

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

St. Michael's, Sittingbourne.—Kent County Association.

On Friday, the 15th inst., the Hon. Secretary, the Rev. R. B. Knatchbull-Hugessen, and two members of the Committee, Messrs. Harrison and Wood, attended at this ancient church, in order to test the abilities of some of the members prior to being admitted full members and receiving certificates. Mr. J. R. Haworth, of London, was present, as also the Vicar of the parish and many others, the tower being very large. The methods practised were Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. Seven members received certificates, setting forth their ability to ring in these methods. Several touches were rung by members and the visitors. Tenor, 21 cwt., in E (six bells), all cast, 1687, by James Bartlett. The addition of two trebles is in contemplation, the space being ample for ten bells. Waiting this event, the wheels of most of the bells, except the fifth, are out of repair, and the old frame (which seems not to have just fitted the bells when originally put up) is shaky; still the members have made great progress, with this state of things, in change-ringing in the past year, the local band having only practised at broken intervals some eighteen months altogether, and have not received any instruction either from the Kent Association or elsewhere, and all beginners, the art having never, at least in this century, been practised in Sittingbourne. The ringing-room is furnished with gas and water, and the bell-chamber and staircase with gas. Other improvements are in contemplation.

Clerical Ringers.

SIR,—Will you allow me through your columns to make known that a few of the above are attempting to form a side for a peal of Grandsire Triples at Derby during the Congress week? As the requisite number is not yet completed, the names of any clerical ringers who intend to be present at the Congress, and would like to take part in the peal, will be gladly received by W. S. WILKETT, Curate, Burton-under-Needwood, Burton-on-Trent.

Lea, Lincolnshire.—Dedication of Three New Bells.

On Saturday the 16th inst., three new bells were solemnly set apart at Lea, by a Service of Dedication. These bells have been presented to the church by the family of Sir Charles Anderson, Bart., of Lea, as a memorial to the late F. P. Anderson, Esq., whose lamented death took place on Sept. 15th, 1881, the bells being dedicated on the day after the anniversary. Previously there had been a ring of four bells in the tower. By taking away the highest of these and adding three new ones below the remaining three, a ring of great richness and beauty has been formed. The tenor is especially noticeable for the depth and fulness of its tone. The new bells were in their places about a month ago, but were rung for the first time after the Dedication. The service used on the occasion was taken from one lately authorised by the Bishop of London at the Dedication of 'Great Paul.' After Evening Prayer and an address explaining the nature of the ceremony, the Rector of Lea took his place under the tower and said the Prayers of Dedication, as follows:—

'O Everlasting God, Whom no man hath seen at any time, although Thou dost speak to the souls of men through the things which Thou hast made, receive, we beseech Thee, these bells which are offered by Thy people for the service of Thy Holy Church and bless them to the spiritual well-being of Thy servants, that they may remind us of Thy presence in life and in death. Do Thou mercifully visit our souls with solemn and holy thoughts; sanctify our trials and sorrows; brighten and chasten our joys; so that amid the changes of this mortal life we may in heart and mind ever dwell with Thee, and may at the last enter into Thy Eternal Rest: through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who with Thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth ever one God, world without end. Amen.

'O Lord, Who by Thy servant Moses didst order that silver trumpets should be sounded at the time of sacrifice, to the end that Thy people Israel should be drawn to worship Thee; Grant, we beseech Thee, that we who have been redeemed by the blood of Thy only-begotten Son, may joyfully obey the call to meet together in Thy Holy Church, to render thanks for the great benefits which we have received at Thy hands, to set forth Thy most worthy praise, to hear Thy most holy Word, and to ask those things which are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as the soul. Grant this, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

'Grant, O Lord, that all they who with their outward ears shall hear the sound of this bell, may be moved inwardly in their spirits, and drawn nigh unto Thee, the God of their salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'Grant, O Lord, that whosoever by reason of sickness, or any other necessity, shall be hindered from coming into the House of the Lord, may, when he hears this bell, in heart and mind ascend unto Thee, and find with Thee peace and comfort; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

'Grant, O Lord, that they who minister to Thy service in sounding this bell may be filled with all reverence and godly fear, and may be mindful ever of the sacredness of Thy House, putting away all idle thoughts and light behaviour, and continuing in holiness of life, so that they may stand with those who praise Thee evermore in the heavenly Jerusalem; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.'

After each of the last three prayers, three strokes were sounded by one of the ringers upon one of the new bells. Then, after the hymn, 'May Jesus Christ be praised,' and the Benediction, the first peal was rung by the Guild of Ringers from St. Botolph's Church, Lincoln.

The inscriptions on the new bells are: 1. 'Lord, open Thou my lips.' 2. 'My mouth shall praise Thee.' 3. 'Alleluia. Amen.' 'In Mem. F. F. A.' The tenor is 18 cwt. 1 qr. 1 lb., and the work has been executed by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, the founders of the previous ring. C. E. C.

The Holy Trinity Society of Change-ringers, Bolton.

On Friday, the 15th inst., the above Society proceeded to Southport at the invitation of the churchwardens for the purpose of reopening the bells of Christ Church. These bells have been augmented to a ring of eight by Mears and Stainbank, and are a grand improvement, the firm having made an excellent splice. On their arrival in Southport they were regaled with refreshments, and ringing was commenced shortly after twelve o'clock when the first

peal was rung in honour of the inauguration of the West Lancashire Railway, being Mr. E. Taylor's Six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 45 mins. At the conclusion of the peal they sat down, along with the Southport ringers, to an excellent repast, under the presidency of the Rev. Mr. Hatfield, who congratulated the visitors for the style they rung the peal, and also proposed a vote of thanks to them; which was seconded by Mr. Beckett, architect, and supported by the Rev. Alban Williams, and briefly acknowledged by Mr. H. W. Jackson. The company arrived in Bolton about 10 p.m., thoroughly satisfied with the day's outing. H. W. Jackson* (conductor), 1; J. Curtis,* 2; J. Redford,* 3; T. E. Turner,* 4; J. Walsh, 5; W. Marsden,* 6; W. Hamer,* 7; B. Lindley, 8. Tenor, 10 cwt. [Those marked with a * are members of the Lancashire Association.]

The ringers from the parish church, Bradford, Yorkshire, paid a visit to the above place on Saturday, the 16th, and rang a touch of 1600 Kent Treble Bob Major, the whole of the Bradford company being members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London. Six of the Heywood Company, assisted by two of the Southport ringers, rang a touch of Grandsire Triples. Two of the Bradford Company, Messrs. Choetham and Harcastle, along with Mr. James Wood of Ashton-under-Lyne assisted the Southport ringers in ringing several nice touches of Bob Major and Grandsire Triples for Divine service, morning, afternoon, and evening on Sunday. The new bells have been cast and fixed by Mears and Stainbank, London. The same firm cast the ring of six eighteen years ago. Tenor, 10 cwt.

Death of an Old Ringer.—An Essex Worthy, and an Example for Others.

SAMUEL GRIMWOOD RUSH died on Thursday, the 7th inst., at Hornchurch, Essex, one of its prominent and efficient local ringers. Unfortunately his death was caused through an accident which occurred with a traction-engine. He was assisting to steer the engine into a field, and not noticing a gate-post in the way, he became suddenly crushed against it, receiving such injuries that between four and five hours afterwards death resulted. Though the deceased belonged to what might almost be termed 'the old school,' yet, owing probably to his never-to-be-forgotten civility to all classes alike, and his sound words of advice which he was at all times willing to give either to young or old, combined with a constant and devout attendance in the House of God after he had called his fellow-worshippers together, made him a man held in high esteem in the parish of which he was a native. His ability as a member of the exercise was rare, and undoubtedly his loss will be greatly felt. In former years there was a local band known as the Hornchurch Youths, of which the deceased was a member. There are at the present time three tablets in the belfry recording their performances. The latest of these, rung when the deceased was about twenty-seven years of age, is as follows:—29th May, 1842, were performed in this tower, by the Hornchurch Youths, four true and complete peals. Court Bob Doubles; Treble Bob Minor; Bob Doubles; Minor Bob. James Smith, Treble; S. Rush, 2; J. Cressey, 3; Henry Bright, 4; John Spencer, 5; James Redgell, Tenor.

The knowledge of the deceased was not confined simply to the methods mentioned in the above record, as he was able to take part in almost any practised six-bell method. His position in life, latterly that of an agricultural labourer, coupled with his advancing years, did not give him an opportunity of travelling far from home; consequently it was only among that portion of the rising community of ringers who visited the steeple at home that he was generally known. Not one of these can ever forget his cheerful, hearty welcome, always ready to 'stand out,' or, if necessary, to take part in the ringing, which he did with his full energy and tact, giving a young hand practical words of advice, in the manner he did only on the previous Sunday, when he also rang the tenor to a touch.

He was buried in the parish churchyard on Sunday, the 10th inst.; his employer's family, together with a large concourse of people, attending as a mark of respect. The bells were deeply muffled, and rung while the mournful procession moved into and out of church; after which three of the local company, with three members of the Essex Association, rang a half-muffled peal of Bob Minor in 30 mins. J. Dear, 1; B. Keeble, 2; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 3; A. Pye, 4; I. Dear, 5; J. Dear, 6. Tenor, 20 cwt. This was the same composition as the last in which the deceased took part on the 21st of May last.

A Correction.

In the account of the peal of Bob Minor rung at Woodford on Sept. 3rd, it should be 25 bobs and 10 singles, instead of 25 singles and 10 bobs.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. John's, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

On Thursday, the 7th inst., a peal of 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung in 28 mins. G. Herdman, 1; F. Lees, 2; W. G. Routledge, Esq., 3; W. Eggleston, 4; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 5; R. S. Story, Esq., 6. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

At King's Norton, Worcestershire.

On Saturday, the 9th inst., eight members of the Birmingham and District Association rang a touch of 1882 Grandsire Triples in 1 hr. 11 mins., with all the 5, 6, 7's and 5, 7, 6's and 6's and 7's together throughout. H. Sumner, 1; W. Palmer, jun., 2; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 3; J. Cook, 4; J. Wright, 5; T. Russam, 6; B. Stevens, 7; A. Hackley, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

At St. Michael's, Garston, Lancashire.

On Sunday, the 10th inst., for Divine service, a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor was rung in 26½ mins. S. Gough, 1; P. B. Wood, 2; J. Alexander, 3; F. Turner, 4; E. Burge, 5; G. W. Hughes (conductor), 6. Tenor, 12½ cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO.—Church; Bletchingley; Marsham; Syston; Ashton-under-Lyne; White Waltham; Eltham; Birmingham; Southport; and others.

NOTICE.—The Editor has a copy of the *Clavis* for sale. Price, per post, 10s. 6d.