administering either sacrament otherwise than fasting. Bingham observes, that the custom was to administer both sacraments before eating, but to do otherwise was no unpardonable sin. If we are to rigidly follow the example of the early Church in one respect, why may we disregard it in the other? I will only add that I am myself strongly in favour of early Communion, as more conducive to devotion, but cannot see the necessity of imposing it as a matter of universal obligation. Besides, I hold that in this matter our 'National Church has authority to ordain, change, and abolish, ceremonies or rites of the Church ordained only by man's authority.'

A Churchman.

[Letters Received.—T. F. B. (Hull); M. H. L.; A Layman; W. E. J.; J. G. D.; G. W.; H. G. Pirie; A Commercial Traveller; W. J. Rowland; G. W. Jones; R. S. Bartlett; R. H. Irvine; Rev. W. A. Marson; C. P. H.; S. Yorke; Zigzag Mi; J. T. F.; Lay Deacon; A Sunday-school Teacher of Seven Years' Standing; James Hogan; G. A. S.]

Notes and Queries will be found on page 762.

BELLS AND BELL RINGING.

Carillons.

Sir,—Having read in the number of 'Church Bells' for November 11th, a letter on the subject of 'Carillons,' or Chimes, I wish to communicate to you the following details concerning some of our Belgian chimes which may, perhaps, be of interest to your readers. Most of the Flemish cities and towns, and even some of the villages, have carillons, or chimes, hung in their church-towers, or else in those of the town halls. It is said that the first carillon ever hung in Belgium was at Alost, in Brabant, by a skilful and ingenious craftsman of that place named Bartholomew Coecke, in the year 1460. The ancient *beffroi*, or belfry-tower, of Ghent, contains a carillon consisting of thirty-one bells, the largest of which weighs 11,000 lbs., and the smallest, 55 lbs. The famous bell called 'Roland' is in this tower; it weighs 12,483 lbs., and bears this inscription in Flemish:—'Mynen naem is Rollant; als ick clippe dan ist brandt, als ick luyde, dan ist storm in Vlaenderlandt;' rendered thus—'My name is Roland; when I clink then it is for fire, when I boom then there is a war-storm in Flanders-land.' It was hung here in 1314. This bell is mentioned by Longfellow in his poem on the 'Belfry of Bruges.' On this belfry used formerly to stand six trumpeters, clad in the colours of the town, who bore silver shields (still preserved), and blew through their trumpets on public feast-days. The beautiful tower of the Cathedral of Our Lady, at Antwerp, contains a carillon composed of bells of all sizes, ninety-nine in number; the notes are produced by being struck on their outer edge by wooden mallets or hammers, set in motion by machinery put up in 1540; they play every ten minutes. There is also a large bell called 'Karl,' or Charles, after Charles the Great, weighing 16,800 lbs. It requires sixteen men to ring it, and is only used on the great festivals. On such occasions the deep tone of this huge bell vibrates through all the city, and the air is tremulous with its magnificent sound. The same is to be remarked of the carillons and bells of Bruges, Ghent, Tirlemont, Ypres, and other towns, when, during the mornings of holy days, one seems to listen to a monster concert by a great organ high up in the air. On a bright Easter-day it is most exhilarating, and can be heard miles out at sea, and in the far-away country fields and woodlands: it sounds like the great voice of the city loudly praising God by one mighty psalm. But of all these carillons that of Bruges is the most remarkable, as to construction, &c. But, fearing I may occupy too much space in your interesting journal, I propose to defer my description of the chimes of Bruges till another occasion, if you will kindly allow me a little space.

Michael J. C. Buckley (of Bruges, Belgium).

260 *Oxford Street, London, W.*

On mayor-choosing day the Penzance band of Scientific Change-ringers ascended the steeple of St. Mary's, and rang a musical touch of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 559 changes, with the large bells in the Tittum position, which was admirably struck, and reflected great credit on the ringers. This touch, known by scientific ringers as the extreme of the Tittums, contains twelve bobs and one single half-way, and is peculiar in that it comes 'round at hand.' The band was stationed thus:—Treble, Henry Michell; 2nd, William Thorne; 3rd, Richard James; 4th, John Richards; 5th, Henry Boase; 6th, Francis Boase; 7th, H. R. Trelawny; tenor, William Salvage. Conductor, Mr. H. R. Trelawny. Weight of tenor, 20½ cwt. in E. This is the longest touch rung in Cornwall since the day on which these bells were opened by Mr. Bannister's band from Woolwich, Oct. 31, 1865.—*Western Morning News.*

[Squire Trelawny may well be congratulated on the progress of his pupils. All honour and thanks to him for his persevering exertions. If other gentlemen would follow his example, the miserable *ringing*, so-called, in Cornwall, would soon be stamped out, and we should have men and youths who know how to handle a bell-rope correctly, and to strike proper half-pull changes, as the best ringers in other parts of the kingdom.—Ed.]

Caution to Bell-ringers in Handling the Rope.

A sad, and what shortly proved to be a fatal accident, occurred in the belfry of St. Mary's, Barking, Essex, to Mr. Henry Hall, of that town, on Monday evening, November 6th, 1871. Mr. Hall was ringing the seventh bell, which weighs 22 cwt.; he had a bad habit of throwing the rope on one side of him each time it came down, and raising his heel, so the rope caught him by the foot, took him up three feet, and he dropped on the floor, falling on his back, which broke the spinal cord, so that he died in a few hours. He was much respected by the neighbouring ringers and all who knew him. He leaves a wife and three small children. Mr. Hall was just in the prime of life. [*Communicated.*]

Death of an old Ringer.

On Sunday, the 22nd of October, a muffled peal was rung before each service at St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Attenborough, Nottinghamshire, in respect of Mr. Richard Brown, who died on the 15th of October in his 77th year; for sixty years he had been a ringer at the same church, therefore great respect was shown to his memory. Attenborough has long been noted for its change-ringing.

Disgraceful Abuse of Church Bells.

At the quarter sessions held at Hereford, on Monday the 16th of October last, one Pedlingham, a ringer, and keeper of a beer-house in Ledbury, appealed against the decision of the magistrates at a petty sessions, who had refused his certificate to enable him to continue his beer-house, which he had kept nearly ten years. After a long inquiry, the court decided in support of the decision of the magistrates. On the following evening the ringers expressed their sympathy by ringing, during the whole of the evening, muffled peals on the eight bells of the parish church.

This is the grossest belfry outrage we ever heard of. It would be well if legal steps could be taken to censure the parish authorities and punish the ringers, who never ought to be allowed to enter the belfry. See *Ledbury Free Press*, October 24th, where the whole case is reported. [*Contributed.*]

Copies of Peals.

We are much obliged to Mr. John Troyte for his kind offer to send copies of peals as recorded by the Oxford Society from 1730, in their peal-book; but at present we can only attend to Belfry Tablets.—Ed.

BELFRY RECORDS.

ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

17. The Society of College Youths rung in this Steeple on March 12th, 1758, a compleat Peal of 5040 Treble Bob, 12 in, in 4 hours 12 minutes, being the greatest peal ever done before on 12 bells.

John Underwood, *Treble.*	James Darquit, *Fifth*	William Moss, *Ninth.*
James Coxon, *Second.*	Thomas Bennet, *Sixth.*	Robert Bly, *Tenth.*
Robert Butterworth, *Third.*	William Le Dell, *Seventh.*	Richard Mortimer, *Eleventh.*
George Meakins, *Fourth.*	Stephen Pickheder, *Eighth.*	Joseph Monk, *Tenor.*

The Peal was called by Mr. G. Meakins.

18. Society of Cumberlands.—On Monday, November 16th, 1766, was rung a compleat Peal of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, consisting of 5136 changes, in 4 hours 8 minutes, by the following persons—

George Patrick, *Treble.*	Chas. Purser, *Fifth.*	Samuel Wood, *Ninth.*
Geo. Gross, *Second.*	Isaiah Bray, *Sixth.*	Willm. Jakins, *Tenth.*
Tho. Dunmore, *Third.*	Jno. Parlement, *Seventh.*	Willm. Scott, *Eleventh.*
Jno. Reeve, *Fourth.*	Francis Wood, *Eighth.*	Samuel Muggeridge, Willm. Lester, *Tenor.*

Composed and call'd by G. Patrick.

19. The Society of College Youths rung in this Steeple on March 10th, 1784, a complete Peal of 7008 Treble, Twelve in, in 5 hours and 48 minutes, being the greatest performance ever done on twelve bells. By—

Winsty. Richardson, *Treble.*	James Darequitt, *Fifth.*	Joseph Monk, *Ninth.*
Willm. Hutt, Senior, *Second.*	George Scarsbrook, *Sixth.*	Joseph Holdsworth, *Tenth.*
Willm. Hutt, Junior, *Third.*	James Worster, *Seventh.*	Edward Sylvester, *Eleventh.*
John Povey, *Fourth*	William Lyford, *Eighth.*	Sl. Muggeridge, *Tenor.*

The Peal was composed and called by John Povey.

20. Junior College Society.—On Tuesday, 20th of December, 1836, was performed by the above Society, a true and complete Peal of Caters, on Stedman's principal (being the first Peal in that method on these Bells), containing 5001 changes, in 3 hours and 52 minutes. Performed by—

Jas. Mash, *Treble.*	Jno. Bradley, *Fifth.*	Joh. Harper, *Eighth.*
Ed. Sawyer, *Second.*	Jno. Whiting, *Sixth.*	Ed. Lansdell, *Ninth.*
R. Thimbleby, *Third.*	Jno. Cox, *Seventh.*	Jas. Farren, *Tenor.*
Js. Stickbury, *Fourth.*		

Composed and cal'd by Mr. Jno. Cox.

John Herd, Esq. *Churchwarden.*
Mr. George Davis, *Bellwarden.*

21. The Junior Society of College Youths.—On Friday, 10th January, 1837, was performed by the above Society 5116 Cinques, on Stedman's principal, being the first Peal in that method on these bells. It had been for many years the wish to compose and call a Peal in this method on the twelve bells, but the honour remained for the undermentioned persons, who in 4 hours and 17 minutes brought their labours to a conclusion.

Performed by—

John Cox, *Treble.*	Rd. Thimbleby, *Fifth.*	Jno. Whiting, *Ninth.*
R. Mirfield, *Second.*	Js. Stickbury, *Sixth.*	Jos. Harper, *Tenth.*
Jn. Harrison, *Third.*	Jno. Bradley, *Seventh.*	Ed. Lansdell, *Eleventh.*
Ed. Sawyer, *Fourth.*	Jas. Mash, *Eighth.*	R. Farren, *Tenor.*

Composed and call'd by Mr. John Cox.

John Herd, Esq. *Churchwarden.*
Mr. George Davis, *Bellwarden.*

22. On Monday, June 17th, 1848, was also rung an excellent Peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, consisting of 5136 changes, which was completed in 4 hours 5 minutes, by the following persons—

W. Lobb, *Treble.*	C Googer, *Fifth.*	M. A. Wood, *Ninth.*
J. Hewit, *Second.*	J. Stickbury, *Sixth.*	J. Whiting, *Tenth.*
H. Haley, *Third.*	H. Perry, *Seventh.*	C. Wilson, *Eleventh.*
J. Miller, *Fourth.*	T. Michael, *Eighth.*	W. Golding, *Tenor.*

Conducted by W. Lobb.

Wardens { Mr. Joseph Smith, *Church.* Mr Thomas Bailey, *Bell.*

J. Downs, Pine Street, June, 1848. T. Tayler, *Steeple-keeper.*