BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHANGE-RINGING SINCE 1872.

By a Looker-on in India.

(*Continued from No. 435, page 247.*)

THE COUNTY OF WARWICK.

WARWICK has long held a foremost position as a Change-ringing county, owing to the feats of the Birmingham Ringers, accomplished for the most part on the twelve at St. Martin's, the ten at St. Philip's, and the ten at Aston. It was in the last-mentioned tower that an extraordinary peal of Bob Major (15,360 Changes) was accomplished in 1793. As the tenor weighs more than a ton, this occupied nine hours and thirty-one minutes, and is one of the greatest feats of *endurance* on record, almost (but I think not quite) equal to that of the Cumberlands, who in 1784 rang 12,000 Treble Bob Royal, occupying nine hours and five minutes, on the Shoreditch bells, with a tenor of no less than 31 cwt.

During the period now under review the *Birmingham Ringers* scored as follows:—At home,—

1872. A peal of Grandsire Triples.
1873. A peal of Kent Treble Bob Major and one of Stedman's Caters.
1874. A peal of Grandsire Triples.
1875. Peals of Grandsire Triples, Stedman's Triples, and Grandsire Major.
1876. Two peals of Grandsire Triples.
1877. One peal of Grandsire Triples and one of Stedman's Caters.
1878. A peal (5012) of Grandsire Triples and one of Stedman's Cinques.

At Aston, nine peals of Stedman's Caters, one of Stedman's Royal, and one of Kent Treble Bob Major.

At Burton, a peal of Grandsire Triples.

At Coventry, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal.

At Nuneaton, a peal of Stedman's Triples.

At Feckenham, a peal of Grandsire Triples.

At Harborne, a peal of Stedman's Triples, and at Walsall a peal of Stedman's Caters. In all a grand score!

The Coventry Ringers rang a touch of Grandsire Triples in 1874, and a peal of Grandsire Caters, with some help from Birmingham. The Coventry Ringers should remember that they have one of the very best, if not the best, ring of ten in the kingdom, and that more attention to 'colts' would probably be followed by better results than the above.

THE COUNTY OF WESTMORELAND.

Westmoreland, like its neighbour, Cumberland, is backward in Change-ringing. It has a fine ring of ten at Kendal, on the back eight of which a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in 1876.

The only other piece of bell news is the founding, in 1872, of a light ring of eight for Windermere, by Warner and Co.

WILTSHIRE.

Your 'Looker-on' has noted with satisfaction the establishment of companies for Change-ringing at Devizes in 1876 and at Dunton in the present year. The latter company has already learned Grandsire Doubles, and is judiciously exerting itself to get up an association for the southern portion of the county. Something of the kind is much needed, for the only ringing reported is a touch (840 Changes) of Grandsire Triples by the ringers of Trowbridge. Yet Wilts is fairly off for rings of eight, and has besides several heavy rings of six, which deserve to be augmented: *e.g.*, the six at Westbury, tenor 35 cwt.; the six at Warminster, tenor 28 cwt.; the six at Great Bedwyn, tenor 28 cwt.; the six at Corsham, tenor 25 cwt.; the six at Edington (? Heddington), tenor 23 cwt.; and several others. There is no ring of ten in the county, but the rings of eight at St. Thomas, Salisbury (tenor 30 cwt.), and at Bradford (tenor 32 cwt.), as well as several of the rings of six above named, could easily be augmented to ten.

THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

Much interest has been evoked in this county on the subject of bells and Change-ringing since the grand ring of twelve was put up in the tower of Worcester Cathedral, and the practice of Change-ringing in the county has much increased of late years.

1872. *The Dudley Ringers* rang a peal of Grandsire Triples.
1874. *The Worcester Ringers* rang peals of Grandsire Triples and Grandsire Caters.
1875. They rang a Date Touch of Grandsire Triples.
1876. They rang a similar touch, as did also the *Broomsgrove Ringers.*
1877. A peal and a half-peal of Grandsire Triples.
1878. A Date Touch of the same.

Minor was rung by ringers of Wollaston, Stourbridge, Wordesley, King's Norton, and North Fields.

Your 'Looker-on' regrets to see it stated that the superb ring at Worcester Cathedral is unfit for peal-ringing. This is a matter of such importance that the cause should be thoroughly investigated. It is not the weight of the ring, for the tenor at St. Saviour's, Southwark, is heavier; nor can it be want of excellence in the gear about the bells, for no expense has been spared, and the arrangements are admitted by all to be, to all appearance, perfect. Is there any resemblance between the hanging of the Worcester bells and that of the Croydon bells? If the Worcester bells go badly from the cause (formerly unknown, but now, I presume, ascertained) which made the Croydon bells unfit for ringing peals, there ought to be no insuperable difficulty in making the Worcester bells go properly.

The ring of eight at Pershore is one of the very best in the kingdom; yet it is reported that a peal cannot be obtained there. The cause should be ascertained, and a remedy devised.

(To be continued.)

Change-ringing at St. Mark's, Glodwick, Oldham, Lancashire.

ON Easter Monday seven ringers of the above church, assisted by Mr. James Priestley, rang Mr. John Holt's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, containing 190 Bobs and 50 Singles, with the sixth at home every 42 changes, and the 6, 7 every 210 changes, and the 5, 6, 7 every 840, in 2 hrs. 40 mins. J. C. Garlick, 1; W. Schofield, 2; J. Priestley, 3; W. H. Gibson, 4; J. Gartside, 5; S. Stott, 6; G. H. Beever, 7; B. Ainley, 8. Tenor, 8½ cwt.

Change-ringing at St. Peter's, Hindley, Lancashire.

ON Wednesday, the 16th ult., was rung a touch of Grandsire Triples, containing 1008 changes, conducted by R. Calland of Hindley. In the afternoon of the same day a Date Touch of Grandsire Triples was rung in 1 hr. 8 mins. R. Calland, 1; E. Prescott, 2; E. Brown, 3; W. Chisnall, 4; E. Bentham (Wigan), 5; T. Tickle, 6; J. Prescott (conductor), 7; W. Westhead, 8. Tenor, 14 cwt. 1 qr.

Change-ringing at Yaxley, Suffolk.

ON Friday, the 18th ult., the Yaxley Society rang a touch of 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 mins. C. Hawes, 1; R. Camphor, 2; J. Bond, 3; W. Algar, 4; H. Mowle, 5; R. Barnes (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 rung by the above Society.

Muffled Peal at Waterford, Ireland.

ON Tuesday evening, the 22nd ult., the Waterford Society of Change-ringers rang a half-muffled peal, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. John F. Roy, who was a member of this Society since its formation in 1872. The peal was the whole pull and stand, finishing with a touch of 1386 changes of Grandsire Triples. J. T. Fielding, 1; G. Atherton, 2; R. S. Blee (conductor), 3; G. Clampett, 4; R. R. Cherry, 5; G. I. Mackesey (Mayor of Waterford), 6; T. Atherton, 7; C. Wheeler, 8.

Date Touch at St. Mary-de-Crypt, Gloucester.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., the Rev. M. Trotter, Rector of St. Mary-de-Crypt, was married to the only daughter of the Rev. Canon Harvey, Rector of Hornsey, Middlesex, and Canon of Gloucester, on which occasion the members of the Gloucester Cathedral, St. Mary-de-Crypt, and St. Michael's Society of Change-ringers, rang at St. Mary-de-Crypt a touch of Grandsire Triples, containing 1879 changes, composed by Mr. J. Drinkwater of Sandhurst, and conducted by Mr. G. Wanklin of Gloucester. J. Gough, 1; J. Drinkwater, 2; W. Bowers, 3; J. Thomas, 4; B. Etheridge, 5; J. Clarke, 6; J. Wanklin, 7; P. Pready, 8. The same band afterwards, by permission of the Dean, rang between the services a touch of 504 Grandsire Triples on the Cathedral bells.

Change-ringing at All Saints, Wigan, Lancashire.

ON Tuesday, the 22nd ult., the ringers of the above church, assisted by J. Prescott, Hindley, rang a Date Touch of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 1879 changes, in 1 hr. 12 mins., on the occasion of the marriage of the Rev. Douglas Steward Murray to Miss Harriet Georgina Isabella Bridgeman. T. Halliwell (conductor), 1; S. Turner, 2; J. Leyland, 3; W. Bentham, 4; J. Prescott, 5; S. Hall, 6; J. W. Hall and G. C. Hall, 7; G. B. Walker and G. Turner, 8. Tenor, 28 cwt. Key of C.

Muffled Peal at St. Mary's, Mirfield, Yorkshire.

ON Wednesday, the 23rd ult., the Society of Change-ringers of St. Mary's Church rang 2040 changes of Kent Treble Royal, in 1 hr. 26 mins., with the bells half muffled, to the memory of the Rev. Canon Thomas Nevin, M.A., late Vicar of St. Mary's. J. Holt, 1; T. Crowshow, 2; H. Hinchcliffe, 3; T. Oxley, 4; B. Robinson, 5; D. Clarkson, 6; S. Dawson, 7; H. Firth, 8; J. Peacock, 9; E. Firth (conductor), 10.

Change-ringing at Hatfield, Yorkshire.

ON Thursday, the 24th ult., the Hatfield Society of Change-ringers rang a Date Touch of Grandsire Triples, containing 1879 changes, in 1 hr. 15 mins. S. Foulds, 1; W. A. Tyler (conductor), 2; T. J. Smith, 3; W. Gregory, 4; E. Smith, 5; J. T. Stewart, 6; J. Foulds, 7; T. Hemsworth, 8. Tenor, 18 cwt.

Dumb-belling at New College, Oxford.

THE 'dumb-practice apparatus,' which has just been affixed to the first eight bells of the ring of ten in this tower, by the inventor, Mr. E. Seage of Exeter, at the cost of the University Society of Change-ringers, was tried for the first time, with great success, on Thursday, April 24th, when a touch of 672 Grandsire Triples was rung by the following:—G. F. Coleridge, 1; C. Hounslow, 2; W. S. Willett, 3; J. Field, 4; W. Smith, 5; C. D. P. Davies (conductor), 6; R. Anniss, 7; H. French, 8. Afterwards a touch of Plain Bob Minor, followed by a six-score of Stedman's doubles, by the University Society. A. E. Holme, 1; W. S. Willett, 2; G. F. Coleridge, 3; R. E. Fiske, 4; C. D. P. Davies, 5; H. A. Cockey, 8. The pleasure of ringing with this apparatus is quite as great as with the bells open; it works very truly, and the handbells used have a beautifully soft tone.

Change-ringing at Walsall, Staffordshire.

ON the 28th ult., nine of the Walsall ringers, with J. Carter of West Bromwich, rang at the parish church, Walsall, a peal of Grandsire Caters, containing 5003 changes, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. F. Hallsworth, 1: J. Carter, 2; J. Astbury, sen., 3; H. Summers, 4; E. Lightwood, 5; J. Astbury, jun., 6; J. Lees, 7; D. Westley, 8; W. Hallsworth (composer and conductor), 9; D. Chapman, 10. The peal has the 5th and 6th each 24 courses behind the 9th. Tenor, 24 cwt. Key, E flat.

RECEIVED ALSO.—G. Woolcott; W. Hawkins; Ringer.—Anonymous contributions not noticed; T. Eaton; J. Woolfield; J. W.; A Lincolnshire C. Y.; F. W. Brind; and others.