

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

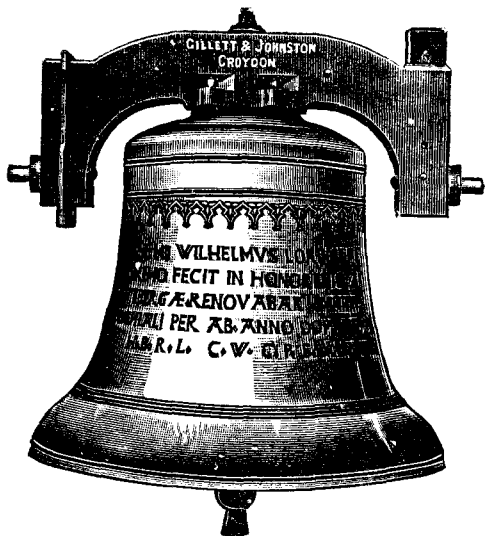
A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

No 1725 —VOL. XXXIII.]

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915

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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.
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 CHURCH BELL HANGER,
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 April 23rd, 1913.

DEAR SIR—

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Yours faithfully,
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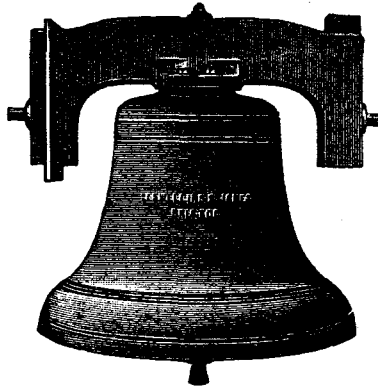
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 1725.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915.

[Vol. XXXIII.]

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

The last quarterly meeting of the Society's year was held at Wittenhall on Saturday last, when upwards of fifty members were in attendance. Various methods were rung upon the bells during the afternoon and evening, but a course of London was unsuccessfully attempted.

The service was conducted by the Rev. E. V. Cox, and a practical address given by the Rev. W. E. Thomas, in the absence of the Vicar, the Rev. A. M. Pratt.

Tea was partaken of in the Church Institute, after which a little surprise was sprung upon the assembly by the Clerical Secretary, Rev. E. V. Cox. The rev. gentleman intimated that he would, in the course of a few weeks, be leaving the district to take up a curacy at Bampton, Devon. The speaker expressed his feelings of gratitude to the members for the support given him during his six years term of office. The Society will thus lose one of the most conscientious and energetic officials it has had since its inception.

Mr. W. R. Small voiced the feeling of the members when he said that all would be sorry to lose Mr. Cox, but that they should not be selfish if it was for the latter's gain. Sympathetic reference was made to the death of two members at Wombourn, viz., R. Cartwright and W. Rogers, and of F. J. Keen, of Tamworth, who fell in battle.

A vote of sympathy to the representatives of the deceased was moved and carried by all standing. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Rev. W. E. Thomas for his address; to the organist for his services; the ladies who had arranged for the tea; the local ringers for making necessary arrangements; and to the Institute Committee for the use of the rooms.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

Favoured with beautiful weather the quarterly meeting of this Association, at Trevethin, Pontypool, on Saturday last proved quite successful. Among the first to put in an appearance was the band from Llanfechfa, who are quite young lads. Considering the long draught of rope they handled their bells remarkably well, and their conductor, Mr. Powell, is worthy of great praise for the way he has brought them out.

The bells, a light ring of eight, cast by Messrs. Gillett and Bland some 27 years ago, were kept going until tea time. An adjournment was then made to the schoolroom, where an excellent tea had been provided by the Vicar and churchwardens of the parish. The Vicar's wife and other ladies very kindly attended to the wants of the party, for which they, together with the Vicar and churchwardens, were most heartily thanked. After tea the Vicar, the Rev. Edgar Morgan, B.A. gave still further cause for gratitude by handing round a box of cigars. In opening the business meeting, the Vicar said he took it as a very great compliment to himself that the Association had visited the

parish, and complimented the members on the good work that had been done in the diocese since the formation of the Association, and hoped the visit would stimulate his own ringers to ring the higher methods.

The Hon. Sec. moved a vote of condolence with Mr. Fred Atwell, one of the oldest members of the Association, and leader of the ringers at St. Woolos' Newport, who had, during the week, suffered a heavy bereavement by the death of his wife. This was carried in silence, all standing.

The minutes of the previous meeting were next read and confirmed, after which the reports of the instructors were taken, progress being reported at St. Mellows. The place of the next Monmouthshire quarterly meeting was fixed, Machen being chosen. The next Glamorganshire quarterly meeting had been already arranged to be held at Bridgend. New members were elected and subscriptions taken, and a vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens closed the meeting.

The bells were kept going for the remainder of the evening, various touches of Stedman being rung.

THE HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION AT ST. ALBANS.

The members of this Association gathered at St. Albans on Easter Monday for their annual festival. During the day the towers of the churches of the city were thrown open to them, and they rang upon the bells touches in various methods. At five o'clock they assembled in the Choir of the Cathedral for evensong, at which the Dean of St. Albans (the Very Rev. G. W. Blenkin) delivered a very appropriate address on the words, "That I might finish my course with joy" (Acts xx, 24). In the course of his address, he selected various campanological phrases and applied them to human life.

After the service, tea was served at the Abbey Institute. Over a hundred sat down to a liberal repast spread by Messrs Slaters, of St. Albans, and, at its conclusion the business of the annual meeting was transacted.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The Rev. Canon Papillon (President) was in the chair, supported by the Dean of St. Albans, the Rev. Canon Glossop, Mr. C. H. Howard, and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre (Master and Secretary respectively of the Essex Association), Mr. Coles (Secretary of the Middlesex Association), Mr. E. P. Debenham (Hon. Treasurer), Mr. G. W. Cartmel (Hon. Secretary), Mr. H. Lewis, the Rev. B. Tyrwhitt-Drake, and others.

The President, in his opening address, said his year of office, from a ringing point of view, had been very uneventful. Of course, there had been events of absorbing interest—events that were changing the history and re-making the geography of Europe, going on all the time, but these events had imposed upon ringers, by general consent, a programme of masterly activity, abstaining from bellringing and doing the best they could to keep things going until happier times should return and they

could ring peals in welcome of peace. The President went on to say they all missed that day the genial presence of the late Dean Lawrence, who assisted at the birth of the Association, who sat by its cradle, and watched it grow to maturity with continued kindly interest. In welcoming his successor (the Very Rev. Dean Blenkin), he would say no more at present than that they were very glad to see him present, and accepted it as an earnest of the interest he would take in the ringers of St. Albans and Hertfordshire. They had also lost another old friend and staunch supporter of ringing in the city, namely, Mr. H. Lee Waddington, since they last met. They were glad to welcome with them that day the Master and Hon. Secretary of the Essex Association—Mr. C. H. Howard and the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre—and also the Secretary of the Middlesex Association, Mr. Coles. They were always pleased when members of other Associations visited them at their annual festival, and he hoped that on that occasion their visitors would see, by the large number who attended that gathering, that the Hertfordshire Association was living and flourishing and keen. He was particularly glad to welcome the heads of the Essex Association. Perhaps he knew more than anybody else what they had done for ringing in Essex and for the management of an Association which now numbered about nine hundred members.

Mr. Charles Howard (Master of the Essex Association), was elected a life ringing member of the Association, and the Dean of St. Albans was elected an honorary member. A number of ringing members were also elected.

The Hon. Treasurer's financial statement showed that the year commenced with a balance in hand of £4 9s. 7d. The subscriptions amounted to £21 5s. 1d. The expenses of the annual meeting which fell upon the Society amounted to £4 9s. 9d. The year ended with a balance in hand of £2 1s. 6d. The reserve fund amounted to £21 5s. 5d.

The Hon. Secretary read his annual report, from which the following extracts are taken: We miss many faces from our meeting, of men whose years and physique befit them for the task of actively defending the cause of King and Country, who have joined His Majesty's Forces on land and sea. We honour them for their courage and patriotism, and wish them God-speed and a safe return to "the trivial round, the common task." In this terrible conflict we need a long pull, and a strong pull, and I feel sure that our ringers at the front, and in the home defence, will not cry "Stand" until they hear the welcome call, or its equivalent, "This is all." In consequence, our bellfries are somewhat depleted in ringers, and what were strong bands a few months ago are now very weak, and often a difficulty is experienced in getting sufficient to ring. The circumstances warrant an appeal to many older ringers who have laid ringing aside for a while to take up the work. The advisability of instructing new men (preferably lads) into the mysteries of ringing, should also not be forgotten. It needs a little sacrifice of time; but we must remember it was the same sacrifice that enabled ourselves to learn.

At a committee meeting in the belfry of St. Peter's Church, St. Albans, on Saturday, February 6th, it was recommended that a roll of honour be compiled of those members of the Association who have joined His Majesty's Forces, and I have taken the initiative in getting a list, with the assistance of my co-helpers, the District Secretaries of the Eastern and Northern Divisions, and our Auditor. When such list is fully complete, it is proposed that it shall be inscribed in the Association's peal book, so, in a measure, to perpetuate the loyalty and

memory of those who have gone forth in our stead. As far as can be ascertained fifty-six members had joined H.M. Forces.

Death has removed three of their oldest supporters during the year—Mr. Henry Lee Waddington, who acted as President in 1911, and was present at the inaugural meeting of the Association in 1884; the Rev. Canon Davys, a most constant supporter from the very beginning, and whose signature was appended to the appeal issued to the beneficed clergy of the county and others soon after the Association was formed, asking them to "encourage the art of change-ringing, to secure the proper care and use of the bells and bellfries, and to obtain the recognition of the ringers as Church Workers." But by far the greatest loss was occasioned by the death in August last of Dean Lawrence. I can unhesitatingly say the Association has never had a better friend. He ever regarded it an honour that this Association was formed under his roof at the Rectory, and rejoiced with us at the success attained after toil. It fell to his choice to give the address at the annual service on 14 occasions, and he always unearthed some "fresh touch." In 1913 he became our President, and in acknowledging the honour conferred upon him, said: "The Association had well justified the hopes expressed for its future when formed at his house." . . . Half-muffled touches were rung upon the bells throughout the county, as a token of sympathy, and to the memory of a good friend. Anticipating that some day, when the war clouds have rolled away, a movement might be initiated to raise a memorial to the late Dean, might I suggest, with your concurrence, the feasibility of augmenting the Cathedral ring to a peal of ten or even twelve bells, as a project worthy of consideration, and a befitting memorial to perpetuate the late Dean's love of Church bells, and his keen association with the bellringers of Hertfordshire. Death has also called away Miss Margery Sampson, a talented ringer of great promise, and Mr. J. Wells, of Tring.

As regards peal-ringing achievements very little can be said, as only two peals have been rung, both conducted by Mr. W. H. Lawrence. A peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major at Bennington, believed to be the first peal in the method on the bells; and a peal of Minor in 7 methods at Little Munden, fully muffled.

The President announced that the Committee had selected Mr. E. P. Debenham, of St. Albans, as the most suitable person to be President this year. They all knew what Mr. Debenham had done for ringing in St. Albans. He had very great pleasure in proposing that Mr. Debenham should be their President for the ensuing year.

Mr. R. Hammond seconded. He said all who knew Mr. Debenham had learned to respect and love him as a ringer. The interest he had taken in the Association was second to none, and they could not have done better than secure him as their President. He hoped they would see him round the different towers in the course of the year, although he knew there was very great pressure upon his time.

The proposition was carried unanimously.

The President-elect, when returning thanks for his election, recalled the fact that he was elected the second Hon. Secretary of the Association in 1888, and held office for some fifteen years. He had had a great deal of assistance from Mr. Cartmel throughout his connection with the Association. There was a good deal of quiet work going on, not only in Hertfordshire, but in other places.

Mr. E. P. Debenham was also re-elected Honorary Treasurer.

The newly-elected President proceeded to propose the re-election of Mr. G. W. Cartmel as Honorary Secretary, with thanks for the services he has so ungrudgingly rendered to the Association for many years past.

Mr. R. Hammond seconded, and said the members of the Cathedral Society had been very grateful to Mr. Cartmel for filling a breach in their band caused by the absence of members on active service.

Mr. G. W. Cartmel, replying, thanked the members for electing him for the twelfth time to the position of Honorary Secretary. He said it was a great pleasure to him to do anything he could to help forward ringing. When they had year by year these gatherings of ringers, it was a great inspiration to go forward with this work of the Church. There was a great deal for him to do, but when one's heart was in the task it made it ten times lighter.

Mr. Bertram Prewett was re-elected Hon. Auditor, and Representative on the Central Council, and Messrs. F. R. Bacon, W. H. Lawrence, and H. Eden were re-elected hon. district secretaries, Mr. R. Kirby being re-elected honorary librarian.

Canon Papillon proposed a vote of thanks to the Dean of St. Albans for his address, which, he said, they regarded as an earnest of the Dean's desire to be friendly and sympathetic with the ringers. Those who had heard that address must have thought that the Dean had been a ringer all his life.

The Rev. B. Tyrwhitt Drake supported.

The Dean of St. Albans, replying to the last speaker's suggestion, said he was among those who had what had been described by another speaker on that occasion as "increasing weight," and, as they used to sing in an old Harrow song, he was now "Shorter in wind as in memory long." For a great many years he was in Cambridge, where there was a good deal of ringing, but his days were so fully occupied that he had no opportunity of practising the art. He had, however, a number of friends and pupils who were good ringers, including the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn, who was perhaps the only bridegroom who rang his bride to church. Though he had taken no actual part in change-ringing, he wished the Association every success and every blessing, and he hoped, now that the diocese had been re-constituted, they might have a little welcome to the Bedfordshire Association. He was afraid that would not take place this year, unless they experienced the blessings of peace earlier than they contemplated. The Dean closed by emphasising the passage in the annual report in which the ringers were urged to visit the pews, and said he always liked to regard ringers in a real sense as being church workers.

The proceedings of the annual meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Dean and the Vicars of St. Peter's, St. Michael's, and St. Stephen's. for granting the use of their bells for the day, and to Canon Papillon for presiding.

THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

CHESHUNT (Herts.)—On Sunday, April 4th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. D. Tucker, G. Andrews, F. Jelf, H. G. Rowe, G. Maxim, C. Dille, H. Simmons (conductor), R. Smith. For evening service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. W. G. Darlington, G. Andrews, F. Jelf, G. Maxim, H. G. Rowe (conductor), C. Dille, H. Simmons, R. Smith. This is the 50th quarter-peal rung on the bells, 47 of them rung for evening service, and 32 by the local band.

Correspondence.

Whilst always ready to insert correspondence on subjects of interest to ringers, the Editor does not hold himself responsible for the opinions expressed.

CENTRAL COUNCIL.

To the Editor.

SIR,—It has been a very real pleasure to me, after each of the past London meetings of the Central Council, to invite the members to meet me in the evening and accept my hospitality. I greatly regret that, owing to the present financial pressure, I am unable to follow the same course this year. I should also like to express the opinion, which I gather is held by the majority of ringers, that, while there can be no objection to a social gathering similar to those arranged at the country meetings of the Council for the evening of Whit-Tuesday, it is desirable there should be none of the usual "pleasure" ringing of Church bells on that or the following day; for there are at the present time many sore hearts and anxious minds upon which the unexplained sound of bells would inevitably jar.

What, however, seems to me not only an opportunity, but a duty, lies open to ringers in "Empire Day," which this year falls on Whit-Monday. Just as in so many of our Churches we, in this stressful hour, give public expression to our loyalty by singing "God save the King" at the conclusion of Divine Service, so should every loyal ringer—and all ringers are loyal—do his best to voice on "Empire Day," with the most widely-appealing of musical instruments, the National sense of rejoicing upon the magnificent way in which all our Daughter Colonies have whole-heartedly united with the Mother Country to preserve the existence of the most glorious Empire the world has ever seen.

Yours, etc.

ARTHUR HEYWOOD,

Duffield, Derby, April 19th.

LEGITIMACY OF METHODS.

To the Editor.

SIR,—You have I see on page 570 described me as "C.C. Secretary," which of course is quite true. I should like to explain that these articles of mine are entirely the expression of my own personal and private opinion, and are not in any sense official. Now that I am writing I may correct a little misprint. I THINK I spoke of "straining out" (not "at") Grandsire Triples. "Out" is the proper translation of the Greek word in the New Testament.

Yours, etc.

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

SIR.—If Mr. Davies is prepared to discuss this subject in a friendly spirit I shall be very pleased to do so, as I think nothing but good can come from it, but I must demur strongly to the last paragraph of his first contribution, in which he simply makes a personal attack upon me.

When I was a young ringer I was very much attracted by Union Triples, because of its cyclical lead-ends, and these lead-ends still have a great fascination for me, so much so that I often call five-part peals of Major with 34562, etc., for part-ends. I was very sorry when I first found out that Union was illegitimate and sadly relinquished the idea of ringing a peal of it. Since that time I have come to see that there is really no reason why it should not be rung, although I am still certain that is not legitimate.

The truth is that the whole question is scientific. What we are doing is reducing chaos to order, and Mr. Davies' proposals really lead us back into the chaos out of which we are just beginning to creep.

Yours, etc.,

H. LAW JAMES.

LUTON (Beds.)—On Sunday, April 18th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 46 mins. F. Hunt, T. Kendall (first in the method), Gunner C. Kennington (Lincoln R.F.A.), C. Wing, Bom, J. Davies (Derby R.F.A.), J. Rookwood, A. King (conductor), Private C. East (5th Lincolns).

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 chester and Worcester Cathedrals, etc., etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Will correspondents please note that all communications insertion in "THE BELL NEWS" should be addressed to "The 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."

The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1915

DEATH OF MR. J. C. DAUBUZ.

PUBLIC AND CHURCH LIFE IN CORNWALL.

We regret to record the death at Kea, near Truro, of Mr. John Claude Daubuz, who for many years was associated with the business, public, and Church life of Cornwall. He was taken ill with a severe attack of bronchitis on Thursday week, his heart became seriously affected, and in spite of skilful attention, he passed away on Saturday week at the age of 73 years.

Mr. Daubuz, who was a justice of the peace, and a Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, was the only son of the late Rev. John Daubuz, for many years Rector of Creed, and a member of an old Hnguenot family. He was born at Creed Rectory on February 12th, 1842, and was educated at Harrow and Brasenose College, Oxford, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1864. All his life he was largely interested in Cornish Mining.

In several directions in the life of the Church in Cornwall his services and influence were manifested. He was particularly interested in the great task of building the Cathedral, and was one of the keenest members of the Building Committee. A chorister himself in his own Parish Church, he was associated with the Diocesan Choral Union, which has done so much to improve the musical services in the county, whilst he also rendered valuable aid as a member of the Diocesan Guild, being an enthusiastic campanologist. In the parish of Kea he was a great benefactor, and on the building and furnishing of the present Parish Church, he bestowed a great deal of attention, it being largely due to his efforts that Kea Church is one of the best village churches in the diocese. He was not only a member of the choir and a bellringer, but for a very lengthy period he was a churchwarden. The death of Mr. Daubuz will be very widely felt, his interests having been so many and so varied.

The funeral took place at Kea on Wednesday, April 14th, and was largely attended. Members of well-known county families were present, as also were representatives of the various companies in which deceased was concerned.

The Provinces.

WEDNESBURY, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, April 17, 1915, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

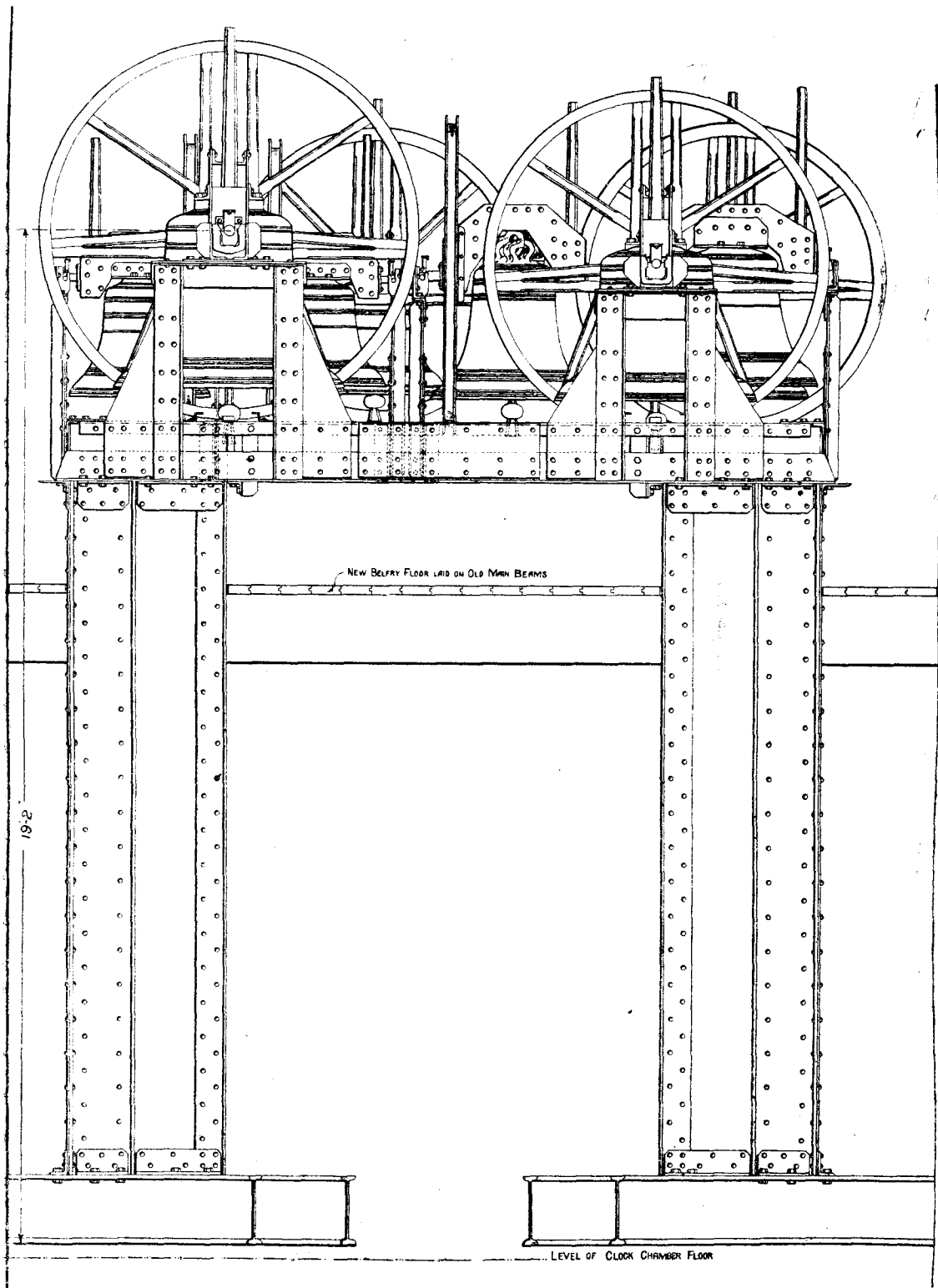
A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5005 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt. in E flat.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| James E. Groves Treble | James L. Wells 6 |
| James George 2 | George Hughes 7 |
| Thomas Miller 3 | Benjamin Gough 8 |
| Morris J. Morris 4 | Alf Paddon Smith |
| Albert Little 5 | Samuel Grove Tenor |

Composed by James George, and
 Conducted by James E. Groves.

This is Mr. George's 550th peal, and his 100th peal of Stedman Caters. Rung on the 4th anniversary of the long peal of Treble Twelve at Ashton-under-Lyne, to which Mr. George rang the tenor.



Vertical Cantilever Bell Frame for St. Michael's Church, Bray-on-Thames
(Patent No. 14148.) (Tenor 26 cwt., Note D.)

JOHN WARNER & SONS, Ltd.,

THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY, LONDON, E.

LEGITIMACY OF METHODS.

By REV. C. D. P. DAVIES, C.C. SECRETARY.

(Continued).

To settle what is and what is not arbitrary the shortest way will be to settle what is fundamental, and to regard everything not fundamental as being of various degrees of arbitrariness.

We may, I suppose, take it for granted that there are two classes of things fundamental, the first being those that are beyond our reach, such as that twice two are four, or that on five bells there are 120 permutations and no more, the second being such as are universally acknowledged or taken for granted *under certain conditions*. For instance it is fundamental to the game of whist that there shall be fifty-two cards, and that there are two pairs of partners. In change-ringing it would be possible to ring "changes" in almost any fashion, but scientific ringers have agreed to bind themselves by certain rules, which are regarded by them as being fundamental, and which are never transgressed except for grave and sufficient reason. Any rules outside and beyond these are in various degrees arbitrary. It is by the choice of various arbitrary rules that methods are created, but then some of the arbitrary rules become fundamental ones for that method, or for certain classes of method. For instance, a continuous dodging hunt on the part of the treble, originally an arbitrary rule, becomes a fundamental rule for all Treble Bob and Surprise methods. For our present purpose we regard it as arbitrary because it does not pertain to all methods. The only rules that can be regarded as really fundamental are such as apply to all methods without exception. To preserve freedom of action as far as possible the number of fundamental rules should be as small as possible. All rules restrict action, and any unnecessary rules restrict action unnecessarily, and become *ipso facto* arbitrary.

Only three fundamental rules of universal application are required in change-ringing.

1. No bell to move more than one place at a time.
2. No bell to lie for more than two consecutive blows in the same place.
3. The natural flow of the rows not to be interrupted.*

Of these No. 1 never is broken. No. 2 is broken by the common Grandsire Single, and which is in itself a very bad Single. In this connection we must just name such enormities as Grandsire Minor and Major, and Bob Triples, but we dwell on them no further—the thought of them is quite enough.

Of No. 3 it is of course acknowledged that there are occasions on which it *must* be broken. No peal of Doubles is possible without two Singles. Singles are also required for obtaining most peals of Triples, and we may well concede the employment of Singles for such purposes as the obtaining of special "qualities" in peals, such, for instance, as the production of twenty-four courses with some given bell behind the ninth in Caters, and so on. But for anything that claims to be a method to break this rule in its every lead as part and parcel of the method is unpardonable. It will be seen in a moment that this condemns some methods that have gained popularity for certain musical qualities, or perchance because they are interesting

* This means that in odd-bell ringing, one place, and only one place, should be made in every row, and that in even-bell ringing no places shall ever be made at handstroke, and always two places, and two only, at every backstroke.

or difficult to ring. Notable among such are Cambridge and London Surprise. Whatever may be their musical or other interest, they are, considered as scientific structures, simply abominable, and should be condemned root and branch. But because they are marked by the magic feature of possessing Plain Bob lead-ends, the Committee, have, I fancy, placed them on a high pedestal of honour.

Proceeding further from the consideration of the general production of changes to that of their production by special methods or classes of methods, we take rules previously arbitrary and make them fundamental. For treble-dominated methods we say (1) the treble shall pursue a regular plain hunting or single dodging course. We get, in addition to the three original fundamental rules of universal application, the first special fundamental rule of the treble-dominated methods, which in the case of plain methods prescribes a plain hunting course for the Treble, and a continuous dodging hunt in the case of Treble-bob methods. In plain methods on odd bells we find that this treble has to be binary or compound, consisting of two bells. After this we come to our more necessary rule, really entailed in, and necessarily issuing from, those we already have. It is (2) that at the first lead-end the "working" bells shall be in such a position that rounds will not recur until as many leads shall have been rung as there are working bells. Our necessary rules are now complete, and because they are necessary they have ceased to be arbitrary, and have become fundamental. To make all quite clear and plain let me put the whole position into one sentence.

For treble-dominated methods we have the following five fundamental laws:—

1. The law of pairs (no bell to move more than one place at a time).
2. The law of places (no bell to lie more than than two blows in any one place).
3. The law of succession (the proper succession of rows to be kept).
4. The law of hunts (prescribing the course of the hunt bell or bells).
5. The law of leads (that they shall equal the number of working bells).

Of these five the first three are universal, the last two special to treble-dominated methods.

For the differentiation of the various subdivisions of methods further rules will of course be required, and will be obligatory in their own province. In plain methods the hunt or hunts must travel in a continuous plain path. For Treble Bob methods the hunt must have a continuous dodging path. Coming to individual methods there will of course be further rules. In Plain Bob, for instance, there is the rule of second's place; in Grandsire there is the rule of third's; in Union, in addition to that of third's, there is the rule of fifth's and so on. Each of these is fundamental, and not arbitrary, *in its own sphere*. They are fundamental because they are *necessary for the purpose in hand*. But attempt to impose for a moment any *unnecessary* law condition, or restriction, and it at once becomes arbitrary.

And this is precisely what the Committee have done. Without rhyme or reason, and so far as I can see without any attempt at justification they have laid down a law of their own imagining which, in my opinion, is purely outrageous. I mean of course the law of the Plain Bob lead-ends. As I have above explained what this is I need not explain it again. My present contention is that it is *arbitrary*, which is practically the same as saying that it is unnecessary, and this I claim to have shown by the considerations that I have advanced. If further proof is re-

quired it is sufficient to point to the many good methods, many of them to be found in Snowdon's "Standard Methods," not to mention the beautiful method of Union Triples, that exist in spite of it. I contend, therefore, that the rule is *arbitrary*.

THE BANSTEAD MEETING ON EASTER MONDAY.

During the day touches of Stedman Triples Oxford Treble Bob, Double Norwich, and two courses of Kent Treble Bob were rung; also a well-struck course of London Surprise Major by a band from many different parishes, viz., Mitcham, Beddington, Chislehurst, Leatherhead, Croydon and Loudon, the conducting being by Messrs. Alps, Lambert, Smith, Shepherd, Perkins, etc.

WHAT IS A LEGITIMATE METHOD?

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE LAW OF THE PROPER SUCCESSION OF THE NATURE OF THE ROWS.—(Continued).

It is one thing to say that it is desirable in a Method that the maximum number of pairs of bells should change at every Change; it is quite another thing to say that only such Methods are legitimate. This last opinion is held by quite a number of clever men, but a very little consideration will show that to make it a strict-law absolutely binding, would at any rate, so far as even-bell Methods are concerned, be tyrannical and absurd. And if you cannot make it binding for even-bell Methods, you cannot make it binding for odd-bell Methods, for all Methods are produced by the same means and are subject to the same laws. At the same time in practice there is a difference, and we shall have to examine the two cases separately.

As far as I have been able to gather, the reasons why men hold that the maximum number of pairs of bells should change at every stroke are as follows.

1. To produce a Method it is said you must have a certain number of Places. These Places may be whole-pulls before or behind, or they may be internal Places, but whatever they may be, two must be made at every alternate Change in an even bell Method, and one in every Change in an odd-bell Method. 'Less place-making than this is not possible, more is not necessary.'* The idea is that Places are in themselves undesirable things, and to use more than the minimum number is "bad construction." There is of course a very great deal of truth in this, but the point that is always overlooked is that you cannot make sweeping assertions about such and such an arrangement of Places being bad construction, until you realise exactly what the function of the Places is. The case of Cambridge Surprise is a typical one. I have talked many times with people who say that Cambridge is badly constructed, because twice in every lead you have two Places made more than are necessary. But when you come to understand what the construction of Cambridge really is, you will see that those Places are not unnecessary, they are not pitched in haphazardly. Cambridge is one of the few Methods built on general and simple lines, which will therefore run equally well on all numbers. Its general scheme is this. You have one bell, the Treble, which does a regular forward Treble Bob hunt. In addition you have an odd number of bells which also do a regular forward Treble Bob hunt; but while the Treble is hunting they are dodging, and while the Treble is dodging they are

* See "Bell News," January 23rd, 1886.

hunting. The Treble dodges in every Section and hunts across the Cross-section; the Working Bells hunt in every Section, and dodge across the Cross-Sections.

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The Place-making is the means by which these two kinds of hunting are kept from clashing, and the construction of Cambridge finds its justification in the fact that it is the only one of the Surprise Methods which runs in all numbers with as much ease as Plain Bob or Kent Treble Bob.

Therefore, before you condemn a Method for having too many unnecessary Places, you must first see if those Places really are unnecessary or not.

Many Methods may be had in which there are unnecessary Places. Canterbury Pleasure, for instance, where their only use is to produce an irregular Lead End, instead of the natural and proper Bob Major Lead End.

2. The second reason why men hold that the maximum number of pairs of bells should change places at every stroke is because by doing so you keep the proper succession of the nature of the rows, and so make it possible to obtain a greater number of true changes. Cambridge, again, is usually the example taken. Cambridge, they say, is the only Standard Method with four Places in one change, and is the falsest of all Standard Methods. That is quite true. It is the defect of Cambridge that it is so liable to internal falseness, and that falseness is directly due to the fact that the proper succession of the nature of the rows is not kept. But it must be remembered that Cambridge is only one Method out of hundreds. In Bristol, also, the proper succession is broken, and Bristol has a clean proof scale with the tenors together, while in Superlative, with the proper succession kept, you have false course-ends. And when you part the tenors Cambridge will give you a great many more true Rows than Superlative will. The truth of the matter is that though the proper succession of the nature of the Rows is an aid to produce true peals, and in some cases even a necessity, it is not universally a necessity in peals of 5000 changes.

So far as practical purposes go, a Method which will produce 5000 changes is, if it is satisfactory in other respects, worth ringing, and we need not condemn it if will not give 10,000 or 20,000. As for internal falseness what would our clever composers do if they had not such problems as Cambridge to tackle?

WEST EALING.—A useful practice was held on April 14th, at St Stephen's Church, when touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung, the following taking part. Miss Edith Jones, Messrs. T. Beadle, W. and A. Shepherd, G. Spencer, E. J. Walsom, G. Harbour, J. Hunnisett, C. Edwards and W. Lawrence. Afterwards the whole party went by invitation to Wimborne Gardens, where refreshments were served and a social time was spent with music and handbells. Several touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major, and Kent Treble Bob were rung by G. Harbour, W. and A. Shepherd and the host.

ST. MARY ABBOTS GUILD.

KENSINGTON.—On Sunday, April 18th, for evening service at St. Mary Abbots Church, 1280 Kent Treble Bob Major. *A. W. Davis, W. E. Judd, *J. H. Payne, A. Cutmore, *W. J. Daubney, A. V. Selby, W. E. Garrard, C. Charge (conductor). *First quarter-peal of Major.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ACTON.—For morning service, at St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, April 11th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins. A. E. Smith, R. H. Boddington, J. W. Fruin, G. E. Harbour, C. Iles, R. Holloway (conductor), B. Brewer C. H. Paine

STAINES.—On Sunday, April 11th, at St. Mary's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 46 mins. W. G. Bedford, W. Bavin, T. S. Smith, W. H. Fussell, G. Beeby, E. W. Butter, E. T. Hooper (conductor). W. S. Greenwood Messrs. Greenwood Butler and Bavin are local men, being the first quarter-peal by the latter; the others are from Slough. W. Beeby (late of Sittingbourne), was paying a visit to his native belfry. Rung by kind permission of the Vicar, the Rev. S. T. Wood, B.A. Tenor 17 cwt. in F. cast at Whitechapel, 1734.

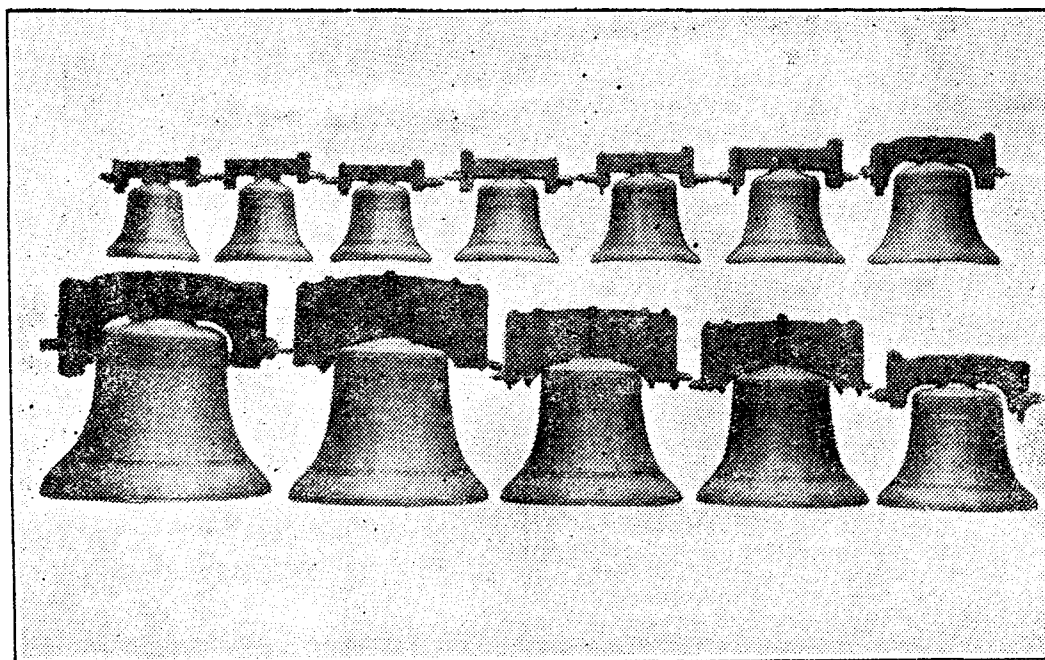
STANSTED (Essex).—On Easter Sunday morning, April 4th, for early service at the Parish Church, 392 Grandsire Triples, W. W. Watts, G. Gray, T. J. Watts, R. Law, J. Luckey, A. Jordan, W. Watts (conductor), H. W. Watts. For morning service, 350 Grandsire Triples. W. W. Watts, G. Gray, T. J. Watts, J. Luckey, A. Jordan, Private Duffield (Beds. Yeomanry), W. Watts (conductor), H. W. Watts.

DEATH OF A RINGER'S WIFE.

A great blow has befallen Mr. Fred Atwell, of Newport, Mon., by the death of his wife. On Sunday, the 11th inst., she was taken with a seizure, and passed away on Tuesday morning, leaving a large family. As a mark of respect the bells of St. Woolo's Church were rung half-muffled the same evening. The funeral took place on Friday at Malpas, six of the Newport ringers acting as bearers. In the evening the bells were again rung half-muffled in touches of Triples.

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Notices.

The charge for the insertion of Notices under this heading Sixpence for 20 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 the 27th, all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, for practice, on Saturdays, at 7.30. p.m.

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 Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at East Crompton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting 6.30.

Joseph Ogden, Sec.

The Lancashire Association.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Colne on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30 p.m.

33, Langham Road, Blackburn. J. Watson, Branch Sec.

The Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at Woolton on Saturday, April 24th. Bells ready at 4.

Walter Hughes, Branch Sec.

3, Shrewsbury Place, Garston.

The Essex Association.—A district meeting of the North-Western Division will be held at Newport on Saturday, April 24th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting in the Church Room at 5 p.m.

William Watts, Dis. Sec.

Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

Guild for the Archdeaconry of Salop.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Church Stretton on Saturday, May 1st. Ringing at the Parish Church at 3 p.m. Business meeting at 5 p.m. in the vestry.

H. B. Beckwith, M.A., Hon. Sec.

Ridge-mount, Shrewsbury.

The Lancashire Association.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Nicholas, Newchurch, on Saturday, May 1st. Bells ready from 5 o'clock. Meeting at 7.30 p.m.

J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec.

Bath and Wells Diocesan Association.—A meeting will be held at Weston on Saturday, May 1st. Tea at Glass' Restaurant at 4.15 p.m. Meeting to follow. Service in the Parish Church at 5.30. Bells available all the afternoon.

Taunton E. E. Burgess, Hon. Sec.

Alteration of Date.—The Kent County Association.—Lewisham District.—The next meeting will be held at St. John's, Deptford, S.E., on Saturday, May 8th. Tower open at 3 p.m. Service and address by the Rev. W. F. Jepson (Vicar), at 5.30 p.m. Tea to follow in the Whidbourne Institute. Those who intend to be present at tea must let me know not later than first post, Tuesday, May 4th.

T. Groombridge, Hon. Dis. Sec.

35, Albany Road, Chislehurst.

The Lancashire Association.—Half-yearly meeting at Middleton, Saturday, May 15th. By kind permission of the authorities the bells of St. Leonard's will be available from 3.30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the schools at 5.30 p.m.

W. H. Shaker, } Hon. Secs.
J. H. Banks, }

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ETHICS OF CHANGE-RINGING.

By G.F.M.

Mr. Trollope, in his very able articles, informs us that change-ringing is not æsthetic, but intellectual. We are to understand there is no claim to music in our performances on church bells. With him many of us will agree, knowing the most we can achieve in a belfry tower is tapping off merely the melody, or treble notes, which is no more musical than playing the piano with one finger. There can be no harmony unless a sufficient number of bells were present, and could be struck simultaneously, as we do by the use of handbells.

It is more in a poetic sense we speak of the music of the bells, as Moore says

"Those evening bells, those evening bells,
How many a tale their music tells," &c.

for do they not remind us of far-off events of youth and home that with the lapse of time appear so beautiful and romantic to our fading memories? How often have we, in the native village of our ancestors, felt the kindred touch when listening to the bells? Is not this feeling æsthetic, or is it but emotional?

I have, in a former number of the "Bell News," referred to the impossibility of demonstrating the extent of changes on any given number of bells, judged solely by the ear, for their notes run continuously in a straight path, not in rows as we theoretically express them. To prove this we have only to place any given number of bells in a continuous line from left to right which represent their sounds as they fall upon the ear. Where do we, in this manner get six changes on three bells, viz. 123, 213, 231, 321, 312, 132. These are but two changes three times repeated.

If we admit this we are in a position to understand the monotony of change-ringing to the uninitiated ear, though to us it affords so much pleasure. I doubt if there be any ringer who could listen to the most glorious chant ever composed if it were repeated but a thousand times, much less five thousand! We must own we have a very merciful public if we do but consider the number of peals we inflict upon it! Therefore we may well endorse the opinion of Mr. Trollope that change-ringing is not æsthetic.

Now how far is it intellectual? A game of chess is intellectual; so is a game of cribbage, though in a lesser degree. Football, quoits, skittles, cricket, and other similar recreations are not. The limbs perform all the work these games require, if we except sight. The brain is little taxed or required. That is why these games are so popular. The science of change-ringing depends mostly on the ear and memory. I know a ringer who has rung a 720 of Plain Bob with his eyes tightly closed, and I doubt not many of us could do the same. The eye is only required to distinguish the ropes, but the ear is the best organ for recognising the rapidity of changes. Did we ever know a band to ring a peal by the odd process called "lapping"? If so, one would just like to know how much time was required to get it. Compared with the game of chess change-ringing employs far less intellect. In that we need more sagacity, and when we come to the game of Life, or the science of well-being which requires the whole of our senses, we can very well measure change-ringing as far as it is intellectual. The inferior side of change-ringing is pluck and endurance, qualifications of which the intelligent man is the least proud. Those who are able to compose or conduct a peal stand higher than those who can ring a touch or peal in every method. The highest is the creative genius who, by his originality, has furnished us with the methods by which we distinguish ourselves as change-ringers.

In the Temple of Fame John Bunyan may have found a place but it is doubtful if many other ringers will be found among the Intellectuals—certainly not those who have rung the most peals. There may be a small niche allotted them as men of simple lives, who tried to make themselves and the world brighter by their ringing, never doubting its reality. And where, notwithstanding all philosophy, do we find happiness but in change and activity, in pure ideals and moral aims?

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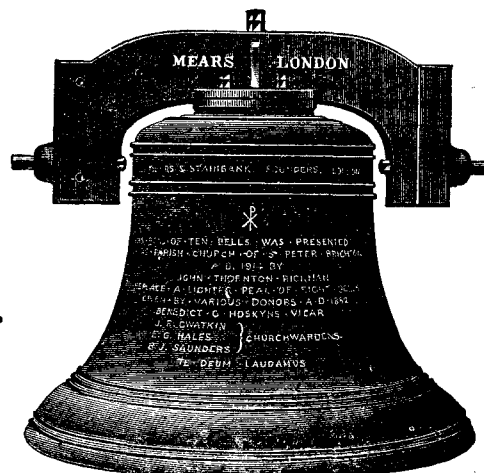
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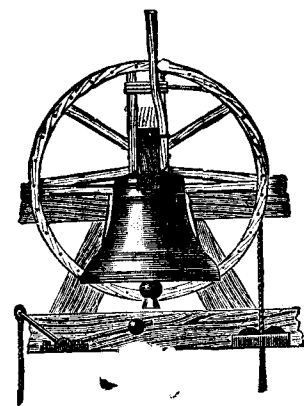
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