

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

James Barham's Peal-book.

SIR,—In *Church Bells* of June 26th appeared a list of 111 peals rung by James Barham of Leeds, in Kent, from the years 1744 to 1813. This list was, I suppose, copied from one published many years ago, which was taken from the original book. As many of your readers well know, James Barham was a wonderful ringer, being a man of great endurance, as is shown by the fact that he rang in several peals of extraordinary length. Amongst these was the extent of the changes upon eight bells, a performance which occupied 27 hours; and although, of course, several extra ringers were required to relieve one another, yet Barham rang for 14 hrs. 44 mins. at a stretch, before he handed his rope over to his deputy.

Curiously enough, when this list appeared in *Church Bells*, I was at the same time endeavouring to find whether the book was still in existence. In a few notes appended to the printed list, it is described as being then in the possession of Mr. Lover, North End, Fulham. The first I heard of it, however, was from Mr. Proctor of Benington, who had had the loan of it, many years ago, from Mr. Robert Naunton, a well-known ringer, some years back, in the Ipswich district, who, he informed me, was now resident in California. I at once wrote to Mr. Naunton, who kindly sent me an immediate answer, and enclosed me a letter to a friend of his, who was also a relative of Barham's. From this correspondent I received a courteous reply, stating that the book had been handed down from Barham in their family, but, unfortunately, either from having been mislaid or from having passed out of the possession of their family, it could not now be found, otherwise I should have been obliged with the loan of it.

My object in addressing you is to make a request, that if this book is now the property of any of your readers, or its whereabouts known to them, that they will kindly communicate with me, as I am endeavouring to compile a list showing the gradually increasing lengths that have been rung in the different systems, giving details of all the most noticeable performances; and certainly, in Bob Major ringing, any account without particulars of James Barham's extraordinary feats would be very incomplete.

Ilkley, Yorkshire.

JASPER W. SNOWDON.

Bishop Lonsdale's Memorial Church at Derby.

ON Monday last Derby was enlivened by the opening of a ring of eight bells in the newly-erected church in this town, dedicated to St. Luke. The bells are from Messrs. J. Taylor and Sons, bellfounders, Loughborough. They are in the key D, and the tenor weighs 1 ton 9 cwt. As to quality of tone, they were pronounced to be good. The bells were first used by eight respectable men from Birmingham, who opened them in round peal occasionally going into thirds and fifths. In the after part of the day the Birmingham ringers went into some Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob. The bells had been dedicated to their sacred use by a short special service on the previous (Sunday) afternoon, when the church was filled with a large and influential congregation. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon, was announced to preach the sermon, but, in his unavoidable absence, his MS. was read by the Rev. F. J. Lyall, incumbent of the parish. At the conclusion of the service the chiming machinery connected with the clock was started, and the sweet symphonies it produced gave general satisfaction.—On Monday (St. Luke's Day) special services were again held in the church, and at a harvest thanksgiving service in the evening, when the sacred edifice was most tastefully decorated, the sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Lonsdale, son of the lamented prelate to whose memory the church has been erected.—*Local Paper.*

A Ringer and Composer Aggrieved.

SIR,—I wish to call your attention to that erroneous statement in yours of October 16th, 1875, by 'An Old College Youth,' as he calls himself, who states that the London composers and ringers have sternly set their faces against some of my compositions, inasmuch as I have made use of extremes, or different place-making, to achieve a something when it was necessary, which are very much approved of in Yorkshire at the present day. I know Mr. John Holt's name stands high in estimation. Very proper it should. Mr. Holt's one-part peal differs from his ten-part peal, inasmuch as the one-part peal is with two doubles, the ten-part is with two singles. I think any composer has as much right to make use of fifths-place bobs as Mr. Holt had to make use of doubles and singles in his peals: one is as much at fault as the other, if it may be called one. I once heard an old ringer say that ringers were foolish for learning more methods than one. I have known some musicians state that all music should be in the natural key. It is for want of a better understanding.

In our forefathers' days the minor key was the original, in our day the major key is much used among musicians, as well as the minor.

Handel, and all minor composers of music, make use of major and minor keys in their compositions, also sharps, flats, naturals, passing discords, and change of keys, to achieve what they wanted when no other plan would produce the melody required.

I think composers of bell music or peals have equally as much right to make use of si gles, doubles, and extremes, or fifths-bobs, as composers of music have to make use of sharps, flats, naturals, passing discords, and change of keys. So much for the 'Old College Youth!'

WM. SOTTANSTALL.

Sowerby, near Halifax, Yorkshire, Oct. 21st, 1875.

Muffled Peal (?) at Ilford, Essex.

SIR,—Will one of the gentlemen who took part in the muffled peal (?) at Ilford, Essex, as reported last week, kindly oblige with the name of the

system, number of changes, and time? I should like to know also the number of bobs or singles by which the peal was obtained.

B. KEEBLE, Conductor of the R. Y. H. B. R.

[Our readers would like to know the meaning of these five mysterious appendices to the above query.—R. Y. H. B. R.—Ed.]

Muffled Peal at St. Dunstan's, Fleet Street.

ON Wednesday, October 6th, the bells of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West, Fleet Street, were muffled and rung, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Charles White, who was for some time past a member of the above belfry. The whole pull-and-stand was rung by the following persons:—J. Nelms, treble; A. Moggridge, 2nd; W. D. Matthews, 3rd; J. Howe, 4th; J. Godfrey, 5th; W. Lindley, 6th; H. A. Hopkins, 7th; J. W. Cattle, tenor. Conducted by Mr. J. Nelms.—*Reported.*

Change-ringing at Hull, Yorkshire.

ON Thursday evening, October 7th, on the occasion of the Harvest Thanksgiving Service at Holy Trinity Church, eight members of the Trinity Society rang a touch of Grandsire Triples, comprising 1875 changes, being the date of the present year. The ringers stood thus:—E. Prince, treble; G. Harrison, 2nd; W. Stickney, 3rd; H. Jenkins, 4th; W. Southwick, 5th; C. Jackson, 6th; A. Hayward, Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, 7th; H. A. Eastwood, tenor. Weight of tenor, 25 cwt. Time, 1 hr. 10 mins. Composed and conducted by C. Jackson.—*Reported.*

Change-ringing at St. Luke's, Nutford Place, London.

At the conclusion of the Harvest Festival Service, which took place on the 7th inst. six members of the St. James's Society rang the congregation out of church with a peal of Kent Treble Bob, striking the bells as to time to the nick. On the following Friday five of the same party, with the assistance of Mr. M. Hayes, rang a peal of Oxford Treble Bob with equal success. The ringers were:—R. French, treble; H. Nunn, 2nd; W. Collings, 3rd; H. Driver, 4th; S. Jarman, 5th; S. Hayes, tenor. Conducted by Mr. S. Hayes. In the second peal in the Oxford variation, S. Hayes rang the 5th and M. Hayes tenor. Conducted by Mr. M. Hayes. It is many years since a peal of Oxford Treble Bob was rung in London.—*Reported.*

Change-ringing at King's Norton, Worcestershire: an Example to be followed.

ON Thursday, October 14th, was rung on these bells the first peal of Grandsire Minor. The ringers were:—A. E. Clulue, treble; A. Pritchett, 2nd; W. Palmer, 3rd; W. Cooks, 4th; W. S. Pritchett, 5th; J. S. Pritchett, 6th. Time, 28 min. Conducted by J. S. Pritchett, member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. With the exception of J. S. Pritchett, all the above are under 20 years of age, and have never before rung in any peal. They have been under the tuition of Mr. Thomas Longmore of King's Norton, who, for the past year, has energetically worked to promote the interests of scientific change-ringing throughout the neighbourhood.—*Per Letter.*

Change-ringing at Waltham Abbey, Essex.

ON Tuesday, October 19, eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes, at the above church, in three hours. Performers:—J. Barnett, treble; J. Barker, 2nd (first peal); T. Powell, 3rd; P. Cleverly, 4th; W. A. Alps, 5th; J. R. Haworth, 6th; J. Pettit, 7th; D. Tarling, tenor (first peal). Conducted by Mr. Powell, who has lately been promoted to the office of steeple-keeper.—*Reported.*

Muffled Peal at St. Luke's, Liverpool.

ON Tuesday evening, the 19th inst. the ringers of St. Luke's Society paid the last tribute of respect to the late Mr. John Lloyd (who was a member of the Society). Several touches of Grandsire and Stedman's Triples were rung, with the bells half muffled. Deceased died on Friday, the 18th inst. and was interred at Childwall Parish Church on Monday, the 18th. He was followed to the grave by a large number of relatives and ringers, and was universally respected by all who knew him. The following were the ringers:—J. Aspinwall and J. R. Pritchard of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and S. Gough, T. Beacall, T. Jones, R. S. Mann, W. G. Mann, A. Nicholson, T. Hammond, J. Chapman.—*Reported.*

Dedication of New Bells at Long Eaton, Derbyshire.

A NEW ring of six bells was dedicated on Tuesday, October 19th, at St. Lawrence's, Long Eaton, Derbyshire. The number formerly was only three, two of them bearing respectively the dates 1612 and 1626; the age of the third was not known. These have now been replaced by a light ring of six, by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough. They are in the key of A. Weight of tenor, 10½ cwt. The cost has been covered by a house-to-house subscription among the parishioners. The belfry has been well cared for and furnished. The service used on the occasion was similar to what we have published in former issues. In the afternoon a sermon was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Fearon, Rector of Loughborough; that in the evening by the Rev. A. Eubule Evans, Vicar of Kirk Hallam. Notwithstanding the exceptionally miserable weather—the continuous downpour being only varied at intervals by storms of greater violence—there were two delightfully bright services, and the offertory amounted to 22l.—*Reported.*

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Peals at Birmingham.—No reports of any have been received.

RECEIVED:—F. Atkinson.—We have not yet opened our columns to bell poetry; Bob Single; Treble Lead; W. Banister.