

BELLS AND BELL RINGING.

Inauguration of a New Ring of Ten Bells at Hampstead.

THE new church of St. Stephen, Hampstead, has lately been presented with a ring of ten bells, from the foundry of Messrs. Taylor and Son, Loughborough; the tenor, which is in the note of D natural, weighs 27 cwt.; and the total weight of the peal is 123 cwt. 2 qrs. The same donor has added also a magnificent organ by Willis, and a clock, with carillon machinery, by Gillet and Blund.

The bells and organ were formally inaugurated on St. Stephen's Day; the clock, unfortunately, has not yet been completed.

A selected band of the Ancient Society of College Youths ascended the tower shortly before twelve o'clock, and rang some very exquisite touches for about two hours. At 3 p.m. Mr. Gausseant, the organist of the old parish church, commenced a performance upon the organ of sacred and classical music; and as soon as this was completed, the ringers (this time a mixed company) rang till a little after 6 p.m.; they then came down to tea with the Rev. J. Kirkman, Vicar of St. Stephen's, with whom they had dined at two, and afterwards rang again until eight o'clock, when choral service closed the day.

Of the bells there was but one opinion: they are an exceedingly fine peal. The ringing was worthy of them; the methods chosen were Grandsire and Stedman's Caters, and Kent Treble Bob Royal; also, by special request, the bells were fired in volleys. The execution was really perfect, and as one stood upon the high ground north-east of the church, about on a level with the bells themselves, their music which flowed out from the tower-windows in one continuous stream was exceedingly beautiful.

The day was a great success; the very weather favoured, for the sun shone brightly; a large number of holiday-seekers were present, and the church was crowded. After all the arrangements had been made the death took place of one of the oldest inhabitants of the parish, a gentleman who was born in Hampstead when it was a little village in the rural part of Middlesex; and as his funeral passed the church on the 26th, the ringing was stopped and the tenor tolled.

The hand was placed as under; and it has been arranged that the College Youths shall shortly attempt a peal of 5000 on these bells,—a sufficient proof that the authorities and gentry of the place were abundantly gratified. The performers were Messrs. Haley, treble; Cooter, 2nd; Ferris, 3rd; Muskett, 4th; Mash, 5th; Haworth, 6th; Pettit, 7th; Wood, 8th; Dwight, 9th; Hayes, tenor.—*Per Letter.*

Reopening of Redcliff Church Bells.

THE inhabitants of Redcliff are certainly showing their high appreciation of the noble efforts made by the citizens to bring to its present complete state of restoration the grand old fabric of Redcliff Church. No effort seems to be lacking on their part to make that restoration a thorough one in every respect; and from spire to basement in its rich and majestic exterior, or within its walls, where 'mid the hoary aisles and arches linger thoughts of bygone time,' everything bespeaks the complete restoration of this glorious 'relic of a buried age.' One of the last efforts of this kind was that set on foot about the time of the completion of the new spire, when Mr. Alfred Jones, the conductor of the ringers, aided by his colleagues, started a subscription for the purpose of completing the fine set of bells the church already possessed by the addition of two to their number, thus making it a peal of twelve. Their praiseworthy efforts were so readily supported that they soon found themselves in a position to instruct Mr. T. Mears, the well-known bell-founder of London, to cast the couple of new trebles, and, further, to obtain the services of Mr. York, of St. Paul's, to make the necessary alterations and rearrange the peal of bells. The new ones are at length in their places; the total cost of the undertaking having been, we learn, between 2000. and 3000. Redcliff now possesses one of the finest peals of bells out of the metropolis; and in the county of Gloucester there are only two other churches favoured with a peal of twelve—Painswick and Cirencester. In our own city, Redcliff now, of course, holds first rank; and we may here state that there are in Bristol altogether seventeen peals. Those having ten bells are St. Nicholas, Christ Church (Broad Street), and St. James's. There are no less than nine possessing eight bells, as follow:—St. Stephen's (a famous peal), St. Thomas (Mayleport), All Saints', St. Peter's, St. Philip's, St. Andrew's (Clifton Church), St. Matthew's (Kingsdown), and Temple. There are four churches having peals of six bells:—The Mayor's Chapel, St. Werburgh's, St. John's, and St. Michael's. The Redcliff tenor bell weighs 52 cwt. and the whole peal about 12 tons. The final additions just made, namely two trebles, have inscriptions; that on the one being 'Rev. H. G. Randall, Vicar; C. B. Hare, Esq., and Mervyn King, Esq., Churchwardens, 1872'; and on the other, 'W. Proctor Baker, Esq. Mayor; A. Jones, Conductor; and William Dowling, Steeple-keeper. This peal was augmented and purchased by subscription in 1872. *Lauds Deo.*' There was special service to commemorate this completion of the peal of twelve bells yesterday afternoon (Dec. 31), the Lord Bishop of the diocese taking part in the service and preaching the sermon. There was a large congregation. The Vicar, the Rev. Canon Randall, read the first lesson, and the Rev. Canon Mather the second. His Lordship took his text from one of the lessons for the day, Rev. xxii. 10, 'Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book.' From this passage of Scripture the right rev. prelate delivered a very thoughtful and earnest sermon. Immediately after the service the ringers introduced a series of Grandsire Cinques with a joyous peal, a magnificent volume of sound being produced in firing the rounds. The full power of the twelve bells could then be estimated, and the rich music attracted much attention.—*Bristol Mirror.*

Death of an Old Ringer at Sowerby, Lincolnshire.

ON Sunday, December 29th, 1872, died Mr. James Nicholl, aged sixty-four years, after a lingering illness. He had been a ringer upwards of forty-

five years, and was greatly respected by the Society of Change-ringers. Not long ago another ringer was lost to this town in the person of Mr. Eli Hilliwell, who died very much respected at the advanced age of eighty-three, after being a ringer upwards of sixty-four years.—*Per Letter.*

Hand-bell Ringers at Sandringham.

WE have been favoured with a copy of the following letter, which we have much pleasure in laying before our readers:—

Jan. 1, 1873, Sandringham, King's Lynn.

GENERAL SIR WILLIAM KNOLLS is authorised by H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, to state that Mr. Duncan Miller's band (the Poland Street Temperance Hand-bell Ringers) performed before the Prince and Princess of Wales, on December 26th, 1872, at Sandringham, and gave the greatest satisfaction.

MR. DUNCAN S. MILLER,

W. KNOLLS.

53 Richmond Terrace, Clapham Road.

Change-ringing at Immanuel Church, Streatham Common, Surrey.

ON December 26th, 1872, seven members of the Streatham Change-ringers Society, assisted by Mr. W. Bates of Mitcham, rang at the above church Mr. Holt's ten-part peal 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. Performers:—W. Shephard, treble; G. Russell, 2nd; D. Springhall, 3rd; S. Greenwood, 4th; T. Blacktop, 5th; G. Pell, 6th; W. Bates, 7th; W. Daniels, tenor. Conducted by Mr. S. Greenwood.—*Per Letter.*

Change-ringing at King's Lynn.

ON the 27th December, 1872, eight of the St. Margaret's Company of King's Lynn rang a touch of 5040 Bob Major Changes, with 60 Bobs, in 3 hrs. 26 mins., well struck by J. Taylor, sen., treble; J. Taylor, jun., 2nd; H. Holland, 3rd; M. True, 4th; E. Lockwood, 5th; T. Taylor, 6th; T. Bryant, 7th; D. Grieves, tenor. The peal was conducted by J. Taylor, jun. Weight of tenor, 19 cwt.—*Per Letter.*

Change-ringing at Ashton-under-Lyne.

ON Saturday, December 28, 1872 (being the anniversary of the dedication and opening of the peal of bells in St. Peter's Church tower), the Society of Change-ringers of this town celebrated the event by ringing a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, comprising 5408 changes, in 3 hrs. 25 mins., which was composed and conducted by Mr. John Thorp. This is a portion of a peal of 8544 changes composed by Mr. Thorp, which is the largest number of changes known to be obtained with the tenors together, and which supercedes the late Mr. Reeves' peal by 96 changes. The performers were:—T. Moss, treble; J. Bocoek, 2nd; J. Wood, 3rd; T. Stopford, 4th; B. Broadbent, 5th; D. Heaps, 6th; C. Thorp, 7th; J. Thorp, tenor. Weight of tenor, 20 cwt., key of E.

ON New-year's Eve the same Society rang on the bells in the parish-church tower a touch of Grandsire Caters, consisting of 1873 changes, corresponding with the present year, in 1 hr. 16 mins. Composed and conducted by Mr. John Thorp. The ringers were stationed as follows:—W. Burgess, jun., treble; J. Bocoek, 2nd; T. Moss, 3rd; T. Stopford, 4th; B. Broadbent, 5th; C. Thorp, 6th; J. Thorp, 7th; D. Heap, 8th; S. Andrew, 9th; B. Cheetham, tenor. Weight of tenor, 28 cwt., key of D.—*Per Letter.*

A Date Peal at Halifax.

ON New-year's Eve the ringers of the parish church, Halifax, welcomed in the new year by ringing a touch of Kent Treble Bob Royal, consisting of 1873 changes, which was completed in 1 hr. and 22 mins. by the following band:—J. Walsh, treble; R. Jenkinson, 2nd; J. Briggs, 3rd; H. Hudson, 4th; R. Bramham, 5th; J. Hardcastle, 6th; G. Robertshaw, 7th; R. Smith, 8th; J. Hanson, 9th; J. Mitchell, tenor.—*Per Letter.*

1872 Changes in the Grandsire Method at Long Ashton.

OUR correspondent '720' is surely aware that *Bob Minor* may be rung in 1920 variations, and if so the total would be 1,386,720! This was demonstrated in 1677 by Fabian Stedman, the Father of Change-ringing, in his *Campanologia*, p. 80.—*Ed.*

BELFRY RECORDS.

ST. NICHOLAS CHURCH, BRIGHTON.

(Tablets in the Belfry.)

305. MAY 24th, 1779, was rung in this Tower by the Society of Cumberland Youths a true and complete Peal of 11,088 changes, Bob-major, performed in Six Hours and Fifty Minutes, in order as follows, viz:—

George Gross, Treble, London.	Edward Simmons, Fifth, Islington.
Thomas Jones, Second, Horsham.	John Wheatley, Sixth, Epsom.
Thomas Lintott, Third, Horsham.	James Wilson, Seventh, Cuckfield.
Joseph Willard, Fourth, Chiddingley.	B. Simmonds, Tenor, Leatherhead.

N.B. The bobs were called by G. Gross.

306. IN January 29th, 1820, being the Ascension of King George 4th, was rung in this Tower, by the Brighton Society of Change Ringers, a true and complete peal of 5040 changes of Bob-major, in Three Hours, Six Minutes, by the Persons in order as follows, viz:—

William Reynolds, Treble.	Edward Honeysett, Fourth.	James Potter, Sixth.
James Parsons, Second.	John Pocock, Fifth.	William Wells, Seventh.
Richard Bodle, Third.		Isaac Tester, Tenor.

Conducted by Isaac Tester.

307. THURSDAY, November 27th, 1823.—The Brighton Society of Change Ringers assembled in this Tower, and rang a true and complete peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Caters in three hours, thirty minutes, in order as follows:—

Thomas Markwick, Treble.	James Parsons, Fourth.	James Potter, Eighth.
William Wells, Second.	Richard Bodle, Fifth.	Richard Cook, Ninth.
Robert Birch, Third.	George Manwaring, Sixth.	Samuel Goad, Tenor.

Isaac Tester, Seventh.

The Peal was conducted by Isaac Tester.

308. 1833, November 8th, in Honour of the Birth Day of Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta, the Brighton Society of Change Ringers assembled in this Tower, and rang a true and complete peal of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples, in Three Hours and Three Minutes, in order as follows:—

W. Shelley, Treble.	C. Clate, Fourth.	J. Potter, Sixth.
W. Wells, Second.	L. Lewis, Fifth.	I. Tester, Seventh.
G. Manwaring, Third.		H. Harris, Tenor.

Conducted by William Wells.

RECEIVED.—W. Wigram; C. Greene; J. Walsh; B. T. C.; W. Senior; W. Agger; 720.