

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Ancient Society of College Youths. (Established 1637.)

THE 248th Anniversary took place last Saturday at the 'Cherry Tree Hotel,' Southgate, Middlesex, where about thirty members dined. Afterwards Grandsire Triples, Stedman's Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major, were rung on the excellent ring of eight bells at the parish church (tenor, 26 cwt.), cast by Messrs. Mears & Stainbank, Whitechapel, London. In the evening about fifty members gathered round the chairman (Mr. Rowbotham) and vice-chairman (Mr. Muskett). Great praise is due to the stewards (Messrs. George and McLaughlin) for their care and attention. A pleasant day was spent, the fine country about Southgate adding to the enjoyment.

Kent County Association.

On Tuesday evening, the 23rd ult., the Folkestone Company were treated to an outing to Staplehurst, by the churchwardens, Messrs. Chapman and Dunk, and were accompanied by Mr. E. Potter from Dover, Mr. F. Finn from Mersham, and were met on arrival by Mr. T. Potter from Frittenden and Mr. Kemp from Maidstone. The ringing consisted of various touches of Grandsire Triples, in which the several parties mentioned took part. The bells are a nice musical peal, in fairly good going order, far beyond the expectation of the visitors, who had in remembrance the report given by some of the visiting ringers at the recent opening; and, what added to their gratification, they were complimented on having rung some well-struck changes. The ringing was kept up till near ten o'clock, having but bare time to get some necessary refreshments, and catch the train to convey the party to their respective homes. They beg, through the medium of *Church Bells*, to return their sincere thanks to Messrs. Chapman and Dunk for the outing, and to the Rev. G. F. Reynier, D.D., for the use of the bells, also to the churchwardens and local company for the welcome accorded them.

North Lincolnshire Bell-ringers' Association.

THE General Quarterly Meeting of this Association took place at Brigg on Saturday, the 4th inst. Owing to the election which is pending in the Division, and other uncontrollable circumstances, the attendance of members was not so large as was anticipated, nevertheless the meeting was a satisfactory and encouraging one in all respects. Shortly after one o'clock the bells were raised in peal by the visitors, and during the afternoon touches were rung by mixed bands in the following methods:—Grandsire Doubles, Grandsire Minor, Plain Bob, and Grandsire Triples. F. F. Linley, Esq., of Gainsboro', one of the vice-presidents of the Association, presided over the meeting. It was resolved that the next meeting should be held at Nocton, near Lincoln, on Saturday, Oct. 3rd. The visiting ringers were kindly treated to refreshment by the conductor of the Brigg company, Mr. W. E. Rowbottom, who manifested the greatest possible interest in the proceedings. The Rector of Brigg, the Rev. P. H. Brierley, visited the belfry in the course of the afternoon, and gave the Association a cordial welcome. Change-ringing appears to be at a very low ebb at Brigg, but there is every reason to believe that one good result of the Association meeting will be to stimulate the local brother-strings to study and persevere in the art until they attain proficiency. The steeple at Brigg contains eight bells, six of which are of excellent tone; the two treble bells are of recent date, and scarcely harmonise with the remainder. The tenor weighs, we understand, about 9 cwt. All the bells are in good going order, and it is hoped the art of change-ringing will ere long have a home in this tower. The Association committee and members desire to tender their thanks to the Rev. P. H. Brierley for his kindness in granting them the use of the church bells, and also to Mr. W. E. Rowbottom for his praiseworthy efforts in contributing to the enjoyment and success of the meeting.

Members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild at St. Mary's, Taunton, Somerset.

On Thursday, the 25th ult., the members of this Guild visited Taunton to ring a peal on the magnificent ring of ten bells, which has been made by the addition of two trebles. In the morning a dedication service was held in the church, at which the Bishop of Bath and Wells was present, and several influential gentlemen of the diocese. Before service ten members of the Guild rose the bells in peal, and rang nine courses of Stedman's Caters. J. Field, 1; W. Finch, 2; L. Proctor, Esq., 3; A. F. M. Custance, Esq., 4; S. Hounslow, 5; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; C. Hounslow, 8; J. W. Washbrook, 9; W. Wakelin, 10. There is affixed to the bells a carillon, which plays twenty-one tunes, and which was set going after the dedication service by two ladies of the Taunton, amidst great enthusiasm. A luncheon was afterwards held in the City Buildings, which was well attended, and thanks were acknowledged by many gentlemen for their bounteous support in the matter. After luncheon ten members of the Guild rang a peal of 5079 Stedman's Caters in 3 hrs. 22 mins., the first peal of Caters rung in Somerset. J. Field, 1; T. Payne, 2; A. F. M. Custance, Esq., 3; W. Finch, 4; S. Hounslow, 5; C. Hounslow, 6; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 7; Rev. C. D. P. Davies, 8; J. W. Washbrook, 9; W. Wakelin, 10.

The United Counties Association.

THE Half-yearly Meeting of this Association took place on Saturday last at Northenden. There were about a hundred persons present, including ringers from Hyde, Northenden, Staleybridge, Castleton, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Dinting, Glossop, Hayfield, Whitfield, Ashton-under-Lyne, Gorton, Saddleworth, Manchester, Middleton, Northwich, Cheadle, Didsbury, Stockport, &c. Various towers were visited during the day, including Disley (6 bells), Norbury (6), Didsbury (6), Northenden (6), Barlow Moor (8), Cheadle (8).

Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob, New London, Violet, and Stedman's were rung during the day. Dinner was provided at the 'Spread Eagle' Tavern. After dinner the President of the Association, Mr. John Holden, took the chair, and, previous to business being commenced, read a letter from the Rector of Northenden, the Rev. Edward L. Y. Deacle, to the effect that he regretted having to absent himself from the meeting through illness, and trusted the Association would accept a donation of 10s. to the funds, and concluding by wishing the Association every success. The donation was accepted with thanks, and the members present wished him a speedy recovery. Eleven new members were elected, bringing the total number up to ninety-four. The meeting was then brought to a close. During the evening several courses were rung on the hand-bells in the shape of Grandsire Triples, Major, and Caters, Treble Bob Major, and Royal. It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Whitfield Glossop on Saturday, January 2nd, 1886.

JAMES S. WILDE, Hon. Sec.

Essex Association of Change-ringers.

A DISTRICT MEETING will be held at Harwich (8 bells) on Saturday, July 25. Ringing to commence at twelve. A meat tea will be provided at the 'Great Eastern Hotel' at four p.m. Tickets may be obtained from the Secretary at 6d. each up to July 20th, after that date 1s. 6d. The Business Meeting will be held immediately after the tea. Return tickets will be issued by the G. E. R. at a single fare and a quarter to stations, providing that they inform the Secretary before July 20th from what station they travel.

Rayleigh, S.O., Essex.

H. A. COCKEY, Hon. Sec.

CHANGE - RINGING.

At St. Paul's, Langlebury, Herts.

On Monday, the 22nd ult., the following members of the St. Albans Branch of the Hertfordshire Association rang a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor (34 bobs and 2 singles) in 25 mins., being the first 720 on the bells, which were put up by Mears & Stainbank about twenty years ago. W. Battle, 1; H. Lewis, 2; A. Godman, jun., 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; A. Godman, sen., 5; N. N. Hills (conductor), 6. Tenor, 9 cwt.

At St. Nicholas', Gloucester.

On Monday, the 22nd ult., six members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association rang a peal of 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 23 mins. Mr. Witherington, 1; W. Sevier, 2; F. E. Ward, Esq., 3; H. Thorn (conductor), 4; J. Wathem, 5; G. H. Phillott, Esq., 6. Tenor, 17½ cwt. Also some Stedman's Six-scores, conducted by J. Wathem.

At St. Martin's, Salisbury, Wilts.

On Wednesday, the 24th ult., a muffled peal (in memory of the late Uriah Woodman, whose death was recorded last week) of 720 Bob Minor was rung in 27 mins. J. Short, 1; E. A. Forster, 2; C. A. Clements, 3; T. Blackburn, 4; W. W. Gifford, 5; J. R. Jerram, 6.

At St. Lawrence's, North Wingfield, Derbyshire.

On Saturday, the 27th ult., six six-scores of Bob Doubles, each called differently, were rung in 30 mins., with the bells half muffled, as a last token of respect for Saml. Ordish, an old ringer, who was buried on that day. A. Bannister, 1; G. Beresford, 2; G. Tarlton, 3; T. Allibone, 4; T. Day, 5; W. Hopkinson, 6. Tenor, 18½ cwt.

At St. George's, Tivdesley, Lancashire.

On Sunday, the 28th ult., the anniversary of the Sunday School, sermons were preached in the above church. Five of the Walkden Company paid a visit in the afternoon, and with the assistance of Mr. James Aldred (one of the local company), a peal of 720 Bob Minor (21 bobs and 12 singles) was rung in 24½ mins. J. Welsby (conductor), 1; J. Worthington, 2; S. Oakes, 3; J. Aldred, 4; A. Potter, 5; W. Denner, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt.

At St. Michael's, St. Albans, Herts.

On Monday, the 29th ult., a peal of 720 Grandsire Minor (38 bobs and 22 singles) was rung in 27 mins., being the first 720 ever known to have been rung on the bells. W. Battle, 1; W. H. L. Buckingham, 2; A. Godman, jun., 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; A. Godman, sen., 5; N. N. Hills (conductor), 6. Tenor, about 10 cwt.

At St. Mary-the-Virgin, Putney, Surrey.

On Wednesday, the 1st inst., eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths attempted Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, but after ringing two hours and 7 minutes the conductor called 'Stand!' owing to a charge-course. H. Alford, 1; J. M. Routh, 2; E. Horrex, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; G. T. McLaughlin (conductor), 5; J. M. Hayes, 6; W. H. George, 7; F. G. Newman, 8. Tenor, 16½ cwt.

At Stowmarket, Suffolk.

On Saturday, the 4th inst., the following members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, who are also members of the Norwich Diocesan Association and of the Ancient Society of College Youths, rang Holt's Ten-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 3 hrs. 5 mins. C. Mee (conductor), 1; J. Motts, 2; S. Alexander, 3; W. Catchpool, 4; A. Aldham, 5; W. Motts, 6; E. Pemberton, 7; R. H. Brundle, 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. The above is the first peal in the method rung upon the bells.

At Privett, Hants.

On Tuesday, the 7th inst., Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples was rung in 3 hrs. 3 mins. G. Sayer, 1; C. Boxall, 2; G. H. Child, 3; G. Williams, 4; G. H. Barnett, 5; Rev. F. E. Robinson (conductor), 6; S. Brooker, 7; E. Clapshaw, 8. Tenor, 12 cwt.

RECEIVED ALSO.—B. Francis; Sudbury; Fareham; Quedgeley; Hertford; Bengoe.