BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

TITTUMS AND QUEEN'S: ROWS AND POSITIONS.

The Tittum row has been well defined as a row containing a small bell and a large one alternately; namely, the first of the small bells followed by the first of the large ones, then the second of the small bells followed by the second of the large ones, and so on.

The row will therefore be, for Major, 1 5 2 6 3 7 4 8.
" " Royal, 1 6 2 7 3 8 4 9 5 X.
" " Maximus, 1 7 2 8 3 9 4 X 5 Y 6 Z.
X = 10, Y = 11, Z = 12.

And for Triples, Caters, and Cinques, it will be the same as the above respectively, without the last bell. It is really the same row, for the last bell is 'understood' in the writing, but when rung it is supplied by the covering bell. When the Tittum row, therefore, is defined as being in intervals of 5ths, this is true only of Triples and Major. In Caters and Royal the intervals are 6ths, and in Cinques and Maximus 7ths, between each small bell and the succeeding large bell.

The Queen's row also has been defined as the row formed by all the odd bells taken in order of magnitude, followed by all the even bells. This row will be, in Major, 1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8. In Triples it will be, 1 3 5 7 2 4 6, the covering bell supplying the 8 as before. It has also been defined as a row where the odd bells, and also the even bells, are in intervals of 3rds, and this is true whatever be the number of bells. There is also a definition given of the 'Queen's Position,' as where 4, 6, are coursing—that is, where 6 is coursing 4 down. If by 'Queen's position' is meant the coursing position that will produce the row, this definition is true only of Triples. In the Major row, 1 3 5 7 2 4 6 8, the coursing order is 4 8 6 2, where 6 courses 8, not 4. And similarly with 9, 10, 11, and 12 bells. It may be, however, that the definition, which occurs in Banister, is only given for Grandsire Triples, though it is true for almost all the other systems of Triples.

The Tittum Position—that is, the Tittum coursing order—has, I think, nothing to do with the row except in name. The Tittum position in many cases cannot produce the Tittum row at all, and when the bells are ringing the row they are frequently not coursing in the Tittum coursing order, as will be shown presently. This is one of many instances so common in change-ringing of ambiguity, caused by using the same word to express two or more ideas. As soon as we get to eight bells change-ringing takes a new departure—a fresh start altogether. Hitherto it has been the object to obtain all the changes the bells are capable of producing; henceforth the object is to make the best selection: in Major, a selection of 5000 or more out of 40,000; in Caters, of 5000 ins or more out of 360,000, &c. Therefore in Major the tenors are kept 'together:' that is, again, not what the words say, for they are often widely apart when they are technically together, and *vice versa*. But they are together when their working is not interfered with by Bobs, *i.e.* when they would do the same work whether the Bobs were called or not. Hence they are always doing the work of the Plain Course over and over again. And hence they always come home at the end of a course, and thus the peal is arranged in courses. And thus 7 and 8 are in the same places at any row of any lead of a course, as they are in the corresponding row of the corresponding lead of any other course throughout the peal. In Caters 7 8 9 are kept together, in Royal 7 8 9 X, and generally all the bells above the 6th are kept 'together' in peals of above seven bells.

But not only may a certain number of the bells be kept together, they may be made to course one another in any order we like, by first calling bobs so as to put them into that order, and then by taking care that any bobs that are called do not affect those bells till we want them to come out of that coursing order into rounds. Now it is evident that the order in which the large bells course one another throughout a peal is a matter of the greatest importance to the quality of that peal; and that it is a matter of very little consequence whether one particular row turns up or not. Hence the Tittum position is all-important, the Tittum row insignificant. Now, for odd-bell systems, when the coursing order is 7 8 9, 9 X Y, the bells are said to be 'in the Tittum position,' or, more briefly, 'in the Tittums.' When they are coursing 9 8 7 or Y X 9 they are said to be 'in the inverted Tittums.' In even-bell systems, when they are coursing 8 7 6, X 9 8, or Z Y X, they are said to be 'in the Tittums.' But we hear nothing of 'inverted Tittums,' possibly for musical reasons, on even bell-systems. (*To be continued.*)

The Use of Church Bells to Celebrate Political Victories.

Sir,—You will, I am sure, feel much regret when you learn that the bells of Arundel parish church were rung on Saturday evening last to celebrate the result of a contested election of town councillors. I say nothing as to the merits or the reverse of those elected, as the objection of all right-minded persons is to the bells being rung at all on such occasions. It seems almost impossible to teach ringers what is the right use of church bells. J. M.

[We have frequently expressed our strong disapproval of the use of church bells to celebrate party triumphs, municipal or political.—Ed.]

Durham Diocesan Association of Ringers.

The next meeting will be held at Darlington on Monday, 24th November. Dinner at the Fleece Hotel at two o'clock, to which the usual contribution will be made from the funds. The bells at the disposal of the ringers will be the eight at St. Cuthbert's (tenor, 16 cwt.), and the six at St. John's (tenor, 10 cwt.)—both in good going order. G. J. Clarkson, *Hon. Sec.*

Change-ringing at St. Peter-at-Gowts, Lincoln.

On Tuesday, the 28th ult., the ringers of the above church rang a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor in 25 mins. J. Harris, 1; O. Lainge, 2; P. Herrick, 3; E. Curtis (conductor), 4; E. Bingham, 5; W. Knowles, 6. Tenor, 9 cwt. The first peal in this method on the bells.

Change-ringing at Bushbury, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 25th ult., a mixed band of change-ringers rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 25 mins. This is the first peal rung on these bells since the augmentation, about nineteen years since. B. Dalton, sen., 1: T. Rotton, 2; B. Dalton, 3; E. Nicholls, 4; J. Fowler, 5; J. Jones (conductor), 6. Tenor, 13 cwt.

Muffled Peal at Church, Lancashire.

On Sunday, the 26th ult., the ringers of the parish church rang a peal of Plain Bob Minor, with the bells muffled on both sides, on the occasion of the death of the late Rector, the Rev. Joseph Birchall, M.A. J. Horrocks, jun. (conductor), 1; T. Dolan, 2; J. Bullock, 3; J. Eastwood, 4; W. Patterson, 5; T. Horrocks, 6. Tenor, 15 cwt.

Change-ringing at All Saints, Maidstone, Kent.

On Tuesday, the 28th ult., the Maidstone Youths rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 43 mins. H. Pearce, 1; W. Elliott, 2; S. Kemp, 3; R. Simmonds, 4; A. H. Woolley, 5; G. Pawley, 6; C. Payne (conductor), 7; A. Moorecraft, 8. The composition was taken from *Clavis*, dated 1788, with the Queens and Tittums, and the twelve 7-4s and twelve 6-7s.

Change-ringing at St. Michael and All Angels, Braintree, Essex.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult., six of the Braintree members of the Essex Association of Change-ringers rang at the above church a peal of 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 26 mins. T. Livermore (conductor), 1; T. Edwards, 2; W. Dyson, 3; F. Rudkin, 4; S. Hammond, 5; A. Huckson, 6.

Muffled Peal at Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult., by permission of the Rector, the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock, a mixed band rang at St. Peter's a muffled touch, consisting of 1879 changes, being the date of the present year, in 1 hr. 10 mins., in memory of Mr. Edward Dudwell, late ringer at the above church. H. Spufford, 1; B. Dalton, 2; R. Barrett, 3; H. Dawkes, 4; E. Nicholls (composer), 5; J. Jones, 6; J. Fowler (conductor), 7; T. Hanson, 8. Tenor, 29 cwt. in E flat.

Ringing with Mr. Seage's Apparatus at New College, Oxon.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult., the University Society, with the help of four members of the City Society, rang, in 49 mins., 1260 Stedman's Triples. J. Field,* 1; G. Warner,* 2; W. S. Willett, Esq., 3; C. Hounslow,* 4; H. A. Cockey, 5; C. D. P. Davies, Esq. (conductor), 6; G. F. Coleridge, Esq., 7; H. J. French,* 8. [Those marked with a * belong to the City Society.]

On Saturday, the 1st inst., 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor was rung in 27 mins. H. A. Cockey, 1; W. S. Willett, Esq., 2; A. E. Holme, 3; J. Field, 4; G. F. Coleridge, Esq., 5; C. D. P. Davies, Esq. (conductor), 6.

[Were the above peals a dumb practice or with open clappers?—Ed.]

Dedication of New Bells in St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh.

On Wednesday, the 29th ult., a ring of ten bells, the gift of the Dean of the Cathedral, was solemnly dedicated to the service of Almighty God, in presence of a large company who had assembled in the belfry. At 4.30 p.m. the Dean, accompanied by his chaplain and the succentor of the Cathedral, with the organist and choir (in cassocks), occupied the bell-chamber, when the special service for the occasion was read by the Dean, after which the bells were raised in peal, when several touches of Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Royal were rung. J. Lockwood, 1; W. Pawson, 2; W. Howard, 3; T. West, 4; J. Lockwood, jun., 5; W. Morrell, 6; W. Whitaker (conductor), 7; E. Underwood, 8; W. Walker, 9; G. Breed, 10. Tenor, 42 cwt., foundered and set up by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough. The Dedication Service was similar to what we have reported on such former occasions.

Change-ringing at Doncaster, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, the 1st inst., the ringers of the above church, assisted by T. Hattersley and C. H. Rawson of Sheffield, rang 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples in 55 mins. R. Bayles, 1; H. Wilson, 2; T. Hattersley (conductor), 3; H. Marwood, 4; W. Gardiner, 5; C. H. Rawson, 6; C. Crawford, 7; T. Holmes, 8. Tenor, 31 cwt. This is the longest length of changes rung by the present company.

Change-ringing at Hornchurch, Essex.

On Sunday, the 2nd inst., after Divine service, a peal of 720 changes, consisting of 9 Bobs and 6 Singles, was rung at St. Andrew's in 32 mins., to the memory of the late Mr. John Spencer, who was for many years a ringer in this place. W. Halls, 1; G. Newson (conductor), 2; A. J. Perkins, 3; S. Rush, 4; G. Dear, 5; I. Dear, 6. Tenor, 21 cwt.

Change-ringing at Hawarden, Flintshire.

On Sunday, the 2nd inst., for the early service, by the kind permission of the Rector, the undermentioned members of the Chester Cathedral Society of Change-ringers rang a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor in 27 mins., containing 38 Bobs and 22 Singles. A. Croft, 1; J. Moulton, 2; T. Bithell, 3; B. Stevens, 4; P. Griffiths, 5; F. Ball (composer and conductor), 6. Tenor, 14 cwt., in F. The above is the first peal, as we were informed, ever rung upon these bells.

Change-ringing at St. Mary the Virgin, Leigh, Lancashire.

On Monday evening, the 3rd inst., eight members of St. Mary's Society of Change-ringers rang Mr. John Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 58 mins. H. Smith (conductor), 1; E. Smith (first peal), 2; J. Hindley, 3; J. Houghton, 4; J. Curtis, 5; J. Smith, 6; T. Smith, 7; E. Arrowsmith, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E flat.

Received also.—Askew Roberts—*Church Bells* has not yet taken up the *Archæology* of Bells: we advise you to consult the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, Clyst St. George, Devon, enclosing a stamp; also to send to *Notes and Queries*; G. J. Clarkson; N. J. Pitstow; W. I. Reeve; E. Wates; and others.