

BELLS AND BELL RINGING.

A Word for 'Church Bells.'

SIR,—I take the liberty of forwarding to you some belfry records in our parish church, for insertion in 'CHURCH BELLS,' when you have space for them. I may, at the same time, state the high estimation in which your valuable paper is held by the Ringers here, and also the benefit I have derived from it myself; as it is mainly owing to its influence I have been led to take an active interest in the belfry, and to become a 'Ringer.' I would earnestly recommend all young clergymen to try the same plan—health and strength permitting—as, not to speak of the exercise, which is in itself healthy and invigorating, a means of doing good, and of gaining a personal acquaintance with the Ringers, is thus opened, which otherwise it is difficult to find.

ARTHUR A. WILLIAMS, Curate of Bromley, Kent.

Muffled Peal at Burford.

THE ringers of Burford rang a muffled peal to show their respect for an old ringer, who was Sexton for forty-five years—John Frances, aged eighty-six. The bells were muffled on Tuesday, the 13th ult., and rung in the evening after the funeral; they were left up till Sunday, the 18th ult., and in the afternoon were rung for a long time, and then set; afterwards the caps were taken off, and the bells were rung down in peal as at other times with open clappers. The ringers were:—William Faulkner, treble; Henry Bond, jun. 2nd; Richard Beekley, 3rd; Henry Bond, sen. 4th; James Cook, 5th; James Brunson, 6th; William Packer, 7th; William Lanchburey, 7th, tenor. Weight of tenor 26 cwt., in key E.

Change-ringing at Ilkley.

On Saturday, the 17th ult., the Ilkley Society of Change-ringers rang on the bells of the parish church, Ilkley, 1872 changes, in the following minor peals—720 of Plain Bob, 432 of Oxford, and 720 of Kent Treble Bob, in 65 mins. 45 secs.; the ringers being stationed as follows:—R. Tuke, treble; J. F. Lawrence, 2nd; J. Gill, 3rd; E. Snowden, 4th; W. Snowden, 5th; J. W. Snowden, tenor. Weight of tenor, 11 cwt. Conductor, J. W. Snowden.

Change-ringing at the Parish Church, Bolton, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 17th ult., the undermentioned mixed band of Change-ringers rang a true and complete six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 54 mins. The peal was well executed. It was the first time it has ever been rung in Bolton. It contains 194 bobs and 46 singles, and was composed by Mr. E. Taylor (*vide W. Shipway's Campanalogia*, part 3, page 59), and conducted by Mr. James Eckersley, with these performers: James Eckersley, treble, Bolton; Richard Gregson, 2nd, Bolton; John Curtis, 3rd, Bolton; Thomas Ridings, 4th, Halliwell; John Rhodes, 5th, Halliwell; Thomas Entwistle, 6th, Bolton; William Rhodes, 7th, Halliwell; Thomas Morris, tenor, Bolton. Weight of tenor, 15½ cwt.

Hand-Bells by Soldiers.

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, a performance on sixteen bells of various tunes was given by Sergeants Hill, Hayhoe, Corporal Hill, and Private Hastings, of the Coldstream Guards, at the Bachelor's Acre Schools, Windsor. The excellence of the performance drew forth the unanimous approval of the audience, and it is hoped they may repeat it before the departure of the battalion for Ireland, which takes place shortly.

E. T. B.

[We rejoice to hear of Hand-Bells being handled by soldiers—confident they would prove a great amusement during many idle hours, and relieve the monotony of barrack life.—ED.]

TOUCH OF 1872.

Change-ringing at Appleton.

On Feb. 25th, a mixed band of the Oxford and Appleton Societies of Change-ringers, comprising five from each company, rang on the bells of the parish church, Appleton, a musical touch of 1872 Grandsire Caters, composed by H. Reeves. H. Woodwards, treble; A. White, 2nd; J. E. Troyte, Esq. 3rd; E. Harrison, 4th; H. Mills, 5th; J. M. Hine, 6th; C. Hounslow, 7th; F. White, 8th; H. White, 9th; J. Avery, tenor. Conducted by C. Hounslow; time, 1 hr. 10 mins. The ringers standing to the treble, 2nd, 8th, 9th, and tenor, belong to the Appleton Society, the remainder to Oxford.

'In the midst of life we are in death.'

Death in a Belfry.

On Monday evening, the 19th ult., the ringers of Northwold, Norfolk, were in the tower for the purpose of practising. After some courses of Bob Major had been rung the bells were called round, and the ringers were most of them seated, indulging in quiet conversation. After a few minutes' rest, Mr. Matthew Clarke rose from his seat, and walking towards his bell said, 'Come, let us be doing something.' He had just reached his rope, when he fell to the floor: he was instantly lifted up into a sitting position by two of his companions, but only to find that the vital spark had fled, and that he was a corpse. He was sixty years of age, and had been a ringer in the parish for thirty-one years, and parish-clerk fourteen years; he had also been a collector of assessed taxes for many years. In the morning he had attended a vestry-meeting, in the afternoon a funeral; he seemed to be enjoying the best of health, and was very cheerful and happy till the last moment of his life. He was much respected by all who knew him. His remains were on Friday, the 23rd ult., consigned to their last resting-place in Northwold Cemetery, a large concourse of sorrowing friends being present to pay the last sad tribute of respect. After the funeral a muffled peal of 720 changes, Bob Minor, was rung by the same company who had been ringing with him only some three or four minutes before his alarmingly sudden death.

R. W. PLATT.

How to become an Expert Ringer.

'NARGUER' need not be sceptical about the rapid progress made in change-ringing by Mr. Snowden and his party, because it is a well-known fact, that among all learners in the hands of first-class ringers, twelve will never learn the thing, and the thirteenth will catch it at once (some say only about one in twenty), and become a proficient. Is it not the same with everything that has to be learnt? One has quick abilities, and another is slow at the same work, and perhaps, even with perseverance, cannot make much way. Is not the same thing seen in every shop in the kingdom among apprentices—aye, and schools too? In ringing, if the fault is not in the bells, it must be in the ringers.

A COLLEGE YOUTH.

THE HANDBELL RINGERS' CONCERT.—The Annual Concert of the Scarborough Hand-bell Ringers was given at the Londesborough Rooms, Westborough Street, under the direction of Mr. G. Dixon, on Thursday evening, before a large and fashionable audience. The leading vocalists were Miss Lomas, (Scarborough), Mr. Birch (Wirksworth), and Mrs. Drake and Robinson (Scarborough). The concert opened very appropriately with the national hymn, 'God bless the Prince of Wales,' and the first item in the programme was the familiar overture to Boildieu's 'Caliph of Bagdad,' executed by the ringers in their best style, and with a marked improvement upon last year's attempt of the same piece. The perseverance of the party, and their early proficiency, are most commendable; and their successful efforts do credit to their teacher and conductor, Mr. Dixon. We understand he is the inventor of a system of notation specially adapted to bell music, and that it is chiefly owing to the facilities it affords that the Scarborough Ringers are enabled so quickly and correctly to render the music arranged for them.—*Scarboro' Gazette*.

BELFRY RECORDS.

ST. LEONARD, SHOREDITCH. (Tablets in the Belfry.)

(Continued.)

81. COLLEGE YOUTHS. This tablet was erected by the Society to commemorate an excellent Peal rung in this Steeple on the 18th of February, 1777, consisting of Ten Thousand changes of Oxford Treble Bob, ten in, and was completed in seven hours twenty-eight minutes. The curious composition, the great length of time, and the masterly manner in which it was rung, very justly entitled it the most excellent performance ever achieved from the first invention of the ingenious art of ringing to the present time.

Winsey, Richardson, Treble.	John Povey, Fifth.	Josh. Holdsworth, Eighth.
Jams. Darquitt, Second.	Joseph Monk, Sixth.	Edwd. Silvester, Ninth.
Wilhm. Hatt, Third.	Willm. Lyford, Seventh.	Saml. Muggeridge, Tenor.
Chars. Purser, Fourth.		

Insatiated with glory, the above select performers on the 19th of May, 1777, rung a complete Peal of 11,080 changes in the above method, time 8 hrs. 2 mts., which will be transmitted to posterity as a masterpiece of the art.

The above Peals was composed and called by C. Purser.

After all this boasting about what certainly were wonderful feats see next tablet.

82. SATURDAY, March 27th, 1784, the Society of Cumberland Youths rung in this Steeple a complete Peal, consisting of 12,000 changes, of Treble Bob Royal, with 60 courses, and was performed in Nine Hours and Five Minutes. The length of time and the masterly manner in which it was rung will remain a surviving honour to the performers. It is allowed by all competent judges in the noble art to be the greatest performance ever done on ten bells. The performers were—

George Gross, Treble.	Isaiah Bray, Fifth.	Abraham Smith, Eighth.
James Barnard, Second.	James Patrick, Sixth.	Malachi Channon, Ninth.
Frances Nay, Third.	William East, Seventh.	Aaron Grant, Tenor.
Thomas Reeves, Fourth.		

Composed and called by George Gross, Senr.

William Greatham, } Churchwardens.
Thomas White, }

83. CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. This inscription will add to posterity the record of a Peal that was rung in this Steeple on Friday, 7th April, 1801, of 5220 changes of Kent Treble Bob Royal, in 3 hours and 37 minutes, being the first that was ever rung by any Society in that method.

George Gross, Senr. Treble.	John Holdsworth, Fifth.	Thomas Reeves, Eighth.
George Gross, Junr. Second.	John Hints, Sixth.	Samuel Cowling, Ninth.
James Nash, Third.	Malachi Channon, Seventh.	Willm. Stephens, Tenor.
Willm. Shipway, Fourth.		

Composed and call'd by Mr. George Gross.

84. CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. On Tuesday, 26 February, 1805, the above Society rung in this Steeple a true and complete Peal, consisting of 6129 changes, of Stedman Caters, being the most ever rung in that intricate method, in 4 hours and 12 minutes. The performers were—

G. Gross, Treble.	Js. Stichbury, Fifth.	Jno. Hints, Eighth.
Willm. Shipway, Second.	P. Jones, Sixth.	Anthy. Cavalier, Ninth.
Sl. Cowling, Third.	W. Richardson, Seventh.	P. Mugram, Tenor.
W. Bland, Fourth.		

The above Peal was composed and called by Mr. G. Gross.

Mr. G. Clarke, } Churchwardens.
M. Wall, }

ALLHALLOWS, BARKING, CITY OF LONDON.

(Tablets in the Belfry.)

85. JUNIOR SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS. On Monday, March 23rd, 1814, the above Society rung in this Steeple the whole complete Peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 3040 changes, in 3 hours 8 minutes, being the first Peal ever rung on these bells. Performed by—

John Mead, Treble.	Charles Bright, Fourth.	Jno. Noonan, Seventh.
Edwd. Chambers, Second.	Joseph Ladley, Fifth.	Jno. Howe, Eighth.
James Polly, Third.	Wm. Williams, Sixth.	Richard Makers, Ninth.

Conducted by Mr. Jno. Noonan.

John Nixon, }
Thos. L. Sedgwick, }

86. On Trinity Monday, May 22nd, 1815, was rung in this Steeple by the Society of College Youths, a true and complete Peal consisting of 12,000 changes, of Oxford Treble Bob, in 3 hours 13 minutes, being the first in that method rung on these bells. Performed by—

George Gross, Treble.	Thos. Michael, Fourth.
Willm. Kirk, Second.	Willm. Makee, Fifth.
John Boulton, Third.	

Composed and called by Mr. G. Gross.

RECEIVED.—U. R. B. of Rugely, is requested to send his name: J. Troyte; Thomas Jackson; C. W. Troyte; R. W. Platt; E. T. B. Particulars of Cathedral peals requested.