

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

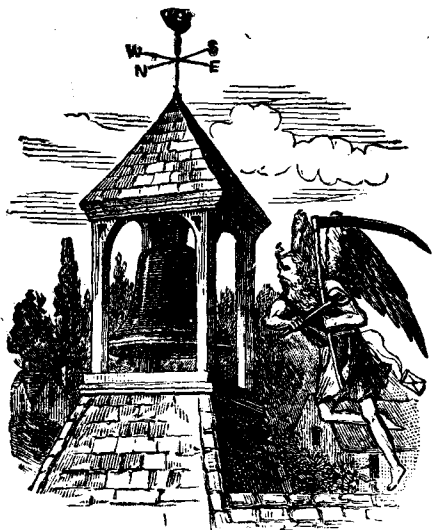
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise ; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No. 986.—VOL. XIX.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1901.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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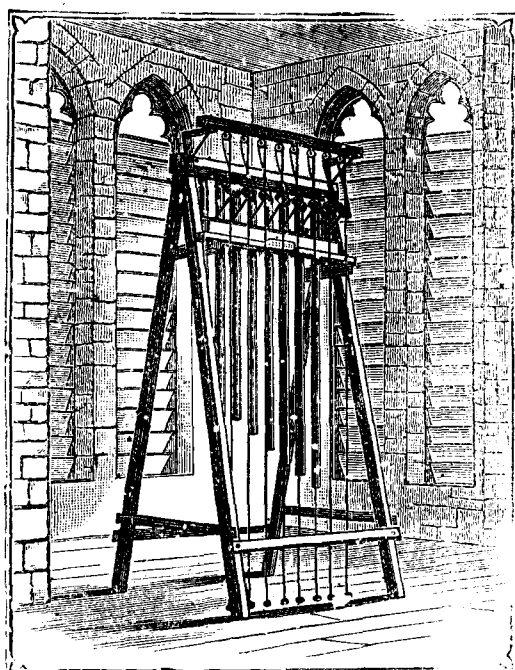
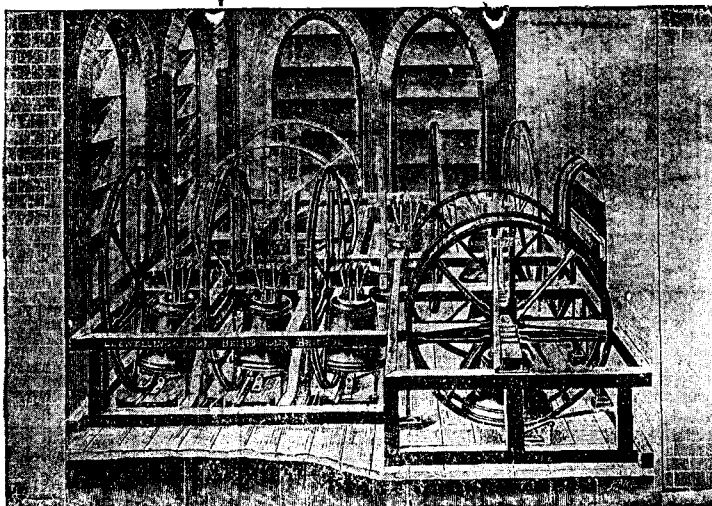
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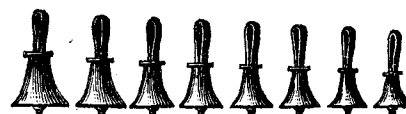
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 986.]

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1901.

[Vol. XIX.]

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

One of the most successful Quarterly Meetings during the past three years was held at Guildford on Saturday, February 16th. Representatives or members attended from Basingstoke, York Town, Chiddingfold, Fareham, Portsea, Hawley, Ewhurst, Cranleigh, Shalford, Ashted, Shere, Merrow, Godalming, Alton, while the two local companies attached to St. Nicolas and Holy Trinity mustered in force. Owing to sickness near the church, the St. Nicolas ring of ten was only kept going for an hour, but at the other church further opportunities for combined practice were given and made the most of.

Through the kindness of the Rev. W. S. Sanders, the business meeting was held in the St. Nicolas parish club at 3.30, the Master, the Rev. R. C. M. Harvey, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting at Bournemouth were read and passed. One hon. member and thirteen performing members were declared duly elected on the proposition of Mr. J. Hunt, seconded by Mr. M. Steer.

The Hon. Sec., the Rev. C. E. Matthews, then introduced the subject of the Hewett Memorial, which he said should be finally settled by the meeting. A list of subscriptions had appeared in "THE BELL NEWS," amounting to £11 1s. 9d., and the list was now closed. The expenses had only been six shillings, as Mr. Jones, their district Secretary for Guildford, had most kindly printed the necessary circulars gratis. An estimate for a Brass had been obtained for £7 10s. 0d., which, if accepted, would leave a balance in hand of £3 5s. 9d. It was for the meeting to decide how this balance should be spent.

Various propositions were made, a few being in favour of a small memorial on the grave, but it was pointed out that the fees for the erection of a small monument would swallow up the balance.

Mr. Pearce, of York Town, suggested that a photo of the brass should be taken and sent round to every band which had subscribed.

Finally it was determined that no memorial be erected in the Cemetery, but that the money collected be spent as far as possible upon the brass tablet.

The Secretary reported that the Rev. W. Lee, Vicar of Holy Trinity, Gosport, had generously allowed the Brass to be erected without any fee.

Mr. C. Willshire reported that peal No. 341, rung at Chiddingfold on June 17th, 1899, and conducted by himself, had proved to be false. He was very sorry, but felt it was his duty to report the matter in the interests of their Guild.

Notice was given by the Secretary of an addition to the rules. Since he had occupied the office of Treasurer there had been a little difficulty here and there about the subscriptions of performing members. He felt there should be some definite limit fixed, which should constitute membership or non-membership.

Gosport was chosen as the place of the next quarterly meeting, and the date was fixed for Saturday, April 27th, on which date it was hoped the Hewett Memorial Brass would be unveiled. The proceedings then terminated.

Forty-three members present then sat down to an ex-

cellent tea, which had been arranged by Mr. Jones. It is hardly necessary to add that the tea was as successful as the meeting. The hearty thanks of all present on the occasion are tendered to the Revs. Canon Grant and W. S. Sanders for their kind reception of the Guild.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. (LIVERPOOL BRANCH.)

The Monthly Meeting was held at Christ Church, Walton, on Saturday, the 16th ultimo. A fair number of ringers attended from Liverpool, Garston, Tuebrook, West Derby, Bootle and Southport. Ringing commenced about four o'clock, various six-bell methods being rung. The members were much gratified by the presence in the belfry of the Rev. Canon Leigh, Rector of the parish, who at 5.30 most kindly invited the ringers to tea in the schoolroom. The business meeting was held after tea was over, the Vicar in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed, and Garston was chosen as the next place of meeting, to take place in Easter week, Saturday, April 13th. Three new members of the local company were elected.

The Rector addressed the meeting and cordially welcomed those present. He regretted they had not a longer time together that day, as he would much like to have a short service in the church. He besought the ringers to have a due regard to their art as churchworkers, and trusted they would always in their ringing remember their loyalty as Christians to the Head of the Church.

Mr. Davies proposed, and Mr. Barton seconded a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector for the use of the bells and his kind hospitality.

The Secretary, in supporting the motion impressed upon the whole Branch the necessity of giving notice when any member intended being present at monthly meetings where the Rector or Vicar was kind enough to provide tea. It was fair neither to him or the Incumbent to receive notice from perhaps half a dozen ringers, and then on the day find not less than twenty present. The meetings were always advertised fourteen days previous in "THE BELL NEWS," and if every ringer took a copy of that paper no mistake could arise. He besought them in common politeness to remember this in the future.

Ringings was afterwards resumed in the tower.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. (MACCLESFIELD BRANCH.)

The Annual Meeting of the above Branch was held at Prestbury, on Saturday, February 9th. There were twenty-two members present from the various towers. An excellent knife and fork tea was partaken of at The Black Boy, after which the business meeting was held, the President of the Branch, the Rev. S. A. Boyd, being in the chair. The Rev. W. F. Bonsey was also present. The Rev. S. A. Boyd was re-elected President, and J. Norbury Secretary and Treasurer. Several touches were rung on the tower bells during the afternoon and evening.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIRRAL BRANCH.)

The monthly meeting of the above was held at Lower Bebington on Saturday, February 16th. The ringers were favoured with a very fine afternoon, the sun shining brilliantly, and this fact together with the knowledge of the warm welcome always given the members by Canon Feilden, no doubt accounted for an attendance above the average, no less than thirty being present. A little ringing was done prior to the meeting and tea at 6 p.m, but when we met at the schoolroom we learned with much regret that Canon Feilden would be unable to be present, as he was suffering from a severe cold; the chair in his absence however was filled by the Rev. A. P. Wood.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed, the Hon. Treasurer presented the accounts for the past year, which showed a creditable balance of £13 4s. 4d. in hand.

The meetings for the present year were then arranged, and after some discussion it was decided to hold the meetings every four weeks instead of every month.

The chairman was asked to convey to Canon Feilden the regret which the whole meeting felt at his absence, and the hope that he would soon be enjoying good health again, together with a hearty vote of thanks for his kind hospitality.

After the meeting a return was made to the church for another pull on the bells.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EASTERN BRANCH.)

The quarterly meeting of this branch was held on Saturday, February 16th, at Burgh, when members from Boston, Freiston, Skirbeck, and Kirton attended. Arriving at 1.30 and meeting a hearty welcome from some of the local ringers, the bells were raised in peal and a 504 Grandsire Triples was brought round, one of the locals ringing the treble. E. Clayton, J. M. Rylatt, A. O. Barber, F. Devoto, T. Boyers, W. F. Harwood, J. Blakley. After some Doubles with the locals a 1008 was brought round, conducted by J. M. Rylatt. A short service was held in the church which the ringers attended, then tea at The White Hart. After tea a business meeting was held in which the locals took great interest, and four of them joined the Association. After tea the tower was again visited, and a short touch of Bob Minor was rung by the Kirton men, there not being time for a 720 as they had to leave, the rest stayed till the mail train at 9.30 and rang a few more 120s of Bob Doubles with the locals, and a very successful was brought to a close.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A district meeting of the above was held on Saturday, February 16th. at Great Bentley. This place is the centre of an enthusiastic band of ringers, officered most ably by Mr. W. Nevard, and it was felt only right that a meeting should be held there to emphasise the fact. The Vicar, who has been an hon. member for some years, indeed joined the society at its formation in 1879, when he was curate of Barking, welcomed the ringers most warmly. Some good ringing was done there and at the adjoining church of Thorington. The business meeting at which both the Secretaries were able to be

present, took place after tea. Several new members were elected. The Secretaries wish it to be known that in future, peals for insertion in the peal-book should be sent with payment thereof direct to Mr. C. H. Howard, 37, Bank Street, Braintree, instead of the Assistant-Secretary.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A very pleasant afternoon was passed on February 9th in the belfry of St. Peter's church, the occasion being the opening of a peal-board recording three peals that have been rung on the bells. The Rev. H. Tilley gave a splendid address inviting the Bedford ringers to come as much as possible and learn the local band the art of change-ringing, and then drew away the curtain and brought to view the board, and accepted it as a gift to the church and an ornament to the belfry.

Mr. Manton then spoke on behalf of the churchwardens, and Mr. F. G. Crouch for the ringers.

The board was made by Mr. J. Church (Cople), to whom great credit is due, it being made of pine and wrote in Roman letters.

A move was then made to The Wheatsheaf, where the host and hostess had kindly provided a meat tea (gratis), and the evening was then spent in harmony, and ended with the National Anthem.

The following touches were rung in the afternoon: 720 Kent Treble Bob. F. J. Bird, C. W. Clarke, E. Coleman, J. Church, W. Freeman, W. J. Barker. 360 Oxford Bob. F. G. Crouch, W. J. Barker, W. Freeman, J. Church, C. W. Clarke, F. J. Bird. On Sunday morning, 720 Oxford Bob. F. Skevington, J. McGrath, F. J. Bird, J. Church, F. G. Crouch, C. W. Clarke (conductor). Also touches of Bob Minor.

A TRIO OF VETERANS.

On February 18th, 1846, Messrs. J. Comb, W. Cooter, and M. A. Wood rang together their first peal at St. Giles' church, Bloomsbury. The method was Grandsire Triples, and the conductor was the late George Stockham. In the long interval of fifty-five years since that peal was rung, most of those who took part in it have joined the majority, but the above three hale and hearty members still survive, and ring every Sunday at St. Matthew's church, Bethnal Green. A quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on Sunday evening, February, 10th, included the names of two of them, viz.—W. Cooter, 1; J. Scholes, 2; J. Bonney, 3; E. Hall, 4; M. A. Wood, 5; A. Barkus, 6; A. Hughes, 7; C. Kennedy, 8. On Monday, February 18th, Messrs. Comb, Cooter, and Wood, together with Mr. A. Barkus, met at the residence of Mr. A. Hughes for a pleasant evening to celebrate the fifty-fifth anniversary of their first peal. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung on handbells. W. Cooter, 1-2; A. Barkus (conductor), 3-4; M. A. Wood, 5-6; A. Hughes, 7-8.

Mr. Wood still ventures to take his place in a 5000 on the tower bells, and we trust that these three old College Youths may be spared to spend together many more anniversaries of their performance in '46.

MARGATE (Kent).—Recently at the parish church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, with 4-6-8 behind, in 47½ mins. G. Eves, 1; L. Shoobridge, 2; C. H. Player, 3; A. H. Saxby, 4; S. G. Twyman (conductor), 5; G. Enderby, 6; G. Willshire, 7; A. Kay, 8. Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr. 22 lbs. First quarter-peal since the restoration of the bells.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NEW MILLS SOCIETY.)

Two years ago last November a gift of six new bells (tenor 13½ cwt.) by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, was made to the parish church by James Hibbert, Esq., J.P., of Fern Bank, New Mills. The musical qualities of the bells have combined with the liberality of the donor to make the gift as popular a one as any yet made to the town. Change-ringing was unknown in the parish at that time, but two bands of ringers were at once formed, and with patient perseverance sustained by enthusiasm and encouraged by those in authority, substantial progress was made. A statement recently appeared in one of the local papers that the same gentleman had crowned his first gift by placing an order with Messrs. Taylor for two new trebles and so to compete the octave. Needless to say the information gave great pleasure, and the kindness and liberality of the donor is much appreciated. It is expected that the new bells will be ready for ringing immediately after Easter. In order that they might not be entirely strange to the difference between Minor and Major ringing when the time comes, arrangements were made for the second band of the local ringers to visit Reddish on Saturday, February 23rd, and to have a practice on the fine ring of eight there. Unfortunately these arrangements had to be cancelled almost at the last moment, owing to the preparations for the bye-election in the Stretford constituency being in full swing. Mr. Albert Barnes (Reddish), however, that there might be no disappointment, very kindly undertook the task of obtaining permission from the Rector of Birch-in-Rusholme to have access to his tower. In this he was successful, and together with Mr. Ryder of Birch, completed the other arrangements for the visit. This duly came off, and with the assistance of Mr. Barnes resulted in a very satisfactory practice of Bob Major, a 500, in addition to other touches, being rung. Encouraged by their experience there gained the band looks forward to its future work at Major ringing with confidence. It also desires to express its thanks to the Rectors of Reddish and Birch for permission to use their bells, and especially to Messrs. Barnes and Ryder for the very satisfactory arrangements they made, though at such short notice.

The following is a summary of the work done by the local band in their own tower since last October: 46 extents in nine Minor methods, made up as follows:—14 of Oxford, 8 of Violet, 6 of Duke of York, 5 of Woodbine, 3 of Kent, 6 of Plain Bob, one each of New London, Merchants' Return, College Single, and one extent in seven Treble Bob methods. Of these F. Holt and W. Lowery rang in 43, Rev. A. T. Beeston in 38, W. Marshall in 37, T. Ramsey in 35, S. Rutter in 31, J. H. Jackson and J. Robinson in 14, G. Hibbert in 8, J. W. Wilson, J. Ashton, and T. Brocklehurst (a visitor from Hayfield) in 3, J. G. Scattergood and David Brearley (a visitor from Bolsterstone) in 2. Eight shared in the conducting: Rev. A. T. Beeston, 23; S. Rutter, 15; W. Lowery, 9; F. Holt, 7; W. Marshall, 5; T. Ramsey, 4; G. Hibbert and D. Brearley, 2. The above number of extents does not include three peals rung during the same time; one in four methods (two Plain and two Treble Bob), one in seven methods (two Plain and five Treble Bob), and one in seven Treble Bob methods. Altogether, therefore, 67 Minor extents have been rung in nine methods, by 14 ringers, eight of whom have conducted two or more extents.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(TONBRIDGE DISTRICT.)

The annual meeting of the above was held at Staplehurst on Saturday, February 9th, and was attended by forty members from Benenden, Chiddingstone, Faversham, Headcorn, Maidstone, Penshurst, Sevenoaks, Seal Chart, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, and Westerham. Ringing commenced about 3 o'clock. At 5.30 the members sat down to an excellent meat tea provided at The Bell inn. The Rector of Staplehurst presided during the first part of the proceedings, but had to leave early to conduct a service. Before leaving, in reply to a vote of thanks for attending, the Rector said that it gave him great pleasure to meet the members again and welcome them to Staplehurst, and referred to the great loss the country had sustained in the death of Her late Majesty the Queen, and spoke of the part the bell

ringers of the country had taken in the national mourning by ringing their bells muffled. He wished them every success in their Art.

After tea the business meeting was held. Mr. T. Groombridge was voted to the chair. The minutes of the last meeting having been read and confirmed the district secretary read his annual report, which shewed a slight falling off in the number of both honorary and practising members.

Mr. W. Latter (Tunbridge Wells) and Mr. T. Groombridge (Sevenoaks) were re-elected respectively to the offices of District Secretary and Representative on Central Committee, with the thanks of the meeting for past services. Both briefly returned thanks for their re-election. Seven new practising members were elected, and it was decided that the meetings for the year should be held at Tonbridge in May, Eynsford and Shoreham in October, and the annual meeting at Penshurst in January, 1902. An unanimous vote of condolence with the Royal Family on the death of The Queen, and also a vote of congratulation to His Majesty King Edward VII. on his accession to the British throne, were passed, all the members standing, and singing the first verse of the National Anthem.

It was unanimously decided to send a strong protest to the Central Secretary against holding the Annual General Meeting of the Association on a Saturday, as it is much more convenient to members to hold it on Whit-Monday. The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the Chairman.

(LEWISHAM DISTRICT.)

The usual quarterly meeting of this district, which had been postponed owing to its being fixed for the Saturday after the death of the late Queen, was successfully held at Greenwich on Saturday, February 23rd. Ringing commenced about 4 o'clock, and was kept up till 8.0 p.m. with short intervals. There was a fair attendance of members, the towers of Woolwich, Hayes, Chislehurst, Crayford, St. John's, and others being represented, in addition to the local band.

A committee meeting was held in the vestry at 6.0 p.m., Mr. F. W. Thornton (Greenwich) in the chair. The minutes of the last committee meeting having been read and confirmed, it was decided to hold the next meeting at Lewisham on Saturday, April 27th, should the tower be available.

Messrs. E. Richards and J. C. Harvey (Woolwich), and A. Saxby and W. Saunders (Crayford) were re-elected.

Mr. J. Hack (Hayes) then proposed a most hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Willes and A. H. Langford, Esq., (the churchwardens of St. Alfege church) for the use of the tower and vestry on the occasion of the meeting. This was seconded by Mr. E. O. Masters (Woolwich), and after the chairman had mentioned that it was very difficult to get the tower, owing to the objections of local tradesmen, was unanimously carried. Touches of Treble Bob, Stedman Triples, Treble Bob Major, and Grandsire were rung during the afternoon and evening.

Obituary.

WILLIAM FIRTH.

It is with sincere regret that the Wakefield Cathedral Society have to record the death of an old and respected ringer in the person of William Firth, who passed away on February 3rd, aged 48, after an illness of only a fortnight. He had been a ringer at Hunslet and Wakefield upwards of thirty years. He came of an old family of ringers, his father and two brothers having been ringers at the Wakefield parish church. He was a member of the Yorkshire Association since 1883, and had rung several Association and other peals. The ringers attended the funeral and rang a course of Grandsire Caters at the graveside, and afterwards adjourned to the tower and rang a 504 and 168 Grandsire Triples, with the bells muffled, as a last token of respect.

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.

Correspondence.

While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

THE LAST PEAL OF THE 19TH CENTURY.

SIR,—A few weeks back the question was asked in "THE BELL NEWS" as to which was the last peal finished in the 19th century. Out of ten peals rung on December 31st, only five answers were sent, the peal of Grandsire Caters at East Retford being the last of the five, coming round at 11.28 p.m. No replies were received from Tenterden, Tong, Twerton-on-Avon, Ipswich, and Swindon. If any of these peals were finished after 11.28 p.m. would one of the band kindly send a communication in time for the next issue of "THE BELL NEWS," as the ringers of East Retford have been promised a peal-board for the above peal, and, should such peal prove to be the last rung in the century, would like it to be recorded on the board.

Retford, Notts.

GEO. R. WINTER.

Re ST. MARY'S (TAUNTON) PEAL.

SIR,—In reply to J. B. I fully anticipated his asking for my name. Am sorry I cannot oblige, as my motto is "Live and let live." I do not see anything in my *nom de plume* to shirk from. If J. B. had a clear conscience he would have answered my previous letters, as I am absolutely certain that what I stated in them was correct, which he knows, but lacks the pluck to own. I might jog his memory to the following facts he has not answered: (1) How does he account for the 9th not going into the hunt? (2) How does he account for the bells coming into rounds two leads after the 9th made 3rds place? (3) Ought he not to have rang another eight leads to have brought the so-called peal to the full extent? (4) How does he account for ringing the so-called peal in 3 hrs. 7 mins., seeing they were ringing at the average rate of twenty-six rounds per minute?

SCIENTIFIC.

MUFFLED RINGING.

SIR,—Mr. Weatherley, in your number of the 16th inst., refers to the various methods of ringing on the death of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, and says that it would be a convenience if ringers knew what to do on such an occasion, because, if I rightly understand him, he is of opinion that there must be some proper course to adopt. This seems reasonable enough till we attempt to trace the history of funeral ringing, and I had hoped your last issue would exhibit some communication from the learned about it. However as no one has hitherto replied to Mr. Weatherley's question, I will endeavour to do so to the best of my ability, and at present it seems to me that Mr. Weatherley is mistaken, and that no one course is, or ought to be, more proper than any other.

First of all until some one brings some evidence to the contrary I am of opinion that no muffled ringing has ever been done before on the death or burial of a Sovereign of this Realm. I have never been able to find any mention of any. The mention of ringing on such occasions seems to be always of ringing for the accession of the new Sovereign. The veterans who rang when William IV. died are always, so far as I have seen, spoken of as ringing for the Queen's Accession, not for the King's death, and while writing I have just received a kind message from Mr. J. R. Haworth, the College Youths' veteran, in answer to a question I put to him through Mr. C. F. Winney. Mr. Haworth says, as I expected he would, that there was no muffled ringing for the death of William IV. And this makes it clear that I am right in saying that Queen Victoria was the first Sovereign for whom muffled ringing has been performed; for inasmuch as the death of William IV. was the third death of a Sovereign within a period of twenty years, if there had been any traditions of muffled ringing on such occasions they could not have been forgotten in 1837. It is therefore evident that, as there is no precedent for muffled ringing for a Sovereign, it cannot be said that any method recently adopted was either right or wrong.

Perhaps you may find space for me to add what little I know about the history of muffled ringing. The first notice I find is in the London Scholars' Book of 1702, the last paragraph of which book is as follows:—

"Having gone through (and laid down plain and easy Rules for Ringing) several most excellent and musical Peals for Mirth and Recreation, it may not be amiss if (for the Instruction of those that are not acquainted therewith) we say somewhat in brief of a Funeral or Dead Peal. It being customary not only in this City of London, upon the Death of any Person that is a Member of any of the Honourable Societies of Ringers therein (but likewise in most Countries and Towns in England, not only upon the Death of a Ringer, but likewise of any young man or woman) at the Funeral of every such Person to ring a Peal; which Peal ought to be different from those for Mirth, and Recreation (as the Music at the Funeral of any Master of Music, or the Ceremony at the Funeral of any Person belonging to military Discipline) and may be performed two different ways; the one is by ringing the Bells round at a set Pull, thereby keeping them up so as to delay their striking, that there may be the Distance of three Notes at least (according to the true Compass of ringing upon other Occasions) between Bell and Bell, and having gone round one whole Pull every Bell (except the Tenor), to set and stand whilst the Tenor rings one Pull in the same Compass as before, and this is to be done whilst the Person deceased is bringing to the Ground, and after he is interred to ring a short Peal of round Ringing, or Changes in true time and compass and so conclude;—The other Way is called buffeting the Bells, that is by tying pieces of leather, old hat, or any other thing that is pretty thick round the Ball of the Clapper of each Bell, and then by ringing them as before is shown, they make a most doleful and mournful Sound, concluding with a short Peal; after the Funeral is over (the Clappers being clear as at other times) which Way of buffeting is most practised in the City of London."

The next description I have come across is by Laughton in his MS. of which the following is a copy:—

"The Ramblers' method for ringing of funeral peals is as follows, viz.:

"After the balls of the Clappers are clothed with pieces of leather, called mufflers, which are the most properest things for that purpose, Ring ten or a dozen rounds to hear whether they strike equal or no—If they do not they must be altered by putting some tow under the clothing of such as strike too hard and putting on thinner mufflers to such as strike too soft, till they are made to sound equal—then about half an hour before the Corpse is brought to be buried, proceed in the following manner: Ring one pull rounds and stand all but the tenor, but let her be rung one pull by herself, then ring two pulls rounds and the tenor two pulls by herself, then three pulls and the tenor three, then four and the tenor four, then five and the tenor five, then six pulls round and the tenor to be rung as many strokes by herself as the person is years old that is to be buried; when that is ended ring the numbers backwards as you began withal, that is six, five, four, three, two and one, but the tenor must be rung the same numbers of pulls by herself between each number of rounds; after the last round is ended ring the tenor again by herself as many strokes as the deceased is years old; this is performing the exercise backward and forwards; then ring a Grandsire with the tenor behind, or a course of plain bob, or anything else what you please, though not to exceed six score changes in length; after that till the Corpse is brought into the Church or to the grave, ring only one pull round and the tenor one pull by herself; if the Corpse is brought into the Church first, then ring it out again in the same manner; while it is burying cut off the mufflers, and ring the Company out of the Churchyard with one pull round and the tenor one pull by herself continue that for 30 or 40 times and stand; then finish with a 720 of any peal that you can cleverly manage and cease the bells without standing.

"(Rung in this way at Islington for Wm. Ibbot a wheelwright d. æt. 36.)

"N.B.—Let the number of bells be what they will from three to six the exercise is to be performed after this manner: but if a dead peal is rung on eight ten or twelve bells then ring as many pulls as there is number of bells."

The ringing for Wm. Ibbot above referred to, took place on June 7th, 1734, and is thus recorded in Laughton's verse:—

For William Ibbot we met to ring
A dead peal at Islington for him,
'Tis the last respect that can be shown
To a ringer when he's dead and gone,
So 'twould be a pity to neglect it
For most ringers when they die expect it.
Besides in country or in town
There's many that like the solemn sound,

And to hear a funeral peal will come
Two or three miles to hear rung.

Now if we examine the foregoing extracts these points present themselves—

- 1.—Funeral ringing was not necessarily muffled in early days.
- 2.—It was not always or everywhere performed in the same way.
- 3.—It was performed actually at the interment of the corpse, and no hint is given of its being performed at any other time or place.
- 4.—It was performed for ringers, and (in 1702), mostly at the funeral of "any young man or woman."

These last words are somewhat curious. Why *young* men or women only? Does this suggest a survival of some early English funeral use? We shall be glad to hear from Mr. Drake about this. But at any rate these words confirm the view that funeral ringing was not performed for sovereigns or distinguished persons; for if the writers mentioned any person outside ringers for whom it was performed, it is unreasonable to suppose they would have confined themselves to young men and women, if such ringing was done for other classes. Laughton does not suggest it was done for any deceased persons except ringers, and I feel no doubt that Ibbot had been a ringer though not a member of the "Ramblers."

There is another point to notice, namely, that the original funeral ringing known to London writers was either open or fully muffled. Neither the authors of the London Scholars' Book nor Laughton refer to half-muffled ringing. Can anybody give us any information as to the date of the origin of half-muffled ringing? Mr. Haworth says it was introduced into London from the country during the late reign. Where did it come from?

I must stop at this; having already trespassed too largely on your indulgence. I hope to send a few concluding remarks next week, and at the same time, unless Mr. Pearson's question is answered in the meanwhile, to send a short list, with dates, of the ringing books prior to Shipway.

R. A. DANIELL.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 9th, the committee of the Sheffield branch, who had been intrusted with the management of the annual meeting of the above association, met at the headquarters in Cambridge Street to wind up matters, and as the balance was on the right side, it was a very pleasant task to perform, thanks to the generous response for funds from the clergy and gentry of Sheffield and district, together with the energetic way in which every member of the committee performed their allotted duties. Such duties were made considerably lighter by having the valuable services of Mr. C. H. Hattersley as president at the meetings, and the able way in which the secretary, Mr. J. Mulligan, performed his duties, also Mr. T. Hattersley, as treasurer. Supper was laid for eighteen at The Sportsman inn, under the management of Mr. Lockwood, who had intrusted the catering to Messrs. Sheards of the Pinstone Street dining rooms (we had not that roasted chicken which S. T. writes about, nor wild duck). It was ox-tail soup, then turkey, duck, and chicken, beef, veal, mutton, jugged hare, rabbit, and as some will say "yes, there had been a big football match and Sheffield lost, which took their appetite away, so they gave the ringers a good feed." It's a ill wind that blows no one any luck, I wish there was such a match every day.) We did not get all the courses in, but brought the peal round.

The cloth being removed, the loyal toast was given by Mr. C. H. Hattersley from the chair, then tobacco being too common we sported a cigar each; talk about killing green fly it nearly killed me, until a friend made for the window.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Lockwood for the splendid spread he had on the table; also to Mr. T. Hattersley and Mr. J. Mulligan for the respective offices they had so ably performed, brought the business of the Yorkshire annual meeting of 1901 to a close. A pleasant night was spent with songs by Mr. F. Willey, Atkins, Sarel, Allen, and Ward, and tunes on the fine peal of Mr. J. Mulligan's handbells.

E. J.

FOR WINTER OVERCOATINGS of Black and Blue Beavers and Vicunas, send to T. HAIGH, 14, George Street, Huddersfield.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. (READING BRANCH.)

The annual meeting of the above took place on Monday, February 18th. At 7.0 p.m., a shortened form of evensong was held at the church of St. Mary, Reading, a short address being given by the Vicar, the Rev. Wm. Neville. At 7.30 p.m., sixty-five hungry souls sat down at tea, served up in excellent style at the Old Abbey restaurant, by Messrs. Sherval. Our respected chairman, J. M. Routh, Esq., again took his accustomed place, and with him we noticed, glad to say, the Vicars of two parish churches in Reading having rings of bells, viz.: Rev. R. D. Newhouse, with his curate, Rev. R. F. Hawkins (St. Laurence's), and the Rev. Wm. Neville (St. Mary's); nor were these all the parsons, for was not there the worthy Master of the Guild, (Rev. F. E. Robinson), the general hon. secretary (Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis), and yet another in the person of the Rev. E. Marshall, of Tilehurst. The repast finished and the toast of "The King" having been duly honoured, the business meeting commenced. Mr. A. E. Reeves, in the absence of the branch secretary (A. W. Pike) through indisposition, read the minutes of the last annual meeting, the same being duly passed.

The officers of the branch were all unanimously re-elected to the several posts, viz.: chairman, J. M. Routh, Esq.; hon. secretary and treasurer, A. W. Pike; representatives on general committee, Messrs. C. Chapman, C. Giles, and A. W. Pike. The hon. secretary's report for 1900 showed a falling off in numbers, viz., 101 as against 110, for 1899; but in peal ringing a great advance had been made; 21 peals being rung, ranging from Minor to a 5056 of Superlative Surprise; the list also included four peals of Double Norwich, eight of Stedman Triples, one Stedman Caters, and three of Treble Bob. The balance-sheet showed that £3 13s. 4d. still remained to the credit of the branch. The Rev. R. D. Newhouse (St. Lawrence's), in moving the adoption of the report said that although obliged to part with his ringers on principle, yet he trusted they would always meet as friends.

The Rev. F. E. Robinson proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar of St. Mary's for his address and for the service; the Rev. Wm. Neville suitably responded, and wished success to the Guild.

In response to the toast of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, the Master made a few pointed remarks on the likelihood of many of the best ringers, who did not belong to any tower, leading to an acute phase. He trusted the ringers concerned would reconsider their position.

The chairman having spoken of Mr. Pike's illness, (mumps and the hump), proposed the health of the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis; the rev. gentleman replying said he would stand by the Guild. He had tried to leave the secretaryship, but the members would not have it, so he would endeavour to continue. The numbers of the O. D. G. still kept up over 1300; 105 towers in union; 87 peals had been rung, the Master taking part in 46 and conducting 41. He suggested more money should be spent on instruction.

The chairman proposed the health of the Master, the Rev. F. E. Robinson; needless to say, this was drunk right royally, musical honors being accorded, a similar compliment being given to the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis. The health of the "Father" (good old annual) concluded the toast list.

During the evening songs were sung by Messrs. W. Newell, H. Goodger, F. Sweetzer, E. A. Reeves, R. Chapman, Good-enough, and the Chairman. Mr. H. Burley accompanied. At 11.0 p.m. the National Anthem brought to a conclusion, in the words of the hon. secretary of the Guild, the most pleasant gathering in the annals of the Reading branch.

TONBRIDGE (Kent).—On Wednesday, January 30th, 504 Stedman Triples. J. Steddy, W. Spice, J. Smith, A. Lawrence, E. Mankelow, W. Steed, W. Cater (conductor), W. J. Wolfe. This was rung after an attempt for a peal of Bob Major, which came to grief after ringing an hour.

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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, MARCH 2, 1901.

In a comment which appeared in this page a week or two ago, we referred to the number of muffled peals of 5000 and upwards which had been rung, in a loyal and affectionate spirit, to the memory of Her late Majesty QUEEN VICTORIA. In this an opinion was expressed, we think, that everyone of these peals should be substantially recorded either in the ringing-chamber or in the body of the church. The belief was also conveyed that the various church authorities would of their own accord, willingly, be induced to defray the expense of such memorials to our departed monarch. It is thought that ringers generally, and the leading parishioners also, would have no difficulty in pressing the adoption of this suggestion upon the Churchwardens, or failing them, could induce some loyal Churchman, or Churchmen, gladly, and with alacrity, to incur the cost.

A word of warning in connection with this will not be out of place. Records of the peals in question should be as near perfection, in appearance and appropriateness, as possible. No mistake ought to be made in any way. The average sign-writer may be a downright good fellow in his way, but in the pursuit of his calling he frequently disregards the canons of taste. Generally that is his misfortune, not his fault. He is as a rule quite innocent of Art, or design, or symmetry, while his notions of orthography and

punctuation are nearly always erratic, whimsical, defective, though sometimes very amusing.

We would have the records of these peals in a consistent and pleasing garb; worthy the object for which they have been rung, and the sacred edifice in which they are to be erected. We fear the *skill* of the individual above alluded to would not attain to the satisfaction of our requirements.

We ask our ringing brethren who have taken part in these memorial peals to endeavour to obtain from the Church authorities adequate provision for the erection of a WORTHY record. No ordinary peal-board ought to be sufficient for them. Something in strong metal, artistically and consistently designed, similar to that designed for the "James Hewett" memorial. And the artist of this "Brass," Mr. GAWTHORP, of London, seems to be the correct party to carry out the erection of peal records consistently, and in accordance with the occasion.

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 ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, CORNHILL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5021 CHANGES.

Tenor 41 cwt.

JAMES PETTIT	Treble.	THOMAS LANGDON	7.
HERBERT LANGDON	2.	WILLIAM E. GARRARD	8.
HENRY SPRINGALL	3.	WILLIAM T. COCKERILL	9.
HERBERT P. HARMAN	4.	JOHN W. GOLDING	10.
WILLIAM H. PASMORE	5.	WALTER PRIME	11.
GEORGE R. FARDON	6.	EDWARD P. O'MEARA	Tenor.

Composed by the late HENRY W. HALEY, and
Conducted by JAMES PETTIT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN, HAMPSTEAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION.

Tenor 27 cwt.

ERNEST PRYOR*	Treble.	FRANK SMITH	5.
JAMES HANNINGTON	2.	WILLIAM H. PRYOR	6.
CHARLES PRYOR*	3.	RICHARD BEVAN	7.
ERNEST BONFIELD†	4.	*WILLIAM MILES	Tenor.

Conducted by J. HANNINGTON.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to the Rev. J. Kirkman, M.A., and at its conclusion the ringers were invited to the Vicar's residence and were handsomely entertained.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 21, 1901, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH, SOUTHGATE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 25 cwt. in D.

ALFRED R. GLASSCOCK	Treble.	ALFRED W. DARLINGTON	5.
JOHN E. MILLER	2.	WILLIAM PICKWORTH	6.
SIDNEY JONES†	3.	FRANK C. NEWMAN	7.
JOHN ARMSTRONG	4.	SIDNEY WADE	Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF, and Conducted by SIDNEY WADE.

†First peal of Treble Bob.

The Provinces.

PONTEFRAC, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 11, 1901, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5018 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION.

Tenor 16 cwt. in E.

JOHN CARTER	Treble.	FREDERICK MOODY	5.
WILLIAM P. BROOK*	2.	†JAMES JACKSON	6.
ARTHUR WALKER†	3.	WILLIAM PEARSON	7.
SAMUEL BROOK†	4.	†WALTER C. HUNT	Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF, and

Conducted by WALTER C. HUNT.

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

WILLINGTON, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 16, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOSEPH CHURCH	Treble.	CHARLES R. LILLEY	4.
CHARLES W. CLARKE	2.	FRANK WEBB	5.
WILLIAM J. BARKER	3.	WILLIAM FREEMAN	Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES W. CLARKE.

BURY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

REEVES'S VARIATION.

Tenor 13½ cwt.

H. WOODCOCK	Treble.	W. MITCHELL	5.
W. R. DUCKWORTH	2.	S. GREENHALGH	6.
E. ISHERWOOD	3.	†E. VIGGERS	7.
C. BRADBURY	4.	J. RAMSBOTTOM	Tenor.

Conducted by J. RAMSBOTTOM.

†First peal

ALDENHAM, HERTS.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor 15 cwt.

JOHN W. HORWOOD†	Treble.	WILLIAM HEWITT	5.
JOSEPH J. ALLEN	2.	BENJAMIN BASSETT	6.
WILLIAM JAY	3.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM	7.
ERNEST E. HUNTLEY	4.	HENRY R. JONES	Tenor.

Conducted by ERNEST E. HUNTLEY.

†First peal.

BRAMLEY, YORKS.

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

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London Scholars' Pleasure, Tanner's Pleasure, City Delight, Arnold's Victory, College Pleasure, Violet, and Oxford. Tenor 12 cwt.

SAM HELLIWELL† Treble.	HARRY GAYTHORPE 4.
WALTER BROWN* 2.	E. NEWTON 5.
J. W. CHADWICK 3.	J. W. T. HOLGATE Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY GAYTHORPE.

†First peal. *First peal away from treble.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt. in D flat.

JAMES HORREX Treble.	JOSEPH FAYERS 5.
HUGH GLADWELL 2.	ARTHUR SYMONDS 6.
ERNEST H. KINSEY 3.	WILLIAM KINSEY 7.
HARRY SMITH 4.	THOMAS KING Tenor.

Composed by J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE, and Conducted by THOMAS KING.

Messrs. Horrex, Gladwell, and Kinsey (2) hail from Felsham; Fayers from Preston; the rest belong to Lavenham.

HILLINGDON EAST, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 22 cwt.

FRANK WEEDEN Treble.	JOSEPH J. PRATT 5.
HERBERT J. AYRES 2.	WILLIAM HONOR 6.
HENRY WAITE 3.	HENRY H. CHANDLER 7.
EDWARD T. GRIFFIN 4.	GEORGE BELLAMY Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY H. CHANDLER.

NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

T. ALLEN Treble.	T. MOUNTFORD 5.
S. CHURTON* 2.	T. AUSTIN 6.
F. J. STEELE† 3.	H. PAGE 7.
A. CLOWES 4.	J. TITTERTON Tenor.

Conducted by S. CHURTON.

*First peal as conductor. †First peal.

BATTLE, SUSSEX.—THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
(BATTLE BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S SIX-PART. Tenor 23 cwt. 3 qrs.

JOHN SINDEN Treble.	JAMES LIVERMORE 5.
WILLIAM J. THOMAS 2.	CHARLES R. CARTER 6.
FRANK MATHIS 3.	WALTER FRANKS 7.
CHARLES J. HYLAND 4.	WILLIAM H. ELDRIDGE Tenor.

Conducted by WALTER FRANKS.

Rung in honour of the Accession of King Edward VII. to the throne of Great Britain.

HEENE, WORTHING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BOTOLPH,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR,

5056 CHANGES. Tenor 10½ cwt.

EDMUND LINDUP Treble.	FRANK BENNETT 5.
GEORGE BAKER 2.	JOHN STEDDY 6.
ARTHUR A. FULLER 3.	GEORGE A. KING 7.
GEORGE SMART 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS Tenor.

Composed by JAMES WILDE, and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

This was Mr. Steddy's 50th peal, particulars of which will be found on another page.

LEATHERHEAD, SURREY.—THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES.

JOHN HARDING* Treble.	THOMAS MILES 6.
WILLIAM MESSAM 2.	WILLIAM MARKS 7.
JOHN WHITE 3.	EDWARD HULL 8.
HENRY WOOD 4.	ARTHUR DEAN 9.
JOHN HOYLE 5.	WILLIAM CROPLEY Tenor.

Composed by JOHN ROGERS, and Conducted by ARTHUR DEAN.

*First peal. First peal of Caters as conductor. Rung in honour of the Accession of King Edward VII. to the throne.

WITNEY, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 19, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART. Tenor 18½ cwt.

THOMAS BULL Treble.	REV. CYRIL W. O. JENKYN 5.
HARRY BROOKS 2.	JOHN MONK 6.
HENRY DRUCE* 3.	FRANCIS P. POWELL 7.
NOBLE SPINDLOW 4.	JESSE BROOKS Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN MONK.

*First peal.

ERITH, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, February 22, 1901, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR,

5024 CHANGES. Tenor 18 cwt.

CHARLES WILKINS Treble.	ISAAC G. SHADE 5.
GEORGE CONYARD 2.	EDGAR WIGHTMAN 6.
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3.	†WILLIAM J. JEFFRIES 7.
HARRY HOSKINS† 4.	HARRY FLANDERS Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by EDGAR WIGHTMAN.

†First peal of Double Norwich. This composition is now rung for the first time.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Thirty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES.

Tenor 31½ cwt. in D.

HARRY WHITTLE Treble.	WILLIAM F. HARTSHORNE 6.
WILLIAM H. INGLESANT 2.	FRANK BURLEIGH 7.
CHARLES H. FOWLER 3.	JOSEPH DAVIES 8.
THOMAS H. COLBOURNE 4.	WILLIAM WILLSON 9.
SAMUEL SMITH 5.	THOMAS GRUNDY Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by WILLIAM WILLSON.

This peal was arranged for Messrs. Hartshorne and Davies, who hail from Crewe and Derby respectively.

ARUNDEL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt. in E.

GEORGE WELLER Treble.	HAROLD D. SEARLE 5.
STEPHEN STONE 2.	GEORGE H. LEE 6.
ERNEST HOLDEN 3.	JOHN NETLEY 7.
PERCY H. DOICK 4.	*HARRY BURCH Tenor.

(No conductor mentioned.)

*First peal. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the wife of Mr. F. Luxford, who has been a member of this band for many years.

KILLAMARSH, DERBYSHIRE.

THE OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of London, Wells, York, Durham, Ely, Rochester, and Coventry.

WILLIAM OSBORN* Treble.	GEORGE BURNHAM 4.
HARRY GREAVES 2.	THOMAS BETTISON 5.
WILLIAM LAMBERT† 3.	WM. HENRY TURTON Tenor.

Conducted by T. BETTISON.

*First peal and first attempt. †From Treeton.

WEST BROMWICH, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN DAVIS* Treble.	SAMUEL REEVES 5.
THOMAS DANKS 2.	ARTHUR GRIFFITHS 6.
GEORGE GRIFFITHS 3.	ERNEST BROWN 7.
JAMES CULLWICK† 4.	*THOMAS WHEATLEY Tenor.

Conducted by SAMUEL REEVES.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell.

EARLSHEATON, YORKS.

THE HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT AND THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Five Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

STANHOPE RIGG Treble.	GARFORTH TAYLOR 5.
GEORGE CRAWSHAW 2.	JOSEPH RUDDLESSEN 6.
WALTER IDLE 3.	WALTER BYRAM 7.
WILSON ILLINGWORTH 4.	DAVID STEPHENSON Tenor.

Composed by G. H. HARDY, and Conducted by GEORGE CRAWSHAW.

BLETSOE, BEDS.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

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

Tenor 14 cwt. in C.

JOSEPH CHURCH Treble.	CHARLES R. LILLEY 4.
FRANK WEBB 2.	WILLIAM FREEMAN 5.
CHARLES WM. CLARKE 3.	JOHN W. BARKER Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN W. BARKER.

First peal on the bells.

EASTHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WIRRAL BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720s, each called differently.

JAMES PICKIN Treble.	JOSEPH SHONE 4.
JOSEPH WOODS 2.	JOHN HUGHES 5.
FRANK JONES 3.	JAMES DILLON Tenor.

Conducted by J. DILLON.

First peal on six bells by J. Shone.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HALEY'S VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

STEPHEN WIGHTMAN JUN. Treble.	ALFRED S. WIGHTMAN 5.
GEORGE PERRY† 2.	JOHN J. CREASY 6.
WILLIAM WIGHTMAN 3.	GEORGE WIGHTMAN 7.
GEORGE THURLOW 4.	WILLIAM SAWYER Tenor.

Conducted by GEORGE WIGHTMAN.

†First peal in the method.

ASHOVER, DERBYSHIRE.

THE OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being four 720s of Bob Minor, and three 720s of College Single, each called differently. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

J. MILNER Treble.	T. CLOUGH 4.
J. FLINT 2.	W. BUTLER 5.
J. T. BUTLER 3.	J. P. TARTON Tenor.

Conducted by J. T. BUTLER.

J. Flint from Bolsover; the rest from North Wingfield. Rang as a birthday compliment to J. Milner, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

PUDSEY, YORKS.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

W. BATEMAN Treble.	T. LATIMER 5.
WM. BIRKS 2.	GEORGE BOLLAND 6.
J. C. BOOTH* 3.	*H. WARD 7.
WM. BOLLAND 4.	PRATT CORDINGLEY Tenor.

Composed by W. GOODALL, and Conducted by PRATT CORDINGLEY.

*First peal. The Messrs. Bolland from Tong; the remainder belong to the local company.

ROTHWELL, NEAR LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

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

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

JOSEPH HAIGH Treble.	GEORGE W. STEEL 5.
ALFRED CHAPMAN 2.	WILLIAM ABBISHAW 6.
JOSEPH C. ABBISHAW 3.	WALTER CHAPMAN 7.
THOMAS NICKOLS 4.	JOHN M. CHADWICK Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and

Conducted by JOHN M. CHADWICK.

Rung in honour of the marriage of Mr. G. W. Steel to Miss Mitchell.

KING'S NORTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(THE KING'S NORTON GUILD.)

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14½ cwt.

FRED. W. SUMNER Treble.	JOHN WITHERS 5.
JOHN S. PRITCHETT 2.	WILLIAM PALMER 6.
ALFRED PRITCHETT 3.	WILLIAM S. PRITCHETT .. 7.
THEODORE PRITCHETT .. 4.	JAMES BETTERTON Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM S. PRITCHETT.

HELMSHORE, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.
(ROSSENDALE BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 23, 1901, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES.
Being 720 each of London Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, Duke of York, Merchant's Return, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent.
Tenor 10 cwt.

HENRY J. STEFF Treble.	JOSEPH BANKS 4.
THOMAS P. BRANDWOOD .. 2.	THOMAS WALLWORK 5.
ROBERT WALLWORK 3.	JAMES H. BANKS Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES H. BANKS.

First peal of Minor on the bells, and by all the band.

STANFORD-ON-SOAR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.
(LOUGHBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Monday, February 25, 1901, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.
Tenor 16 cwt.

GEORGE WILSON Treble.	WILLIAM H. INGLESANT .. 5.
HARRY WHITTLE 2.	FREDERICK W. HARTSHORNE 6.
THOMAS H. COLBURN .. 3.	FRANK G. BURLEIGH .. 7.
FRANK PERVIN 4.	GEORGE DOUGHTY Tenor.

Composed by the REV. E. B. JAMES, and
Conducted by W. H. INGLESANT.

KINGSTON-ON-THAMES, SURREY.
(THE KINGSTON SOCIETY.)

On Tuesday, February 26, 1901, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF OXFORD BOB TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
DR. A. B. CARPENTER'S ONE-PART. Tenor 33 cwt.

JAMES SYDNEY STRUTT* .. Treble.	HENRY GEORGE NAISH† .. 5.
JAMES STRUTT† 2.	JAMES BALDWIN† 6.
ALBERT STRUTT 3.	JOHN HOWES 7.
GEORGE STRUTT 4.	JAMES CHANDLER† Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN HOWES.

*First peal and first attempt. †First peal in the method. This composition is now rung for the first time. For calling see Peal Appendix for 1895, page 46.

BIRMINGHAM, WARWICKSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Tuesday, February 26, 1901, in Three Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES.
Tenor 36 cwt. in C.

ALBERT WALKER Treble.	HENRY MIDDLETON 7.
WILLIAM G. ELLIS 2.	JOHN BARBER 8.
CHARLES DICKENS 3.	JAMES GEORGE 9.
PHILIP W. DAVIES 4.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 10.
WILLIAM SHORT 5.	THOMAS REYNOLDS 11.
WILLIAM H. BARBER .. 6.	WILLIAM PAINTER Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF, and

Conducted by WILLIAM H. BARBER.

This composition is now rung for the first time, and is in the inverted Tittums and bandstroke home positions, and was rung half-muffled as a token of loyalty to Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, also on the 50th birthday of Mr. James George, of Pinner, father of the ringer of the 9th.

Handbell Peal.

OXHEY, HERTS.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION, AND THE
ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, February 25, 1901, in Two Hours and Thirty-nine Minutes,
AT THE PARISH ROOM,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

GEORGE N. PRICE 1-2.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM .. 5-6.
HERBERT P. HARMAN .. 3-4.	CHARLES GEORGE 7-8.

Conducted by HERBERT P. HARMAN.

Umpires—H. Eden and B. Bassett.

PEAL CORRECTION.—The peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal rung at Newcastle Cathedral on February 18th, 1901, should have been 5080, not 5083.

Miscellaneous.

THE DEVONSHIRE GUILD.

HEAVITREE (Devon).—On Sunday, December 2nd, for evening service, two parts of Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins. W. Hancock, 1; W. Shepherd (conductor), 2; T. Laver, 3; W. C. Burrough, 4; F. Murphy, 5; J. R. Sandover, 6; F. Shepherd, 7; W. Lowton, 8. On Christmas Day, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples. F. Shepherd (conductor), 1; W. Shepherd, 2; T. Laver, 3; W. Mogridge, 4; F. J. Shepherd, 5; T. Murphy, 6; W. Greenleaf (Hereford), 7; W. Nethercott, 8. Also for Divine Service in the evening, a quarter-peal in the same method, in 50 mins. F. Shepherd, 1; F. J. Shepherd, 2; J. R. Sandover, 3; W. C. Burrough, 4; W. Miflin, 5; W. Shepherd (conductor), 6; F. Murphy, 7; W. Lowton, 8. Composed by E. Pitt, of Exeter. First quarter-peal as conductor by W. Shepherd. On handbells, several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles and Minor. F. J. Shepherd, 1-2; F. Shepherd (conductor), 3-4; W. Shepherd, 5-6.

OTTERY ST. MARY (Devonshire).—On December 4th, for practice, and on the occasion of the visit of the Rev. M. Kelly, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Godfrey, 1; W. Godfrey, 2; J. H. Godfrey, 3; Rev. M. Kelly, 4; H. Channon, 5; J. E. Baker, 6; A. E. Pike (conductor), 7; J. Fisher, 8. Also 336 Grandsire Triples. F. Stuckey (longest touch), 1; W. Godfrey, 2; J. Fisher (longest touch with bob bell), 3; Rev. M. Kelly (conductor), 4; H. Channon, 5; J. E. Baker, 6; A. E. Pike, 7; J. Lovering, 8. Also a plain course of Kent Treble Bob Minor. H. Channon, 1; W. Godfrey, 2; Rev. M. Kelly, 3; J. E. Baker, 4; J. H. Godfrey, 5; A. E. Pike, 6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BURFORD (Oxon).—On Wednesday December 5th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor, with the tenor behind. G. Cook, 1; H. Timms, 2; H. Bond, 3; T. Bond, 4; C. Packer, 5; T. E. Glanville (conductor), 6; G. Parker, 7.

THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.

NORTH SHIELDS (Durham).—Recently at Christ Church, for practice, two 640s of Kent Treble Bob; several touches of 560 and upwards of Bob Major; also short touches of Stedman Triples, Double Norwich, and Oxford Court Bob; three courses of Duffield Major, 826, and 672, and four 504s of Grandsire Triples.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

STANSTED (Essex).—On Sunday, December 9th, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, for morning service, 720 Double Court Bob. J. Cavill, 1; H. Little, 2; G. Grry, 3; G. Jordan, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. On Wednesday, December 12th, for practice, 720 Ebor Treble Bob (9 bobs). J. Cavill, 1; Isaac Hammodd, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Luckey, 4; T. Jordan, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. Also 720 Canterbury Surprise. H. Little, 1; Isaac Hammodd, 2; G. Gray, 3; J. Luckey, 4; T. J. Watts, 5; W. Watts (conductor), 6. These are the first 720s in the methods by all the band, and first in the methods on the bells. Also 720 Christmas Eve. J. Luckey, 1; H. Little, 2; Isaac Hammodd, 3; W. Watts, 4; T. Jordan, 5; T. J. Watts (conductor), 6. On Sunday, December 16th, for afternoon service, 720 Huddersfield Surprise. W. Watts (conductor), 1; H. Little, 2; J. Luckey, 3; G. Gray, 4; T. Jordan, 5; G. Jordan, 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BLACKBURN BRANCH.)

BURNLEY (Lancashire).—On Sunday, December 2nd, at Holy Trinity church, 672 Canterbury Pleasure Major. J. R. Eastwood, 1; T. Burrows, 2; W. Walton, 3; R. Hartley, 4; N. Townend, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. First touch in the method by all and on the bells. On Sunday, December 9th, 640 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walker, 2; T. Burrows, 3; N. Townend, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; S. Redman (conductor), 8. Also 704 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; J. W. Stirk, 4; N. Townend, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Thursday, December 13th, 720 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; R. Hartley, 4; T. Mouncey, 5; T. Redman (conductor), 6. On Sunday, December 16th, 704 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; R. Hartley, 4; J. W. Stirk, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. Also 768 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; T. Burrows, 3; N. Townend, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Sunday, December 23rd, 704 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; R. Hartley, 3; W. Walton, 4; N. Townend, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. On Christmas Day, 576 Kent. J. R. Eastwood, 1; W. Walton, 2; N. Townend, 3; D. Heys, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. Also 768 Oxford. J. R. Eastwood, 1; D. Campbell, 2; N. Townend, 3; W. Walton, 4; R. Hartley, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; T. Mouncey, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

COLWALL (Herefordshire).—On Monday, February 18th, 672 Grandsire Triples. J. Thomas, 1; G. James, 2; C. Thomas, 3; W. Evans, 4; G. Peacey, 5; W. Price, 6; J. Field (conductor), 7; W. Smart, 8. Longest touch by the ringer of the 2nd. Also 280. W. Evans (conductor), 1; W. Price, 2; G. Peacey, 3; J. Field, 4; C. Thomas, 5; J. Thomas, 6; H. Allen, 7; C. Hyde, 8. Also 336. W. Evans, 1; W. Price, 2; G. Peacey, 3; J. Field, 4; C. Thomas (conductor), 5; J. Thomas, 6; H. Allen, 7; W. Hughes, 8. The above were rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Rev. C. L. E. Parker, Rector of Stockton, Warwick, son-in-law to the Rev. G. M. Custance, Rector of Colwall, who died the previous Saturday.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

ABERGAVENNY (Monmouthshire).—On Thursday, February 21st, at St. Mary's church, 120 Grandsire Doubles. C. H. Baker, 1; W. Horsington, 2; R. P. Gwynne, 3; T. A. Williams, 4; F. S. Wilson (conductor), 5; D. L. Williams, 6. This is the first touch of change-ringing ever rung in Abergavenny by a local band.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

LONDON.—On Sunday, December 2th, for evening service at St. Matthew's church, Bethnal Green, 1260 Stedman Triples (Brooks'), in 45 mins. W. Cooter, 1; J. Bonny, 2; F. Tubb (Appleton), 3; M. A. Wood, 4; J. Scholes, 5; A. W. Barkus (conductor), 6; E. Hall, 7; C. Kennedy, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

DEPTFORD (Kent).—On Thursday, December 13th, at St. John's church, for practice, 504 Stedman Triples. W. Bedwell (conductor), 1; T. Deal, 2; G. Taylor, 3; J. Town, 4; E. H. Nixon, 5; H. Dickens, 6; W. Smith, 7; B. Miller, 8. On Sunday, December 16th, for evening service, 1040 Grandsire Triples. W. Bedwell (conductor), 1; T. Deal, 2; E. H. Nixon, 3; A. C. Bedwell, 4; W. J. Jeffries, 5; H. Dickens, 6; G. H. Daynes, 7; H. Young, 8.

BRAMLEY (Hants.).—On Sunday, December 16th, at the church of St. James, 720 Bob Minor. J. Ward, 1; J. Ballard, 2; Dora White, 3; C. Giles, 4; E. Bruce, 5; A. E. Reeves (conductor), 6. Another 720 Bob Minor. J. Ward, 1; A. E. Reeves, 2; Alice White, 3; E. Bruce, 4; C. Giles (conductor), 5; J. Ballard, 6.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, December 9th, at St. Stephen's church, for morning service, 540 Stedman Caters. F. W. Elles, 1; E. P. O'Meara (London), 2; R. Clarke, 3; J. Burford, 4; W. Knight, 5; H. Pring, 6; C. Horton, 7; C. D. E. Boutflower, 8; E. Bishop (Swindon), 9; W. J. Hinton, 10. For evening service, four courses Stedman Caters. W. J. Hinton, 1; F. W. Elles, 2; C. Horton, 3; J. Burford, 4; H. Pring, 5; W. Knight, 6; C. Tomkins, 7; E. Bishop (Swindon), 8; R. Clark, 9; W. Colston, 10. Also a short touch of Stedman Triples. W. F. Woodhams, 8; the rest as before. Also after service, at St. Mary Redcliff, two courses of Plain Bob Maximus. P. Came, 1; W. A.

Cave, 2; J. Burford, 3; W. Knight, 4; H. Pring, 5; J. Thomas, 6; F. W. Elles, 7; R. J. Wilkins, 8; E. Bishop, 9; C. Tomkins, 10; W. J. Hinton, 11; G. T. Daltry, 12.

HAILSHAM (Sussex).—On a recent Thursday evening, for practice, a half peal of Grandsire Triples, in 30 mins. P. Longley, 1; H. Finch, 2; C. Pragnell, 3; F. W. Harding (conductor), 4; S. Burgess, 5; S. Matthews, 6; H. Vine, 7; S. Bignell, 8. Longest length by all except the conductor.

PENSHURST (Kent). On December 4th, for practice, 840 Grandsire Triples. H. Seal, 1; A. Godley, 2; G. Turley, 3; E. Bridger, 4; G. Baker, 5; G. Izzard, 6; W. Spice (conductor), 7; J. Thorpe, 8. On December 11th, 504 Grandsire Triples. A. Baker, 1; E. Bridger, 2; P. Longley, 3; W. Spice (conductor), 4; G. Baker, 5; H. Seal, 6; G. Edwards, 7; M. Lambert, 8. On December 15th, an attempt for a peal of Bob Major came to grief after ringing for 2 hours 53 mins, owing to a change course. A. Godley, 1; M. Lambert, 2; W. Spice, 3; J. Preston, 4; E. Mankelow, 5; J. Maynard, 6; P. Hodgkin, 7; W. Latter (conductor), 8. On December 16th, for morning service, 240 of Grandsire Doubles. M. Lambert, 1; G. Baker, 2; J. Ray, 3; H. Coomber, 4; W. Spice (conductor), 5; L. Lambert, 6; G. Izzard, 7; W. Kimber, 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. H. Seal, 1; E. Bridger, 2; F. Whibley, 3; G. Edwards, 4; G. Baker, 5; P. Longley, 6; W. Spice (conductor), 7; J. Ray, 8. On December 18th, 168 Grandsire Triples. A. Baker, 1; G. Izzard, 2; H. Seal, 3; J. Ray, 4; G. Baker, 5; G. Izzard (Speldhurst), 6; W. Spice, 7; H. Bearman, 1.

WOODBURY (Devon).—Recently for practice, 336 Grandsire Triples. W. Glanville, 1; W. Davey, 2; R. Davey, 3; F. Davy, 4; J. Glanville, 5; G. Lawrence, 6; W. Wilde, 7; H. Stokes, jun., 8. This is the first touch by all the band.

A RINGER'S BIRTHDAY.

On Monday evening, February 25th, a most enjoyable evening was spent at the Cafe de Paris Restaurant, Ludgate Hill, the occasion being the 50th anniversary of the birthday of Mr. H. S. Thomas. About twenty-four guests were invited, and these included some of Mr. Thomas's oldest personal friends and representatives of the Royal Cumberland Youths, and the Ancient Society of College Youths. This gathering in honour of Mr. Thomas had been arranged by two very old friends, Mr. H. A. Hopkins, and Mr. Raftery, and their efforts were rewarded with unbounded success. In the absence of Mr. Mason (through illness), Mr. Percy Collins proved a very genial and capable Chairman, and the vice-Chair was ably filled by Mr. R. A. Daniell. After dinner, the Chairman submitted the toast, "King, Queen, and Royal Family," and "The Guest of the evening, Mr. H. S. Thomas." In proposing the latter, he spoke of the unfailing geniality and generosity of Mr. Thomas and of those many other good qualities which cause all to admire and respect that gentleman wherever he is met. As a souvenir of this his 50th birthday, Mr. Thomas was then presented with a gold pen and pencil-case, which he suitably acknowledged and spoke in kindest terms of all those who were giving him such real pleasure on this occasion. He also told of the difficulties he had to contend with at St. Mary Battersea, in establishing a change-ringing band at that tower twenty-nine years ago, and of the first peal there rung by him in 1884, conducted by Mr. W. Baron. The other toasts were "The arrangers of the gathering," "The Chair and Vice-Chair," and "The Accompanist" (Mr. H. Gadsby). Songs were excellently rendered by Messrs. Marsh, C. Durrant, Beveridge, Collins, Daniell, H. S. Thomas, W. Baron, and H. R. Newton, and much laughter was evoked by Mr. Spicer's recitation "The Brahmin's Paradise." Solos on the piano were given by Mr. Gadsby and Mr. H. G. Thomas, and a course of Grandsire Caters was rung on handbells by Messrs. Daniell, Baron, Newton, Hopkins, and Cockerill, the latter also rang a course of Stedman Triples. The gathering was brought to a close by the singing of "Auld lang syne."

Situations Vacant.

COMPETENT CHURCH BELL HANGER wanted. Apply MEARS AND STAINBANK, 34, Whitechapel Road, E.

WANTED, a Timekeeper and Storekeeper for an Agricultural Implement and General Engineering Works, one with previous experience preferred, constant job for a suitable man. Apply, with copies of testimonials to Jas. Baxter, 33, King William Street, Bank Top, Darlington.

WANTED at once, church bell hanger and bell wheel maker. J. R. Gray, Church Bell Hanger, Hertford.

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.

St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.—The anniversary Johnson Commemoration will be held to-day, Saturday, March 2nd. Ringing at St. Martin's from 3 to 5.30 p.m. Dinner will be served at the Old Royal Hotel, Temple Row, at 6.30 p.m., when Sir Arthur Percival Heywood, Bart., will preside. Dinner Tickets free to qualified full subscribing members, and to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each.

W. H. GODDEN, *Hon. Sec.*

61, Roland Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

The Kent County Association.—Rochester District.—The next quarterly meeting of the above will be held at St. Margaret's Rochester, to-day, Saturday, March 2nd. Tower open for ringing at 4.30 p.m. Committee meeting at 7 p.m.

A. OSBORNE, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*

Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—By kind invitation of the Rector, members are invited to re-open the bells of Holy Trinity, Sunderland, to-day Saturday, March 2nd. Service at 3.30 p.m., dinner at 5 p.m.

C. L. ROUTLEDGE, *Hon. Sec.*

The Hertfordshire Association.—District Meeting at Hemel Hempstead to-day, Saturday, March 2nd, when the tower of the parish church will be open from 3 p.m. Tea at 5.30; business meeting to follow.

E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

The Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next meeting of this Association will be held to-day, Saturday, March 2nd, at Fenton.

W. TWIGG, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting of the above branch will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at All Saints, Hamer. Bells ready 3.30. Business meeting 6.30. All ringers cordially invited.

JAS. JACQUES, *Branch Sec.*

48, Church Street, Middleton.

St. Thomas's Guild, Dudley.—The annual meeting of this Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 9th, not the 2nd, as previously stated. Tower open for ringing at 3.30. Service in church at 5 o'clock. A free tea will be provided. In order to avoid disappointment, all members intending to be present at tea, must send their names to me not later than Wednesday, March 6th. No provision will be made for those who do not. Subscriptions are due at this meeting.

W. MICKLEWRIGHT, *Hon. Sec.*

39, Vauxhall Street, Dudley.

The Sussex County Association.—Central Division.—Quarterly meeting at South-over, Lewes, on Saturday, March 9th. Tower open from 3 p.m. Tea kindly provided by the Rector. Those intending to be present should let me know by February 27th.

GEORGE WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec.*

2, Grove Street, Brighton.

The Lancashire Association.—Manchester Branch.—The next monthly meeting of the above branch will be held at St. Philip's, Hulme, on Saturday, March 9th. Bells ready at 5 o'clock. Meeting at 7 o'clock.

J. SMITH, *Branch Sec.*

The Heavy Woollen District Association.—The next monthly meeting of the above, will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at Holmfirth.

Meeting-house, The Princess Royal. Meeting to commence at 5 o'clock. It is requested that as many members as possible attend this meeting, as there is some very important business.

WALTER IDLE, *Secretary.*

47, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.

The Middlesex County Association.—South and West District.—The next meeting of the above will be held at the church of St. Leonard, Heston, by the kind permission of the Rev. B. O. Sharp, on Saturday, March 16th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Tea at 6. Members and friends are cordially invited.

C. EDWARDS, *Hon. Dis. Sec.*

NOTE TO PEAL.

THE PEAL AT HEENE, WOTHING, SUSSEX.—Mr Steddy's 50 peals.—Minor Methods 2; Grandsire Triples 9, conducted 1; Stedman Triples 14, conducted 1; Stedman Caters 2; Bob Major 3; Treble Bob Major 10; Treble Bob Royal 1; Double Norwich Major 2; Superlative Surprise Major 7. Total 50.—Conducted 2.

CORRECTION.—The peal of Double Oxford Major published in "THE BELL NEWS" of February 9th, should be 5088 changes, not 5120, and also should be published as the extent of the 6th, in 5, 6, without the 2nd; not the extent of 6th in 5, 6. T. TEASDALE.

Compositions.**BOB MAJOR.**

5024.

By C. R. L'LEY.

23456 W B M H

23564	-	-
50234	-	-
25634	-	-
62534	-	-
53624	-	-
65324	-	-
32654	-	-
46325	-	-
34625	-	-
62345	-	-
36245	-	-
2364	-	-
64235	-	-
26435	-	-
43265	-	-
43526	- 2	-
54326	-	-
32546	-	-
53246	-	-
25346	-	-
34256	-	-
32456	-	s

Repeated.

STEDMAN CINQUES.

By WILLIAM H. BARBER, *Birmingham.*

5019.

231456		
*316524		
614523	6	
214365	5	6 19
215463		19
213564		19
312465	6	19
315264		19
513462	6	19

512364	19
514263	19
415362	6 19
412563	19
413265	19
413562	s6 19
412365	19
415263	19
514362	6 19
512463	19
215364	6 19
214563	19
213465	19
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214563	6 19
213465	19
215364	19
512463	6 19
513261	19
315462	6 19
312564	19
314265	19
314562	s6 19
312465	19
315264	19
513462	6 19
512364	19
215463	6 19
213564	19
214365	19

*Produced by bobs at 1, 4, 5, 8, 17, 19. †Produced by bobs at 2, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18. First rung at St. Martin's church, Birmingham, on December 18th, 1900, conducted by its composer.

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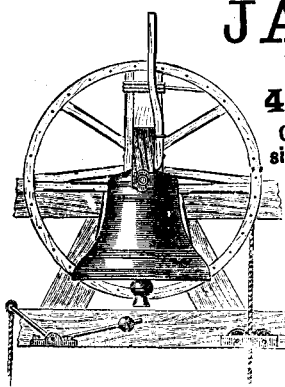
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