BELLS AND BELL RINGING.

Public Appointment of Ringers.

At the evening service on Ascension Day, at Over, Cheshire, the following interesting ceremony took place:—The Vicar, the Rev. N. Jackson, had been for some time troubled by his ringers. Their refractory temper at length culminated in an act of distinct disobedience. On this, with a spirit worthy of all praise, he summarily dismissed them, and forbade them again to enter the belfry. One young fellow stood stedfast to his vicar and his duty. He exerted himself, with the vicar's sanction and encouragement, to get together a new company of ringers, and with such success that by Ascension Day all was prepared for their entering on their duties. The new ringers were allowed to go into the belfry to summon the villagers to evensong. As soon as they had rung in the congregation, and had got down into the church (during the playing of a voluntary), the ringers, according to a concerted plan, advanced in a body to the chancel steps. The vicar stood there ready to receive them, vested in his surplice, &c. He handed to each of them in turn a new Prayer-book, in which their names had been previously written, and as he gave it he said, 'In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. By virtue of my office as Vicar of Over I give thee, ——, authority to ring No. —— bell to the glory of God.' When all had received their authority and their books they retired to a seat which had been allotted to them, and which henceforth they will be expected to occupy at every service. The Rev. F. M. Cunningham, Rector of Witney, Oxon, who happened to be present, then stepped forward at the request of the vicar, and addressed the congregation and the ringers from the chancel steps. (1.) He pointed out that the rector or vicar of each parish has as much control over the belfry as over the prayer-desk and the pulpit. (2.) That every part of the church is equally holy, and that if the ringers would shrink from coarse language, and from bringing beer and tobacco into their present seat, they must equally shrink from carrying them into the ringing-loft. (3.) That all work done in a church is holy work and for the glory of God—whether it be that of the priest, the decorator of the altar, the bell-ringer, or even the cleaner. (4.) Finally, to show the holiness of a ringer's work, he dwelt on the lessons which are taught by church bells—as when they ring out their joyous peal at Christmas or Eastertide; when they chime for the Sunday and week-day services; when they ring merrily for a marriage or a christening; or when they tell their sad tale of sorrow at a funeral. Both congregation and ringers seemed much impressed with the ceremony, and we cannot but feel that there was an example set that evening in the village church of Over which might profitably find many imitators.—*Church Times.*

New Bells at St. Mark's Church, Worsley, Lancashire.

This beautiful church, one of Sir Gilbert Scott's earliest and best productions, which was built and endowed by Francis, first Earl of Ellesmere, in 1846, has been greatly enriched by the addition of five new bells to the three old ones which have hung in the tower since the opening. Of these new bells, the three larger ones are the gift of the present Earl of Ellesmere, while the two smaller ones have been subscribed for by the tenantry and parishioners in commemoration of the birth of his son and heir, Viscount Brackley. It was decided to dedicate these bells to the service of Almighty God on the festival of the Ascension. The services were as follows:—Celebration of Holy Communion, 8 a.m.; Morning Prayer and special service of dedication new bells, 11 a.m., with sermon by the Vicar (the Rev. the Earl of Mulgrave), bearing on the events of the day; evensong and sermon by the Rev. F. J. Ponsonby, vicar of Brington, 7.45 p.m. After the morning service the change-ringers of the parish church, Bolton-le-Moors, rang a true and complete peal of Mr. E. Taylor's Grandsire Triples of 5040 changes in six parts, consisting of 194 bobs, 46 singles, with the sixth at home every 42 changes; the sixth and seventh at home every 210 changes; the fifth, sixth, and seventh at home every 840 changes, as taken from Mr. W. Shipway's *Campanologia*, part iii. p. 59. The band was stationed as follows:—J. Eckersley, treble; R. Gregson, 2nd; N. Farnsworth, 3rd; T. Ridings, 4th; J. Seddon, 5th; J. Rhodes, 6th; W. Rhodes, 7th; H. Mather, tenor. Conducted by James Eckersley. The bells were brought round in 3 hrs. 3 mins. The weights of the bells are as follows:—1st, 6 cwt. 1 qr. 27 lbs.; 2nd, 6 cwt. 3 qrs. 25 lbs.; * 3rd, 7 cwt.; *4th, 7 cwt. 2 qrs.; * 5th, 9 cwt. 3 qrs.; 6th, 11 cwt. 1 qr. 8 lbs.; 7th, 13 cwt. 3 qrs. 8 lbs.; 8th, 21 cwt. 14 lbs. (Those marked with an asterisk are the old bells.) The splicing of this peal was intrusted to John Taylor & Co. the eminent bell-founders of Loughborough, Leicestershire, and it is considered by competent judges to be quite a success.—*Communicated.*

Change-ringing at Ashton-under-Lyne.

Saturday, May 24th, being the Queen's birthday, the ringers of Ashton-under-Lyne rang, at the parish church, a true and complete peal of Grandsire Caters, comprising 5093 changes, which was composed and conducted by Mr. James Wood, and completed in 3 hrs. 23 mins. The ringers were stationed as follows:—T. Moss, treble; J. Bocock, 2nd; J. Wood, 3rd; T. Stopford, 4th; B. Broadbent, 5th; D. Heap, 6th; C. Thorp, 7th; J. Gillott, 8th; J. Thorp, 9th; B. Cheetham, tenor. Weight of tenor, 28 cwt.; key, D.—*Per Letter.*

Change-ringing at Walsall.

On May 24th (the Queen's birthday), eight of the St. Martin's, Birmingham, Society of Change-ringers paid a friendly visit to the borough of Walsall, and with the assistance of Mr. C. H. Hattersley of Sheffield and Mr. W. Hallsworth rang a peal of Stedman's Caters, containing 5057 changes, which was accomplished in 3 hrs. 16 mins., the company being placed thus:—C. H. Hattersley, treble; J. Spencer, 2nd; W. H. Kent, 3rd; J. Banister, 4th; H. Johnson, sen., 5th; H. Bastable, 6th; H. Johnson, jun., 7th; F. H. James, 8th; W. Hallsworth, 9th; J. Buffery, tenor. Composed and conducted by Mr. W. Hallsworth.—*Per Letter.*

Death of a Very Old Ringer.

Richard Saltmer, baptized at Market Weighton on April 18th, 1790, became a ringer there in 1805, and continued to take part in chiming for church till within a few weeks of his death, which took place on May 20th. He had thus entered the eighty-fourth year of his age, and been a ringer sixty-eight years. For about twenty years he had also been sexton and deputy clerk. His memory was wonderfully clear, and he could read without spectacles. His last appearance in church was on Easter Eve, when he tried to light the stove fire, but had to be led home. He served under four vicars, and never slept a fortnight out of the parish.—*Per Letter.*

BELFRY RECORDS.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, ASHFORD, KENT.

(Tablets in the Belfry.)

412. The first ringing of the 8 Bells was on Monday, 14th March, 1763.

413. December 9th, 1765, was rung a complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, commonly called 'plain Bob,' in 3 Hours 21 Minutes.

John Bushell, *Treble.*	Wm. Chambers, *Fourth.*	John Austen, *Sixth.*
James Whitehead, *Second.*	Thomas Burbidge, *Fifth.*	Wm. Banks, *Seventh.*
Ambrose Reeve, *Third.*		John Steddy, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Austen.

414. February 21st, 1767, was rung a complete Peal of 5184 Oxford Treble Bob Changes, in 3 Hours 29 Minutes.

John Bushell, *Treble.*	John Austen, *Fourth.*	Wm. Banks, *Sixth.*
James Whitehead, *Second.*	Thos. Burbidge, *Fifth.*	John Steddy, *Seventh.*
Ambrose Reeve, *Third.*		Joseph Bushell, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Steddy.

415. May 2nd, 1768, was rung 5184 of a Treble Bob Peal, called 'Morning Pleasure,' in 3 Hours 29 Minutes.

John Bushell, *Treble.*	John Austen, *Fourth.*	Wm. Banks, *Sixth.*
James Whitehead, *Second.*	Thos. Burbidge, *Fifth.*	John Steddy, *Seventh.*
Ambrose Reeve, *Third.*		Joseph Bushell, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Steddy.

416. On Friday, 12th January, 1781, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, in 3 Hours 21 Minutes.

Henry Hadds, *Treble.*	John Whitehead, *Fourth.*	A. Apsley, *Sixth.*
W. Curtain, *Second.*	J. Barnard, *Fifth.*	Thos. Eves, *Seventh.*
Ambrose Reeve, *Third.*		John Steddy, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Steddy.

417. March 3rd, 1789, was rung a complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, in 3 Hours 11 Minutes.

Thos. Eves, *Treble.*	James Worsfold, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
Leonard Gurr, *Second.*	Anthony Hills, *Fifth.*	John Hills, *Seventh*
John Howland, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Hills.

418. January 23rd, 1792, was rung a true and complete Peal of 6000 Bob Major Changes, in 3 Hours 56 Minutes.

Thos. Eves, *Treble.*	John Howland, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
Ambrose Reeve, *Second.*	Anthony Hills, *Fifth.*	John Hills, *Seventh.*
Thos. Leeds, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Hills.

419. March 15th, 1792, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, with the Tittum Corse Ends, in 3 Hours 17 Minutes.

Thos. Eves, *Treble.*	John Howland, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
Lewis Reeve, *Second.*	John Hills, *Fifth.*	Stephen Clinch, *Seventh.*
Thos. Leeds, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Hills.

420. November 16th, 1797, was rung a complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, with 123 Bobs, in 3 Hours 15 Minutes.

Joseph Tebbs, *Treble.*	John Howland, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
John Apsley, *Second.*	Benjamin Tebbs, *Fifth.*	John Stone, *Seventh.*
Lewis Reeve, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by Joseph Tebbs.

421. March 8th, 1810, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, with 60 Bobs only, in 3 Hours 15 Minutes.

Richard Carreck, *Treble.*	Edward Marshall, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
Leonard Gurr, *Second.*	James Jennings, *Fifth.*	John Stone, *Seventh.*
John Howland, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Howland.

422. January 1st, 1812, was rung a true and complete Peal of 6720 Bob Major Changes, being one sixth part of the whole Peal, in 4 Hours 20 Minutes.

James Court, *Treble.*	John Howland, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
John Apsley, *Second.*	James Jennings, *Fifth.*	John Stone, *Seventh.*
Thomas Castle, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Howland.

423. On Wednesday, 18th January, 1815, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 3 Hours and 10 Minutes.

Richard Carreck, *Treble.*	Anthony Hills, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
W. Venner, *Second.*	James Jennings, *Fifth.*	John Apsley, *Seventh.*
John Howland, *Third.*		Henry Hadds, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Howland.

424. On Thursday, 5th March, 1818, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, in 3 Hours 13 Minutes.

Wm. Fowler, *Treble.*	Richard Carreck, *Fourth.*	John Apsley, *Sixth.*
John Hodges, *Second.*	James Jennings, *Fifth.*	George Osborne, *Seventh.*
John Howland, *Third.*		S. Mills, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Howland.

425. On Monday, 3rd April, 1826, was rung a true and complete Peal of 5040 Bob Major Changes, in 3 Hours 12 Minutes.

Henry Down, *Treble.*	John Apsley, *Fourth.*	John Wanstall, *Sixth.*
John Hodges, *Second.*	John Laker, *Fifth.*	George Osborne, *Seventh.*
John Howland, *Third.*		Richard Carreck, *Tenor.*

Conducted by John Howland.

426. On Monday, 18th January, 1830, were rung in this Steeple 10,304 Bob Major Changes, being the first 90 courses of the Peal inserted in the *Key to the Art of Ringing*, page 98; from which Course End Wrong and Home were twice called, the last Home a Single. Thus was completed the above number, and which is the greatest that was ever performed in this Tower. The Peal was conducted by John Friend, and accomplished in a most masterly manner in 6 Hours 25 Minutes.

Henry Down, *Treble.*	Thos. Castle, *Fourth.*	John Friend, *Sixth.*
John Hodges, *Second.*	John Laker, *Fifth.*	R. Ryall, *Seventh.*
J. Chapple, *Third.*		Richard Carreck, *Tenor.*

Notice.—'H. O. K.' has omitted to send his address. On receipt he will be answered direct as to rules.

Received.—W. H. Stockton; Joseph Roden; J. T. Fowler.