

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Ancient Society of College Youths (established 1637).

On Tuesday, the 7th inst., at their head-quarters, St. Saviour's, Southwark, notice was given that a silver cup would be presented to the Company on Tuesday, the 22nd inst., in connexion with a peal of 5040 changes which was rung at Sonning, Berks, on August 4th, 1883, to celebrate the centenary of the College Youths' victory over the Oxford and Farnham ringers on August 4th, 1783, when a silver cup was presented by Mr. Peter Black of that place, now in the possession of the Company.

Dedication of the Church Bells at Soberton, Hants.

'A golden bell and a pomegranate, a golden bell and a pomegranate, upon the hem of the robe round about' (Exod., xxviii. 34), was the text from which a most eloquent discourse was preached by the Rev. Mr. Saulez of Exton, on Thursday evening, the 20th ult., on the dedication to the service and glory of God of the two new bells just added to the ring of the church of this parish. The Rev. W. H. Morley read the prayers and the dedicatory service to an attentive congregation. Special hymns with others were sung, after which the now complete ring of eight bells rang out its joyful and beautiful notes; the ringers of this church being ably assisted by those from Fareham, Hambleton, and other parts, the ring being pronounced one of the finest in the county. Prior to 1878 two of the then ring of six were cracked, the second very much so, when Mr. G. H. Child of this place obtained subscriptions and got the latter bell recast by Messrs. Warner and Sons of London; the inscription thereon, 'The gift of Thomas Lewis, Esq., 1707,' being restored, and 'Recast 1878,' added. Upon the restoration of the church in 1880-81 the treble bell was recast by the above-named firm, and hung with the others on entirely new framework by Mr. Mallerby of Masham, Yorkshire, and the inscription, 'Prosperity to the worthy benefactor, A. R., 1709,' restored. The then third bell has inscribed on it, 'In God is my hope, 1647.' The inscription on the then fourth bell is in Latin, and the translation is, 'Pray ye for the souls of John Newport and Elizabeth the wife of him,' and this is repeated on the fifth bell. The tenor, a bell remarkable for the beauty of its tone, has inscribed on it, 'Pray ye the Lord, 1623.' No ring of six could be finer or more complete in every way than that above described. But our enthusiastic ringer, Mr. G. H. Child, became ambitious of having two other bells to complete the octave, and consequently, with permission of, and aided by, the Rev. W. H. and Mrs. Morley, subscriptions were solicited and obtained, and a first and second bell as a result added to the ring, being cast by Messrs. Warner & Sons, London, and erected by Mr. Mallerby of Masham, Yorkshire. Unknown to our worthy clergyman and his wife the undernamed inscriptions have been cast on the new bells. First bell or treble:— 'To the contributors to the restoration of this church and bells. A.D. 1883. Praise ye the Lord.' Second bell:— 'To the Rev. W. H. Morley, M.A., and Mary his wife, the restorers of this church. A.D. 1883. The Lord's name be praised.' And fondly it is hoped that the whole of the above, who have contributed in 'mind, body, or estate,' to the restoration of our beautiful church and bells, may live happily and long, and know that when our ring gives out its melodious notes, it expresses our thanks to the great Creator and to them for the great benefits He and they have conferred upon us, and upon our parish.

Opening of Bells at Rackenford, Devon.

On Saturday, the 29th ult., these bells were reopened by the St. Peter's Society of Tiverton, after a silence of seven years. Originally the tower contained five bells; of these the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th were recast, and a new tenor of 14½ cwt., the gift of H. C. Devon, added, the whole being the work of Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, who also supplied the stocks, wheels, stays, &c.; but to Mr. H. Stokes, of Woodbury, was given the job of making the frame and hanging the whole. This, as usual, he has done to the complete satisfaction of all concerned. A special service was held at 2.30, with a special Lesson, psalms, and hymns, conducted by the Rural Dean, Rev. J. Matthews, the sermon being preached by the Rector, Rev. E. Pole, who based his discourse on 1 Cor. xiv. 40: 'Let everything be done decently and in order.' Ringing was afterwards kept up till the evening, Grandsire Doubles being chiefly indulged in.

The Proposed Addition of two Trebles to the heavy Ring of Six at Wellingborough, Northamptonshire.

We copy the following from *The Wellingborough Parish Church and St. Barnabas' Magazine*:— 'Since our last issue an estimate has been received from Messrs. Taylor, the well-known bell-founders of Loughborough, for the two new bells proposed to be added to the ring, for the recasting of the present third bell, and for the additional framework that will be required. The two new bells, which will together cost about 110l., are now, we are glad to announce, both given; the new treble bell by Mr. William Pendered, and the new second bell by Mr. G. H. Burnham. These bells will weigh about 7 and 7½ cwt. respectively. The expense of recasting the present third bell will be about 30 guineas. Mr. W. J. Henry and Mrs. Henry have kindly come forward to undertake this part of the cost. It would certainly have been a great mistake to have lost this opportunity of securing a more tuneful note than the present one for our future fifth bell. A considerable expense will necessarily be incurred for the iron and wood framework required to receive the new bells, and in order to find sufficient room for them it will be needful to rehange at the same time the present first and second bells. To meet this, as well as the expense of taking down the third bell for recasting, the scaffolding, and masons' work, &c., it is calculated that a sum not much less than 100l. will be needed.'

Society of Change-ringers for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

This Society held its Quarterly Meeting at Wolverhampton on Saturday, January 5th. Proceedings commenced with ringing in St. Peter's tower at 2.30 p.m. The members attended evening service at 5, when an address was given by the Rector (the Rev. J. T. Jeffcock), who took for his text Psalm lxxxiv. 11. After service a Committee meeting was held in the vestry, when several new members were elected and the date of the next meeting fixed. The Rev. H. E. Butler (one of the Committee) had kindly made arrangements for tea, at which thirty-four were present. The Willenhall and Tettenhall steeples were also open to members of the Society during the afternoon. It is remarkable that so large a town as Wolverhampton should only have one ring of bells, and that on these change-ringing should almost have died out. We are glad to find that an effort is being made to improve matters in this respect: several of the band are now members of this Society, and we hope that this meeting will not be without results. St. Peter's is one of the most beautiful churches in the diocese; it has a fine ring of ten bells, and its ringers should not be contented till they rank among the best bands of Staffordshire. The next meeting of the Society will be held at Walsall on Saturday, April 19th.

Reply to Mr. Rose.

SIR,—In your issue for Dec. 29th, B. W. Rose says he has not seen any peals with short calls. I suppose he means a few calls. I have this 720 in my collection, and it is, to me, an interesting one, as it was the first peal that I attempted to call, now fifty years since, and it was then at least one hundred years old, and supposed to be one of Benjamin Able's. The peal is in the 17th page of Shipway's book. For myself I prefer as few calls as possible, and those musical, not for the sake of mere curiosity. I maintain that the music is first to be sought for, and then the curiosity. Let every conductor ask himself this question, that he may please his performers.

Aldington, Hythe, Kent.

EDWD. HYDER.

New Ring of Eight at East Ardsley, Yorkshire.

By some unaccountable mistake in the report on these bells in our last issue, it was omitted to state that this fine ring of eight was cast and hung by Llewellyn and James, of Bristol.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At All Saints', Llanfrecfa, and at Tredunnoch, Monmouthshire.

On Sunday, the 23rd ult., a peal of Grandsire Doubles was rung in 5 mins. — Powell,* jun., 1; J. James,* 2; — Powell,* sen., 3; A. Harris,* 4; J. Brown* (conductor), 5; A. Ford,* 6 (covering.) Tenor, 7½ cwt., in B flat. This was the first half-pull peal on these bells, which were cast in 1863. [* Their first peal.]

On Monday, the 7th inst., the same team rang in 5 mins. the first peal of Grandsire Doubles on Tredunnoch bells, the first five of which were recast in 1882. Tenor, 10 cwt., in G sharp (a very old bell), covering. The team was well entertained after the ringing by the Rev. C. T. Salisbury, vicar.

At St. Mary's, Acton, Middlesex.

On Wednesday, the 26th ult., seven members of the Association, with Mr. Baron, their instructor, rang the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal (2520 changes) in 1 hr. 30 mins. W. Taylor, 1; W. Baron (conductor), 2; A. G. Thomas, 3; W. Fenwick, 4; G. Trinder, 5; W. Wilder, 6; F. Slade, Esq., 7; E. Gould, 8. Tenor, 13½ cwt. This is the first half-peal by this Society.

At St. Mary's, Sawbridgeworth, Herts.

On Wednesday, the 26th ult., a peal of 5024 Kent Treble Bob Major was rung in 3 hrs. 19 mins. N. J. Pistow (composer and conductor), 1; J. F. Penning, 2; E. Pistow, 3; Y. Green, 4; G. Taylor, 5; H. Prior, 6; N. Tailing, 7; F. Pistow, 8. This is the first peal of Treble Bob Major rung upon the bells. Tenor, 25 cwt.

At St. Mary's, Hitchin, Herts.

On Wednesday, the 26th ult., a peal of 720 Bob Minor was rung in 28 mins. on the first six. J. Randall, 1; F. O. Moule, 2; W. A. Tyler (conductor), 3; J. Hare, 4; J. Foster, 5; W. Allen, 6; S. Hare, 7; W. Kitchener, 8.

Also on New-year's Eve and Morning 350 and 336 Grandsire Triples. J. Randall, 1; F. Furr, 2; F. O. Moule, 3; J. Hare, 4; J. Foster, 5; W. A. Tyler (conductor), 6; W. Allen, 7; W. Kitchener, 8.

At St. Michael's, Cornhill, London.—Muffled Peal.

On Friday, the 4th inst., twelve members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a deeply-muffled peal in memory of the late Mr. Thomas Britten of Waltham Abbey, who was one of the oldest of its members, and at one time one of the most prominent. The customary peal denoting the age of the deceased gentleman being rung by the following:— H. W. Haley, 1; J. W. Rowbotham, 2; W. Cooter,* 3; J. Pettit, 4; J. R. Haworth, 5; R. Jameson, 6; G. Dorrington, 7; C. F. Winny, 8; G. Mash, 9; W. Jones, 10; W. Greenleaf, 11; E. Horrex, 12. After which three leads of Kent Treble Bob Maximus and two courses of Stedman's Cinques were rung; the whole being conducted by Mr. H. W. Haley.

At St. Wilfrid's, Calverley, Yorkshire.

On Saturday, the 5th inst., the Yorkshire Association rang a peal of 5088 Treble Bob Major, in the Kent variation, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. H. Robinson, 1; H. Oddy, 2; E. Keighley, 3; W. Bolland, 4; W. Wilks, 5; W. Hollings, 6; G. Bolland (conductor), 7; J. Haley, 8. Composed by John Thorp, of Ashton-under-Lyne. Tenor, 11 cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO.—B. W. Rose (Dartford); E. Francis (Diss); and others.