BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No 1718. *VOL.* XXXIII.] SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915. PRICE ONE PENNY.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON, CROYDON, Surrey.

CLOCKS—BELLS—CARILLONS.



WIMBORNE MINSTER TENOR (80 cwt.)
OF THE NEW RING OF 10.

THE AUTHORITIES WRITE:—

Wimborne, Nov. 1911.

"Our expert friends tell us that we have a grand 'ring,' of which the town of Wimborne may well be proud.

The old bells were so badly out of tune one with another, that it is a great pleasure to hear a peal of ten so perfectly in tune as ours now are on the Canon Simpson Principle."

We are, dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,
JAS. M. J. FLETCHER, *Vicar.*
FRANK BLOUNT,
TOM GOMER, } *Churchwardens.*

ALFRED BOWELL
BELL FOUNDER,
CHURCH BELL HANGER,
IPSWICH.

GILLINGHAM VICARAGE, KENT.
April 23rd, 1913.

DEAR SIR—

You will be glad to hear from me that the restoration of our eight bells has been completed to the satisfaction and gratification of the whole neighboorhood. I have expert testimony to the fact that the new steel frame and the work connected with it fully justify the trust we had in you. The tone and tune of the bells are excellent, and we have every reason to believe that many generations will pass before any further work upon them is needed. My Churchwardens agree with me in all I am saying, and we hope that the credit you have so well earned will be the means of securing many other contracts. We never paid a bill with greater pleasure.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. ROBINS, D.D.,
Vicar of Gillingham.
Hon. Canon and Rural Dean of Rochester.

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Through the War, and for a brief period, the whole of the above Nos. may be had at a reduction of 2d. in the shilling discount from the list prices. The two Nos. 342 and 344, if ordered together, may be had for 2s. 3d.

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W. and B. hung the Bells upon which the longest peal of Double Norwich, 17,024 changes, was rung at Kidlington, by eight members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, on May 22nd, 1899. Actual weight of tenor 23½ cwt.

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BELL ROPES SUPPLIED.

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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 1718. SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915 [Vol. XXXIII.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Bedford District.

The annual meeting of the Bedford District was held on Saturday, Feb. 27th, at the church of St. Peter, Bedford, by the kind permission of the Rector, the Rev. J. E. Gilbert. The bells were raised at 3 p.m. At 3.30 the Rector and Mr. C. N. Peacock (churchwarden), entered the tower. The latter in a few well-chosen remarks, opened the meeting. The Rector with a short prayer unveiled a marble peal-tablet made by one of the St. Peter's Company—Mr. W. Finedon. The tablet is to record a peal of Surprise Minor rung by C. A. Robinson, P. Cooke, C. W. Clarke, C. Stapleton, H. Sharp, W. Stapleton (conductor). At 5 o'clock tea was served, and then the election of officers, under the direction of the Vice-President (Miss E. Steel), took place. The bells were kept going in Surprise, Treble Bob, and Plain Methods. Members were present from St. Paul's, St. Peter's, Turvey, Elstow, Clapham, Biggleswade, Husborne Crawley, Bromham, Woburn, Sharnbrook, and Wellingborough, It was proposed to hold the next meeting at Bromham on Saturday, March 27th.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

South-Eastern Division.

On Saturday, February 27th, the quarterly meeting of the South-Eastern Division of the above Association was held at Springfield, and 24 members attended from Boreham, Broomfield, Chelmsford, Springfield, Writtle, Widford, Braintree, and Totham. By the kind permission of the Vicar the bells were available during the afternoon and evening, and the methods rung were New London, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Stedman. It was resolved to hold the next meeting at Prittlewell. Three ringing members and one honorary member were elected. It was hoped to compile a roll of honour of the members of the Association who had answered the call of the country. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, also for officiating at the service, and for his excellent address.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

Ashford District.

Some thirty members of this district met at High Halden on Saturday, the 20th ult. They towers represented were Ashford, Appledore, Benenden, Biddenden, Hawkhurst, Headcorn, Iden, Rolvenden, Rye, Sellindge, Stone-in-Oxney, and Tenterden. The Rector (Rev. B. W. Gilpin conducted a special service at 5 o'clock, Mr. C. Munn, of Biddenden, presiding at the organ. A knife and fork tea was generously provided in the schoolroom by the Rector, who presided, being supported by the churchwardens, Messrs. Woodgate and Oliver.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for his hospitality by Mr. C. Tribe (District Secretary), to which the rev. gentleman suitably replied. Among the principal touches rung was a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, a 360 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and several 120s of Stedman and Grandsire Doubles, being the first in the methods rung on the bells.

Mr. O. Sippetts, a member of the Sussex Association, from Crawley, took part in most of the ringing after tea. Among those who took part in the ringing were Messrs. C. Tribe, C. W. Player, W. H. Lambert, A. Daw, G Billenness, G. Johnson, P. Hodgkin, H. Baker, W. Tickner, W. Savage, G. Neve, and A. Blackman. The conducting was shared by Messrs. Sippetts and Player.

CARISBROOKE BELLS.

A Newport Ringer, writing to the Isle of Wight County press, says:—

"Your reference in last week's *County Press* to the old customs of the Pan bell and the Curfew, which are still maintained at St. Thomas's, Newport, leads me to ask when a start may be made towards putting in order that fine old ring of bells at Carisbrooke. They are hanging in their bearings unable to send their music forth (as had to be admitted by the Parish Councillors), to add to the warmth of the reception home of one of Carisbrooke's ex-ringer heroes from the front, Sergeant F. Taylor. I hope that measures will be taken soon to ensure that they may be usable in the near future, for we know not at what early date we may have the pleasure of celebrating glorious victories, or, even better still, an honourable peace, and what makes these celebrations more complete than the pealing of bells? A considerable sum of money has been collected and promised, and any firm of bell founders would undertake the work if about half the necessary funds are made sure of. Therefhre, why procrastinate? After Carisbrooke's are put in order, Newport (St. Thomas's) will require overhauling, and then we hope the Curfew and Pan bells will go on and on, and the music of the bells be appreciated by the whole community for centuries to come."

ROLL OF HONOUR.

With regard to Mr. Keeble's suggestion that it would be well to publish a roll of honour, we have been waiting till there was some approach to completion, before asking Secretaries of Associations to send names. If these will now send us a complete list up to date of members who have joined the colours, with their rank and regiment we will publish them in tabulated form, so as to be easy for reference.

Croyland Abbey, about the year 960, was presented with a great bell named "Gnthlac" by its abbot, Turketyl, and six more were subsequently added, bearing the names of Bartholomew, Betelin, Turketyl, Tatwin, Pega, and Bega.

PEAL BOOKS, Price 3s, post free 3s. 6d. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association Books on application.—J Beams West Ewell, Epsom.

THE WAR AND BELLRINGING.

Correspondents in the various Church newspapers have recently been urging the necessity of putting a stop to all ringing, as the sound of the bells might enable hostile aircraft to locate churches and incidentally, populous districts The correspondence which has appeared denotes a failure on the part of those who have carried it on to appreciate the fact that almost all ringing has been suspended since the early days of the war. That this is so may be gleaned by a perusal of our own columns, where, prior to the war, thirty or forty peals might be found weekly. What is the position now. Only two or three peal records are published in any one week, and these are for the most part rung with the bells muffled or half muffled. A large number of Societies and local bands have either abandoned their weekly practices altogether, or are stopping them at an early hour in the evening. The Ancient Society of College Youths is leading the way by limiting itself to business meetings and handbell practices.

Ringers have been always ready to forgo the exercise of their Art, for any good reason (such as sickness near the church), and we venture to suggest that there is no more patriotic body of men than those who are to be found in our belfries Sunday after Sunday ringing for service.

It would tend to a better feeling if people generally would take a more intelligent interest in the affairs of the belfry. Ringers are, generally speaking, very enthusiastic in their own branch of Church work, and they find it peculiarly galling to have it so generally misunderstood and slighted. People do not realise that ringing is an Art, requiring as much skill and more perseverance than most other arts, and their attitude to it is correspondingly ignorant.

At this time, when thousands of ringers have joined the colours, and those who are left are trying hard to keep up service ringing without the usual encouragement of peals and practices, it would be doubly welcome if the outside public would be at the pains to interest themselves in the facts of the case before criticising.

WHAT IS A LEGITIMATE METHOD?

By J. Armiger Trollope.

Odd and Even-Bell Methods (*Continued*).

2. When you have learnt a Method on an even number of bells, with a plain hunting treble, and want to ring it on an odd number with treble and bell-in-the-hunt, the second thing you must remember is that all work above the treble in the first variation is done in exactly the same manner and order in the second variation, except that it is done one position higher up, and that all backstroke work becomes handstroke work and handstroke work backstroke work. The reason is that while all work below the treble is counted from the front, all work above the treble is counted from behind. Thus, if you have "6ths dodge 5 6" in Major below the treble, it remains "6ths dodge, 5 6" in Caters; but if you have "6ths dodge, 5 6" in Major above the treble, in Caters it becomes "7ths dodge 6 7." It will easily be seen that this must be so when you remember that you have one more position in Caters, and that you have two bells sharing the work that the one treble does on eight.

When, therefore, you have a Major Method in which all the work except plain hunting is above the treble, to ring it on nine bells you must do every bit of the work of the original variation, every Place, every Dodge, every Snap, in exactly the same order, but you must add 1 to the position you do each work in. I will illustrate this by a couple of methods, but first there are two familiar instances in which the reader may see the working of this rule for himself. The first is Plain Bob, which becomes Grandsire; the second is Oxford Bob. I believe I am right in saying that the measure of popularity that Oxford Bob Triples enjoys is due to the following fact: When they had six bells at Farnham Royal Oxford Bob Minor was their stock Method, and when the two trebles were added Mr. J. J. Parker thought it a pity to waste the experience they had got of the Method, and induced them to ring Oxford Bob Triples. It is the usual thing to say that Oxford Bob Triples is Grandsire Doubles on the front five with a four-pull dodge behind; Oxford Bob Minor is eqnally Bob Minimus on the front four, with a four-pull dodge behind. In the first the work is at hand-stroke, in the second it is at back-stroke.

Single Norwich Major.	Single Norwich Caters.
13254768	123456789
12345678	214365879
21436587	241638597
24135678	426135879
42316587	462318597
43261578	643281579
34625187	634825197
36452817	368452917
63548271	386549271
65384721	835694721
56837412	853967412
58673142	589376142
85761324	598731624
87516342	957813264
78153624	975182346
71856342	791528364
17583624	719253846
15738264	172958364
	127593846
	215739486

Compare the work of a bell in each of the above, say the Seventh.

Single Norwich Major.	Single Norwich Caters.
1. Double dodge in 7-8 up.	1. Double dodge in 8-9 up.
2. Whole pull behind, whole pull in front, 4ths, whole pull in front, 6ths dodge 5 6.	2. Whole pull behind, whole pull in front, 5ths, whole pull in front, 7ths, dodge 6-7.
3. Whole pull in front, full work behind.	3. Whole pull in front, full work behind.
4. Whole pull in front, dodge 5-6, make 6ths.	4. Whole pull in front, dodge 6-7, make 7ths.
5. Whole pull in front, 4ths.	5. Whole pull in front, 5ths.
6. Whole pull in front, first work behind.	6. Whole pull in front, first work behind.
7. Dodge 5 6, whole pull in front, dodge 5-6.	7. Dodge 6-7, whole pull in front, dodge 6-7.

Single Court Bob Royal.	Single Court Bob Cinques.
1325476980	12345678 90E
1234567890	21436587 09E
2143658709	24153 8507E9
2416385079	42618305E79
4261837597	46281 73E597
4628135 79	6482 7135E79
6482310597	6840231E597
6843201957	860432E1957
8634029175	80634E29175
8360492715	0836E492715
3806947251	038E6947251
	30E89674521
3089674521	
0398765412	3E098765412
0937856142	E39 7856142
9073581624	E9370581624
97 5318264	9E735 18264
7950132846	97E53102846
7591038264	795E1320486
5719302846	759IE234 68
5173920486	5719 2E30486
1537294068	517293E4068
	1527394E6 8
1352749608	12537496E80
	213547698E0

The above is constructed by one Single Court Shunt* in each lead, and if there should be any doubt in the mind of any whether this is correct Single Court Bob, I may point out that it is the only way in which you can use one Single Court Shunt with nine Working Bells and produce a symmetrical Method. Single Court Bob can only exist as a Legitimate Method when you have 5, 9, 13 Working bells or any number in the same arithmetical progression. Compare the work of the two variations, taking the seventh as the example as before. The work of the Royal is all at backstroke, and the work of the Cinques is all at handstroke.

Court Bob Royal.	Court Bob Cinques.
1. Dodge 9-10 up.	1. Dodge 10-11 up.
2 Dodge 7-8 up.	2. Dodge 8-9 up.
3. 6th, leads, 6ths.	3, 7th, leads, 7ths.
4. Dodge 7-8 down.	4. Dodge 8-9 down.
5. Dodge 9-10 down.	5. Dodge 10-11 down.
6. Dodge 9-10 up.	6. Dodge 10-11 up.
7. Dodge 7-8 up.	7. Dodge 8-9 up.
8. Dodge 7-8 down.	8. Dodge 8-9 down.
9. Dodge 9-10 down.	9. Dodge 10-11 down.

* See "Bell News" May 16, 1914.

Erratum.—In article in "Bell News," February 13th, for "alternately two quadruple and two triple changes throughout," read "alternate triple and quadruple changes throughout."

Swindon (Wilts).—On Sunday, February 23th, for evening service at Christ Church, 1120 Superlative Surprise Major. A. Lawrence, J. H. Odey, R. W. Hyner, D. W. Jackson, E. Bishop, G. W. Townsend, S. Palmer, C. J. Gardiner (conductor).

"The Bell News," post free, 1s. 8d. per quarter, or 6s. 6d. per year

OBSERVATIONS.—No. 1.—(Concluded).

In his article in your issue of January 23rd, Mr. Perkins raises questions which are deserving of more than a passing notice. His remark "some of us are not satisfied to ring the simpler methods when we have advanced a bit," is much in these days to the point. I say in these days, as it was not always so. As an illustration, the late Geo. Newson, when living, was always ready and willing for a walk some three or four miles to take part in a simple 720 of Minor, or even to a five-bell tower for a 120 of either Grandsire or Stedman. There is, however, such a thing as ambition, not only in an individual, but in a whole band, ambition not always a healthy one. How often we find the ambition to take up some advanced method before only a small percentage of a band have made themselves fully acquainted with the simpler methods.

Mr. Perkins reminds us of our early school days and how we (those who had an elementary school teaching) were taught that one and one are two. True. But the education of the child is by degrees or grades. From the infant school it goes to the upper division, and there, until the day comes that we have a complete system of education, placing every child upon the same footing, its education stops, unless its parents are in a position to send it to a higher grade school, or if, by chance, it may be 1 in 500 and wins a scholarship. In how many country village towers is there a ring of five of six where there is a band that has fairly mastered the elementary stages of the Art, but for the want of the opportunity to obtain a more thorough knowledge of such things as a natural course-end make no further advancement in the Art. Is there not here a golden opportunity for Associations to do as the Essex Association has done, build up a "nest egg" to do some bona fide good work in their respective districts by the appointment of qualified instructors for the benefit of such bands desirous of having the assistance, and of course willing to pay part of the expense. The valuable articles by what Mr. Perkins calls the "Architects of the Science," fully prove, at least to ocular demonstration, that there is a grand scope for work of this kind which undoubtedly would be appreciated by those bands desirous of making genuine advancement in the Art.

Before I close for the present, may I be permitted to suggest that there should be a Ringer's "Roll of Honour." I would suggest that the name, rank, regiment, band of which they are members, and where stationed be sent in by a fixed date, and that the same be printed in tabular form in "The Bell News," leaving a column in which remarks can be entered, such as "wounded at—" or "R.I.P.," of which it is hoped there will be few. I am confident the Editor will be willing to assist. B. Keeble.

THE USE OF RINGING TERMS.

Sir,—I did not wish to break the sequence of Mr. Trollope's articles on Legitimate Methods, but merely to point out that the term Caters is generally used in connection with methods consisting wholly of "Cater" changes. It does seem a pity to encourage mixtures of "Triple" and "Cater" changes on nine bells. But I would avoid the word "must" in any case, and dislike the word "Legitimate," preferring the word "Regular." I would also prefer to be living within 20 miles radius even of the most illegitimate call-changes.—Yours etc.,

Edwin H. Lewis.

14, Mount Stewart, Carluke, N.B.
25th February, 1915.

The Jasper Snowdon Series.

ROPE-SIGHT. 1s. 6d., sixth ed.; 150 pages; treats Plain Bob; commences on three bells.

GRANDSIRE. 2s. 6d.; second ed.; 264 pages; commences on five bells; complete with the Charts of W. H. THOMPSON, Esq., etc.

STANDARD METHODS. 2s. 6d.; fifth ed.; revised; Diagrams alone 1s. 6d.; 41 pages; Letterpress alone 1s. 6d.; 100 pages.

STEDMAN. 2s. 6d.; 275 pages, by the Rev C. D. P. DAVIES, M.A., with an appendix by SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, Bart., etc., etc.

TREBLE BOB. Part I. 1s. 6d.; second ed.; with appendix; 108 closely printed pages. Part II., suited for Conductors only; very scarce; 2s. 1½d.; 236 pages.

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IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Will correspondents please note that all communications insertion in "THE BELL NEWS" should be addressed to "Th Editor, 'THE BELL NEWS,' 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow. In the past some have been addressed to the Publishers, thus being delayed, and not reaching us till too late for insertion in the current issue.

All business communications should be addressed to "Geo. Carter, 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow,"

Notices of any kind, to ensure insertion in the current issue should reach us not later than first post on Thursday morning. Unless this is done we cannot insert them till the fellowing week

Many correspondents when sending copy write a note asking for insertion. This means that they have to pay 1d. for postage. There is no need for this; if the copy is put in an unsealed envelope, with just the name of the sender, we shall understand, and a ½d. stamp will be sufficient. But the envelope must be endorsed "News copy only."

The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 1915.

The Provinces.

CROPTHORNE, WORCESTER.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 21, 1915, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

being two 720s each of Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, and one 720 each of College Single Canterbury Pleasure and Grandsire.

Joseph Hall	..Treble	Joseph D. Johnson	4
James Hemming..	2	John H. Hampton	5
Frederick Jordan..	3	Frederick J. Johnson..	..Tenor

Conducted by James Hemming.

Rung with the bells muffled, as a token of respect for, and in memory of, Pte. W. Ireland, a member of the Association, who was killed in action in France, on Feb. 1st.

LIVERPCOL.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 22, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, GRASSENDALE.

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES:

Being 720 each of Woodbine, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, and two 720s each of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 11½ cwt,

Thomas J. Morris ..	..Treble	Edward Caunce	4
Walter Hughes	2	John Turner	5
George R. Newton ..	3	John Allen	Tenor

Conducted by George R. Nswton.

Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. P. F. Garnett, an old and esteemed resident of the parish.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty-seven Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5055 CHANGES.

Tenor 36 cwt.

Fred G. May	..Treble	Willlam Knigbt	6
Percy Williams	2	Henry Howell	7
Alfred E. Reeves	3	Gilbert Wiltshire	8
Fredk. W. Wade	4	Isaac Long	9
William White	5	Uriah Braven	Tenor

Composed and Conducted by Fred G. May.

Rung with the bells mnffled to the memory of Mrs. Bowen, the wife of the Vicar of St. Nicholas (Rev. T. J. Bowen), who was buried on thls day.

ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

Since the ring of 12 Bells (Tenor 28½ cwt., in the key of C) were dedicated on Monday, November 3rd, 1913, the following peals have been rung :—

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS

On Saturday, November 29th, 1913, in Three Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes.

PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES

(First peal on the bells after restoration)

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS AND THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY GUILD.

On Saturday December 13th, 1913, in Three Hours and Forty-two Minutes

PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5058 CHANGES

Rung to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the firm of John Warner and Sons

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, January 10th, 1914, in Three Hours and Forty-one Minutes

PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5019 CHANGES

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND THE LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 31st, 1914, in Three Hours and Forty-three Minutes,

PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 28th, 1914, in Three Hours and Forty-two Minutes,

PEAL OF BOB MAXIMUS, 5016 CHANGES

(First peal of Bob Maximus by the Kent County Association.)

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, March 28th, 1914, in Three Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes

PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5080 CHANGES

In commemoration of the 130th anniversary of the record length of Royal rung on these bells, March 27th, 1784.
(First peal of Royal since the restoration of the bells.)

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Monday, June 1st, 1914, in Three Hours and Thirty-seven Minutes.

PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5005 CHANGES

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY GUILD

On Saturday, July 11th, 1914 in Three Hours and Twenty-seven Minutes.

PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES

All the above Bells are fitted with the **"WARNER" PATENT SELF-ALIGNING AND SELF-LUBRICATING OIL RING AND OIL BATH DESIGN OF BEARINGS,** and the above Peals which have been rung speak volumes for their efficiency.

JOHN WARNER & SONS, Ltd.,

Bellfounders to His Majesty King George V.,

THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY, LONDON.

Established 1763.

WARGRAVE CHURCH BELLS.

Wargrave Church, which some time ago was destroyed by fire, is to be re-built and a new peal of eight bells to replace those which were in the tower at the time is to be cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. The peal will weigh approximately about 3¼ tons, the contract being £750. Towards the cost the money received from the insurance of the old bells will go, but there is still a good deal to be collected.

The metal from the old bells will also be used as far as it will go, but in consequence of the lead from the roof becoming mixed with the bell metal, there is very little available. What there is is of great value, and an appeal is made to any one who may have taken away pieces as mementoes to return them. A further appeal is also being made for subscriptions towards the cost of the bells.

RINGING IN THE U.S.A.

The Perkins' Institute for the Blind, Watertown, Mass., was visited by ringers from Boston, on Sunday, January 17th. Very little ringing took place, only the following being present: Messrs. Allfrey, Randall, Bashford, Goodhead, and Mackman. This was the first time the tower has been visited since the louvres have been boarded up to a considerable height, in order to lessen the noise of the bells in the locality of the tower.

On January 24th, the ringers met at the Church of the Advent, Boston, and some Grandsire Triples were rung. A 500 was attempted the same evening, but came to grief about two leads from home. The ringers were Messrs. Allfrey, Randall (conductor), Laker, Gibbons, Mackman, Bashford, Goodhead, and Newton. Everyone commented upon how much better the bells went on this occasion, after receiving some attention by the bellhangers, than when they were tried on December 24th.

Hingham was visited on January 31st, and 120 Grandsire Doubles rung by Messrs. Goodhead, Allfrey, Mackman, Randall (conductor), Laker, and Newton.. A 360 oi Minor was also rung by Messrs. Goodhead, Allfrey, Randall, Gibbons, Mackman, Newton (conductor), and Laker.

The ringing was arranged to celebrate the wedding of Mr. William Bashford, a member of the Boston Guild, to Miss Mulvenny, which took place on the previous Thursday.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

(YORKTOWN BRANCH.)

The members of the Yorktown District held their quarterly meeting at Yateley, Hants. Although rain came down in torrents all day, and everything pointed to no one turning up, the meeting proved to be the most successful ever held at Yateley. Visitors from Reading and Caversham arrived about 4 o'clock, followed by members of the local band. The Bagshot ringers came hy motor, with members from Yorktown, and soon the bells in the old wooden tower were going to Grandsire, Stedman, and Bob Major. Miss B. Stilwell (who was unfortunately unable to be present through illness), generously provided tea in the Parish Room. The business meeting was afterwards held, at which the Vicar of Yateley presided. Four new members were elected, and a vote of thanks passed to the Vicar and to Miss Stilwell.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

CONTEST AT THORNHILL.

On Saturday week the Halifax and District Association held their quarterly meeting and contest at Thornhill. The bells, a fine peal of six (tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr.), which have recently been retuned and rehung by Messrs. J. Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, were in fine condition, and everyone was well satisfied with the "go" of them. Six companies had entered, and the draw having taken place, the first set was in the tower by 3.30 p.m. The day being fine a large number of ringers and friends were present, and during the afternoon were served with a splendid knife and fork tea by the local company.

After the contest, which finished at 8 p.m., a meeting was held in the Parochial Hall, the President (Mr. Cotterell) being in the chair, supported by the Vicar-in-Charge (the Rev. D. Cowling), the Rector (the Rev. H. T. Haymen) being with H.M. Forces in France. Invitations were asked for the next contest, but none being forthcoming it was decided to leave the Secretary to make arrangements. A hearty vote of thanks to the local company and to the ladies for the way they had catered for the visitors was accorded.

The judges' report was given as follows: Earlsheaton No. 2 company, rung out; Kirkheaton, 198 faults; Halifax, 351 faults; Birstall, 372 faults; Earlsheaton No. 1 Company, 127 faults; Tong, 283 faults.

Earlsheaton were declared the winners of the cup, this making the sixth successive occasion upon which they have secured the trophy.

A cordial vote of thanks was given to the Vicar for his presence and the use of the bells.

The Vicar, in reply, said he was pleased to be amongst the ringers, He was one of the unfortunate ones who had been driven from Germany by this dreadful war. He had, however, had a living offered to him, which he had accepted, and he hoped there would be a peal of bells in the tower, because he loved to hear the music, and would certainly do his best to look after the welfare of both the ringers and the bells. He thought that ringers oft times did not realise the good work they did. They were the first to give the invitation to people to come to worship.

He then presented the cup to the conductor of the Earslheaton company, and Mr. Goodall replied, and proposed a vote of thanks to the judges, which was carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks to the President and the singing of the National Anthem brought a very successful meeting to a close.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' LOSS.

MELTON MOWBRAY LOSES TWO MEN.

It is our mournful task to record the death of two members of the Melton Mowbray band. On the 1st inst. Mr. Albert V. Potter passed away after about two years' illness. The funeral took place at the Thorpe Road Cemetery on Friday, February 4th, but owing to the illness of no fewer than five of the present ringers, and the absence of three others, who are serving the country, muffled ringing had to be postponed.

The late Mr. Potter joined the St. Mary's ringers in 1899, and from the start took a great interest in change-ringing. He rang his first peal (one of Doubles) in 1900,

and was one of the band that accomplished the first peal of Grandsire Triples by an entirely local band on the Melton Mowbray bells on April 23rd, 1901. Mr. Potter rang eleven peals in all, including Doubles, Minor, Triples and Bob Major. He was a keen reliable ringer and good striker, and his place has been difficult to fill.

A few days later the Melton Mowbray band lost another member by the death of Mr. John Townshend, who died on February 9th, at the early age of 24 years, of typhoid and pneumonia, after only three week's illness. Deceased was one of the most capable young ringers belonging to the St. Mary's Company, and was most regular and punctual, both for practice and service ringing. Of a cheerful disposition he was liked by all who met him. He had only taken part in one peal, to which he rang the tenor, but he was anxiously looking forward to much greater achievements. The funeral took place on Feb. 13th, the Vicar, Canon Blakeney, M.A., R.D., conducting the service, and delivering a touching address, in the course of which he alluded to the prosperous future which the deceased appeared to have before him. Many floral tributes were sent, one from his fellow ringers being in the shape of a bell. Two ringers, Messrs. R. H. Bartram and J. Gilson were among the bearers.

In the evening a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on St. Mary's bells as a token of respect to the deceased and to the late Mr. Potter, by W. Jaggard, J. R. R. Bartram, T. H. Gilett, Pte. E. Bartram (Luton), F. Shepherd, W. James, R. H. Bartram (conductor), Jos. Gilson. It was the first quarter-peal by Messrs. Jaggard and Shepherd.

Both deceased ringers were much respected members of the Framland Society and Midland Counties Association, and, needless to say, their death has considerably weakened the Melton Mowbray band.

OBITUARY.

MR. HENRY MORRIS (WORCESTER).

The last surviving member of Mr. William Estcourt's famous twelve-bell band at Painswick has passed away in the person of Mr. Henry Morris, of Worcester, who died at the age of 82 years. Mr. Morris took part in the celebrated 8448 Stedman Cinques at Painswick on February 16th, 1858, the peal being rung in 5 hrs. 52 mins. Although Mr. Morris migrated to Worcester in the sixties, he paid frequent visits to the old home, and retained to the last his interest in the Painswick Youths and the famous church bells with which he was once associated. Of late years he did not take any active part in ringing, but was always pleased to meet ringers. On the occasion of the deceased's funeral, which took place at Worcester, the Painswick Youths rang muffled touches, and the bells at St. John's, Worcester, were also rung muffled.

MR. WILLIAM DENNER (WALKDEN).

The death of the above ringer occurred on Wednesday, February 24th, at the age of 67 years. Deceased had been a ringer at Walkden for 39 years, being one of the first band which was formed in 1876 when the bells were increased from 3 to 6. He had rung 32 peals in the following methods: Kent Treble Bob, 12; Stedman, 7; Grandsire, 4; Bob Major, 3: Bob Triples, 2; Double Norwich, 1: Oxford Treble Bob, 1; Darlaston Boo Triples, 1; 7 Minor methods, 1. The funeral took place on Saturday, February 27th, when he was carried to his last resting place by his brother ringers, assisted by a few ringers from different towers. The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. W. Mower Smith, and the hymn "Nearer my God to Thee" was sung in the church. Among the floral tributes was one from his brother ringers. After the service an attempt for a peal of Stedman Triples, with the bells deeply muffled, was made, but it unfortunately came to grief after an hour and a quarter very good ringing. The ringers were: T. Barlow (Deane), A. Potter (Walkden), T. Worsley (Bolton), J. Lowe (Pendleton), J. Welsby (Walkden), W. Pennington (Bolton), J. Ridyard (conductor, Worsley), A. Burton (Walkden). Afterwards a quarter-peal of Double Norwich, 1344 changes, was rung in 50 mins., by the same band, except John Potter for A. Burton.

DISTANT BELLS.

There's music in the murm'ring breeze
That gently sighs from tree to flower;
The birds sing sweetly 'mongst the trees,
In the happy sunrise hour.
There's music in the precious sound,
There's music in all kind farewells,
But none does with such sweets abound
As the sound of distant bells.

Hark! the gentle sound is stealing
Through the vales and winding dells,
Wafted on sweet zephyr's breathing,
Floats the sound of distant bells.
Evening's shade o'er earth has fallen,
Bewitching stillness reigns around,
Broken only by the gentle music,
Of the bells' soft distant sound.

Hark! in whisperings soft they break
In melody upon the ear,
Loud, and more loud the sounds arise,
As the zephyrs waft them near.
But now they softly fade away,
Submissive to the breeze's sway,
As the white snow disappears,
'Neath the sun's warm mid-day ray.

Slowly thus they die away,
Plaintively upon the ear;
But scarce are gone, ere winged winds
Waft them to the list'ner near.
Thus mingling with the flirting gales,
Playful they sport thus to and fro,
Anon a merry peal are ringing,
Then a plaintive tale of woe.

When sorrow wounds the tender heart,
Or true love unrequited sighs,
When from those we love, we part,
Or when, alas! some fond hope dies.
What speaks such soft, such lulling sounds,
What of such soothing calmness tells,
What melts the heart, and stills the soul,
Like the sound of distant bells.

Then oh, 'tis sweet at eventide,
When pure stillness reigns around,
To roam beneath the greenwood tree,
And hear the bells' soft tinkling sound.
There's music in some much-lov'd lays,
Which of our childhood fondly tells,
But nought can speak of other days,
Like the sound of distant bells.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

Reading Branch.

READING.—On Thursday, February 4th, at St. Giles's Church, 840 Stedman Triples. H. Neighbour, H. Osborne, Corpl. F. V. Sinkins. Miss E. Goodship, A. Bailey, A. W. Osborne, F. Griffin, L. Osborne (longest length as conductor). On Sunday, February 21st, for Evensong, 504 Stedman Triples. H. Neighbour, C. Higgs, Private Goodchild, Miss E. Goodship, H. L. Osborne A. W. Osborne, F. Griffin (conductor). H. Osborne. Also 210 Grandsire, Miss W. Neighbour ringing the treble, conducted by A. W. Osborne, the rest as before. On Sunday, February 28th, for the services, Grandsire and Stedman Triples, also 2 touches of Kent Treble Bob Major were rung. The members were all pleased to welcome Sergt. W. Dormer and Trooper R. Bishop, who were home on leave, both being members of the band before being called to the colours.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

DAGENHAM.—On Sunday evening, February 21st, for Divine Service, 720 Double Court Minor. Miss C. Playle. Stoker A. Playle, R.N., G. Playle, J. Baker, A. G. Chaplin (conductor), E. Hawkins. Mr. J. Baker hails from Maldon.

PEAL CARDS.

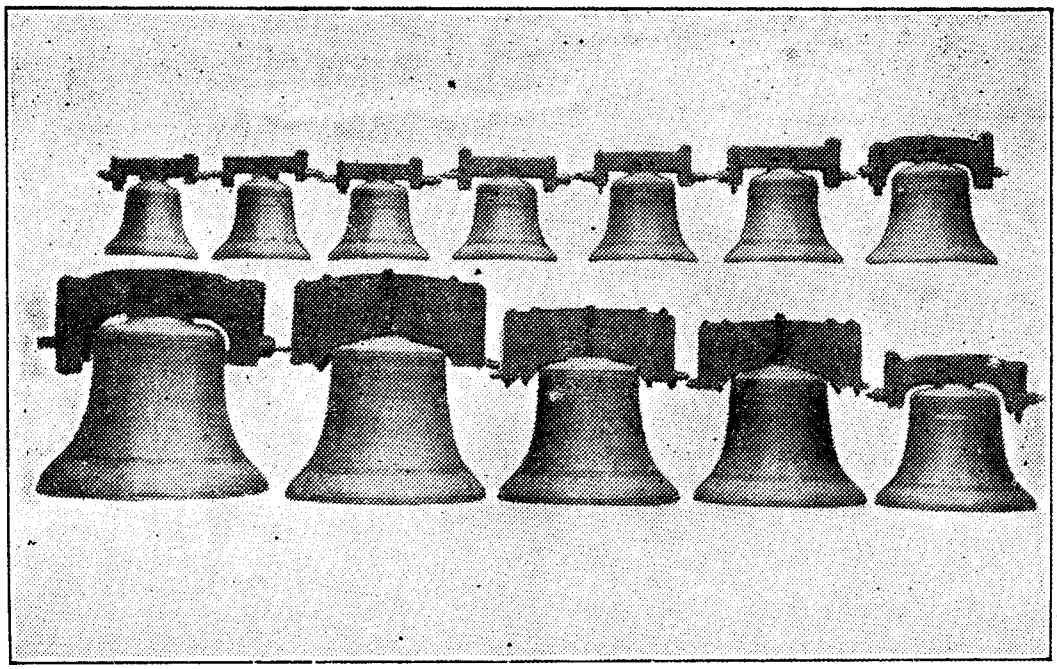
You want to keep a record of the peals in which you ring. You can get them nicely printed on tinted bordered cards from this Office at 1s. 1d. per doz., post free, if the order is sent accompanied by Postal Order when the peal is sent for insertion; otherwise the price is 1s. 6d. Send for specimens of new selection, which surpasses any others yet sent out. A Ringer writes:—"I and the rest of the band are very pleased with such nice cards as you supply."

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WEIGHT OF TENOR—39 cwt. 2 qr. 7 lb:

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CAST BY JOHN TAYLOR AND CO., Loughborough.

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of Notices under this heading Sixpence for 30 words, for the first insertion; repetitions at half that price. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for business. on March 16th, and 30th, and for handbell practice on the 11th and 25th, all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturdays, at 7.30.
William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec.
32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, — Ringing for Divine Service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields the first Sunday in the month. and at St Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, both at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m. H. J. Bradley, Sec.
Parish Church, Shoreditch.

The Dudley and District Guild.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Dudley, on Saturday, March 6th. Tower open for ringing at 4 o'clock. Service in St. Thomas's Church at 5 o'clock, to be conducted by the President, the Rev. Dr. A. Gray Maitland (Vicar of Dudley). Business meeting afterwards. All contributions should be paid at this meeting.
Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.
113, Himley Road, Dudley.

Worcestershire and Districts Association.—Inter-Affiliation.—Will the Secretaries of those Associations and Guilds in favour of Inter-Affiliation kindly communicate with me, as the Committee of this Association wish with their co-operation, to put this into operation if possible. J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec.
Sheepcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—North Bucks. Branch.—The quarterly meeting will be held at Buckingham on Saturday, March 6th next. Service at 3 p.m.
Bletchley. Thomas Best, Secretary

Lancashire Association. — Rossendale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St James', Haslingden, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells ready at 5.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock
31, St. Paul's Street, J. H. Haydock. Hon. Sec.
Ramsbottom.

The Essex Association.—South-Western Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 30. Tea, 6d. each, followed by business meeting at The Bull inn at 5 o'clock. 1915 subscriptions are now due. H. Rumens, Hon. Dls. Sec.
32, Vernlam Avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

Kent County Association.—Rochester District.—The half-yearly meeting will be held at Cobham, on Saturday. March 27th. Tower open from 3.30 till 9. Half rail fares will be paid. Subscriptions are due, and should be paid on or before that date. Members on active service need not subscribe this year.
77, Bill Street Road, Edward A. G. Allen, Hon. Sec.
Frindsbury, Rochester.

BATTLE, SUSSEX.—For evening service on Sunday. Feb. 21st, 210 Grandsire Triples. T. Pembridge, W. Williams, Frank Mathis, W. J. Thomas, W. H. Eldridge, J. Sinden, W. Franks (conductor), C. T. Dennis. Messrs. Pembridge and Williams belong to the South Wales Borderers, and were billeted in Battle for the week end.

ST. MARY ABBOTS GUILD.

ST. MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON.—On Sunday, Feb. 28th, for evening service, 1260 Stedman Caters. W. E. Judd, A. Cutmore, A. W. Davis, A. B. Bennett, J. H. Payne, P. G. Miles, W. E. Garrard, A. V. Selby, C. Charge (conductor), G. Hannell.

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The object for which the picture is being sold, should further enhance its value, and lead to an extended sale, The proceeds are to be handed to the Prince of Wales' Fund.

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A BISHOP ON BELLS.

Preaching on a recent occasion, the Bishop of Buckingham, after a brief historical survey of the use of bells in churches, drew a picture of all that they meant to the people. For centuries that old church bad been the stage upon which had been enacted the brief epitome of the life of the parish The church had seen many strange happenings in the history of our land—civil wars, the coming and passing of kings, rebellions, and now at last perhaps the greatest conflict in which this country had ever taken part. And in all these events the bells had played their part, ringing their joyous peals for the newly-crowned king, summoning people to arms, announcing solemnly that another page in our history had been turned back, and he looked forward to the time when they would ring out again to announce that Peace had been declared.

We no longer believed that they could break the lightning or harness the wind, but they still symbolised for us the great episodes in our lives. They rang for the service in which the child was received into the Church of Christ by the Rite of Baptism, for Confirmation, and, later still, for the the union of man to the woman of his choice. And last of all they tolled out the solemn announcement that he had passed away from the body of the Church Militant here on earth to the Communion of Saints beyond.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

To be obtained, Post Free, from (and only from) the Hon. Librarian, Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, Broadlands, Caversham, Reading.

	s.	d.
On the Preservation of Bells		4
Glossary of Terms		5
Model of Rules for an Association... ...		3
" " Local Company ...		3
Rules and Decisions of the Council ...		6
Legitimate Methods...		9
Collection of Peals—Sec. I...	1	0
" " Sec. II		9
" " Sec. III	1	0

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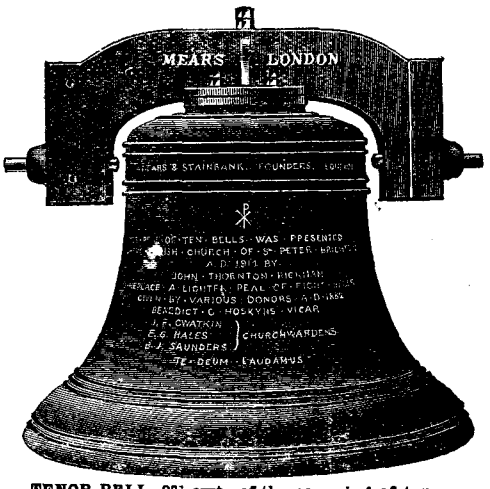
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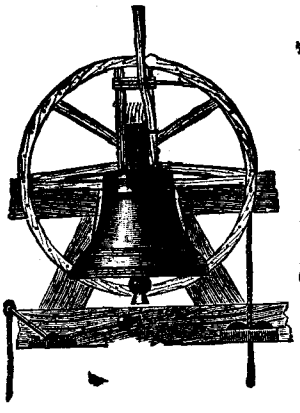
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