

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Dedication of an augmented and restored Ring of Ten Bells, at St. Mary Abbots, Kensington.

THE Dedication of these Bells took place on Christmas Eve (when a large congregation assembled), on which occasion a most appropriate address was delivered by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, formerly Vicar of the Parish. During the singing of Hymn 203 (*A. & M.*), 'Thou art coming, O my Saviour,' the Bishop with the Vicar and other clergy, and the churchwardens, proceeded to the bell-chamber (where a platform had been prepared by removing the wheels); the Bishop then, laying his hand on one of the bells, said the Prayers of Dedication. By a signal the same prayers were simultaneously offered up by a clergyman officiating in the church. The Bishop and clergy returning resumed their places, and the following special hymn by the Rev. Wharton B. Smith, and 'Hark! the herald angels sing,' were sung, and the Bishop dismissed the congregation with the Blessing.

Raised between the earth and heaven,
Now our Bells are set on high;
In the Name of Him Who giveth
Skill, and strength, and industry.

For His praise we meekly lay them
As a gift beneath His Throne;
All their sweet and noblest music
Shall resound for Him alone.

Faithful men afar shall listen,
'Mid their daily toil or rest,
While the melody shall bid them
Love the Church where all are blest.

Earth's rejoicings, bright and holy,
Shall be signed with joyful peal;
And the music from the steeple
Shall our faith and love reveal.

They who languish, sick and lonely,
Shall be minded as they sigh
Of the Church's one communion,
God's true Home and Family.

When the spirits of the faithful
Pass away to light and peace,
Solemn tones shall then forewarn us
Soon our life and work must cease.

May these loud and well-tuned voices,
Pealing forth in grand accord,
Lift our hearts through joy and sorrow,
To Thy Throne, most gracious Lord.

Glorv be from earth and heaven,
To the Blessed Trinity;
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
Glory evermore to Thee.

The bells were afterwards chimed by members of the Cumberland Society. The two additional bells have been well spliced by Messrs. Warner, and all the fittings and the new cage of English oak, with Ellacombe's chiming hammers, are of the very best. We hope to report a first peal in our next issue.

Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers.

A DISTRICT MEETING of the above Association will be held at Kenninghall on Monday, January 12th. Members intending to be present are requested to communicate with the Secretary on or before the 6th. Dinner Tickets, 1s. 6d. each. G. H. HARRIS, Hon. Sec.

Tunstead Vicarage, Norwich.

Notice.—Diss, Norfolk.

THE Forty-seventh Anniversary of St. Mary's Church Bells will be held on Tuesday, January 6th, when all friends will be cordially welcomed.

W. IRELAND, Secretary.

Ringing at Chester Cathedral.

Sir,—I beg to tender my best thanks to the leader of the Chester Cathedral ringers for kindly replying to my questions about his method of teaching Grandsire Triples. I gather from his letter that he does not find it necessary to teach Doubles and Minor first, but that after due instruction in the method young ringers are set to ring Triples at once. This, however, I presume he would not do unless a majority of the band were already practised ringers. Also, I infer that much of his success is due to his placing an experienced ringer behind the young hand to guide him at the ropes. With regard to his rule for 'Hunting down,' it seems to me that confusion must sometimes arise from it except among experienced ringers. For suppose A, while hunting down, to strike after B. At the next blow B will be watching A to strike over him. But if each is looking to the other for guidance what security is there that they will strike in time with the other bells? G. BURN.

Hatfield Broad Oak.

The Clanging, Clashing, or Firing of Bells.

Sir,—It is the practice here upon festive occasions to clang the bells, &c., such as three times three, cross-fire, alternately, and twenty-one times for royalty. Is there any danger likely to arise from the practice or not? An early answer will greatly oblige. FREEMAN BALL, Chester.

[In reply to the above we most unhesitatingly and emphatically denounce the practice as being most uproarious, most unmusical, and unscientific. It can do no good to the bell-gear, and if the bells are heavy, and any parts of the steeple are in a doubtful state of soundness, it might be most damaging to the upper part of the fabric: besides, it is a great nuisance to persons living near. Throughout Christendom the law does not allow even a single bell to be a nuisance to a neighbour, and if appealed to, will issue an injunction to silence it. If a nuisance to the neighbourhood and otherwise objectionable, why does the Dean allow it to be continued? It is a prostitution of the bells of a church to be used for purposes for which they were never intended—having been originally set for ecclesiastical uses and for occasions in which the Church may rejoice with thankfulness.—ED.]

Ringing by the Norwich Diocesan Association at Framsdon, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 13th ult., eight of the Helmingham Branch of the above Society rang at St. Mary's Church a date touch of Grandsire Triples (the composition of Mr. J. Fosdike of Woodbridge), comprising 1879 changes, in 1 hr. 10 mins. W. Dye (conductor), 1; W. Whiting, 2; J. Knights, 3; G. Thurlow, 4; G. Sharman, 5; A. Whiting, 6; J. Oecborow, 7; E. Oecborow, 8. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

On Saturday, the 6th ult., six of the above Society rang at St. Mary's,

Otley, in 28 mins., a 720 of Grandsire Minor, taken from Mr. Troyte's work. It has a call every lead. J. Whiting, 1; J. Oecborow, 2; W. Dye (conductor), 3; G. Thurlow, 4; G. Sharman, 5; W. Whiting, 6. Tenor, 11½ cwt. This is the first time this peal has been rung at this place, and supposed to be the first time that it was ever rung in Suffolk. The above company, with the substitution of G. F. Meadows, Esq., afterwards rang it a second time.

Change-ringing at St. Mary's, Oldham, Lancashire.

On Saturday, the 13th ult., five members of the above church, assisted by five visiting friends, rang a peal of Grandsire Caters, consisting of 5021 changes, in 3 hrs. 11 mins. J. T. Hartley (first peal), 1; J. Whittaker, 2; P. Coop, 3; W. Ashworth (conductor), 4; J. Wilkinson, 5; G. Longdin, 6; J. Withers, 7; J. Eadous, 8; J. Scholey, 9; H. Ince, 10. Tenor, 34 cwt.

Muffled Peal at St. Margaret's, Leicester.

On Saturday, the 13th ult., the ringers of the above church rang, in 3 hrs. 39 mins., a muffled peal of Grandsire Caters (in the titmuses), consisting of 5057 changes, as a last tribute of respect to Mr. Edward Biggs, who died on the 1st instant. The deceased had been a member of St. Margaret's Society for fifty-one years, and his loss is severely felt. J. Jarvis, 1; W. Cooper, 2; G. Burrows, 3; W. Bail (1st peal), 4; J. Wilson, 5; T. Wilson, 6; J. Cooper, 7; S. Cooper (composer), 8; J. Buttery (conductor), 9; W. Walker, 10. Tenor, 30 cwt., in D.

Change-ringing at SS. Mary and Nicholas, Spalding, Lincolnshire.

On Saturday, the 13th ult., a date touch of 1879 was rung in method as follows:—79 of Plain Bob, 4 bobs and 2 singles; 360 of Court Bob, 10 singles; 720 of London Single, 18 bobs and 2 singles; 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, 9 bobs; in 1 hr. 6 mins. J. S. Wright, 1; R. Clark, 2; W. A. Tyler, 3; R. Mackman, 4; G. L. Richardson, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6.

On Sunday, the 21st ult., a 720 of London Single, 18 bobs and 2 singles.

On Monday, the 22nd ult., a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, 15 bobs. R. Creasey, conductor.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., a 720 of Plain Bob, 18 bobs and 2 singles. R. Creasey, conductor.

On Wednesday, the 24th ult., a 720 of Plain Bob, 42 singles. Composed by Mr. Jackson of Hull. Conducted by R. Mackman. Tenor, 21 cwt.

Muffled Peal at Leeds Parish Church.

On Thursday, the 18th ult. a muffled peal was rung in memory of the late Mr. Christopher Iles, who had been a member of the Leeds Company since 1827, and a ringer for sixty-eight years. He continued to ring up to the last. Mr. Iles had rung many 5000's and upwards, and had travelled hundreds of miles for that purpose.

Ringing at Ripon Cathedral.

On Friday, the 19th ult., the ringers of Ripon Cathedral rang 1120 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 46 mins. J. Strodger, sen., 1; J. Orton, 2; J. Lickley, 3; F. Strodger, 4; J. Strodger, jun. 5; T. Clark, 6; J. Trevor (conductor), 7; H. Humboldt, 8. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E. This is supposed to be the longest length ever rung in this musical method by any Society of Ringers belonging to this Cathedral.

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Ancient Society of College Youths.
Established 1637.

On Saturday, the 20th ult., at St. Paul's, Shadwell, the annexed peal of 5120 Kent Treble Bob Major was rung, in 3 hrs. 4 mins., by G. Dorrington, 1; W. Tanner, 2; W. S. Willett, 3; W. Jones, 4; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 5; C. D. P. Davies, Esq., 6; M. A. Wood (conductor), 7; E. Gibbs, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

W. HARRISON.

Snowdon, Part II. p. 42.

On the same day eight members rang at the parish church, Croydon, Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, comprising 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 19 mins. H. Haley, jun. (conductor), 1; R. French, 2; S. Reeves, 3; J. M. Hayes, 4; T. Verrall, 5; W. Sanders, 6; A. Bruce, 7; C. Walker and C. Roser, 8. Tenor, 32 cwt.

Muffled Peal at Huntsham, Devon.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., eight members of the Huntsham Society—which is a branch of the Devon Guild of Change-ringers—rang several touches of Grandsire Triples, with the bells muffled, as a mark of respect and esteem for the late Rev. J. L. Langdon Fulford, M.A., who was the originator of the Guild and carried on the duties of Secretary from the commencement. He died, after a short illness, on the 13th ult., aged thirty-seven. The bells were rung and changes struck partly in half pulls and partly in whole pulls.

Muffled Peal by the Yorkshire Association.

On Saturday, the 27th ult., the Society rang at All Saints, Otley, in 3 hrs. 2 mins., a muffled peal of 5056 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. Christopher Iles, one of the Leeds parish church ringers, formerly of the Otley Society, who died at Leeds on the 16th ult., in his eighty-fifth year. C. Ralph, 1; B. Lightfoot, 2; F. Maston, 3; J. Barraclough, 4; L. Cawood, 5; J. Yeadon, 6; T. Lockwood, 7; J. W. Snowdon, Esq., 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. The peal (the reverse of the 5056, Snowdon's *Treatise*, Part II., page 39) was composed and conducted by T. Lockwood.

A Correction.

We are requested to state that the Holborn Town Hall hour bell is E flat; the quarter bells are F, B flat, and D.

RECEIVED ALSO.—O. V. Hunt; J. Parker; W. Whitaker; F. Finn; William Grcome; and others.