BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Proposed Big Bell for St. Paul's.

In reference to the new big bell for St. Paul's Cathedral, Canon Gregory writes to the *Times* :—

Sir,—You were so good as to allow me to make known through your influential columns that the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's were anxious to obtain a large Bourdon bell for their Cathedral. We were not so happy as to obtain your support for what we proposed; but as the subject has excited a good deal of interest, may I ask your generous permission to make known to the public how the matter now stands? Many of the City Companies have most generously responded to our appeal. We have to acknowledge with the warmest thanks liberal contributions from the Merchant Taylors', the Clothworkers', the Grocers', the Fishmongers', the Mercers', the Salters', the Stationers', the Wax Chandlers', and the Plumbers' Companies. And beside these some bankers and others have furthered our efforts by generous gifts. We are now in this position. Owing to the very low price of bell metal, we can secure a good bell, but not quite so good a one as we desire, for the money we have had given or promised to us. If we had 600*l.* more we believe that St. Paul's would have the finest bell in England. It is, therefore, a question of whether our success shall be quite complete or partially so; whether we shall have the best or the second best bell in the country. We are satisfied that either bell would be a great acquisition to the City, and we are not less convinced that the citizens would never have cause to complain of being deafened or otherwise inconvenienced by our bell. We are now being perpetually urged to ring our bells more frequently, while no complaints reach us of any being annoyed by them. Before they were hung we continually heard of the fears of those living in our immediate neighbourhood. The Chapter has decided to have one or other of the two bells I have just described; which it shall be the City must decide. We have determined to delay sending the order for a short time in the hope that some citizens of London, or some of the corporations which have not yet contributed, will be moved with a public-spirited determination that St. Paul's shall have the finest bell in England. To accomplish this an additional sum of 600*l.* is all that is needed. Your obedient servant, Robert Gregory,

Treasurer to the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's.

The Ringing at All Saints, Maidstone.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me to answer a question for All Saints, Maidstone, Kent, which appeared in your issue of February 26th? The peal rung by them on the 7th February was a variation of Holt's peal known as Taylor's, and I beg to state that the peal is a true one, and there is no error in saying that it is Holt's; which I will prove by the good old works of the authors of W. Jones, J. Reeves, and T. Blakemore, which was printed twenty-seven years after Holt's first peal was rung at St. Margaret's, Westminster. Any one that has a copy of this work can see in page 55 the remarks by the authors are as follows :—

'Those great names, Hardham, Condell, and Anable, who are now recorded on the ancient rolls of fame, had each exhausted all their skill and patience in this grand pursuit to no other purpose than that of being convinced that either the task itself was an utter impossibility or (otherwise) that all their united efforts were unequal to it. And it is possible that, had it not been for the author of whom we are about to speak, that this valuable piece of treasure would at this day [meaning 1788] been fast locked up in sterile obscurity.'

Now I will ask, Could the authors of that work have published a peal by Mr. Anable in page 64 and thought it was by Mr. Holt? If they did make such an error I am sure there is no one now able to prove it. But I will pass on to the peal itself in page 64, with 190 bobs and 50 singles, to which the authors explain and finish by saying, 'It will be easily seen what an infinite variety Mr. Holt's systems are capable of producing.' Could the authors have meant Anable in mistake of Holt? I say, No. I believe their work to be a first-rate one, and if they made any mistakes of that kind there is no one living now that can prove them, and I will say by that work that Mr. Anable never composed a true peal of Grandsire Triples in his life. In page 58 is the following: 'It may be no difficult task for some to produce variations of Holt's peal and broach them for their own, but the discerning parts of the exercise are not to be so blinded, and we will be bold to say that if any one will produce a peal of Grandsire Triples with 2 singles and will say he did not borrow his plan from Mr. Holt, is an impostor, and will be branded as such by every judicious professor of the art.' C. Payne.

Durham Diocesan Association of Ringers.

On Monday, the 28th ult., the meeting of the above was held at Newton Hall, the branches represented being Bishop Wearmouth, North Shields, Newcastle and Gateshead, Newcastle St. John's, Newton Hall, and Stockton, the muster at dinner being twenty-five. The Rev. R. Stevenson, Rector of the parish, presided. The principal feature of the day's performance was a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, being the first Treble Bob peal on the bells. Some new members were elected, including Canon Cundill of St. Margaret's, Durham, and Canon Cooper of Durham Cathedral. In the evening a party of the above met at St. Stephen's, Newcastle, and almost completed 1680 of Bob Major, the longest touch on the bells, but lost through a miscall. The ringers were :—W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 1; E. Wallis, 2; G. Park, 3; W. Newton, 4; T. Stephenson, 5; R. Smith, 6; F. Lees, 7; G. J. Clarkson, Esq., 8. The next meeting will take place on Whit Monday, at Barnard Castle.

The East Derbyshire Association.

The 11th Annual Meeting of the above Society will be held at Eckington on Easter Monday, April 18th. The dinner will be at Mr. L. Lund's, Royal Hotel; tickets for dinner 2*s.* 6*d.* each. G. Marsden, *Secretary.*

A Veteran Ringer at Rothwell, Yorkshire.

On Saturday fortnight Benjamin Walker, one of the oldest inhabitants of the town and a noted ringer, passed away, being in his 83rd year. He was a great enthusiast in everything relating to bells, having rung at the Parish Church for fifty-three years, from his 29th to his 73rd year. During the time he had assisted in ringing fifty-three midnight peals on as many consecutive Christmas nights. Walker was carried to his grave by six friends. Immediately after the interment a muffled peal was rung as a tribute to the memory of the deceased ringer.

Hand-bell Ringing.

Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples has been recently rung, with an interval between each part, by tapping on hand-bells, by a convalescent, without a caller or help of any kind, as follows :—First part, 22 mins.; second, 20 mins.; third, 24 mins.; fourth, 22 mins.; fifth, 22 mins.; sixth, 20 mins.; seventh, 22 mins.; eighth, 24 mins.; ninth, 22 mins.; tenth, 24 mins. Total, 3 hrs. 42 mins.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Mary's, Diss, Norfolk.

On Monday, the 28th ult., seven members of the Kenninghall Branch, assisted by J. Rudd, of Diss, of the Norwich Diocesan Association, rang a peal of 5024 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 15 mins. J. Rudd, 1; H. Eayling, 2; R. Hutton, 3; C. Everett, 4; J. Cunningham, 5; J. Woods, 6; R. Stackwood, 7; S. Mordy (conductor), 8. The peal was composed by N. T. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, and has the sixth its extent in 5–6, and six course ends each way, and was now rung for the first time. Tenor, 24 cwt., in D.

At St. Mary's, Kenninghall, Norfolk.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Kenninghall Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang a peal of 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. J. Wade, 1; R. Stackwood, 2; H. Eayling, 3; E. Everett, 4; J. Cunningham, 5; J. Woods, 6; R. Hutton, 7; J. Mordey (conductor). 8. Composed by N. J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and has the sixth its extent in 5–6 and four wrong and eight at home, and now rung for the first time. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

At St. Mark's, Glodwick, Oldham, Lancashire.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., was rung in 2 hrs. 53 mins., John Reeves' Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes. D. Lees, 1; G. H. Reeves (conductor), 2; J. Mayall, 3; W. Ward (his first peal), 4; G. Dunkerley (his first peal), 5; J. Riley, 6; A. Clegg, 7; W. Rhodes (his first peal), 8. [Tenor not mentioned.]

At St. Michael's, Aylsham, Norfolk.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., six members of the Aylsham District Branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association, whose united ages amount to 420 years, rang 720 changes of Bob Minor. *T. Greenwood (conductor), 1; W. Stackwood, 2; E. Fitt, 3; *W. G. Crane, 4; *J. Delph, 5; J. Edridge, 6. Those marked with * rang in July, 1844, 1080 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major. [Neither tenor nor time mentioned.]

At Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

On Tuesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Cirencester Branch of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang 1881 changes in the Grandsire method in 1 hr. 15 mins. W. Parry, 1; J. Earl, 2; W. Hinton (composer and conductor), 3; G. Mason, 4; H. Freeth, 5; H. Hughes, 6; G. Davis, 7; H. Clutterbuck, 8, Tenor, 28 cwt. in D.

At St. Nicholas', Deptford, Kent.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., eight members of the St. Nicholas Society rang a muffled half-peal of 2520 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 28 mins., to the memory of the late Mr. G. E. Ferris. He was an old member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and belonged to East Greenwich. J. Rees, 1; E. F. Cole, Esq., 2; J. G. Shade, 3; T. Sharman, 4; T. G. Deal, 5; T. Taylor, 6; H. J. Shade (conductor), 7; J. Barry, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

At St. Dunstan's, Stepney, London.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., ten members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5007 Stedman's Caters in 3 hrs. 15 mins. H. Haley, sen. (composer and conductor), 1; W. Tanner, 2; W. Cecil, 3; E. Horrex, 4; T. Benney, 5; R. Jameson, 6; R. French, 7; F. E. Dawe, 8; J. M. Hayes, 9; W. Crockford, 10. Tenor, 31 cwt., in D. The peal has the 6th in 5th's place throughout, and was first rung at the above church (by College Youths) in 1850, when it was conducted by the author. [We are sorry our College Youth friends should have set an example of pleasure-pealing in Lent.]

At Christ Church, Ealing, Middlesex.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang the late Mr. John Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 3 hrs. 3 mins. C. F. Winny, 1; H. G. Gardner, 2; H. Cutter, 3; F. T. Gover, 4; R. French, 5; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 6; S. Hayes, 7; D. Newton, 8 (his first peal in the Society). Tenor, 14 cwt.

At Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

On Saturday, the 12th inst., a mixed company of ringers rang a touch of 1881 Stedman's Triples in 1 hr. 8 mins. W. Johnson, 1; W. Smith, 2; E. Malbon, 3; J. Astbury, sen., 4; J. Lloyd, 5; J. Astbury, jun. (conductor), 6; T. Foster, 7; J. Malbon, 8. Composed by Wm. Halsworth of Walsall.

Also on the same evening a touch of 1881 Stedman's Caters in 1 hr. 10 mins. W. Walker, 1; J. Lloyd, 2; J. Astbury, sen., 3; E. Malbon, 4; W. Johnson, 5; J. Astbury, jun., 6; J. Bate, 7; T. Foster, 8; W. Halsworth (composer and conductor), 9; E. Taylor, 10. Tenor, 24 cwt.

Received also.—H. Beek; J. W. Wilson; G. Livermore; C. Hounslow; W. W.—no name; B. Fakenham—the word 'muffled' was added, as we did not think a touch would be rung open in memory of one who was dead; James Hewett; W. Walker; and others.