

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Bells for St. Paul's Cathedral.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting was held at the Mansion House in inauguration of a fund for furnishing St. Paul's Cathedral with a ring of bells and chimes for striking the quarter-hours. The Lord Mayor took the chair, and was supported by the Dean of St. Paul's, the Rev. Canon Gregory, Sir F. Beckett Denison, Q.C., Mr. Philip Cazenove, Dr. Stainer, Mr. F. C. Penrose, the Rev. J. Erskine Clarke, Vicar of Battersea, and others. The Lord Mayor, in opening the proceedings, remarked that it had always struck him as a curious anomaly that while many of the larger City churches, such as Bow Church, Cripplegate Church, St. Botolph Bishopsgate, St. Sepulchre's, St. Bride's, and St. Dunstan's, had excellent rings of bells, the largest cathedral in this country—St. Paul's—had but one bell. He had heard it stated that the citizens and those at work in the City would be distracted in their occupations by the sound of church bells, but he really believed very few people were of that opinion. He had been especially struck with the want of a ring of bells for St. Paul's when recently he escorted the foreign and provincial mayors and magistrates to Divine service in that Cathedral. Instead of the beautiful chimes and carillons which they listened to abroad with so much interest, they only heard one solitary, dismal bell. He trusted that the wealthy citizens of London would take this matter into their consideration. The steeples were ready to receive the bells, and it only required a comparatively small sum of money to give St. Paul's a ring of bells and chimes which many provincial and enterprising towns had readily contributed for their own parish churches. The Dean of St. Paul's said the want of a ring of bells for the Cathedral had struck almost everybody. St. Paul's was unique in its architecture; in its name it was unique among Cathedrals; and unique also in this, that there was no church of its rank on this side of the Alps which was so deficient in bells. On Thanksgiving Day the City was gaily decked, and the Cathedral was full within and without, but excepting the cheers of the populace there was no music to greet her Majesty on her approach to the Cathedral until she entered the western door, when the organ spoke both wisely and well. To all intents and purposes the fabric of St. Paul's was dumb on that occasion. He thought it was their duty to bring the matter before the citizens of London, and he believed they had only to mention their need to have it supplied. St. Paul's only desired to be put upon an equality with Worcester Cathedral, which had a splendid new ring of bells. Sir E. Beckett Denison, Q.C., in moving that it was desirable that a ring of bells should be supplied to St. Paul's Cathedral, and, in addition, a set of chimes, contended, that while so many of the large towns of the kingdom were providing—some of them even out of the rates—beautiful rings of bells for their parish churches, it was hardly creditable to the residents in London that St. Paul's Cathedral was to this moment absolutely destitute in that respect. He cited, as instances, Bradford, Rochdale, Manchester, Doncaster, Exeter, and Worcester, describing the ring in the latter Cathedral as the finest in England. He combated the impression that bells for churches could be founded better abroad than in this country. Mr. P. Cazenove seconded the resolution, and it was carried unanimously. Dr. Stainer, organist of St. Paul's, who entered into some details, suggested that they should have first a good English ring of bells, which would cost about 3500*l.* and with chiming apparatus 500*l.* additional, and next, if money were forthcoming, that they could have a ring of Belgian bells with chimes, at a further cost of between 3000*l.* and 4000*l.* more. The projects, however, were entirely separate; and for himself he should be glad, in the first place, to get the rings without the chimes. The Rev. J. Erskine Clarke moved that Dr. Stainer's proposal for a ring of bells and the arrangements of chimes be generally approved, and suggested that the Ringing Societies of London—the Ancient Society of College Youths, the Royal Cumberlands, the Waterloo Society—should be interested in the proposal, as he had great faith in the enthusiasm of ringers, whether rich men or poor men. This was seconded by Mr. Penrose, surveyor of St. Paul's Cathedral, who stated that the steeples and belfries were admirably suited for the proposed purpose; and it was adopted. Canon Gregory moved that a Committee be at once formed to promote the work, and to collect subscriptions; and the meeting closed with a hearty vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor for presiding.

Chimes at St. Luke's, Derby.

SIR.—Will you kindly allow us to state that the machinery we have applied to the fine ring of bells (tenor 29 cwt.) at the above church accomplished, we believe, the unparalleled feat of chiming a complete touch of Grandsire Triples (302 changes) after yesterday's evensong. The time occupied was twenty minutes; the number of blows struck, 3112; and the interval of time between each blow, about half a second. We think this marks such an important advance in the manufacture of carillon and chiming machinery that it may be of interest to many of your readers.

LUND & BLOCKLEY.

Ringing at Stockton-on-Tees, Durham.

On Saturday, October 9th, the ringers from Hurworth and Darlington. (St. John's Church) met at the parish church, and rang a peal of plain Bob Minor, consisting of 720 changes. The ringers were—G. T. Clarkson, Stockton, treble; J. E. Hern, Hurworth, 2nd; G. Overton, Darlington, 3rd; R. Kay, Darlington, 4th; J. Hern, Hurworth, 5th; R. Moncaster, Darlington tenor. Conducted by J. E. Hern. This was followed by a touch of Grandsire Minor, consisting of 360 changes; after which the Stockton company concluded the afternoon's ringing with a peal of plain Bob Doubles. Weight of tenor, 12 cwt.; key of G sharp. This is the first time, for upwards of thirty years, that a peal of six in has been rung on these bells.—*Reported.*

Muffled Peal at Dundee, Scotland.

On Friday, October 15th, the ringers in the old steeple, Dundee, rang a muffled peal as a last tribute of respect to the late Bishop of Brechin, who

died on the 8th ult., aged 59 years. The ringers were as follows:—T. Scott, treble; C. Geekie, 2nd; J. Sharp, 3rd; G. Paton, 4th; A. Stewart, 5th; A. Lawson, 6th; W. Hill, junior, 7th; R. Scott, tenor. Conducted by W. Hill.—*Reported.*

Muffled Peal at Fulham, Middlesex.

On Saturday, October 16th, a dumb peal was rung at Fulham Parish Church, in memory of Frederick Bourgier, who was killed by a fall from a tree. He was the sexton of the church, and had been captain of the Fulham Church Bell-ringers' Association since its foundation in 1871. The pall-bearers at his funeral in the parish churchyard were all members of the Association, and many ringers from other parishes were present to show their respect for one who, by his uniform kindness and good nature, had won many friends among all classes. He was a member of a bell-ringing family, and associated from childhood with the old traditions of the belfry; but he threw himself heartily into the formation of the above Association, which was founded on the principles uniformly advocated in the columns of *Church Bells*, and never flagged in his energy and good temper in teaching the new members. Of those who rang in his funeral peal, all but three had been taught by him.—*Communicated.*

New Bells at Gargrave, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, October 23rd, a ring of six bells was opened here. A large congregation assembled, when a full choral service was performed. The dedication service was then said by the Rural Dean, the Rev. Canon Boyd. Several touches of Oxford Treble Bob Minor and other peals were rung during the day, and on the Sunday following, by Mr. Mallaby and his company of bell-ringers. The bells are in the key of F. They were cast by Messrs. Warner of London, and hung by Mr. Mallaby.—*Reported.*

A Muffled Peal at Rawmarsh, Yorkshire.

On Sunday, October 24th, the Rawmarsh Society of Bell-ringers rang a muffled peal as a last tribute of respect to the late Henry White, who was buried at the Rawmarsh Cemetery on the same day, aged 46 years. He had been a ringer at the Parish Church for twenty-four years, and was greatly respected by all the members. The ringers were as follows:—James Ensor, treble; G. Briggs, 2nd; S. Whitworth, 3rd; J. Hawkins, 4th; W. Whitworth, 5th; J. Ensor, 6th; J. Furmery, 7th; R. Whitworth, tenor.—*Reported.*

Dedication of a New Ring of Bells at Bromham, Wilts.

On October 29th a new ring of six bells was dedicated at Bromham, Wilts. The old bells were worn and cracked, and the fittings so old that it had become unsafe to use them. These were the very bells immortalised by the late Thomas Moore, in his beautiful and well-known lines, 'Those evening bells,' &c. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Warner, and completed satisfactorily. The tenor weighs 18 cwt. The services of the day began at 9 a.m., when there was a celebration of the Holy Communion, at which there were about thirty communicants. Immediately afterwards the clergy, and choir, and others, went to the belfry, and sang the hymn, 'Lift them gently to the steeple.' The dedication service was then said by the Ven. Archdeacon Buchanan. A party of ringers from Bristol then took sole possession of the belfry, and rang several varieties of Doubles and, after a short pause, a touch of Minor. At 11.30 the clergy walked in procession up the church, the choir singing, 'Onward, Christian soldiers.' Prayers were said by the Rector, the Rev. E. Edgell, and the sermon preached by the Archdeacon, from Ps. xix. 3, 4, and Rom. x. 18. There was a large congregation, and those who came from a distance were hospitably entertained by the Rector. The bells were again rung, and were generally approved of. It is much to be wished that the unwonted sound of change-ringing may stir up the ringers of Bromham and other churches in the neighbourhood to learn the noble science.—*Reported.*

Change-ringing at St. Luke's, Liverpool.

On Saturday, the 30th October, eight members of St. Luke's Society rang in the above church the late Mr. John Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, which came round in 3 hrs. 2 mins. The ringers were stationed as follows:—S. Gough, treble; R. S. Mann, 2nd; J. Moore, 3rd; W. G. Mann, 4th; J. R. Pritchard, 5th; T. Hammond, 6th; J. Aspinwall, 7th; T. Jones, tenor. Conducted by J. R. Pritchard (his first peal as conductor).—*Reported.*

New Bells and New Organ at Earl's Shilton, Leicestershire.

THESE musical instruments for the use of the church were dedicated to their holy uses on Tuesday, the 3rd of August last, by special services suitable to the occasion. The kind donor of the bells received his ideas, and was prompted to do this good work, by reading similar acts recorded in the columns of *Church Bells*. May the example induce others to go and do likewise.—*Per Letter.*

Answer to Thomas Moore about Bell-gear.

BELLS, after they are first hung, want constant attention, till the timber gets its bearings and shrinkings. The cause of the bells going badly would arise from either of the following:—1st. From the nuts and bolts of the gudgeons getting loose, which allows the gudgeons to get out of their places, which would cause them to bind in the brasses or bind endways. 2nd. Sometimes the stock gives to the weight of the bell, which causes the bottom of the stock to spread, and cause the bell to get end-bound. 3rd. The bolts of the frame get loose, and make the frame unsteady. 4th. The timbers of the top of the frame warp, and cause a bell to get end-bound. I think that you will find the bells going badly through one or more of the above causes.

A COLLEGE YOUTH.

RECEIVED ALSO:—F. Atkinson; G. Gutsch; 'A Constant Observer and Reader,' who has not given us his address; William Allen; Paul Adams; W. J. Lush; J. Spray, &c. &c.