

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

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

No. 1112.—VOL. XXII.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1903.]

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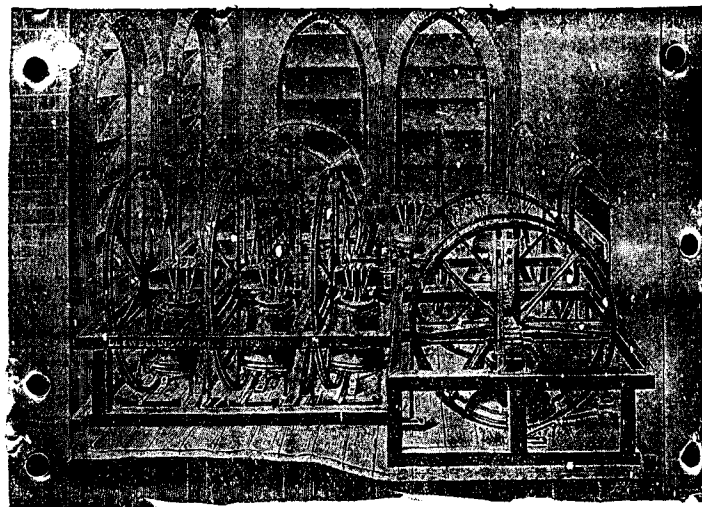
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 1112.]

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1903.

[Vol. XXII.]

OUR CHURCH BELLS.

THEIR CONDITION AND SURROUNDINGS:

Being the Report of the Committee appointed by the Central Council to investigate the state of rings of 8, 10, and 12 bells in England, and to collect information calculated to promote the advance of change-ringing.

In the following schedule, which will be continued week by week, the towers are placed in alphabetical order; the name of the place being put first, followed by the dedicatory designation of the church. It is earnestly requested that the omission of any tower, with the name and address of the representative ringer—also alterations required in the information scheduled, may be at once notified to Sir Arthur Heywood, Bart., Duffield, Derby, with the envelope endorsed:—C.C.C.B.R. Unless corrections are promptly pointed out, the value of the Report, when subsequently published in pamphlet form, will be seriously impaired.

SCHEDULE (continued).

LONGTON (Staffordshire). St. John. Stoke Archidiaconal Association. Eight bells. All by Mears, 1815. Tenor 16 cwt., diameter 3 ft. 10 in. Timber frame. Bells go well. Clocking permitted. The ring were rehung by Warner, 1892. Ropes new, 1898, good. Method: Grandsire. Sunday ringing: 10 to 11, and 5.45 to 6.30. Practice: Tuesday, 8.

LOUGHBOROUGH (Leicestershire). All Saints. Midland Counties' Association. Ten bells. All recently recast and rehung by Taylor. Tenor 30½ cwt., diameter 4 ft. 7 in. Frame part iron, part timber. Bells go well. Ropes good. Methods: Grandsire, Stedman, Plain and Treble Bob, Double Norwich, Duffield and Superlative. Sunday ringing: 9.45 to 10.40, and 5.50 to 6.25, except in Lent. Practice: Tuesday, 7.30.

LOUGHTON (Essex). St. John. Essex Association. Eight bells. All by Warner; the two trebles 1874, the rest 1866. Tenor 20 cwt., diameter 4 ft. Timber frame. Bells are pealable. Rehung by Warner, 1888, and repaired in 1896. Ringers have recommended deadening of sound in ringing-chamber, which will be done when funds permit. Ropes about to be renewed. Methods: Grandsire, Stedman, Treble Bob and Double Norwich. Sunday ringing by the "recognised parish ringers" is only call-changes. Hours not stated. The voluntary society of change-ringers practice Tuesday, 7.30, except in Lent.

LOUTH (Lincolnshire). St. James. North Lincolnshire Association. Eight bells. The original peal probably all by Hedderly, as his name and the date 1726 appears on all but the three back bells, of which the 7th and tenor are dated 1746 and 1818 respectively, the 6th being undated. No founder's name to either of the three. Tenor 30 cwt., diameter 4 ft. 7 in. Timber frame.

Bells go fairly. Rehung by Hooper, 1872. Ropes are made locally as required, and not very well. Method: Grandsire. Sunday ringing: 10 to 10.30, and 6 to 6.30. Practice: Thursday, 7.

LOWER BEEDING (Sussex). Holy Trinity. Eight bells. All by Van Aerschodt, 1886. Tenor 10 cwt. Timber frame. Back six only go well. Ropes good. Methods: Grandsire, Plain and Oxford Bob. Sunday ringing: first in month 10.15 to 11, and 6 to 6.30. Practice: Tuesday, 7. The two trebles have to be rung with clappers the wrong side in order to be heard.

LOW MOOR (Yorks). Holy Trinity. Yorkshire Association. Eight bells. All by Mears, 1840. Tenor 14 cwt., diameter 3 ft. 8 in. Timber frame. Bells go well. Ropes good. No half-pull ringing. Sunday ringing: 9.45 to 10.30, and 5.45 to 6.30. Practice: Tuesday, 7.30.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting of the Central Division of the above Association was held at Ditchling on Saturday, July 25th, representatives being present to the number of about twenty from Brighton (St. Peter and St. Nicolas), Balcombe, Buxted, Lindfield, Midhurst, Southover, Lewes, Three Bridges, and Ditchling. A few short touches of Minor were rung previous to the tea which was held in the schoolroom at 5.30, the Vicar of Ditchling (Rev. F. C. Norton) presiding; the Hon. Secretary (Mr. A. B. Bennett) was also present. The minutes of the last meeting was read by the Hon. Divisional Secretary and passed. The Rev. H. L. Barrett Lennard, Rector of Crawley, was elected a Life Member of the Association.

It was proposed by Mr. Merritt, seconded by Mr. Hart, and carried, that the next quarterly peal in this division be attempted at St. Nicolas, Brighton, the method to be Grandsire Caters, the arrangements being left to the Hon. Divisional Secretary.

Mr. A. B. Bennett then proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for granting the use of the bells and presiding at the tea, remarking that he was in hopes of having had the pleasure of proposing the Vicar and members of the Ditchling band as members of the Association, but he had not yet been able to induce them to do so.

The Vicar in reply said he was glad to welcome the Association to Ditchling, and hoped when they come again to be able to entertain them to tea at the vicarage. They had not yet been able to make up their minds to join the Association, but they might do so later on.

The tower was then visited, and various touches in several Minor methods brought round, including Bob and Treble Bob Minor, Woodbine and College Exercise; the bells being lowered about 8.15 p.m.

BELL-RINGER'S HANDKERCHIEF.—Made in pure silk, with figures of various-sized bells woven in. A splendid article for use, and very suitable for a gift to either sex.—Designed and made by a change-ringer for the Exercise. Price 3s. 9d.; with name woven in, 5s.—These goods have received the most flattering encomiums from all those who have had them.—WILFRED MATTHEWS, change-ringer, 110, Bond Street, Macclesfield.

MR. WILLIAM GREENLEAF.

(Now of Hereford.)

WILLIAM GREENLEAF was born on November 23rd, 1847, in the parish of Bethnal Green, and is consequently in his fifty-sixth year. A notable event is impressed upon his memory, viz.: the unfortunate fire which totally destroyed the then church of St. Matthew, with its ring of eight bells. Our readers will hardly need to be told that the present church of St. Matthew with its well-known ring of eight succeeded the church and bells which were thus destroyed. We think this notable conflagration occurred on a Saturday in the depth of winter, and on the following Sunday morning marriages were solemnised amid the ruins; the water left by the firemen's operations having frozen in the night, the weddings took place under canopies of immense icicles.

It may be stated as a fact that in consequence of Mr. Greenleaf getting employment at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (Mears and Stainbank) about the year 1868, he ultimately became a bell-ringer. His first introduction to a ringing company was at the church of St. John-at-Hackney, London. Here he received most willing and able assistance, and he ultimately became one of a band of voluntary ringers at that church, and at St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, for more than twenty years; a period which he always remembers with pleasure. His first attempt to ring was at the old parish church of Walthamstow. Being one of a party who had walked out from Hackney for a pull, and such party being one short, he was asked to ring the tenor, an invitation he had some doubt in accepting, as he had not properly mastered a bell. His infantile essay, however, enabled the company to get a touch or two. His next attempt was at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, where again a tenor-man was wanting; and this was his first introduction to such ringers as M. A. Wood, J. Pettit, H. W. Haley, W. Cooter, G. Muskett, H. Booth, and other lions of the Exercise. That modern product of the literary world known as an "interviewer" would no doubt be told by the subject of this memoir of the fear that he had not made the fullest use of those opportunities which the introduction to such men as the above-named afforded him. But he feels pleasure in the retrospect, a fond recollection it is to him that he has enjoyed their friendship for many years, and taken part in a great number of peals with them. Some have gone to their rest, but others are left at advanced ages, still taking an active part in the science, beloved and honoured.

The number of peals in which he has taken part cannot accurately be stated here; they number about 160 peals in all; on six, eight, ten and twelve bells: the longest being 11,111 Stedman Caters at Fulham; 8896 Treble Bob at St. Matthew, Bethnal Green; and the attempt at St. Michael's for the long peal of Stedman Cinques, when after ringing about 9000 changes, the affair collapsed. He took part in the first peal ever rung in Ireland, at Waterford Cathedral; also the first peal ever rung in Scotland at the old tower, Dundee, and was in the first double-handed peal on handbells ever rung in Wales. He has been a traveller in a small way, having been twice to New Zealand, Canada, Australia, etc.

WILLIAM GREENLEAF was employed at the Whitechapel Foundry for more than twenty years. During the greater part of this period he was the principal bell-tuner at that establishment, but desiring some change, and having a mind of almost infinite resource, he turned his

energies to church bellhanging also. The length to which he has achieved success in this department may be gauged by the numerous testimonials he has received from various quarters, a list of which lies before us as we write. These tributes of satisfaction with every bellhanging contract which he has undertaken, are of a nature of which any one may feel an honest pride. For some few years he was in partnership with Thomas Blackburn, of Salisbury. This connection ended, he went abroad for a time, and on his return again commenced bellhanging and bell tuning operations, locating himself in the ancient city of Hereford. Now he has taken to himself—not a wife, for he remains in what is known as single blessedness—a partner, and the firm, according to the advertisement to be found only in this paper, is now "Greenleaf and Tristram."

In writing a sketch of the career of Mr. Greenleaf, there is one incident which ought not to be omitted, especially in the light of very recent events. Years ago, before the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral were dreamt of, a strong meeting of ringers was frequently held at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on Sunday mornings. At one of these assemblies a conversation arose as to the want of an organ in the Press which ringers could regard as their very own, devoted to ringing interests only. Mr. Greenleaf's part in the conversation has not been forgotten. He energetically affirmed that if the talked-of organ comprised only one page, enough ringers would be found to adequately support it. The result of such an assertion, which was much considered by one or two individuals, eventually resulted in the foundation of this journal, though the "adequate support" prophesied may not have satisfied the hopes of those implicated in the effort.

In various sketches by several authors—notably our friend Mr. J. R. Jerram—the subject of this memoir has been alluded to more than once as "Mr. Redleaf."

MR. WILLIAM WILLSON.

(Vide Portrait.)

MR. WILLSON was born on August 12th, 1868, and is therefore in his thirty-fifth year. He learnt to ring a bell at a very early age at St. George's, Leicester, where two elder brothers (now deceased) rang, and bears scars on his head caused through falling from church gates while trying to reach the belfry when quite a boy. He commenced to ring under the tuition of the veteran John Buttery, and rang his first 6-score of Doubles on May 29th, 1882, when King Edward VII., then Prince of Wales, opened the Abbey Park. Ringing was not very flourishing in Leicester about that time, and very little was done by the subject of our portraiture until 1889, when he joined the Midland Counties' Association. In that year he attempted a peal at Quorndon, which failed after ringing 3 hrs., but in 1891 he accomplished his first peal, viz.: 5093 Grandsire Caters, at St. Margaret's; and thenceforward went ahead like the proverbial steam-engine. His next venture was 6048 Treble Bob Major. Then came Stedman Caters and Treble Bob Royal, the latter arranged for him and conducted by Mr. John W. Taylor, jun., at Loughborough. Then a 7008 of Kent; in short, he rang during his first year twenty peals, conducting two of them. Since that time opportunities have not been so great, but a glance at the annual reports of the Midland Counties' Association shew whose hand has organised the majority of the peal-ringing of Leicester and



MR. WILLIAM GREENLEAF.

(Of Hereford.)



MR. WILLIAM WILLSON.

(Of Leicester.)

district for the past twelve years. MR. WILLSON'S complement of successes are as follows:

	Rung	Conducted
On five bells	5	5
On six bells in 1 method	3	2
On six bells in 3 methods	1	1
On six bells in 5 methods	1	0
On six bells in 7 methods	1	1
Bob Triples	5	2
Bob Major	10	5
Stedman Triples	7	2
Stedman Caters	6	0
Stedman Cinques... ..	2	0
Oxford Treble Bob Major	1	0
Kent Treble Bob Major ...	14	6
Kent Treble Bob Royal ...	4	0
Grandsire Triples	22	12
Grandsire Major	3	2
Grandsire Caters... ..	13	7
Grandsire Cinques	1	0
Double Norwich Major ...	5	2
Superlative Surprise Major	2	0
London Surprise Major ...	1	0
	107	47

On handbells, MR. WILLSON has rung three peals of Grandsire Triples, one of Grandsire Caters, one of Stedman Triples (silent), two of Stedman Caters (one silent), and one peal of silent Stedman Cinques. Of the peals conducted by him he has called Holt's Original from every working bell; Thurstans's one-part, and Lates's one-part peals of Stedman Triples, the latter at the first attempt from a non-observation bell. He essayed and called at the first attempt, Harrison's 10,176 Treble Bob Major, in 6 hrs. 26 mins., and his 100th peal was 7001 of Caters, composed and conducted by himself. He was one of the band that opened the bells of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, in 1897, and was offered the position of steeplekeeper and Instructor at a salary of £52 per year, but MR. WILLSON was reluctantly compelled by circumstances to decline that offer. He is steeplekeeper of St. John the Divine, Leicester, where there is a grand ring of eight bells and a model belfry.

He has composed peals in every method he has rung, and is equally "at home" on any bell from treble to tenor, although he is usually found at the heavy end. His performances prove that he is a safe ringer and conductor, and youngsters turn to him for their "first peal." He is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, North Lincolnshire Association, St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham, Durham and Newcastle, St. Michael's (Ashton-under-Lyne), Central Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire, and the Midland Counties' Association. Not only as a ringer but as a writer is WILLIAM WILLSON known to the readers of this and other journals. Prose and verse, both grave and gay, have appeared from his pen. During the late Boer war he was one of the minority who were not carried away on the wave of excitement and militarism, and as a Christian Socialist he contributed freely to the advanced political press. He is no upholder of "my country—right or wrong." On the contrary, after one of General De Wet's gallant exploits, on the principle of "put yourself in his place," he wrote a poem which was speedily copied and freely published by the foreign press. The following is a stanza:

Hail to De Wet
Prince of his fellows. Hail

Hemmed in a score of times—and yet
Swept through his foemen like a gale.
And red-eyed Britain stood with anger pale
At her own helplessness; yet in her heart
Full well she knew that had another Power
Made war on thee, why then her part
Had been to thee hero of the hour.
Then shall our harps be dumb? Tho' e'en a foe
Thou art the boldest we have ever met.
Shall minstrelsy be sycophant? Ah, no!
On History's page thy fame is set,
And singers of a newer age
Shall sing of thee,
Bravo! De Wet.

His motto is "Thorough," as his ringing career and his writings bear witness, and although neither may bring him material gain, WILLIAM WILLSON, of Leicester, will leave a name behind him.

KILDWICK, YORKSHIRE.

The "Lang Kirk of Craven," the venerable parish church of Kildwick—or as the Domesday Book quaintly spells it, "Childeuwick,"—on a recent Saturday entered on a new lease of religious service. The old fabric, battered by weather and the havoc of war, destroyed and rebuilt, enlarged and enlarged again, owes its present general shape to the builders and restorers of the time of Henry VIII., though the recumbent statue of Sir Robert de Styveton carries us back to 1307.

The extent of the present work has been much greater than was anticipated at the outset. The body of the church was found to have a distinct list to the southward, and the arcades were in a very dangerous condition. The chancel roof, in some parts eighteen inches out of normal position, has been ingeniously brought back covered with felt. New stone capitals have had to be freely inserted, and at numberless points, walls, flooring, and roof bear the marks of skilled restoration, the whole of the work having been carried out in fidelity to the general character of the structure.

Following the Rev. A. D. C. Thompson, who was Vicar in 1897 when the movement was started, the Rev. E. H. Morris and the present Vicar, the Rev. E. W. Brereton, have actively promoted the restoration scheme, and with such heartiness have their efforts been seconded, that of the £4000 which the entire scheme is expected to cost, nearly three-quarters have been raised. The patrons of the living increased their original offer of £300 to £750, and the Duke of Devonshire promised £100 when the amount raised should reach £3000.

The re-opening services was commenced on Saturday afternoon, July 18th, when the restored structure was crowded. The choir was reinforced by the choirs of Carleton, Cononley, Cowling, Skipton, Steeton and Sutton, and these, including a large and powerful contingent of female voices, sang under the direction of Mr. G. F. Sewell. Mr. Smith Wallbank (organist and choir-master of All Souls' church, Leeds), presided at the organ, whose improved tone and volume he brought out. The Vicar read the prayers, the Rector of Keighley (Rev. H. J. Palmer) read the first lesson, and the Rev. Canon Wilson (Bolton-by-Bowland) the second lesson. Smart's *Magnificat* was finely rendered, the sweetness of the sopranos being especially noticeable. The *Nunc Dimittis* was also Smart's setting; and Sir George Elvey's "I was glad" was rendered with deep feeling.

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."

LIVERPOOL AND TRURO.

SIR,—Your excellent article on the bells at St. Nicolas, Liverpool, and your hope that proper provision will be made for a ring in the projected Cathedral, comes at an opportune time. The Cornwall people have nearly completed their new Cathedral—some 300 ft. in length—while Liverpool is still talking. The central tower at Truro—the gift of a Liverpool benefactor—is 154 ft. high without the spire, and some 27 ft. square inside. It was of course thought desirable that a fine ring of ten should be hung therein, and Mr. Taylor was got down. Alas! he found the tower useless for the purpose, as the architect has provided no turret staircase, nor indeed any access to tower above the roofs. The western towers are at present carried up to a height of nave walls only, 70 ft., and at that height are vaulted, and form a sort of western transept to the nave. But close over this vault comes the belfry stage, obstructed for some 20 ft. by nave roof, and so low that were a ring of bells hung, they could only be rung from the floor 70 ft. below, or a ringing loft must be inserted inside, as at Pershore. I may remind you that when bells are hung in one of two western towers (as at York, Lincoln, Beverley, Canterbury, St. Paul's, the Abbey, as also at Exeter and St. Patrick's, Dublin) the cills of belfry windows are kept well above the nave roof. Pity this simple matter was neglected at Truro, where otherwise the Cathedral is a glory to all concerned.

OLD RINGER.

P.S.—I refer to the western towers of Truro Cathedral as shown completed in the perspective view.

O. R.

"STEEPLEAGE" IN SUSSEX.

SIR,—As a Sussex ringer I learn with very much regret that the system of "steepelage" has been introduced into our one and only ten-bell tower. Now, Sir, I am not opposed to this system where it is made a general practice, as I believe it is in London, but I must say, and in so doing I feel sure I am expressing the opinion of a large number of my fellow-ringers in Sussex, that to establish it in a district where all towers, as in the Sussex Association, are free and open to visitors, is a most uncalled for action. Against the members of the St. Nicolas Branch, Brighton, I have nothing to say individually. I number many of them among my best friends; but I cannot refrain from remarking that they have adopted a misguided line; those members, that is, who are responsible for it, for I understand that a few of them were not consulted in the matter. It is not the 3d. per man that is objected to, even though the steepel-keeper is a paid servant, and moreover rings in practically every peal attempted in the tower. It is the introduction of a principle, that with a view to extending the practice of our Art in Sussex, has hitherto been kept out of our local affairs, that is so objectionable. But even this is not all. What we ringers in Sussex cannot understand is that if a certain band, which at present shall be nameless, attempts a peal—I cannot say whether the same condition applies to all parties—they must pay, not only 2s. 6d. for steepelage, but 5s. extra for "past services." Was anything more stupid, more arbitrary or more in opposition to those principles of good fellowship upon which ringers pride themselves ever heard of? I apologise for trespassing to such an extent upon your valuable space with a matter that is more or less of purely local interest, but your columns are the only means of ventilating such points as this. If, however, the result is the removal of these ridiculous restrictions upon ten-bell peals in Sussex you will have served the cause of ringing in this county a good turn. Thanking you in anticipation, I hide my identity for the present under the *nom de plume* of

DISGUSTED.

STEDMAN SLOW COURSE.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Hampton's interesting letter it is quite certain that this method is an attempt to apply Stedman's Principle to six bells, but as all the bells do not do the same work it does not belong to the "Stedman Group." The method consists of a hunt and five working bells. It is therefore a

"plain method" and ought to conform to the laws of "plain methods." It is true that the treble need not be the hunt, but the same applies with equal force to all methods (vide Report on Methods.) The peculiar go-off usually adopted in Stedman is due to the fact that the method was developed direct from the old "plain change" in which it was usual to hunt the treble at once up behind.

J. A. TROLLOPE.

Obituary.

CHARLES RUDD.

It is with regret that we have to record the death of the above, who died from injuries received in the hay field a week previously. Deceased was one of the first to join the Norwich Diocesan Association in 1887. He was very keen on the Art of ringing, and although having only two peals to his credit since the formation of the Association, he had taken part in ringing in no fewer than 101 different steeples. Deceased was sixty years of age, and for upwards of forty years had been a member of the Dickleburgh company. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon in Thelveton churchyard, when the respect in which the deceased was held was testified by the large attendance at the interment. Four of the Dickleburgh ringers acted as bearers. At Dickleburgh the Rector made feeling allusion to the deceased, who had been most regular in his attendance at church, where he helped to ring prior to the services. On Monday evening several touches in various methods were rung with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect by his brother-ringers.

WILLIAM WALKER.

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of the above-named ringer, which took place at his residence after a very short illness on July 7th, aged 64. He was a member of the parish church company, Leeds, for upwards of thirty years and was one of those who never forgot it was his duty to go to ring on Sunday, he always being at his post. He was a good striker and always took a pride in his ringing; he was also a good handbell ringer, but always said he would have to live to be a 100 if he got a handbell peal. He learnt his ringing at Burley church, at which place he rung his first peal on six on October 15th, 1859. He was a life member of the Yorkshire Association, having joined at its commencement; a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths and the Leeds and District Amalgamated Society. He had quite a collection of six-bell methods, of which a number appeared in this paper on September 16th, 1882, September 23rd, and November 25th. The following are his list of peals: on six bells, 1; Grandsire Triples, 2; Bob Major, 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 22, including a 10,176; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 3; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 1; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 3; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1; Grandsire Caters, 2; Stedman Caters, 1.

THE ST. MARY'S, PRESTON (SUFFOLK) SOCIETY.—On Saturday, June 6th, the members of this Society had their annual outing. Starting from their meeting house, The Six Bells inn at 8.20 a.m. in a well-appointed brake, the first halt was made at Felsham to pick up the remainder of the party. Then on to Rougham, where a capital 720 of Superlative Surprise was rung on the splendid ring of six, being the first on the bells; and 360 New London Pleasure. A move was then made for Woolpit, where a capital lunch had been provided by Host F. Stanley, of The Swan hotel. After lunch the chairman gave "The Health of the King," and a visit was then paid to the tower, where some touches in various methods were rung. Then on to Drinkstone, where an attempt for a 720 of Cambridge Surprise came to an untimely end. The party then wended their way to Felsham and rang a 720 of New London Pleasure. After two hours of pleasant entertainment the visitors had to take leave of their enthusiastic friends the brothers Kinsey, Gladwell and J. Horrex, all agreeing the outing to have been one of the most pleasantest the Society have had. They wish to thank the Clergy for the use of their bells, and the steepel-keepers for having everything in readiness.

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of notices in this page is one Penny per line (five words may be reckoned to a line). Repetitions at half that rate. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

The Lancashire Association.—Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's church, Ramsbottom, to-day, Saturday, August 1st. Bells ready at 4 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30. W. ASHWORTH.

The Salisbury Diocesan Guild.—East Dorset Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Wareham (8) on Monday, August 3rd. A peal will be attempted in the morning, followed by lunch at 1.30 p.m., and business meeting at 2 p.m. The bells will be available the remainder of the day for practice. Members and visitors cordially invited. Subscriptions due for 1903 will be thankfully received. MARTIN STEWART, *Hon Sec.*
Ferndown, Wimborne.

The Gloucester and Bristol Association.—Bristol Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Westbury-on-Trym on Saturday, August 8th next. Service at 5 p.m. Tea and business meeting after service. C. H. GORDON, *Branch Sec.*

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.—The August meeting will be held at Barnard Castle on Saturday, the 8th. Belfry open from 2 p.m. : eight bells, tenor 17 cwt. Tea at Wandless' Refreshment Rooms, The Bank, 5 p.m., 9d. each to members, 1s. 3d. non-members. Those intending to be present must notify the secretary by Thursday, 4th August. C. L. ROUTLEDGE, *Hon. Sec.*
62, Jesmond Road, Newcastle.

The Romney Marsh and District Guild.—The first annual meeting of the above will be held at Hastings on Saturday, August 15th, when it is hoped that every member will make a special effort to attend. A list of towers open and other particulars will appear next week or may be had by applying to C. TRIBE, *British School Villas, Tenterden. Hon. Sec.*

St. Margaret's Society, Westminster.—The practice and Sunday ringing will be suspended entirely during August. The first meetings will be on Friday, September 11th, and Sunday evening, September 13th. JAMES E. DAVIS, *Sec.*

Mr. G. H. Gutteridge, of "Framewood," Stoke Poges, would be much obliged if Mr. J. W. Barker, of Bedford, would send his address to him.—We have a letter for Mr. F. Hopgood, of Reading. Would he send his address.

The New Palace Steamers announce that on account of the popularity of their present arrangements, they will not make any alteration in their sailings for the Bank Holiday period. The "Royal Sovereign" will sail as usual from Old Swan Pier at 9.20 a.m. for Margate and Ramsgate, and the "Koh-i-Noor" at 8.50 a.m. for Southend and Margate. "La Marguerite" on Saturday, 1st, and Sunday, 2nd August, to Southend and Margate from Tilbury, special train from Fenchurch Street, 9.45 a.m., St. Pancras at 9 a.m. (Sunday 9.40 a.m.), and on Monday, Bank Holiday, to Ostend and back, calling at Margate, special train from Fenchurch Street 6.15 a.m. Husbands' Boat to Margate, the "Koh-i-noor," on Saturday afternoon, leaving Old Swan Pier at 1.50 p.m.

Compositions.

STEDMAN CATERS.

By HENRY DAINS, *Cumberland Youths.*

5077.

123456789	5	16	214365978
514362978*			514362879†
415263	-	-	415263
413562	-	-	413562
412365	-	-	412365
214563	-	-	214563
213465	-	-	213465
215364	-	-	215364
512463	-	-	512463
513264	-	-	513264
315462	-	-	315462
312564	-	-	312564
314265	-	-	314265
514263‡			‡514263
415362	-	-	415362
412563	-	-	412563
413265	-	-	413265
314562	-	-	314562
312465	-	-	312465
315264	-	-	315264
513462	-	-	513462
512364	-	-	512364
215463	-	-	215463
213564	-	-	213564
214365	-	-	214365

*This course obtained by bobs 1, 2, 4, 8, 11, 55 and 9.

†These courses are obtained by bobs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 810.

‡This course obtained by bobs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

Contains 6th 24 courses behind 9th in titmuss position, and 24 courses behind 8th in the home position. Round at hand next change.

LATE NOTICE.

The Kent County Association.—Rochester District.—The annual meeting of the above district will be held at St. Mary's, Chatham, on Saturday, the 22nd August. Tower open for ringing at 4 p.m. Tea will be provided in St. Mary's school at 6 p.m. Committee meeting after tea. All members intending to be present must give me notice on or before Thursday, the 20th. Half railway fare will be paid up to 2s. A. OSBORNE, *Hon. Dist. Sec.*
65, Clive Road, Rochester.

Situation Vacant.

Wanted, TWO MEN, to work in quarry (lime-stone), change ringers. Apply in first instance to Mr. J. Cole, Oaklands, Penrhyn Bay, Llandudno.

Wanted, GENERAL SMITH, with knowledge of cycle repairs.—Apply, J. E. Baker, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

Situations Wanted.

HEAD GARDENER.—Situation required where four or more are kept. Age 29. 3½ years as foreman in present situation. Near London preferred, not obligatory. Change-ringer in various methods. Chorister.—G. H. Head, Poltimore Gardens, Exeter.

As CARETAKER of hall or church schools, etc. Age 23. Handy at repairs, etc. Good characters. Ringer on 6, 8 or 10 bells.—A. T. Jones, 13, Benlah Grove, West Croydon, Surrey.

As CARETAKER of Public Offices or otherwise 4½ years' references. Change ringer on 6 to 12 bells.—Apply, Henry F. Cooper, assistant hallkeeper, Shirehall, Worcester.

MAN, married, age 33, well educated, wants employment any capacity. Would act as verger. Good change-ringer.—Geo. Thompson, co. Mr. Warren, 89, Parson's Mead, West Croydon.

As JOINER.—Young man seeks situation as Joiner, age 22. Good change-ringer, member of the Norwich Diocesan Association.—Apply, Editor of "Bell News."

[We have a letter; would you send your address.]

SPLENDID

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

STANDARD METHODS: 2s. 6d. FOURTH EDITION
Now Ready. Contains full explanations and rules for ringing all the best methods, from five to eight bells, with plain-course diagrams of each printed in full, with coloured lines. 40 pages of diagrams and 87 of descriptive letterpress.

GRANDSIRE; 2s. 0d. THE METHOD, ITS PEALS, AND HISTORY. WITH PORTRAIT AND MEMOIR. EDITED BY HIS BROTHER, WM SNOWDON. COMPLETE WITH AN APPENDIX BY THE REV. CHARLES D. P. DAVIES, M.A., Oxon. Commences with ringing on five, six, and seven bells, for the benefit of a learner; gives instructions on composing, proving, varying, and reversing, conducting and calling round; and ends with a general survey of the practical and scientific aspect of the composition of triples—thus forming a complete reference book for all Grandsire ringers. (210 pages).

NOW OUT OF PRINT.

TREBLE BOB. PART I.—1s. 6d. Now Ready. With Appendix. Part I. contains instructions for pricking, transposing, proving, composing, on conducting peals; an essay on the *In and Out-of-course* of the changes; and a history of the various compositions and performances. Part II., of which very few copies remain, is not a suitable work for beginners; see notice on the cover of Part I.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 1s. 0d.
Contains rules and instructions for pricking and ringing the method; a linear diagram of the plain course; a collection of touches and peals; instructions for proving, and a history of the earlier performances with a list of peals down to 1884 (78 pages)

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SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD'S WORK.

"DUFFIELD:" A MUSICAL METHOD FOR 8, 10, AND 12 BELLS. A Broadsheet containing full directions for ringing the above may be obtained, gratis, from SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, BART., Duffield, Derby (The pamphlet on this method is now out of print.)

THE RINGERS' CYCLE, THE "SUPERLATIVE."

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Handle Bars any pattern.	Saddle, best quality.
Gear to order, $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch pitch.	Pedals, rat-trap or rubber.
Rims plated or enamelled.	Fittings, : Superlative, B.S.A., Chater-Lea, or Eadie.
Spokes, best plated.	

Price, including Front Rim-brake £10 10 0
(Free Wheel and Bowden Back Brake, £1 extra.)

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LILLINGTON, LEAMINGTON.

NOTE.—Beware of so-called cheap and "shoddy" machines. If you cannot afford a good one, you are far less able to afford a bad one.

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The Church Agency, 33, Strand, W.C

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	Do. framed in oak	..	9s

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JAMES HUNT, CHANGE-RINGER, 19, DAPDUNE ROAD, GUILDFORD.
A trial order, which shall have my prompt attention,

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" 6 "	3s. 3d.
" 3 "	1s. 8d.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication arriving later than the first Postal delivery on Wednesday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.

All 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, AUGUST 1, 1903.

THE few words of appeal we addressed last week to the building Committee of the proposed Liverpool Cathedral, has met with approval from a quarter very competent indeed to second our remarks. Our correspondent tells of a remarkable state of affairs in connection with the central tower of Truro Cathedral. Perhaps the present deficiency under which this tower suffers could be obviated somewhat if an architect who knew what was required was consulted. Such a man could be found, and we think we could put our hands upon him.

The building committee of the Liverpool Cathedral have now the instance of Truro before them. This fact ought to lead them to consider whether everything has

been arranged in the architect's plan for the *proper* reception of the bells. The architect may honestly be of opinion that all that is necessary to this end has been done. But with all due respect to the talents of such professional gentlemen the fact remains that they are generally ignorant of the needs of a tower for the reception of bells.

We know very well, and our numerous readers could point out defects in the details of many church towers which could in time have easily been prevented. A few moments' conversation between the architect and ringers previous to erection would doubtless keep matters straight, and the former would no doubt be agreeably surprised at the result of such an interview.

The thing now wanted is that the attention of the building committee of Liverpool Cathedral should be directed without delay to the facts above stated. Who will take on this duty? No doubt our correspondent will take care that these gentlemen have an opportunity of reading the numbers of this journal in which this question has been dealt with, but our Lancashire brethren should be on the alert notwithstanding.

EARL SOHAM, SUFFOLK.

Some three years ago through the munificence of Sir Auckland Colvin, K.C.S.I., the church tower was thoroughly restored and the bells rehung in a bell frame. A place was prepared and left ready for a treble, which has now been presented by the same liberal donor. The new bell was cast by Messrs. Warner. The new bell has the following inscription in Latin, translated thus: "We who are now six bells, were for a long time only five; I came last, and celebrate again, with pleasant tongue, here whilst I hang, the happy day; DD Auckland Colvin, 1903." The parishioners were delighted with the improvement effected by the introduction of the new bell.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Three Hours and Eleven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW, BETHNAL GREEN,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES.

Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr. 5 lbs.

MATTHEW A. WOOD Treble.	HERBERT BAKER 5.
HARRY R. PASMORE 2.	*HARRY A. HORREX 6.
W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM 3.	JOHN W. GOLDING 7.
FREDERICK DENCH 4.	GEORGE N. PRICE Tenor.

Composed by FREDK. DENCH, and Conducted by GEORGE N. PRICE.

First peal in the method on the bells. *Fiftieth peal.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Three Hours and Twenty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WALTHAMSTOW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 20 cwt.

CHARLES T. HOPKINS .. Treble.	†HENRY T. WILSON 5.
HENRY DAINS 2.	*FRANK SMITH 6.
EDWIN BARNETT 3.	ARTHUR N. HARDY 7.
GEORGE E. WILSON 4.	EDGAR WIGHTMAN 8.
GEORGE PAICE 5.	ARTHUR R. JACOB Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS, and Conducted by EDGAR WIGHTMAN

†First peal of Treble Bob Royal. *First peal on ten bells.

LLANBADARN FAWR, CARDIGANSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Sunday, July 19, 1903, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PADARN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PENNING'S ONE-PART.

Tenor 15½ cwt. in F sharp.

WILLIAM HANCOX Treble.	THOMAS MILLER 5.
JOHN BRADNEY 2.	CHARLES H. WATTS 6.
THOMAS HORTON 3.	JOHN JAGGAR 7.
WILLIAM H. GODDEN 4.	WILLIAM SHORT Tenor.

Conducted by J. JAGGAR.

Further reference will be found elsewhere.

HENLEY, SUFFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, July 21, 1903, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

Tenor 8 cwt. 3 lbs. in A flat.

DANIEL PRENTICE Treble.	ALFRED G. RIVERS 5.
REV. WILLIAM C. PEARSON .. 2.	ERNEST S. GOSTLING 6.
HARRY J. MEE 3.	GEORGE SHIPP 7.
ARTHUR A. GIRLING 4.	CHARLES MEE Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by DANIEL PRENTICE.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, July 22, 1903, in Three Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5111 CHANGES.

Tenor 24½ cwt.

GEORGE HOLLIS* Treble.	*BENJAMIN A. KNIGHTS .. 6.
WILLIAM LAMBERT* 2.	SAMUEL WESLEY 7.
THOMAS BETTISON* 3.	JAMES PAGETT 8.
JOHN FLINT* 4.	WILLIAM J. THYNG 9.
BRAILSFORD C. HANDBY* .. 5.	ARTHUR KNIGHTS Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS, and Conducted by GEORGE HOLLIS.

*First peal in the method.

GLOUCESTER.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER.

On Thursday, July 23, 1903, in Three Hours and Eighteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES.

Tenor 20 cwt.

HARRY LEWIS Treble.	ALBERT E. EDWARDS .. 6.
JOHN AUSTIN 2.	FRANCIS E. HART 7.
FRANCIS J. LEWIS 3.	THOMAS NEWMAN 8.
THOMAS BALDWIN 4.	GEORGE CONDICK, SEN. .. 9.
ERNEST V. COX 5.	ERNEST E. DAVIS Tenor.

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

WORCESTER.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 23, 1903, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. HELEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART.

Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

CHARLES JONES* Treble.	HARRY MIDDLETON 5.
HENRY WILKES 2.	*FRANK DUNAWAY 6.
WILLIAM BRIGHT 3.	WILLIAM HENRY JOHNSON .. 7.
ALBERT HILL 4.	THOMAS MALIN Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY WILKES.

*First peal. This was H. Middleton's 10th peal a list of which appears elsewhere.

WILLINGTON, BEDS.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

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 9½ cwt.

THOMAS M. WRIGHT .. Treble.	CHARLES W. CLARKE .. 4.
JOHN W. BARKER .. 2.	FREDERICK W. BOOTH .. 5.
WILLIAM STAPLETON .. 3.	WILLIAM FREEMAN .. Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN W. BARKER.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5069 CHANGES.

JAMES RUMBLE .. Treble.	GEORGE H. DAYNES .. 6.
JOHN H. CHEESMAN .. 2.	WILLIAM S. SMITH .. 7.
WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE .. 3.	WILLIAM CROCKFORD .. 8.
FREDERICK G. PERRIN .. 4.	HERBERT LANGDON .. 9.
JAMES E. DAVIS .. 5.	THOMAS LANGDON .. Tenor.

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and Conducted by JOHN H. CHEESMAN.

ERDINGTON, WARWICKSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. THOMAS AND EDMUND,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

THOMAS WARD .. Treble.	FRANK FAY .. 5.
GEORGE SWANN .. 2.	CHARLES DICKENS .. 6.
THOMAS REYNOLDS .. 3.	BERNARD WITCHELL .. 7.
EDWARD STRINGER .. 4.	*GEORGE PARSONS .. Tenor.

Conducted by BERNARD WITCHELL.

Rung with the bells deeply muffled as a mark of respect to the late Pope Leo XIII.
*First peal.

BRIERLEY HILL, STAFFORDSHIRE.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION, AND THE ST. THOMAS'S GUILD, DUDLEY.

On Monday, July 27, 1903, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14½ cwt.

WILLIAM HARFORD* .. Treble.	JOSEPH SMITH .. 5.
WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT .. 2.	*ROBERT MATTHEWS .. 6.
JOHN BASS* .. 3.	*FRED PLANT .. 7.
ALFRED ROWLEY .. 4.	*ALBERT J. SKELDING .. Tenor.

Composed by YORK GREEN, and Conducted by WM. MICKLEWRIGHT.

*First peal in the method.

Handbell Peals.

ST. NEOTS, HUNTS.

THE ELY DIOCESAN AND BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, July 25, 1903, in Two Hours and Twenty-one Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. G. D. CGLEMAN, AVENUE ROAD,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES.

LKWIS WATSON .. 1-2.	GEORGE D. COLEMAN .. 5-6.
SIDNEY J. COLEMAN .. 3-4.	CHARLES R. LILLEY .. 7-8.

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK, and Conducted by C. R. LILLEY.

Umpire—H. Fields. First peal of Major by L. Watson, aged 14, to whom great credit is due.

Miscellaneous.

THE ROMNEY MARSH AND DISTRICT GUILD.

APPLEDORE (Kent).—On Sunday, June 14th, for evening service, 336 Grandsire Triples. C. Tribe, E. Johnson, C. Noakes, S. Hills, A. Johnson, F. Brown, G. Johnson, W. Sharp.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

GUILDFORD.—On Sunday, May 24th, before evening service at Holy Trinity church, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich, 1248 changes, in 45 mins. H. Hatton, A. Frankum, B. Chorley, G. Gunner, A. H. Pulling, R. Wood, C. Willshire, F. Blondell conductor. Rung as a birthday compliment to F. Blondell.

FARNHAM.—On Sunday, July 5th, for Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. A LeClercq, A. Baigent, H. Garfath, jun., A. E. Smith, T. Upshall, E. Clapshaw, H. Garfath, sen. conductor, H. Jarratt. On Sunday, July 12th, for Divine Service, 350 in the same method. G. Cranham, A. E. Smith, H. Garfath, jun. conductor, T. Upsall, A. Baigent, E. Clapshaw, H. Garfath, sen., H. Kimber.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

STANSTED.—On Saturday, June 13th, at the church of St. Mary the Virgin, 1280 Bob Major, composed by H. J. Tucker. G. Jordan, H. Little, I. Hammond, J. Luckey, W. Prior, W. T. Prior, T. J. Watts, W. Watts conductor. A quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, taken from Thurstan's four-part. W. T. Prior, I. Hammond, J. Luckey, G. Jordan, W. Prior, T. J. Watts, W. Watts conductor, H. Little. On Wednesday, July 8th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise, 1120 changes. I. Hammond, H. J. Tucker, G. Gordon, J. Luckey, G. Barker, T. Jordan, W. T. Prior, W. Watts conductor. On Sunday, July 12th, for morning service, 504 Stedman Triples. T. Jordan, J. Luckey, G. Gray, G. Jordan, W. Prior, T. J. Watts, W. Watts conductor, J. Cavill. On Sunday, July 12th, for evening service, 704 Cambridge Surprise Major. H. Little, G. Jordan, G. Gray, W. Prior, J. Luckey, T. J. Watts, T. Jordan, W. Watts conductor.

CHELMSFORD.—On Sunday, June 21st, at St. Mary's church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins. W. Rowland, sen., B. S. Thompson, H. Richell, W. Newman, A. Bradley, W. Rowland, jun. conductor, A. Whight, H. Rolfe.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

OSWALDTWISTLE.—On Tuesday, May 26th, at the parish church, 720 Canterbury Pleasure. R. Bentley, T. Haworth, J. Bentley, A. Walmsley, J. J. Haworth, C. Sharples conductor. On May 31st, 720 Plain Bob. I. Whalley, J. T. Yates, A. Houldsworth, J. Bentley, J. J. Haworth, C. Sharples conductor. For evening service, 720 Plain Bob. J. Bentley, J. T. Yates, A. Houldsworth, J. J. Haworth, I. Whalley, C. Sharples conductor. On Tuesday, June 9th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure, first in the method by J. T. Yates and A. Houldsworth. On Sunday, June 14th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure. On Tuesday, June 16th, 720 Craven Delight. A. Walmsley, T. Haworth, J. Bentley, I. Whalley, J. Haworth, C. Sharples conductor. First in the method by all the band, and first on the bells. On Sunday, June 21st, 720 London Scholars' Pleasure. A. Walmsley, T. Haworth, I. Whalley, J. Bentley, J. Haworth, C. Sharples conductor. For evening song, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. On Sunday, June 28th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure. On Sunday, July 12th, for Matins, 720 Oxford Treble Bob For Evensong 720 Violet.

ASHLEWORTH (Gloucestershire).—On Saturday, May 23rd, 1080 Grandsire Doubles, being nine 6-scores, each called differently. B. Etheridge conductor, J. M. Turner, W. Etheridge, F. Belcher, A. Dance, T. Taylor. And 240 by the same, with the bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to a deceased parishioner. On Whit Sunday, May 31st, 720 Grandsire Doubles. T. Taylor, J. M. Turner, B. Etheridge conductor, F. Roberts, F. Belcher, O. Tuffley. A 360. T. Taylor, F. Belcher, J. M. Turner, F. Roberts, A. Dance, B. Etheridge conductor. And 360 by the same.

RANMOOR, SHEFFIELD (Yorks).—On Wednesday, July 22nd, at St. John's church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, taken from Brook's variation, in 46 mins. S. Thomas conductor, F. Ward, A. Ward, W. Noble, C. Haynes, T. Sawyer, R. Harrison, H. Allen. Rung to celebrate the coming of age of Mr. Alfred Ward, ringer of the 3rd, his brother-ringers wishing him many happy returns.

STAUNTON (Worcestershire).—On Tuesday, June 2nd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles, being ten-and-a-half 6-scores, each called differently. T. Taylor, H. T. Mayes, B. Etheridge conductor, J. M. Turner, R. Brunson, W. Boucher.

THE PEAL AT LLANBADARN FAWR.

The organisation of the trip to this interesting church was the inception of Mr. John Bradney, of Shifnal, and it was his original intention that the band should be a Salop Guild band. This not being found possible, a band of the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham was got together, and curiously enough it was discovered that each of the eight was a native of a separate county, so that in this way the counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Middlesex, Oxford, Worcester, Warwick, Stafford and Shropshire were each represented.

Starting from Shifnal by an early train on the morning of the 18th of July, it was expected to reach the destination about noon, but something unfortunately went wrong with the Great Western Railway, with the result that after a long and tedious journey with many stoppages Aberystwith was not reached until nearly 3 p.m.

After a short interval and slight refreshments the band got away again to Llanbadarn Fawr, and were soon admiring the noble church and Bob Major tower—the latter measuring about 30ft. 6 ins. square inside by 41 feet square outside. No single detail which could add to the pleasure and comfort of the visitors had been overlooked by the local ringers, and their leader, Mr. Simon, so that the bells and ropes being found in excellent order, a start was quickly made for a peal of Grandsire Triples.

The long and tedious journey had however told its tale, and after little more than an hour's excellent ringing, one of those little contretemps occurred which bring matters to a close.

Arrangements having previously been made to meet the local ringers and be their guests at a dinner at Garner's restaurant in Aberystwith, there was insufficient time to start again that evening, so that the renewed attempt was deferred until the next morning. A capital five-course dinner was provided and served in a manner which did the greatest credit to the staff of the establishment. Mr. Godden was unanimously elected chairman, and after dinner, when a few well-chosen words had been said by him, which seemed to place every one on fairly good terms with each other and themselves, the remainder of the evening was enjoyed in social harmony. The popularity seemed mainly centred on the instrumental music, the visitors having a splendid set of handbells with them, which they seemed able to manipulate equally well either in tunes or changes. The songs by the local ringers, including two or three duets, spoke well for the proverbial musical taste for which inhabitants of the principality are celebrated.

Too soon the close arrived, with a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the National Anthem.

Returning again to Llanbadarn, where the necessary accommodation had been secured, the visitors were early astir on the Sunday morning for a 6.30 start, unfortunately delayed a quarter of an hour through a misunderstanding about a key. A tolerably quick beat set at the start was maintained throughout, and the peal brought round, allowing sufficient time for breakfast and attendance at the Welsh service afterwards.

A journey to the Devil's Bridge and back by rail in the afternoon brought up time for a meeting in the belfry with the local ringers. Touches of Grandsire were rung with Mr. Senior's assistance on the treble, and afterwards touches of Stedman and Plain Bob by the visitors.

In response to an invitation by Messrs. Bradney and Godden, several of the inhabitants of Llanbadarn, including the choir-master, Mr. Jones, Mr. Simon, and members of the choir were afforded an opportunity of listening to a choice selection of music on the handbells rendered by Messrs. Miller, Short, Hancox, and Watts, and capital touches of Caters by the aforesaid and Mr. Jaggard.

Early in the morning the visitors were again astir for fresh fields, enlivening their departure from Llanbadarn by tuning all the way into Aberystwith, and at many a station on their way home.

BLACKPOOL.

RINGERS and their Friends will find good accommodation at Mr. JOHN SMITH'S, 47, Livingstone road, Blackpool (late of Rawenstall).—Near Central Station and Sea.—Piano.—THE BELL NEWS taken.—A good halfpull neighbourhood.

THE ST. MARY'S SOCIETY, WOOLWICH.

A feature in connection with the ringers of St. Mary's, Woolwich is that they have for many years past made it a point to have an annual outing, and to enable them the more readily to do this it has been their practice during the year (from Whit-Sunday to the next Whit-Sunday) to subscribe a weekly contribution to the ringers' fund. The annual meeting was held on Whrt-Tuesday, and after the balance-sheet had been submitted the officers for the ensuing year were elected, and the outing fixed for Saturday, June 27th, the place selected being Hythe. So on the day named the party left Woolwich at 6.45 a.m. in good spirits, the weather being delightfully fine, which added a charm to the journey. Arrangements had been made previously with Mr. T. Richards, Secretary of the Hythe band, for the use of the bells both at Hythe and at Folkestone, and as Mr. Richards had recently taken over the King's Head, he offered to cater for them as regards the dinner, which the Woolwich band unanimously accepted. Arriving at their destination at 10.10 they had a long day before them, but having breakfasted early their appetites were naturally sharpened, so the visitors made their way to their headquarters for some refreshment. Then a stroll to the shore through the ladies' walk (which is a beautiful avenue of trees). Mr. Gower met them at St. Leonard's church, and a touch of Grandsire and Stedman was brought round. The houses in the crypt were next inspected, and as one o'clock had arrived, the hour to dine, The King's Head was accordingly made for, and seventeen sat down to an excellent repast. Mr. W. J. Aldridge, of the Woolwich band presided, supported by Mr. Gower of the Hythe ringers. The courses were got through without any difficulty, and the repast was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Richards was called, and complimented for the excellent provision he had made to appease even the appetites of ringers. A vote of thanks to Mr. Masters was passed for his services in connection with the outing. It was also suggested and carried out that the waitress should receive a pair of gloves. The party then took tram for Folkestone, and ascending by the Sandgate lift brought them to the Leas, the fashionable promenade of Folkestone, at the end of which SS. Mary and Eanswith church is situated. Here Mr. Seeley was in readiness, and two touches of Grandsire were brought round. After tea a move was made to the station for the homeward journey, and Woolwich was reached at 11 p.m. after another enjoyable day's outing.

Thanks are due to the Rev. H. D. Dale, of Hythe, and the Rev. Erskine Knowles, of Folkestone, for the use of the bells, and to all others who helped to make the day a success.

The S. E. and C. Railway kindly provided reserved accommodation, and the journey both down and up was quickly performed. Mr. W. Woodford, churchwarden of Woolwich, kindly supplied cigars for the occasion.

LATE NOTICE.

THE HEAVY WOOLLEN DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The next monthly meeting of this Society will be held at Kirkburton, on Saturday, August 8th. Meeting to commence at 5.30. Meeting house The George Hotel. WALTER IDLE, Secretary.

47, Vulcan Road, Dewsbury.

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HANDKERCHIEFS FOR RINGERS.—Splendid Quality.—Purest Silk.—Very suitable for a present.—W. MATTHEWS, Change Ringer, Macclesfield.

THE METHOD-BUILDERS.



I read somewhere, a long time ago, a very pretty legend about one of the Ancient Fathers of the Church—I think it was St. AMBROSE—to the effect that while asleep in his cradle, to the intense horror of those about him, a swarm of bees settled upon his face, and though they remained some time apparently busy with their mandibles they at length flew away, and the little sleeper was discovered harmless and unhurt. I have named St. AMBROSE, though it might have been St. JEROME, but to make sure I would ask you to refer to that most excellent work—"Chambers's Encyclopædia," a work in my opinion second to none of its kind for clearness and perspicacity.

After reading this you will naturally say—"But what has this to do with the above illustration—'The Method-Builders?'" There is an old adage to the effect that everything comes to those who can wait. It may be so, but I have waited a long time for an avuncular relative somewhere in Alaska to leave me a fortune, and still am waiting, and I fear I am likely to keep on. This is parenthetical. But let me tell you that the result of the vagaries of this swarm of bees [you know the terrible insects belonged to an Eastern clime, and were more to be feared than our native product] was to create a belief in the minds of the relatives of the infant that he would be a prodigy, become a great man, and make a noise in the world. So he did.

My collaborateurs on this paper say I am getting too colloquial. "If you are going on like this," say they, "you will be pulled up directly. Better say something about the picture." Well, if anyone who reads this does not know the two gentlemen represented in the above illustration, he must be told. They are John Carter and Henry Dains. The latter with the aid of his index finger is no doubt trying to impress J.C. with the beauty (or otherwise) of some new method lately built,

or the topic may be "legitimacy," or Surprise *versus* Marvel, or fifty other things. Henry has a slightly dictatorial manner at times, so don't fail to notice the energy he is throwing into his argument with the aid of the index finger aforesaid. Our old friend John unfortunately suffers from deafness, and thus he is seen trying to catch every word. There are two method-builders in close consultation, you see. What they said of course I cannot actually relate. If our friend Mr. Trollope was in close proximity he might tell us, and he could not be very far off, for he took the photograph from which the above sketch was taken, and it was sent by him to the Editor, and that is how it came into my hands. Perhaps some one was behind the door. Was friend John Rogers located there? I expect not; else he would surely have been heard objecting. [Don't reply, John.]

Here is my application of the above legend. The celebrated Henry Dains first saw the light just as a peal of Treble Bob Major came round not far away. In his teething-days it was observed that the sound of bells attracted him; and on his fifth birthday he was heard to mutter something which sounded like "course-ends." Who can doubt then that the belief that he would become a prodigy was very strong in those days. We know he is a prodigy now. As method-builder, composer, and ringer he stands out in bold relief. The late John Cox was once heard to say that Harry Dains was the best Treble Bob composer in London. And so he was. Then I say that the legend connected with his infancy has been fulfilled.

Now for our friend John—the great "J.C." of Birmingham. There are no legends current about him whatever. He came into the Exercise late in life in connection with the ringers of his native town of Darlaston, where he used to be told by a venerable gentleman who is still alive that he was gettin' on too fast. He is a museum of cleverness and skill: ringer, caller, conductor, composer, and double-handed handbell ringer, doing all these things well. Then look at his mechanical abilities. It is matter for regret that I am unable to write about these, because I am not a mechanic, and could not tell the difference between a cam and an eccentric. But the great J.C. knows all these things. He can ring touches of Bob Major up in his bedroom, or rather I should say hear them ring, for he has only to set his wonderful machine going, and he can have touches in all, or any method—legitimate or illegitimate.

And these two brother-strings are method-builders. Alliance, Forward, Champion, Barnsbury Bob and others they have invented. They didn't come over with the Conqueror, though if the Conqueror had been present at the above interview they would have come over him very soon. Take another look at them. Henry laying down the law, and John laying hold of about one-eighth of what he is saying. You may depend upon it a great many of us are being brought out—method-builders and those who decry method-builders. They may have a word or two upon preferential tariffs, and the other great J.C., of Birmingham, for all we know. They won't be thinking of what ought to be considered a true peal; or whether a bob-caller should be allowed to "call" from manuscript, because they consider such questions absolutely puerile. Once more, John, we will ring the ting-tang.

PLAIN SPEAKER.



"THE METHOD-BUILDERS."

See page 226 of "THE BELL NEWS."

EASTWOOD, DERBYSHIRE.

The question of improving the bells and belfry at St. Mary's church, which was first introduced at the annual Easter Vestry, took a practical turn recently, when at a public meeting held in the schoolroom it was unanimously resolved to erect an entirely new peal of eight bells as a memorial to the memory of the late Rector. And not only was this important step resolved upon, but considerable financial progress was made towards the purchase fund, something like £60 in money and a tenor bell being promised. That the step taken by the meeting will meet with liberal public support there is little doubt, for no more fitting memorial to the late Rev. H. W. Plumptre, who laboured for so many years in the town, and commanded the respect of all classes of the community, could have been formulated. The present peal of bells, on examination, proved to be of inferior metal and in too dilapidated a condition to warrant any addition or alteration, and any idea of improvement in that respect at a smaller outlay had to be abandoned, the only course open for a satisfactory and beneficial improvement being the one adopted by the meeting.

The Rev. Barker Lumb presided, and was supported by the Rev. A. H. Plumptre, the newly-appointed Rector, and Messrs. J. Sheldon and G. Jordan (churchwardens). There was a good attendance.

The chairman having read a letter from the Eastwood Urban Council to the effect that they had decided to take no action in the matter, submitted a number of tenders, and it was estimated that a peal of eight bells would cost from £750 to £800. On the proposition of Mr. Sheldon, seconded by Mr. Barker, it was resolved to establish a fund for the erection of a new peal of eight bells, as a memorial to the late Rector. A strong committee of ladies and gentlemen was elected to carry out the work, Mrs. E. Hopkin (Ellerslie House), accepting the presidency of the ladies' committee, and the Rev. A. H. Plumptre the gentlemen's committee, the latter of which includes in addition to others, sidesmen of the church, choir members, and bell-ringers. The Rev. A. H. Plumptre said it afforded him the greatest pleasure to accept that position. He felt exceedingly glad that the first occasion on which he appeared before them was a gathering met to consider some fitting memorial to the late Rector. He could assure them that when he came in the autumn to reside amongst them, he should do all in his power to further the object, and thought if they all worked together, although it would probably take some little time, they would have no difficulty in eventually obtaining the new bells.

Messrs. J. Sheldon, A. Bates, and F. Rowley were appointed joint secretaries, and Mr. C. K. Kirby, of the Midland Counties' Bank, treasurer. It was decided to issue circulars, setting forth the object of the memorial, and appealing for the support of the district, and the Secretaries were empowered to obtain collecting books, and also cards for children, to be distributed at a further meeting to be held in the schoolroom.

Dr. Tressider expressed a hope that the subscription list would be opened at that meeting. He hoped they would have many larger subscriptions than his, but he was prepared to give £5, providing one hundred other subscriptions of a similar amount were given. Other subscriptions were promised as follows: Mrs. E. Hopkin (Ellerslie House), £10 (first instalment), Rev. A. H. Plumptre, £10; Messrs. J. Sheldon, H. Chambers, C. E. Barker, J. Bricknell, F. D. Smith, and G. Jordan, £5

each; E. Manners and A. Bates, two guineas each. Mr. Wyld, on behalf of the ringers, promised a gift of the tenor bell. Since the meeting Mrs. T. H. Bostock (Darley Dale), and Mr. John Limb have promised £5 each.

BOLNEY, SUSSEX.

A special general meeting of the Bolney Society was held in the parish room on Wednesday week for the purpose of offering the congratulations of the society to the oldest member, Mr. G. Walder, sen., who reached his 80th birthday on June 7th last, and also to present him with a more tangible token of regard, in the shape of a beautifully-upholstered grandfather's chair, fitted with a book-rest, which had been subscribed for by the members of the Society. The Vicar, the Rev. T. Austen Holcroft presided, and called on the Captain, Mr. D. D. Denman, to introduce the business. Mr. Denman explained that on it becoming known that their veteran member had reached four-score years, it was suggested to him (Mr. Denman), that the Society should mark the event in some special manner, and on his consulting with the other members, they were unanimous in their approval of the suggestion, and a subscription list was opened, kindly headed by the Vicar, and supported by Mr. Hole (churchwarden) and all the members of the Society. With the money raised they had purchased the articles above described, which he now asked their president to hand to Mr. Walder. Complying with this request, the Vicar expressed the great pleasure it gave him to meet them on such an occasion, and said he especially admired the motives which had prompted the members to take up this matter. In addressing Mr. Walder he said that (if Mr. Walder would pardon him saying it) he was getting to be an old man, and his brother ringers evidently wished that he might spend his remaining years in ease and comfort. He asked him to accept the present, with the hearty good wishes of the Society, and hoped he would live to enjoy its comfort for many years to come.

Mr. Walder, who was completely taken by surprise, said he could not find words to express his thanks to them, and on being assured that they did not expect a speech, he took his seat in the chair, amid loud applause. In reply to a question by the Vicar, Mr. Walder said he had been more or less connected with the bells of Bolney church for sixty years, although he had not had an opportunity of practising change-ringing till comparatively recent years. He rang the third bell in his first and only peal, a 5040 of Grandsire Triples, on November 9th, 1894, being then in his 72nd year, and this was the first peal by a purely local band for close on fifty years. He was appointed parish clerk at the Ladytide Vestry meeting in 1862, and continued in office till Michaelmas, 1902 (40½ years), when he retired on a pension, being succeeded by his son, Mr. G. Walder, jun. He rang the second in a 504 of Grandsire Triples on his 80th birthday.

NOTE TO PEAL.

THE PEAL AT ST. HELEN'S, WORCESTER.—H. Middleton's 100 peals.—Grandsire Doubles 1, Triples 7, Caters 1, Minor Methods 8, Bob Triples 1, Major 7, Royal 1, Stedman Triples 23, Caters 13, Cinques 13, including one of 11,111, Kent Treble Bob Major 7, Royal 3, Maximus 1, Double Norwich Major 9, Double Oxford Major 1, Darlaston Bob Triples 1, Superlative Surprise 3—100.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Copies of the photograph taken at the Annual Festival may be obtained from Mr. Adams, Photographer, Witney, Oxon.; unmounted 1s. 6d., mounted 2s.—CYRIL W. O. JENKYN.

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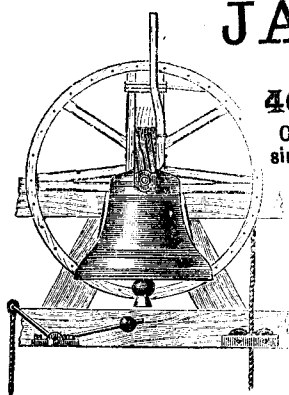
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