this occasion. He hoped the present good feeling between the churchwardens and ringers would continue to exist.

The Rector in addressing the ringers said it always gave him the greatest pleasure to be amongst the ringers, and to welcome any visiting bands. He thought they were deeply indebted to Mr. Taylor for the great interest he always took in the bells and ringing, more especially for the handsome gift bestowed by him to the church of a new peal of ten.

Mr. J. W. Taylor, in responding, spoke of the losses the company had sustained through death and removals from the town. There were that evening one or two new comers with them, but still that did not counterbalance the losses.

Mr. R. F. Lane in a few well-chosen words thanked the churchwardens on behalf of the ringers for the kind way in which they had entertained them. During the evening songs were sung by Mr. James and members of the company. Dr. Briggs presided at the piano. The evening passed all too quickly, the company dispersing at 11 p.m., having spent one of the most pleasant evenings in the company's records.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, September 6th, 1900, the ringers of St. Cuthbert's Church, Pateley Bridge, journeyed to Middlesmoor, which is eight miles distant from Pateley Bridge, to try once more for 720. This was the fourth time an attempt had been made by the same company, but on this occasion the ringers were successful in placing to their credit the first 720 on the bells, which have been hung above 30 years. The band wish to express their thanks to the Vicar, Rev. K. W. Summerfield, for the use of the bells and to the local ringers for putting them in order. They had not been rung for two or three months previous to this visit. The ringers were: Treble, W. J. Buck; 2, C. R. Knibbs; 3, A. Haigh; 4, G. H. Mason; 5, J. Mumford; Tenor, J. Summersall (conductor). Tenor 16 cwt. Since this the Pateley Bridge belfry has lost one of its most valued members in the person of Mr. J. Mumford, who has left the district.

APPOINTMENT. — Mr. B. Keeble, of Romford, has been appointed attendance officer under the School Board. Mr. Keeble has been a member of the Board for eight years, and resigned his seat in order to become a candidate for the post, having confidence in four of the remaining members that he should —all things being equal—secure the appointment. Mr. Keeble is the popular people's warden of S. John's mission church, which is regarded by opponents of the church as "high." During his membership on the Board he has proved a true educationalist, the friend of teacher and scholar alike. Notwithstanding that Mr. Keeble generally found himself voting upon the board with non-churchmen, he has to thank the churchmen on the Board for his election to the post.

WHILTON, NORTHANTS.

To commemorate the return of Major the Hon. C. E. Bingham, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. Judkins, of Lower Farm, Whilton, gave a supper to the parish church ringers on Saturday, December 22nd. During the evening the health of Major Bingham was heartily drunk. After supper several members of the company sang excellent songs, and a very pleasant evening was spent, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Judkins for their kind generosity.

On Sunday, December 22nd, a thanksgiving service was held in the parish church for the return of Major Bingham from South Africa. The morning was ushered in by joyous peals on the bells, and the village was effectively decorated. Various devices and banners with appropriate mottoes spanned the streets, and a profuse display of bunting from the cottage windows gave a uniformly pretty and pleasing appearance. The inhabitants desiring to escort their soldier squire to church, assembled at the entrance of the village to await his arrival, and on the horses being released from the carriage, numbers of energetic young men drew the hon. gentleman to the sacred edifice, where a large congregation had assembled. The Rector (Rev. W. H. Logan), preached a most impressive sermon from Psalm cvii. 7: "He led them forth by the right way, that they might go to the city where they dwelt." After service the bells rang merrily.

HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK.

On Thursday evening, January 10th, the annual supper of the Halesworth, and Chediston bellringers was given at the Temperance Hotel, Halesworth, when twenty-one members sat down to an excellent repast, provided through the kindness of patrons residing in Halesworth and Chediston. The chair was taken by the rector, Rev. A. R. Upcher, President of the Society, supported by Rev. A. S. Thompson, vice-President, H. S. R. Stanford, Esq. (churchwarden), Halesworth, Mr. H. Hopkins (churchwarden), Chediston, and the ringers connected with the two towers. Supper over, a very enjoyable evening was passed with songs, recitations, and handbell ringing. Hearty votes of thanks were accorded the generous subscribers to the fund; to the Rev. A. S. Thompson, for the great interest he had taken to make the meeting a success; to the Rev. A. R. Upcher for kindly presiding, and to Mr. and Mrs. E. Lambert, for the very satisfactory way in which the supper was served. The wish was expressed that the members of the company serving at the front in South Africa, might be spared to be present with them at the next meeting; and one of the most pleasant gatherings the society have ever had was brought to a close at 11 p.m. by the singing of the National Anthem and Auld lang syne.

ALL SAINTS, POPLAR, MIDDLESEX.

The ring of ten at this church was at one period a great favourite of London ringers, and such old celebrities as Messrs. Cox and Haley made Poplar their "happy hunting ground. Unfortunately the bells are now "clocked" and chimed by a party of young fellows for the various services. The inhabitants complain bitterly of the din, having been used to hear excellent "stoney" rang upon them until a year ago. The following letter has appeared in a local paper:—

"Sir,—At the commencement of the new year and century, many were asking how it was the bells were not ringing. As an old Poplar man, it seems very sad to me that such a good old-time-honoured custom should be abandoned. The influence of Poplar bells at such a time is far-reaching, recalling sacred memories of the past to those who cannot get to watch-night services. I think it a very serious thing to tamper with a custom that even the most crusty could hardly find fault with. Will some of the authorities explain why their silence, especially at the commencement of a new century? We have a fine peal of bells, but we seldom hear them rung—they may be chimed. So far as their reputation for ringing is concerned, 'Ichabod'—'their glory has departed'—may be written over the belfry. I trust such a state of things is only temporary."

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."

A Question for Clergy and Ringers.

Sir,—The letters appearing in your last issue on this subject afford much matter for consideration. First as to Mr. King. I cannot read his letter without seeing that, though we may differ on a few points of detail, we are fundamentally in agreement. This is extremely satisfactory to me, because Mr. King is not only an enthusiastic ringer and keenly interested in everything that conduces to ringers' interests, but he is also a layman devoted to Church work in many ways. Mr. King says that this subject, if left to be dealt with according to the standard of the average layman, is not likely to advance much. That may or may not be; but I referred to the standard of what may be reasonably desired of the average layman, which is a different thing. Mr. King says we may admit the whole of my logic, so far as it goes, and yet be dissatisfied with the way I left the question. Certainly; I did not profess to leave the question in a satisfactory condition; on the contrary I am only endeavouring to do what I can towards getting a satisfactory solution. But I am quite sure of this, that if such a solution can be attained, it will not even be in sight till we have first settled the logical problem. Mr. King has some strictures on indifferent parsons which appear to me to be just, but on the principle of choosing the lesser of two evils I am confident that the merely indifferent parson is infinitely better than the parson who makes rules such as Mr. King criticises. The former at least does not do actual harm to ringers; the latter does. The former let them alone; the latter persecutes them. He sits in his study or his vestry and legislates about them without the smallest consideration for their good. It may be excellent to have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous to use it like a giant. The man of the type I am speaking of never attempts to understand ringers, to learn their ways, to realise their affection for their Art and for their steeple, and to see how he can work upon all this to gain their confidence and help them in religious or intellectual difficulties or ignorance. He simply puts them at arm's length by making regulations which the smallest pains would show him to be impracticable, and thus alienates them altogether by practically driving them out of his tower without any advantage resulting to any human being, and exhibiting himself to them as

> "Man, proud man!
> Dress'd in a little brief authority,
> Most ignorant of what he's most assured;"

Mr. Papillon says he has not come across the fallacy to whic I alluded. I congratulate him. I have heard of it ever since I joined the Exercise and have long been sick of it. And I cannot admit that I have set it up in the present controversy. It was set up in fact, though not in actual words, by the anonymous persons who so scandalously abused Mr. Newell. By the way Mr. Papillon, no doubt owing to his not having the correspondence before him when writing, mistakes what Mr. Newell's question was on which I looked forward to "interesting communications." Mr. Newell raised the question of ringers attending Church services. He did not ask people to discuss his particular case. The remarks on his case were started by the ill-conditioned persons who attacked him.

Both Mr. King and Mr. Papillon appear to deem it desirable

that ringers should attend church services, among other reasons, to set an example. This does not seem to me to help matters. If a man were to go every day at noon to the Thames Embankment and sit on one particular seat for half-an-hour, and, when asked why he did so, replied, "To set an example," the enquirer would want a great deal more than this before seeing any reason for being influenced. If the reason to be given by a ringer for attending service is to be because it is his duty as a ringer, it is not very obvious of what use this is likely to be to people who are not ringers, or, indeed, to ringers either. A ringer must need some much better reason than this to give for the faith that is in him. I should be the last to deny the great power of good example, but I take it it is one of the conditions of that power that it must be founded on a conviction of right which induces a man to do that which sets the example. A man who sets out merely to set an example without any underlying convictions is not likely to succeed in setting an example of anything, except, perhaps, of insincerity.

Mr. Papillon and Mr. Drake refer to ringers leaving church after ringing as causing a scandal; but it seems to me that too much may be made of this argument. I have never contended that ringers should not attend church, but that their duty is only that of other laymen, and that therefore they are not *bound* to attend the services *for which they ring*. I gave several instances of what I meant in my last letter, and it seems hardly worth while to give more, although I easily might. I may perhaps give one. If a man habitually brought his children to a children's service in the afternoon and rang for evening service, it would be absurd to consider whether people would be scandalised by his walking out after ringing, and to constrain him to stay for service if he did not wish to.

This brings me to Mr. Robinson's letter, for which I heartily thank him. I shall take leave, with his kind permission, to flatly contradict what he says at the beginning of his letter, because I thoroughly agree with what be says at the end of it. With every respect I re-affirm with emphasis my statement that the contention that it is the duty of ringers to attend the services for which they ring, is a specious fallacy and a miserable fallacy. Mr. Robinson's own statement later in his letter clearly shows that the duty of clergy and laity to attend church services arises from the relation of human beings to the Divine Being. But the relation of human beings to the Divine Being cannot depend on whether they happen to be ringers or not, any more than whether they happen to be plasterers or not, or tinsmiths or not; the greater must include the less, and the duty which ringers have laid upon them to attend Divine worship is therefore no more and no less than that laid upon other human beings. I object to the fallacy because it does not give us the REAL reason for church attendance, and therefore what reason it does give is misleading and inadequate; and those who seek to induce men, whether ringers or not, to attend church services, or to attend them more regularly, must seek to do so by rationally commending to their minds and consciences the duty of man as man.

A time is coming for each one of us when our place in the steeple where we now ring for Divine worship will be vacant, when the other belfries which know us now will know us no more, when our surviving friends will ring for us the ringers' last good-bye—that solemn muffled peal which we now ring for our brothers as they in their turn pass away before us; and when that time comes we shall beyond all doubt inevitably be brought face to face with the *whole* truth of everything affecting our lives and ourselves. And if in the meanwhile we are to be exhorted about a subject involving so momentous a consideration as the relation of the human to the Divine, let us not be mocked by delusive superficialities, but helped by thoughtful and careful dealing with fundamental truth.

R. A. DANIELL.

SIR,—I have read with much interest my friend Mr. Daniell's letter under the above heading. His letters are always interesting and, as a rule, instructive. Will you allow a humble clerical member of the Exercise to make a few remarks upon that letter? In the first place I would say that Mr. Daniell does not do himself justice in the letter—perhaps he wrote it in a hurry. He has treated some quite distinct points as if they were identical—some of his arguments are faulty, and he has finally answered his question in a way which is surprising in the case of a well-instructed Churchman. This last point, to which I shall refer later, was probably an unintentional slip, due, I imagine, to haste; and apart from that his conclusions appear to be based on common sense, and to be such as ought to commend themselves to sensible church people, though they should be reached from different premisses.

In the second paragraph of his letter Mr. Daniell speaks of "the *desirability* of Church attendance on the part of ringers," and "the *duty* of ringers to attend the services for which they ring" as the same thing, which they certainly are not, unless it is shown that it *is* the duty of ringers. If it is their duty it is no doubt desirable that they should perform it, but it may be desirable without being an essential duty. The third paragraph presents a very faulty argument, and for this reason: Ringing for Sunday Services and ringing for races or weddings are things quite distinct. The one is a call to the service, the other simply an expression of pleasure or joy. It is merely a coincidence that the same instruments are used. The next paragraph contains a curious argument also, which is difficult to follow, but it really does not affect the matter under consideration, and I pass over that and one other statement to which exception might be taken, and come to the last paragraph and the question which Mr. Daniel propounds—"Why should laymen attend Church Services?" It is a simple question, and one which admits of a simple answer. The reason however is one which is sadly neglected by a vast number of even regular church-goers. To very many the reason for going to church is "to get good" (I pass over the case of those who attend because it is customary or respectable) or to hear the sermon. The result of this idea is that if a man doesn't like the parson or his preaching, or if the music or ritual doesn't please him, he stays away or strays away to some other church than his own, or it may be to a Dissenters' Meeting House, where he can hear his own pet doctrines declaimed with unction. The simple reason for attending Church Services, is that we should meet together and join with our neighbours in God's House *for the worship of God*. God, in His goodness, adds a blessing to the individual soul, but the purpose of Public Worship is the offering of the "sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving" by the faithful in the parish as a corporate body. In a word we ought to go to church to *give* something in the first place, not to *get* something, which is the selfish view so common in these selfish and utilitarian days. Mr. Daniell, to my astonishment and regret appears to countenance this false view, and in so doing, as I have said, answers his question, and answers it wrongly. He says "Human beings being differently endowed *may be benefitted some by more, some by less, attendance at Divine worship*," apparently meaning that the idea of personal gain should be the ruling idea in the mind of every Church-goer! This surely he will correct. May I be allowed to answer Mr. Daniell's question by the following direct statements?

1. It is the duty of the creature to bow before the Creator.
2. It is the duty of the Christian to worship the ever-blessed Trinity.
3. It is the duty of the Churchman to join with his fellow-parishioners in the public worship of the church to which he belongs.

These three statements ought to be sufficient to answer the question proposed, but I would give another one. "No man liveth to himself," and the ringer who deliberately and *habitually* walks away from the service to which he has summoned the parish is doing a vast amount of barm, for which he will have to answer. No one would suggest that every ringer should be compelled to attend every service, but his conscience alone ought to be sufficient to tell him that it is his duty to take his part in the worship of God.

There is one other point, and I will close this somewhat long letter. Mr. Daniell speaks of "Church Services" and "Divine Worship" in a general way, and I am afraid that the average ringer in hearing these expressions generally thinks of morning and evening prayer, and perhaps the Litany. Let us divide the question "Why should ringers attend Church Services?" into two parts and give the answer.

(*a*) Why should ringers attend Morning or Evening Prayer? Because the Church of which they are members appoints those services for their use; and as loyal sons of the Church they will not call the people together, and then walk away saying

"There! there's the Church and the Service, but you won't catch me there in a hurry."

(*b*) Why should ringers attend the Holy Communion? Because the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church to which they belong, has ordered it; and they will, as His faithful disciples, fulfil His command "Do this in remembrance of Me," and so, in His own way, "show forth the Lord's death till He come." E. W. CARPENTER.

Thorpe Vicarage, Chertsey.

SIR,—Mr. Daniell, when dealing in your columns with the irrelevant and ungentlemanly attacks of Mr. Newell's critics, expresses views with which, I opine, all fair-minded readers are in agreement. But he proceeds to make, what I think, every professed Churchman will consider an extraordinary pronouncement on the original question. That question was, Are Church-Ringers duty-bound to attend the services of their church? Mr. Daniell calls the affirmative answer to the query a "miserable fallacy." Strong words; but such are superfluous, except to hide weak logic. He proceeds, "It is impossible that ringing for *something* (the italics are mine) can create a duty to take part in the thing for which the ringing is performed." Quite so! But this is not a question of "ringing creating a duty," but the reverse. As I understand it, the duty created the ringing; and the man who becomes a church-ringer regardless of that fact places himself in a demonstrably false position. Again: "The work we undertake is over and done with before service commences, and when over, we are just as other ordinary laymen are." I agree, again. But where is Mr. Daniell leading us. To this great and solemn fact—that every "ordinary layman," *if he be a Christian at all*, is called by God and the Church to worship with his fellow-believers; and, most certainly, ringers are not exempted. Ah! may I ask, just here, if Mr. Daniell suggests something he deems it inexpedient to state boldly? Does he hint that, provided a man be an efficient campanologist, that of itself constitutes a good and sufficient *entree* to the church tower? No matter, though he be a scoffer, a professed atheist, or a notoriously loose liver, so that he strikes well and makes few mistakes, he may be addressed with "Hail comrade, well met," in God's House, without the slightest reference to the predilections of the owner. If not this, what *does* Mr. Daniell mean when he says—"Mr. Egby seems to think that by ringing we profess to attend church. I entirely dissent from this, and decline to profess anything." I do not know, Sir, *where* Mr. Daniell rings, but it would be rather interesting to know exactly for *what* he rings. But I am aware of what he seems to forget, viz., the tower is consecrated—"set apart"—as well as the chancel, and that to the service of God, wholly and entirely. If Mr. Daniell is ignorant of this fact, he may be excused; but as soon as he becomes cognisant of it, he will be acting a dishonest part if he goes there again while declining "to profess anything."

Again, what analogy is there between the ringers' attendance at church service and at a race-meeting. I have shewn that a non-churchman has no right to be a church ringer. Every honest ringer then is a churchman, and that makes his attendance at service a *duty*, while the attendance at the race-meeting is entirely optional.

But Mr. Daniell seems himself to perceive the unsoundness of his argument, and he tries to bolster it up by a plentiful use of that little big word "all." He imagines—nobody else, I think, has done so—a cast-iron rule, binding the poor sweating, toiling ringer to attend "all" the services for which he rings. And he goes on to instance cases which would, I admit, prove legitimate barriers to attendance while they operated. But Mr. Daniell, in his anxiety, proves too much. Does it not occur to him that the very obligation he felt to search out and parade these occasional hindrances to church worship suggests that even he cannot defend the absence of the ringer when these and cognate excuses are wanting. Suppose the converse case of a ringer who has *not* to see to aged parents; who has *not* to keep house while his wife attends; who *has not* to tread the policeman's lonely round, etc. Mr. Daniell demonstrates by implication, that all such ringers should be at church. Let me conclude with a case in point. I know a church where the good Vicar said explicitly that he would be satisfied with his ringers' word of honour to attend regularly—unless hindered by such things as those mentioned by Mr. Daniell—*one* of the services on the Sabbath, and they were left *carte blanche* as to which it should be. Mr. Newell knows the Church, too. Was not such a request in every sense proper and reasonable? Yet, I think, the majority refused. HENRY EGBY.

30, *Weston Street, Reading.*

SIR,—After the excellent letters that appeared last week there is probably little that is fresh to be said concerning the matter at issue. Possibly Mr. Daniell only wished to treat the question philosophically, but in any case it is a pity he left off so ambiguously. The Church has a right to expect that those who ring her bells shall bear in mind that their duties are those of church workers, and that they should endeavour to behave as such. If a ringer is an unbeliever in any shape or form, either in Christianity or the Church, let him for consistency's sake, if for no higher reason, refrain from ringing the Church's bells, more especially when calling people to worship is involved. Mr. King has alluded, not without reason, to the neglect of the clergy in not looking after their ringers. This may be true to some extent, but there are faults on both sides. In parishes where there are Guilds there is no doubt a better tone of churchmanship among the ringers than where there are none. It is sincerely to be hoped that the weighty words of the Rev. F. E. Robinson will have the effect of raising ringers from the state of indifference in this matter into which so many of them have fallen. BERNARD JEALOUS.

SHOULD SMOKING BE ALLOWED IN CHURCH TOWERS?

SIR,—This is a question which perhaps has never before been asked in the columns of your most valuable compendium, and which ought to be considered with the greatest care possible by both the clergy of churches, and also captains and foremen of church towers. It is no doubt a most weighty question, and one which I should like ringers to pass their opinion upon through the columns of "THE BELL NEWS." Having been a ringer myself for some considerable time now, I can say with the strictest confidence to all that I have been an eye-witness to persons smoking in church towers not only just before they leave the tower but during the time ringing is in progress. Now I contend that such conduct in church towers is most disgraceful, and conduct which ought to be put a stop to immediately. I contend that if the captain of a tower where smoking is allowed to take place was a thorough good churchman, and regarded the tower as it really is part of the church, he would not allow such acts to be committed, and if he is a man that does *not* object to smoking in a tower then I say that such a man ought never to be allowed to hold the position of captain. I also say that it is not altogether the fault of the captain, but really is more the fault of the Vicar or the incumbent of the church where the ringers are allowed to smoke, for it is the duty of the clergy to see and know how ringers conduct themselves while in the towers. I wish to ask ringers if they believe themselves to be fully justified in smoking in church towers, and if not to absent themselves from such habits. There is no doubt about it, that the clergy do not interest themselves half so much as they ought in the doings of their ringers, and in many cases do not enter the belfry once in a year. It is inevitably the duty of all clergy of parishes to know the names of their ringers, and also see that their conduct in the tower is befitting to the church. A church tower is not a smoking-room, nor yet a place of amusement. Ringers are apt, I believe, to make ringing more of a pastime and recreation than the real purpose it is intended.

In conclusion let me ask again—Is it proper to smoke in a church tower? and I trust that the clergy may also attend to the conduct of towers and see that the ringer who fills the position of captain is worthy of the position. I trust I shall see some opinions passed upon this subject, and hope those ringers who are guilty of this action upon which I have spoken, will point out to me where they get their foundation from for smoking in the tower.

A MEMBER OF THE OXFORD GUILD.

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The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 1901.

AT the first opportunity which presents itself we have the greatest pleasure in complimenting that distinguished company of change-ringers who on the 15th instant succeeded at the church of St. Stephen, Westminster, in ringing a silent peal of London Surprise! We hear that this grand performance was accomplished without a hitch, though the ringing-room is very far from being one of the best for essays of such a complex nature. Our sometime facetious contributor, whose remarks may be read elsewhere, is of opinion that this is the finest feat of change-ringing on tower bells ever accomplished. And most people will be found to agree with him. The St. Stephen's section of the College youths have made a record which many other companies will be loth to attack.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Central Council will be held at Derby, on Whit-Tuesday, May 28th. Notices of motion should be sent in before 30th April, which is the last day on which they can be received. Hon. Secretaries of Societies are respectfully reminded that the contributions for the year 1901 became due on the 1st inst., and should be remitted *without needless delay*, at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each elected representative, to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Council, together with information as to any change of representatives, and the names and addresses of such as have been appointed since the last meeting of the Council.

H. EARLE BULWER, *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.*
Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn.

The Metropolis.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 14, 1901, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, CLERKENWELL,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES. Tenor 22 cwt.

ISAAC G. SHADE	*Treble.*	ERNEST PYE	5.
BERTRAM PREWETT	2.	ALFRED W. BRIGHTON ..	6.
GEORGE N. PRICE	3.	HARRY FLANDERS	7.
JOHN R. SHARMAN	4.	WILLIAM PYE	*Tenor.*

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF, and Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Rung with the bells half muffled as a token of respect to the late Bishop London.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WALWORTH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

ARTHUR HARDY..	*Treble.*	ERNEST H. OXENHAM ..	5.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE	2.	WILLIAM SHEPHERD.. ..	6.
THOMAS LANGDON	3.	FERRIS J. SHEPHERD ..	7.
FREDERICK G. PERRIN ..	4.	WALTER LONGLEY	*Tenor.*

Conducted by THOMAS LANGDON.

The ringers wish to thank the Rev. J. W. Horsley for the use of the bells, and Mr. H. Gummer for having everything in readiness. This is the first attempt at a peal with a bob bell, by the ringer of the 5th.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 10, 1901, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, HAMMERSMITH,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'S.
Tenor 15 cwt.

HUBERT EDEN	*Treble.*	GEORGE R. FARDON.. ..	5.
BERTRAM PREWETT	2.	JOHN R. SHARMAN	6.
GEORGE N. PRICE	3.	ERNEST PYE	7.
WILLIAM PYE	4.	ARTHUR T. KING	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

First peal in the method on the bells.

The Provinces.

BROMBOROUGH, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—WIRRAL BRANCH.

On Wednesday, January 9, 1901, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
TAYLOR'S SIX-PART. Tenor 24 cwt.

JAMES PICKIN	*Treble.*	FRANK JONES	5.
JOSEPH SHONE	2.	JAMES DILLON	6.
JOSEPH WOODS	3.	THOMAS HUGHES	7.
JOHN OLLERHEAD	4.	HENRY REYNOLDS	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES DILLON.

First peal by H. Reynolds. First peal in the method by J. Shone. Rang on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Ethel Johnson, daughter of William Johnson, Esq., shipowner, to Professor Boyce, of Liverpool University College.

ASHSTEAD, SURREY.

THE SURREY COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

HENRY SYCAMORE	*Treble.*	HARRY CORBETT	5.
HENRY PEDERICK	2.	EDWARD T. GROVE	6.
JOHN BEAMS	3.	CHARLES E. READ	7.
HARRY G. BEAMS	4.	GEORGE PRICE	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JOHN BEAMS.

This peal, which is a variation of Penning's five-part, is now rung for the first time.

HELMSHORE, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.
Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY STEFF	*Treble.*	ROBERT WALLWORK	5.
THOMAS P. BRANDWOOD ..	2.	JOSEPH BANKS	6.
JOSEPH FOSTER	3.	THOMAS WALLWORK.. ..	7.
JOHN H. ENTWISTLE ..	4.	JAMES H BANKS	*Tenor.*

Composed by B. ANNABLE, and Conducted by JAMES H. BANKS.

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

CHESTER.—THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-ON-THE-HILL,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REEVES'S VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

JAMES SWAINSON	*Treble.*	JAMES MOULTON	5.
WILLIAM SCONCE	2.	HENRY DEW	6.
JOHN SCONCE*	3.	WILLIAM MOULTON	7.
ARTHUR PRINCE..	4.	JOHN TOMLINSON	*Tenor.*

Conducted by JAMES MOULTON.

*First peal. First peal on the bells, and was performed by the ringers of St. Mary's parish church, Without-the-Walls, Chester.

ERDINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. THOMAS AND EDMUND,
A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

BERNARD W. WITCHELL..*Treble.*		CHARLES DICKENS	5.
JOHN BARBER	2.	HARRY WITHERS	6.
PHILIP W. DAVIS	3.	WILLIAM H. BARBER ..	7.
WILLIAM T. ELLIS	4.	THOMAS REYNOLDS ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by the late HENRY JOHNSON, and Conducted by BERNARD W. WITCHELL.

This is the first peal of Major on the bells.

MELBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. MICHAEL'S SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.
Tenor 16 cwt.

FRANK PARSONS..	*Treble.*	LEWIS HOLLINGWORTH ..	5.
GEORGE TOMLIN	2.	CHARLES DRAPER	6.
FRED HOLLINGWORTH ..	3.	SAMUEL MASKERY	7.
HARRY HOLLINGWORTH ..	4.	WILLIAM EARLE	*Tenor.*

Composed by A. E. BAMES, of Melbourne, Australia, and Conducted by F. HOLLINGWORTH.

First peal by the treble man. This peal is now rung for the first time. The figures will appear in due course. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Thomas Hollingworth, President of the above Society, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns. S. Maskery and C. Draper hails from Derby.

WIRKSWORTH, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 14½ cwt. in F.

GEORGE THOMPSON ..	*Treble.*	†JOHN WARDMAN	5.
WILLIAM FOX	2.	JOHN W. THOMPSON	6.
REV. REGINALD STOWELL*	3.	*HENRY GEORGE	7.
BENJAMIN GREATOREX† ..	4.	ALBERT E. THOMPSON	*Tenor.*

Composed by JOHN CARTER, and
Conducted by ALBERT E. THOMPSON.

*First peal. †First peal in the method. First peal of Major on the bells Messrs. Thompson hail from Derby; George from Ripley; the remainder are of the local band.

MARGATE, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lbs.

WILLIAM E. PITMAN	*Treble.*	PHILIP H. PIERCE	5.
REV. A. L. BRINE	2.	ARTHUR H. SAXBY	6.
HARRY BARTON	3.	GEORGE WILLSHIRE	7.
BEN REED	4.	HARRY WELLARD ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by HARRY BARTON.

Treble hails from Ospringe, 3rd from Deal, 4th and 7th from Quex Park, Birchington, 5th from Canterbury, tenor from St. Lawrence. 2nd and the 6th are local. This is the first peal since the re-hanging of the bells, also the first since 1865, the previous one to that being rung in 1824. The easy go of the bells reflect great credit on the skilful way that Messrs Taylor and Co., re-hung them, which had been unringable for so many years. 3rd and 4th were elected members of Kent County Association previous to starting.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

ANNABLE'S

NOAH HOLYOAKE ..	*Treble.*	SAMUEL SPITTLE	5.
ADOLPHUS ROBERTS	2.	WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT	6.
JOHN W. SMITH	3.	JOHN GODFREY	7.
HENRY PRICE	4.	JOHN GODFREY	*Tenor.*

Conducted by WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT.

Mr. J. Godfrey, for whom this peal was arranged, hails from Pershore.

BROMSGROVE, WORCESTERSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS'S FIVE-PART.

WILLIAM H. GODDEN	*Treble.*	WILLIAM PAGE	5.
SAMUEL REEVES	2.	HERBERT KNIGHT	6.
THOMAS HORTON	3.	JAMES E. GROVES	7.
WILLIAM R. SMALL	4.	OLIVER JAMES	*Tenor.*

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

First peal of Stedman Triples on the bells. The ringer of the treble is from Handsworth; 2 and 3 from West Bromwich; 4 from Tipton; 5 from Worcester; 6 and 7 from Wolverhampton; the tenor man from Bromsgrove.

BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 12, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

JOHN WARD*	*Treble.*	ALFRED E. REEVES	5.
ALICE WHITE	2.	HENRY WHITE	6.
CHARLES HOLDAWAY ..	3.	CHARLES GILES	7.
ERNEST BRUCE	4.	*FRANK H. MILLS ..	*Tenor.*

Conducted by CHARLES GILES.

*First peal. Rung as a birthday compliment to F. H. Mills.

BRIGHTON, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 14, 1901, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,

5056 **CHANGES.** Tenor 10½ cwt.

JNMES N. FROSSELL ..	*Treble.*	FRANK BENNETT	5.
GEORGE F. ATTREE	2.	ROBERT J. DAWE	6.
GEORGE BAKER	3.	GEORGE A. KING	7.
GEORGE SMART	4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by FRANK BENNETT, and
Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Rung as a birthday compliment to G. F. Attree, who received the usual congratulations after its completion. This composition is now rung for the first time.

STANSTED, ESSEX.—THE ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, January 14, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, York, Durham, Bristol, Lichfield, Worcester, and Chichester. Tenor 13 cwt.

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

Conducted by WILLIAM WATTS.

†First peal in seven Surprise methods. The peal was rung to commemorate the 68th birthday of J. Cavill. This makes the conductor's 50th 720 Worcester Surprise.

GUILDFORD, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(THE HOLY TRINITY SOCIETY).

On Tuesday, January 15, 1901, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

ARTHUR FRANKUM† ..	*Treble.*	JOHN H. GRUNDY	5.
GEORGE FOSTER†	2.	WILLIAM T. LIGHTFOOT ..	6.
ALFRED H. PULLING† ..	3.	CHARLES WILLSHIRE ..	7.
GEORGE GUNNER†	4.	FRANK BLONDELL ..	*Tenor.*

Composed by A. T. KING, and Conducted by FRANK BLONDELL.

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

READING, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Wednesday, January 16, 1901, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF THURSTANS'S FOUR-PART. Tenor 28 cwt.

HENRY TUCKER	*Treble.*	CHARLES CHAPMAN	5.
FRANK HOPGOOD	2.	ALFRED E. REEVES	6.
AMBROSE OSBORNE	3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON ..	7.
CHARLES GILES	4.	A. WHATMORE	*Tenor.*

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

DEFECTIVE REPORT.—The peal of Stedman Caters rung at St. Albans has been sent without date and time of performance.

Date Touches.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(ICKLETON BRANCH).

ELMDON (Essex),—On Saturday, December 1st, a date touch of Doubles, 1900 changes, in 1 hour, being a 6-score each of Oxford, Canterbury, April Day, three 6-scores and 40 of Old Doubles, seven 6-score and 60 of Grandsire, each 6-score called differently. F. Bowtell 1; E. Webb, 2; P. Webb, (conductor), 3; A. Lilley, 4; J. Webb, 5; F. Crick, 6. Tenor 11 cwt. in G. First date touch on the bells.

Miscellaneous.

THE ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

COLCHESTER (Essex).—On Tuesday evening, November 27th, at St. Peter's church, for practice, 704 Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Newman, 1; W. Button, 2; S. Wolfe, 3; G. Burch, 4; F. Bumpstead, 5; R. Stannard, 6; H. Dransfield, 7; W. Schofield (conductor), 8. Also a course of Stedman Triples, and a course of Kent Treble Bob Major, on handbells. W. Newman, 1-2; J. Kettle (a blind man), 3-4; H. Dransfield, 5 6; R. Stannard, 7-8. H. Dransfield belongs to Salford.

HARWICH (Essex).—On Thursday, Octeber 18th, for practice, 120 Stedman Doubles, with the tenor covering. A. Redwood, 1; G. Knock, 2; G. Thompson, 3; G. Moss, 4; A. Morris (conductor), 5; C. Ellis, 6. Also 504 Grandsire Triples. W. Durrant, 1; A. Redwood, 2; C. Ellis, 3; G. Knock, 4; G. Moss, 5; G. Thompson, 6; A. Morris (conductor, 7; F. Borrett, 8. On Sunday, November 25th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. W. Durrant, 1; A. Redwood, 2; C. Ramplin, 3; G. Knock, 4; G. Moss, 5; G. Thompson, 6; A. Morris (conductor), 7; F. Borrett, 8. Composed by A. N. Wood.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTH.

LONDON.—On Sunday, November 4th, at the residence of Mr. J. Judd, on handbells retained in hand, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes. A. F. Harris, 1-2; H. P. Harman (conductor), 3-4; C. F. Winnny, 5-6; J. Judd, 7-8. Longest length upon handbells by Messrs. A. F. Harris and J. Judd.

THE NORTH NOTTS. ASSOCIATION.

WEST RETFORD.—On Wednesday, November 14th, 1900, 720 Bob Minor. F. Phillips, 1; A. Palfreman (first 720 in any method), 2; H. Hurst, 3; C. Metcalfe, 4; G. R. Winter, 5; C. Crawford (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, November 28th, 720 Bob Minor. H. Palfreman (first 720), 1; A. Palfreman, 2; F. Phillips, 3; *C. Metcalfe (conductor), 4; G. R. Winter, 5; H. Hurst, 6. *First 720 as conductor.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

PORTSEA (Hants.)—On Sunday evening, September 2nd, for Divine service, 504 Stedman Triples. J. Harper, 1; J. Gould, 2; P. M. Hannam, 3; J. J. Symons, 4; A. D. Stone, 5; A. C. Collins, 6; E. C. Newman (conductor), 7; H. C. Ingram, 8. Also on Sunday morning, September 9th, for Divine service, 404 Grandsire Triples. W. Cramb (first 504), 1; P. M. Hannam, 2; J. Harper, 3; J. J. Symons (conductor), J. T. Matthews, 5; J. Harris, 6; E. C. Newman, 7; H. C. Ingram 8. Also for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples. J. Harris, 1; P. M. Hannam, 2; C. Groves, 3; J. J. Symons, 4; J. T. Matthews, 5; E. C. Newman, 6; A. C. Collins (conductor), 7; H. C. Ingram, 8. Also on Sunday morning, September 16th, for Divine service, with the bells half-muffled, showing a token of respect to the late Thomas Taylor, who passed away, Monday, September 10th. For twelve years he was the verger of the parish church. 336 Grandsire Triples. W. Cramb, 1; P. M. Hannam, 2; C. Groves, 3; J. Harper, 4; J. T. Matthews, 5; E. C. Newman, 6; J. Harris (conductor), 7; H. C. Ingram, 8. Also on Sunday evening, September 16th, for Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins. *F. S. Wilson (first quarter-peal), 1; P. M. Hannam (first quarter-peal on an inside bell, 2; G. Groves, 3; J. J. Symons (conductor), 4; J. T. Matthews, 5; J. Harris, 6; E. C. Newman, 7; H. C. Ingram, 8. *Hails from St. Mary's, Abergavenny. Also on Sunday evening, September 23rd, for Divine Service, 504 Grandsire Triples. F. S. Wilson, 1; J. Harper, 2; G. Groves, 3; J. J. Symons (conductor), 4; J. T. Matthews, 5; J. Harris, 6; J. Gould, 7; H. C. Ingram, 8. Also on Sunday evening, October 14th, for Divine Service, 504 Grandsire Triples. W. Cramb, 1; J. Harris, 2; C. Groves, J. J. Symons (conductor), 4; E. C. Newman, 5; A. C. Collins, 6; J. Gould, 7; J. T. Matthews, 8. Also on Sunday evening, November 11th, for Divine Service, 504 Grandsire Triples. W. Cramb, 1; P. M. Hannam, 2; C. Groves, 3; J. J. Symons (conductor), 4; J. Harper, 5; J. T. Matthews, 6; E. C. Newman, 7; H. C. Ingram, 8.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

BARNET (Herts.)—On October 6th, the day of the funeral of A. J. Chidwick, one of the local members, the bells were rung muffled, as a token of respect by members of the above Association, the following members taking part: A. T. King, F. A. Milne, E. Dolton, A. E. Dolton, W. F. Dolton, J. Wittey, W. J. Baldwin, J. Sumpter, J. R. Sharman, A. Glasscock, W. J. Dell, J. Wicks. On October 15th, for practice, 500 Grandsire Triples. W. F. Dolton, 1; E. Marshall, 2; W. J. Dell, 3; J. Sumpter, 4; J. Armstrong, 5; C. H. Martin (conductor), 6; J. Miller, 7; E. Dolton, 8. Also two courses of Stedman Triples. E. Marshall, 1, J. Armstrong, 2; W. J. Dell, 3; J. Sumpter, 4; C. H. Martin, 5; F. A. Milne, 6; J. Miller, 7; A. T. King, 8. Also a touch of Grandsire Triples. J. Cornell, 2; the rest as before. On October 26th, on the back six, 120 Grandsire Doubles. W. Baldwin, 1; J. Sumpter, 2; A. T. King, 3; F. A. Milne, 4; W. Dell, 5; W. Dolton, 6 On November 18th, 504 Grandsire Triples. W. J. Baldwin, 1; J. R. Sharman (conductor), 2; J. Wittey, 3; J. Sumpter, 4; W. J. Dell, 5; F. A. Milne, 6; W. F. Dolton, 7; A. T. King, 8. On November 19th, 504 Grandsire Triples, conducted by J. Armstrong. Also 336 Bob Major, conducted by J. Miller.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN BRANCH).

BURNLEY (Lancashire).—On Sunday, October 14th, at Holy Trinity church, 576 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; R. Hartley, 3; T. Burrows, 4; D. Campbell, 5; N. Townend, 6; R. Ashworth, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8 Also 672 Oxford. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; W. Walton, 3; R. Hartley, 4; T. Redman (conductor), 5; N. Townend, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; R. Ashworth, 8. On Sunday, October 21st, 640 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; W. Walton, 3; T. Burrows, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; N. Townend, 7; T. Redman (conductor) 8 On Sunday, October 28th, 720 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; T. Burrows, 3; R. Hartley, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. Also 672 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; R Hartley, 4; D. Campbell, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Redman (conductor), 7; T. Townend, 8. On Sunday, November 4th, 720 Bob Minor. T. Burrows, 1; W. Walton, 2; R. Hartley, 3; R. Ashworth, 4; T. Mouncey, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 8. Also 448 Bob Major. T. Burrows, 1; W. Walton, 2; N. Townend, 3; D. Campbell, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Sunday, November 11th, 720 Bob Minor. T. Burrows, 1; W. Walton, 2; R. Hartley, 3; R. Ashworth, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. Also 640 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; N. Townend, 3; R. Hartley, 4; J. W. Stirk, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor) 8. On Sunday, November 25th, 720 Oxford. J. R. Eastwood, 1; T. Burrows, 2; R. Hartley, 3 R. Ashworth, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman, 6. Also 720 Canterbury Pleasure. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; R. Hartley, 3; R. Ashworth, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. On Thursday, November 29th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure. J. R. Eastwood, 1; T. Burrows, 2; R. Ashworth, 3; R. Hartley, 4; N. Townend, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PORTISHEAD (Somerset).—On November 29th, at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Bob Triples. J. Nesbitt, 1; G. Tippett, 2; J. Wyell, (first on a bob bell), 3; A. Gale, 4; S. Moore, 5; W. Gillingham, 6; *E. Knight (conductor), 7; C. Urch, 8. *First as conductor.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

LEISTON (Suffolk).—On Saturday, December 1st, at St. Margaret's church, for practice, 960 Oxford Treble Bob Major. A. Button, 1; W. Taylor, 2; H. J. Button, 3; C. Bailey, 4; A. J. Lincoln (conductor), 5; C. Samson, 6; J. M. Button, 7; E. Bailey, 8 Tenor 20½ cwt. in E.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

WIRKSWORTH (Derbyshire).—On Monday evening, November 12th, for practice, 800 Bob Major. F. Turner, 1; Rev. A. T. Beeston, 2; Rev. R. Stowell, 3; F. Johnson, 4; J. Wardman, 5; B. Greatorex, 6; H. George, 7; W. Fox (conductor), 8.

WARWICK.—On Thursday, November 29th, at St. Mary's church, for practice, 336 Grandsire Triples, with 9-7-8 covering. W. G. Dickins, 1; A. W. Brighton, 2; W. Collett, 3; H. Letts, 4; E. Brassington, 5; J. Jones, 6; E. H. Adams (conductor), 7; C. Kemp, 8; T. Rose, 9; G. Barnacle, 10. Also 168 Grandsire Triples. F. Salt, 2; A. W. Brighton, 6; the rest as before.

WOOLWICH (Kent).—On Sunday, November 25th, at St. Mary's church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins. H. Harman, 1; J. G. Beaven, 2; H. G. Hill (conductor), 3; J. E. Sykes, 4; J. C. Harvey, 5; A. Phillip, 6; W. J. Aldridge, 7; G. Carter, 8.

MEMORIALS in "Latten" Brass and Marble; Church Fittings in Brass and Wrought Iron, by GAWTHORP, Craftsman to H.M. the Queen and H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, 16, Long Acre, London. A special illustrated price-list for the Clergy and others post free on application.

THE ST. ANDREW'S SOCIETY, RUGBY.

On Thursday evening, January 10th, the above society gave a farewell dinner at The Bull hotel to Mr. George Petrie, clerk of works at the new post office, who is about to move elsewhere. The hon. secretary, Mr. Arthur Coleman, presided, with Mr. James George, ringing master, in the vice-chair. Host Lane, a member of the society, provided an excellent dinner which was well served up, justice being done to all.

The Chairman called upon Mr. James George to give the toast of the evening, and also a small present, viz. :—a silver mounted pipe and case on behalf of members of the society as a token of esteem and good fellowship to their departing friend whose society all have much appreciated during his ten months sojourn with them.

Mr. Petrie said he was completely taken by surprise, and did not know how to find words to thank one and all for the kind remarks from the ringing master and also the present to him on behalf of the Society. With regard to the art of change-ringing he believed in a man when he took up the art to put his whole heart and soul in it, and not go about it like some do in a half-hearted way, viz. : come one week and miss the next, or perhaps when one just thinks of it, and turning up late at the meetings for practice. Such members will be found in all societies, and such apathy all must try their best to prevent—one and all.

After this Grandsire Triples and Bob Major was rung on hand bells, interspersed with songs, &c., but alas came too soon the hour of 11 o'clock, when all had to part, after having spent a most enjoyable and happy evening.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Hurstpierpoint Branch.

The annual dinner of the above branch was held on New Year's Day, at The Chinese Gardens, an excellent spread being provided by host Fuller, late of St. Peter's, Brighton. In the unavoidable absence of the Rector, the Rev. R. A. C. Bevan, the chair was taken by his colleague, the Rev. A. K. Boyd, being supported by several of the local tradesmen, including Messrs. Russell, Banks, Brooker, Morley, Myall, etc., also Mr. G. Williams, Hon. Dis. Secretary of the Sussex Association. The absence of Mr. W. B. Davey, through illness, Secretary of the local band, was regretted by all. The toast of the Queen and Royal Family was given by the Chairman, and drank with enthusiasm.

Mr. Morley then proposed "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," Corporal Lambert, a member of the local band, responding.

Mr. Williams, in proposing the toast of the Hurstpierpoint Bellringers, urged on them to do their level best to make themselves an efficient change-ringing band of the Association, as they were most fortunate in having such an excellent Rector, giving them every encouragement to make progress, as well as taking an active part himself; and with the assistance of Mr. Fuller, all those who had not already done so, ought to at least ring a peal this year. Mr. Fuller responded, saying he was sure they were making progress, although perhaps slowly.

The next toast, "The Visitors," was given by the Chairman, coupling the names of Mr. Williams and Mr. Banks. Mr. Williams, they all knew well, and he (the Chairman), was pleased to say what a great improvement there was in the ringing since the band had been under his instruction. Mr. Banks, he understood, had just come to reside in the parish, and he hoped they should soon get to know each other well. Mr. Williams and Mr. Banks responded.

Mr. A. Davey then proposed the health of the Chairman, who he regretted to say, was shortly leaving them for a new sphere of labour. The Chairman, in acknowledging the toast, thanked Mr. Davey for his kind remarks, and although he should be shortly leaving them, he hoped to see them very often, as Mrs. Boyd's home was at Hurstpierpoint. He was only going about eight miles distant, to Slangham, and he and Mrs. Boyd would be pleased to see the Hurstpierpoint ringers there any time, although they had only five bells at his new church at present.

The health of the Rector was proposed by Mr. Williams. The Host (Mr. Fuller), by Mr. Morley.

Between the toasts, and during the evening, songs were rendered by Messrs. A. Gander, Russell, Stenning, Ringsland, Sparks, Fuller, Sayers, and Private Smith (Sussex Volunteers), who has just returned from South Africa. Mr. Spark's song, "Famgan's Fare, highly delighted the company, for which he was encored. Tunes were also rung on the handbells by Messrs. Mansbridge, T. Gander, A. Gander, and H. Kingsland. Also pianoforte solos by Mr. A. A. Fuller.

Obituary.

WALTER DAVIS.

(Of Thornbury, Gloucestershire.)

His brother ringers deeply deplore the loss of their captain for many years, who died Thursday last at his residence in Thornbury, after a long and painful disease. Although very interested in ringing he has done very little inside ringing, preferring to ring the treble, which he has rung to two peals.

The first peal he helped to ring was in the Jubilee year, 1887, being the first peal by any of the local band. His last ringing was with his comrades at St. George the Martyr, London, August last being their annual outing. He was laid to rest in the cemetery, Monday, January 14th, amid a throng of sympathising friends.

Eight of the handbells he used to love to ring were tied in pairs with white ribbons and placed across the coffin. The cortege was met at the church gates by the Vicar, Rev. A. W. Cornwall, and Rev. A. H. Williams, curate. The opening sentences of the beautiful burial service was taken by the curate, also the Psalm, the Vicar taking the lesson. As the procession left the church the organist played a funeral march.

The remainder of the service at the grave was conducted by the Vicar, at the conclusion of which four of the oldest members rung the hand-bells over the grave.

The coffin bore the following inscription: Walter Davis, died January 10th, 1901, aged 52.

The following rang on the tower bells immediately afterwards a ¼-peal of Grandsire Triples with the bells deeply muffled. W. Symes, 1; A. Burchell, 2; A. B. Phelps, 3; F. K. Howell, 4; C. Eddington, 5; T. Alsopp, 6; J. J. Poole (conductor), 7; W. Hollister, 8. First-quarter peal by ringer of treble and tenor.

SAMUEL HALL.

(Of Rugby.)

The above change-ringer removed from Northampton to Rugby about two years ago, being very unwell at that time. For the last 18 months he suffered much from paralysis. His record as a peal ringer was not great although he was much attached to the art. He was born Nov.' 24th, 1855, and died December 11th, 1900, being 45 years of age. He was much respected by all ringers that knew him, and leaves a widow and two children to mourn their loss.

Mr. W. H. Jenkin, the popular and respected village blacksmith at Madron, who is now nearly 83 years of age, was much admired by a goodly number of spectators at the Madron church belfry after the watchnight service on Monday night, on account of the steady way in which he rang the fifth bell, round after round, with the younger members, three of whom were his two sons and one a grandson. Captain Jenkin also fell his bell at the close, which is no easy work for one of such years.—*The Cornishman.*

WANTED, secondhand set of handbells, 10 to 20, in good condition. Particulars to R. Whittington, Winterfold, Cranleigh.

MILD AND BITTER.

When Shipway compiled his "Campanologia," he said of London Surprise: "It seems to have received some partial practice by the Ancient Society of College Youths; and was dropped, probably because of its intricacy," etc. What would Shipway have said, I wonder; had he lived to see last week's "BELL NEWS" containing that brilliant performance of Silent London Surprise!

I raise my hat and make my most profound bow to the boys of Rochester Row, for they are champions—with a big C. When I was informed of their feat—thro' my private secretary—I naturally expected some sort of footnote, bht as they are too modest, it shall never be said that your humble servant did other than give honour it's due. Whoa! Pegasus.

Bravo!
Rochester Row.
Your silent peal of London
Is top of the poll;
And ages may roll,
But it never will be undone.

The College Youths thus start the century exceedingly well, and in my opinion this peal is the finest feat of change-ringing on tower bells ever accomplished.

* * * *

Some men are born great, some achieve, and some have greatness thrust upon them. It is fairly bring thrust on Father Newell of Reading. Who would have thought that his innocent little homily would have caused such a stir and heavy correspondence, the like of which we had not seen since Le affaire Kidlington or the "Bob Lead" puzzle? I have a sporting friend who has read the correspondence carefully week by week and who summarises in the following callous manner: "Have a little bit on Daniell, he is all wool and a yard wide."

* * * *

I see by the note to a Birmingham peal that the Master of St. Martin's Guild has called within the space of four months everything from Minor to Maximus! This is good business. I happen to know the worthy Master, but as he does'nt know me I have not the slightest compunction in strumming my harp in his honour:—

William Short—St. Martin's Guild,
Good old sort—Sturdy build,
Mine is hot—This with me
You have got—Ability.
With good old port—May you be filled
And so you ought—(and something grilled.)
You call and ring—and never shelve
Anything—to Treble Twelve
Good old sort of sturdy build
Is Master Short of Martin's Guild.

There, my masters, is something ode and paid. I really think the price of the paper will have to be raised to keep up the dignity of my office. Here you have a real live poet at your pleasure, inspired by the Elixir of the Muses, and the finest Hybeæn Juice Burton-on-Trent ever produced. You cannot expect Shakespear for a penny, besides, he is dead—altho' were my friend William alive I would not be averse to shewing him how these things are jerked, which might enable him to save his Bacon, so to speak. Bell-ringing and poetry are well mated. If anyone should think otherwise I would respectfully beg of him to "Glue his nose" on to the next paragraph.

* * * *

'Whilst welcoming electricity as a motive power for trains or trams, let us utter a protest against the needless wounding of æsthetic feeling by the proposal of an Essex clergyman to ring church bells by electricity. Does this gentleman simply regard church bells as useful machines for calling people to church? Is the poetry of bell-ringing, is the beauty of the labour it entails, lost on him?"—*Home Counties Magazine.*

Well, I should answer in the affirmative, or rather; echo answers it with the three last words of the paragraph, and not only is it lost on him; but on many more clergy and churchwardens who care not a fig as long as church bells can give utterance to the Sunday chime. In these cases it would be considered irreverent to suggest that still further improvement might sometimes be made by the delivery of a good sermon by phonograph or telephone!

* * * *

Any doubts regarding the new century ought now to be set at rest. Whether it started last year or this no man knows with certainty, and there is just as much reason on either side.

Still, whatever opinion my readers may be, there is no doubt that we are now in the 20th cycle.

Like many other mortals, we ringers all I hope made some good resolution. I don't mind confessing that I did. When a man has lived between thirty and forty years, and has seen how the beauties of nature in all its forms have been debased by the curse of drink; it is enough to give him pause. I have a (cadaverous-looking) friend who pictured to me the ecstatic bliss of a teetotaler's life, combined with vegetarianism. I migh: mention that he sleeps with window open all winter and glories when the snow lies on the foot of his bed. He also delights in supping off a jug of cold water and an apple; and—in short—he converted me.

After we had rang the new century in, the first house I entered I had to encounter the flowing bowl, but I resisted. Day after day I fought the battle of temperance intact, without a hole in my armour. Friends enquired afrer my health as tho' they suspected some disease was gnawing my vitals—*but I knew.* Night after night I retired on my jug of cold water in about as cheerful a mood as a prisoner does. Then the blizzard came! I shall put it down to the blizzard. I was ready to perish, and therefore a fit and proper subject for something with more body in it than *aqua pura* possesses. Man alive! It was TARRIBLE!! I withstood it all until twenty-five minutes past twelve on the 6th inst., when the head of mine host appeared above the curtain on the lookout (for this is the law and the profits), I telegraphed him that it was unconditional surrender.

Total abstention may be a glorious thing. There may be beatitudes in it unknown to the stomach that needs encouragement, but tho' like Barkis, the spirit is willing, my flesh is weak; and a dinner off a knob of ice and a pickled onion won't agree with the internal administration of

JINGLE.

*** Ringers in want of situations requiring a free advertisement in this paper, must in future have their communications addressed to themselves.

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.

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 Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.—The quarterly meeting in connection with the above Society will be held to-day, Saturday, January 19th, at the parish church, Stafford, where a short service will be held at 5 p.m. Committee meeting at 5.30.

S. REEVES, *Hon. Sec.*
10, *Bull Street West, Bromwich.*

The Yorkshire Association. — The 25th annual meeting will be held at Sheffield, to-day, Saturday, January 19th. Service in the parish church at 4 o'clock, with sermon by the Rev. Canon Nolleth, of Beverley, at which the Ven. Archdeacon Eyre, Rev. F. G. Sandford, Rev. C. F. Knight, and other clergy, will assist. Tea at 5 o'clock in the Wostenholm Hall, Queen-street, followed by the business meeting in the same place. The rings at the parish church; All Saints, Brightside; St. Mary's, Norfolk Row; Norton; and Walkley, will be at the disposal of visitors. The local Hon. Sec. is Mr. John Milligan, 251, Springdale Road, Walkley, Sheffield, to whom all communications respecting the day's arrangements should be sent. It is hoped there will be a large attendance to celebrate the "silver Jubilee" of the Association.

BEN T. COPLEY, *Hon. Sec.*
14, *Hillside Terrace, Bradford.*

The St. James's Society, London.—The Society having appointed Monday, January 21st, to receive the report of the Auditors, and to proceed to the election of officers, the attendance of members is particularly requested on that date, at St. Clement Danes, and afterwards at the meeting-room.

R. A. DANIELL, *Hon. Sec.*

The St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham.—The usual quarterly meeting will be held at The Tamworth Arms, Moor-street, Birmingham, on Tuesday, January 22nd. Chair to be taken at 8 30 p.m. As important business will come under consideration, the attendance of every member is earnestly requested.

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

St. Margaret's Society, Westminster.—The annual meeting and election of officers for the ensuing year, will be held on Thursday, January 24th. Ringing at 8 p.m. Members are requested to attend.

C. J. IRISH, *Hon. Sec.*

The Worcestershire and District Association.—The next quarterly and Committee meetings will be held, by kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. H. H. Dibben, at Brierley Hill, on Saturday, January 26th. The tower and bells will be open during the afternoon. Service in the church at 5 p.m. Business meeting to follow in the schoolroom. All subscription are due at this meeting, according to rule 8. A free tea will be provided for all members forwarding their names to me not later than Wednesday, January 23rd.

36, *Simms Lane, Netherton.* JOHN SMITH.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The monthly meeting will be held at Pudsey, on Saturday, January 26th. Meeting-house, The Royal hotel. A peal will be attempted at 2.30 prompt. Business meeting at 6.30. Handbells provided.

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

The Kent County Association.—Lewisham Branch.—The usual quarterly meeting, will be be held at St. Alfege's, Greenwich, on Saturday, January 26th. Tower open for ringing from 3 to 8 p.m. Committee meeting at 6 o'clock. Members' subscriptions are now due.

P. E. BEX, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*
Barnehurst, Bexleyheath.

The Midland Counties Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Loughborough, on Saturday, January 26th. Tower open at 2 p.m. Committee meeting at 4.30, tea at 5 o'clock, both in the Fearon Hall. The tea will be free, but will only be provided for those who have notified Mr. J. W. Taylor, jun., not later than Thursday, 24th inst., of their intention to be present.

W. E. WHITE, *Hon. Sec.*
Cotgrave, Notts.

The Sussex County Association.—Central Division.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Southover, Lewes, on Saturday, January 26th. Tower open 3.30 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.45, kindly provided by the Rector, the Rev. D. Lee Elliott. Members intending to be present, should let me know by Wednesday, 23rd.

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

N.B.—The meeting at Crawley, postponed from November 12th, 1900, will be held on Saturday, February 9th.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—East Berks. and South Bucks. Branch. — The annual meeting will be held at Great Marlow on Saturday, January 26th. Service in church at 5 p.m. Preacher—Rev. A. T. C. Cowie, Rector of Clewer. Tea in Boys' Schoolroom, 5.45. Business Meeting, 6.30. The bells will be available for ringing before the service and after the meeting. The number from each tower that will be present should be sent as soon as possible to Mr. W. E. Yates, Temple View, Station Road, Marlow.

H. C. BELL, *Branch Secretary.*

The Kent County Association.—Tonbridge District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Staplehurst on Saturday, January 26th. Tower open at 3. Committee Meeting at 4.15. Tea at 5 15 at The Bell inn. Members partaking of tea will be required to pay 6d. each, as it is impossible to procure a meat tea at Staplehurst for less than 1s. 6d. per head. Half travelling expenses up to 2s. each will be paid to members attending, whose subscriptions for the current year are paid. Members intending to be present are requested to inform the District Secretary not later than Wednesday, January 23rd.

W. LATTER, *Hon. Dis. Sec.*

Halifax and District Association.—The next meeting of the Association will be held at Lightcliffe on Saturday, January 26th. Bells ready from dinner. Business meeting at The White Horse at 6 o'clock.

WRIGHT INGHAM, *Sec.*

The Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association.—The annual meeting will be held at Gloucester, on Saturday, January 26th. Service in Cathedral at 4 o'clock. It is specially hoped members will make a point of attending. Meat tea at 4.30, at Garrett's Restaurant, sixpence to those sending notice to Hon. Sec. before January 21st. Business meeting after tea, the Archdeacon of Gloucester presiding at both. Ringing at Cathedral (8), from 2 till 4; S. Michael's (10), 7 till 8; Crypt (8), 8 till 9.

REV. H. E. TILNEY BASSETT, *Hon. Sec.*
26, *Long Street, Devizes, Wilts.*

Gloucester and Bristol Association.—Bristol Branch.—A meeting of this branch will be held at Almondsbury on Saturday, January 26th. There will be a short service held during the afternoon, followed by a business meeting.

C. H. GORDON, *Branch Sec.*

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Reading, on Monday, January 28th. St. Mary's tower open at 6.45 p.m., for short touch, followed by service at 7 p.m. Meat tea at Abbey Cafe, at 7.30, followed by business meeting and smoker. Price to members of branch, one shilling each. Names by 23rd inst., to A. W. PIKE.

43, *St. Bartholomew's Road, Reading.*

The Essex Association.—There will be a district meeting of the above Association at Great Bentley on Saturday, February 2nd. Tea and business meeting at 5 o'clock. Members proposing to attend must notify me by the previous Tuesday.

HENRY T. W. EYRE, *Asst. Sec.*
Great Totham.

Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association.—The next meeting will be held at Stokesley on Saturday, February 2nd. Tea (tickets 9d. each) at The Golden Lion at 5 p.m. The tower (six bells) will be open all day. Members intending to be present kindly inform the Secretary before January 29th. Subscriptions for 1901 are now due.

REV. W. P. WRIGHT, *Hon. Sec. and Treas.*
Stokesley, R.S.O.

FALSE COMPOSITION.—Mr. H. Dains and other correspondents write to say that the peal of Treble Bob by Mr. Charge, published last week, is false.

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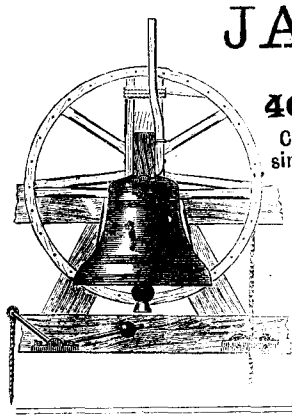
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