BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

The Whole Peal of Grandsire Triples.

A Copy of what is perhaps the most interesting, and certainly the most momentous, work from a composer's point of view that the ringing world has seen, reached us a few days ago. It is a pamphlet of nineteen pages, entitled, *A Note on Grandsire Triples*, by W. H. Thompson, M.A. (Macmillan and Bowes, Cambridge: price 1*s*.) We have always felt confident that the first mathematician who could give his time to the study of the great Grandsire question would speedily and conclusively settle it. This Mr. Thompson has done, and has thereby earned the gratitude of the exercise. We trust the pamphlet will have a large sale. Its moderate price ought to place it within reach of all. 'Can the whole peal of Grandsire Triples be produced by means of plain leads and ordinary bobs alone?' This long-vexed question the author answers in the negative. Moreover, he conclusively proves that Holt has obtained the extent in his famous Original. Mr. Thompson shows that the nearest approach to the whole peal of 360 leads is either 355 or 357 leads. In the first case there is a plain course omitted, and in the latter three bobs are omitted; just, in fact, as is the case in Holt's Original, and in Mr. Penning's second One-part and Mr. Hollis's Five-part. Mr. Thompson was preparing to publish peals of these descriptions when he was informed that such had already been done. He had come to his conclusions without any previous information on this point. We cannot pretend that the pamphlet is light reading. It is very condensed, with not a sentence or a word too many. It is strictly mathematical in its form, though not, so far as the present writer is aware, to be classed under any one particular head of the different branches of ordinary mathematics. The author gives us our mental food in a series of neatly cut and compact bites, each of which needs to be very diligently chewed—some with *exceeding* diligence—before proceeding to the next. There is only one point on which we have to offer criticism. We should have found it more convenient had the treble been omitted at the head of all the treble leads; and considering the bracketed portion of the fifth line on page 14, we wonder that this did not strike the author's mind. The first three pages are occupied with a masterly exposition of the 'in and out of course,' showing how a row of even twenty bells may be analysed almost at a moment's glance.

The publication of this pamphlet is another and a great step in what we have long foreseen to be coming. We allude to the fact that the day of haphazard composition is fast drawing to a close. Doubtless it was most interesting and exciting to put in a lead here, or patch on a course-end there, and then scan eagerly up and down on the tip-toe of expectation to see whether or not it would 'go.' All this is exciting; indeed, we might say romantic; but, for all that, it is doomed; and the time is fast coming when to obtain a peal we shall only have to turn the windlass of calculation and out will glide the peal composed, and proved, and all. This is century nineteen. *Tempora mutantur et nos mutamur in illis.*

Members of the Kent County Association at Ashford, Kent.

A Meeting was held at Ashford on Saturday evening, the 6th ult., to commemorate the eightieth birthday of Mr. John Laker, an accomplished veteran in the art of ringing. Representatives from Brabourne, Folkestone, and Mersham, joined the local band to do honour to their fellow-member. A band was set for eighty treble leads of Bob Major, which, however, failed. In the evening various touches of Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and Kent Treble Bob Major, were rung. Mr. Laker took part in the ringing, and when the company parted they wished him health and strength to join in the performance on his next anniversary. It is now upwards of sixty-three years since he commenced handling the bell-ropes, and he rang his first peal of 5040 changes of Bob Major at Ashford on April 3rd, 1826. Mr. Laker is still a member of the Ashford company, and has been conductor of the same for many years.

Restoration of the Bells of the Parish Church of St. Mary, Bridport, Devon.

A Meeting was held in the National School, Bridport, on Monday evening, the 29th ult., to consider various schemes for the restoration of the bells of the above church, two of which have recently been cracked, viz., third and fifth. The ring, originally of five bells, was augmented by the addition of a treble in 1843; but this bell is not of sufficient weight to be in accord with the other five. After the various schemes put forward by different bell-founders had been discussed, the meeting unanimously adopted the one for the retention of the present tenor—a very fine-toned bell in E flat, about 19 cwt. 3 qrs.—recasting the other five, and adding two new smaller bells, thus completing the octave. The work is to be entrusted to the well-known firm of Messrs. J. Warner and Sons, Cripplegate, London, whose estimate of 388*l*. 6*s*. was accepted. Subscriptions for the above object will be thankfully received and acknowledged by Mr. J. W. Hartgill, churchwarden, Stag House, Bridport. It is hoped shortly to establish a Ringing Guild in the parish.

A Birthday Peal at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London.

On Monday, the 29th ult., ten members of the St. James's Society rang a peal of 5039 Grandsire Caters in 3 hrs. 18 mins. J. R. Haworth, 1; R. French (conductor), 2; J. C. Mitchell (St. Albans, Herts, first peal of Caters), 3; J. M. Hayes, 4; H. Langdon, 5, W. W. Thorne (first peal of Caters), 6; G. R. Banks, 7; W. Weatherstone, 8; W. H. George, 9; E. Albone, 10. Composed by Mr. J. Rogers. The above peal was rung to celebrate the birthday of Mrs. Lindsay, the wife of the Rev. J. Lindsay, D.D., Rector of the above church, both of whom having always shown great kindness to the parochial ringers, who lately made two attempts to ring a peal on the Rector's birthday, but failed to do so.

Reopening of Bells at Winkfield, Berks.

The six bells of this church having recently been rehung in new oak frame with new fittings, and the four middle bells quarter-turned by Mr. Edwin Rogers of Maidenhead, they were reopened on Saturday, October 9th, by members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, when two 720's of Minor were rung. First 720 in 27½ mins., by T. Woolford, 1; H. Rogers, 2; R. Smith, 3; E. Rogers, 4; J. W. Wilkins, 5; W. A. Garraway, 6. The second 720 in 27 mins., by H. Rogers, 1; J. W. Wilkins, 2; R. Smith, 3; E. Rogers, 4; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Tenor, about 14 cwt. Some Stedman and Grandsire Doubles were afterwards rung, several of the Winkfield band taking part in the latter. These bells, which have for years been barely ringable, are now in good condition, and reputed to go remarkably well.

The Lancashire Association.

A Ringing Meeting will be held at Newchurch on Saturday, December 11th. All ringers in the Rossendale Division are specially invited to attend. Ringing from 2 p.m.

A. E. Holme, } *Hon. Secs.*
Joel Redford, }

St. Sidwell's and St. David's Societies, Exeter.

The Annual Dinner of the above Societies will be held at the 'Bude Hotel' on Monday, January 3rd, 1887, at 8 p.m. sharp, when all ringing friends in the neighbourhood will be very welcome. Tickets are now being issued, and may be obtained of the Secretary, price 2*s*. 6*d*. each.

Edward Pitt, *Hon. Sec. St. Sidwell's Society.*
10 *Stover Place, Cheeke Street, Exeter.*

Death of a Ringer at Greenwich, Kent.

On Saturday, the 27th ult., the local ringers rang the bells of St. Alphege half-muffled in respect to the memory of the late W. G. Shade, who was interred at the private cemetery of the Greenwich Royal Hospital in the afternoon of the same day. In the evening 700 Grandsire Triples was rung by Messrs. Lamb, Weatherstone (conductor), Jones, Langdon, Thorne, Fussell, Hayward, and G. Gibbs. The deceased, whose name appears on a tablet in the above tower, took part in a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by H. Booth, on Saturday, Oct. 30th, 1872, in 3 hrs. 10 mins., by the Society of College Youths. W. G. Shade, 1; G. Ferris, 2; J. R. Haworth, 3; G. Mash, 4; E. Horrex, 5; H. Booth, 6; A. Hayward, 7; W. G. Davis, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt. 3 qrs.

Toast List at Kirkleathm, Yorkshire.

The following toast-list on the door of the belfry in Kirkleatham Church, near Redcar, Yorkshire, has been forwarded to us:—

Toasts to be drank, November ye 4th, 1756.

1. The King.
2. The Prince and Princess Dowager of Wales, the Duke, and the rest of the Royal Family. 5 Guns.
3. The glorious and immortal memory of our great Deliverer, King William. 7 Guns.
4. To the ever-memorable Patriots who brought in ye Bill of Exclusion.
5. Everlasting Disappointment to the Popish Pretender and his rascally adherents. 5 Guns.
6. May Great Britain always bear the balance of Power in Europe.
7. May the Navy of Great Britain under the smiles of Neptune ride triumphant. 3 Guns.
8. The County of York and all Mr. Turner's fast friends.
9. Prosperity to the Loyal Gentlemen of the Revolution Club at Stockton, and all other friends of the present happy Establishment.'

There are three bells in the tower from the Whitechapel Foundry, 1763. Tenor, about 9 cwt. They do not appear to have been rehung since that date.

CHANGE-RINGING.

At St. Martin's, Birmingham.

On Wednesday, the 17th ult., twelve members of the St. Martin's Society rang a peal of 5002 Stedman Cinques in 3 hrs. 43 mins. C. H. Hattersley, 1; J. Joynes, 2; H. Johnson, jun., 3; W. R. Small, 4; H. Bastable, 5; T. Reynolds, 6; S. Reeves, 7; C. Stanbridge, 8; J. Buffery, 9; A. P. Heywood, 10; W. Wakley, 11; A. Thomas, 12. Composed by Mr. H. Johnson and conducted by Mr. H. Bastable. The peal rang for the first time.

At St. Mary's, Eastbourne, Sussex.

On Saturday, the 20th ult., eight members of the Sussex County Association rang Reeves' Variation peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 53 mins. E. Willoughby,* 1; H. P. Bennett (conductor), 2; W. Allfrey,* 3; T. Smith,* 4; G. Howse,* 5; T. Hart, 6; A. Bennett,* 7; T. Lewes,* 8. Tenor, 16¾ cwt. W. Allfrey and H. Bennett came from St. Paul's, Brighton; T. Smith and G. Howse, Christ Church, Eastbourne; E. Willoughby and T. Lewes, All Saints', Eastbourne; and the other two St. Mary's. The first peal ever rung by Eastbourne men was rung at St. Mary's, on January 21st, 1873, the time being 3 hrs. 4 mins., conducted by H. P. Bennett; not one of the band, himself included, ever having rung a peal before. In the peal recorded above six of the band claim it as their maiden peal. [* First peal.]

At the Parish Church, Rochdale, Lancashire.

On Monday, the 22nd ult., eight members of the Rochdale and District Association rang Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 2 hrs. 50 mins. W. Schofield, 1; J. T. Lucas, 2; J. Hoggard, 3; B. Meadowcroft, 4; J. Harrison,* 5; G. Hoyle,* 6; F. Birtwistle* (conductor), 7; W. H. Smith, 8. Tenor, 17¾ cwt. The above peal was rung to celebrate the sixty-eighth birthday of Mr. Joseph Butterworth, an old ringer at the above church, the

ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day. It is the first time the above peal has been rung by a band of Rochdale ringers, all of whom are ringers at the above church and members of the Rochdale District Association. [* Members of the Lancashire Association.]

At St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, Suffolk.

On Tuesday, the 23rd ult., ten members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society rang a peal of 5260 Double Norwich Court Bob Royal in 3 hrs. 45 mins. J. Motts (composer and conductor), 1; E. Pemberton, 2; I. S. Alexander, 3; C. Mee, 4; W. Catchpole, 5; H. Bowell, 6; E. Reeve, 7; W. Motts, 8; R. Hawes, 9; R. Brundle, 10. Tenor, 32 cwt. The above is the first peal of Royal since 1801, which was rung by the Royal Cumberlands at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, London, and is also the longest.

At St. Andrew's, Litchurch, Derby.

On Thursday, the 25th ult., eight members of the Midland Counties' Association, St. Andrew's Society, rang Reeves' Five-part peal of 5040 Bob Major in 3 hrs. 10 mins. W. Shardlow, 1; T. Alton, 2; H. C. Woodward, 3; W. B. Midgley, 4; G. Mottashaw, 5; J. Thompson, 6; A. E. Thompson (conductor), 7; C. E. Hart, 8. Tenor, 20½ cwt., in E flat.

At St. Philip's, Birmingham.

On Monday evening, the 29th ult., a peal of 5075 Grandsire Caters was rung in 3 hrs. 23 mins. G. Hitchman, 1; J. Callaghan, 2; J. Carter, 3; J. Tinsley, 4; C. Barnacle, 5; C. Carmel, 6; J. Plant, 7; W. Smith, 8; T. Holmes, 9; A. Hackley, 10. Tenor, 29 cwt. Composed and conducted by J. Carter. The peal contains the 6th twenty-four times wrong and right, 5th thirteen times wrong and six times right. [Mr. T. Holmes hails from Burton-on-Trent, J. Tinsley and W. Smith from Darlaston, J. Plant from Erdington, and the rest from Birmingham.]

At Trinity Church, Old Hill, Staffordshire.—On Saturday, the 13th ult., 720 Bob Minor in 25½ mins. H. Mason, 1; C. W. Bassano (conductor), 2; W. Green, 3; W. Bird, 4; R. Bird, 5; A. E. Parsons, 6. Also another 720 Bob Minor in 25½ mins. W. A. Pugh (Stourbridge), 1; C. W. Bassano (conductor), 2; W. Foxhall,* 3; R. Bird, 4; A. E. Parsons, 5; A. H. Bassano, 6. Tenor, 23¾ cwt. [* First 720 in the method.]

At St. Albans, Herts.—On Sunday evening, the 14th ult., for service at the Cathedral, 504 Stedman Triples was rung by H. Lewis, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3; G. W. Cartmel, 4; W. Battle, 5; E. Hulks, 6; N. N. Hills (conductor), 7; H. L. Waddington, 8. 624 Grandsire Major. T. Grant, 1; J. C. Mitchell, 2; W. H. Buckingham, 3; W. H. L. Buckingham, 4; G. W. Cartmel, 5; E. Hulks, 6; W. Battle, 7; N. N. Hills (conductor), 8. [Longest touch of Grandsire Major by all.]

At St. Peter's-in-the East, Oxford.—On Saturday, the 16th ult., 720 Oxford Bob. P. Hind, 1; C. Fox, 2; W. Browning, 3; A. E. M. Custance, Esq., 4; F. Castle, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6. And on Sunday, the 14th ult., at Holywell Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob. W. Browning, 1; A. F. M. Custance, 2; Rev. G. M. Custance, 3; W. Paine, 4; W. Baston, 5; J. W. Washbrook (conductor), 6.

At St. Paul's, Spalding, Lincolnshire.—On Tuesday evening, the 16th ult., the bells were deeply muffled as a last token of respect for the Rev. Edward Leigh Bennett, M.A., vicar of Long Sutton, who was an honorary member of the South Lincolnshire Association from its commencement, and who died on the 9th inst., aged eighty-seven. The age of the deceased was first rung with the usual whole-pull and stand, after which a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung in good style in 47 mins. G. Barker, 1; W. Jarvis, 2; G. Skeef, 3; R. Skeef, 4; C. Quinton, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6; C. Creasey, 7; T. Clark, 8. [G. and R. Skeef are members of the Eastern Counties' Guild, and the others are members of the South Lincolnshire Association.]

At SS. Thomas and Edmund, Erdington, Warwickshire.—On Saturday, the 20th ult., 1008 Grandsire Triples was rung in 35 mins. by D. Ivers, 1; U. Stringer, 2; M. Murphy, 3; J. Callaghan, 4; J. Murphy, 5; P. Conlon, 6; J. Plant (conductor), 7; F. Hales, 8. Also on Sunday, for evening service, several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles by F. Hales, 1; P. Conlon, 2; J. Murphy, 3; M. Murphy, 4; J. Plant (conductor), 5; C. Fellows, 6. Tenor, 15 cwt., in F. [J. Callaghan came from Birmingham.]

At St. John-the-Baptist's, Croydon, Surrey.—On Saturday, the 20th ult., a quarter-peal of Union Triples was rung in 50 mins. by eight members of the Surrey Association. U. Holman, 1; H. C. Haley, 2; A. B. Carpenter, M.B., 3; T. Boniface, 4; W. States, 5; W. Hawkins, 6; A. Bruce, 7; T. Verrall and W. Todd, 8. Composed and conducted by A. B. Carpenter. [Messrs. Boniface and Hawkins are of Bletchingley, the rest belong to Croydon. It was intended to start for the whole peal, but owing to illness near the church the attempt was abandoned.]

On Tuesday, the 30th ult., two courses of 224 Bob Major were rung by members of the Surrey Association. S. Fisk, 1; G. Russell, 2; H. C. Haley, 3; A. B. Carpenter (conductor), 4; W. States, 5; A. Bruce, 6; T. Verrall, 7; U. Holman, 8,

At Garboldisham, Norfolk.—On Saturday evening, the 27th ult., a peal of 720 Plain Bob was rung by W. West, 1; Rev. C. L. Kennaway (rector), 2; J. Chenery, 3; J. Bason, 4; H. Avis, 5; J. Bennett, 6. Conducted by John Bennett with thirty-eight singles, and was rung on this occasion, for the first time, by the Garboldisham Company. [Time not given.]

At St. Mary's, Willesden, Middlesex.—On Sunday, the 28th ult., 720 Bob Minor (21 bobs and 12 singles) were rung in 25 mins. A. Kirby, 1; R. Kilby,* 2; J. Jackman,* 3; A. Pittiam,* 4; A. Tennant,* 5; F. Weare * (conductor), 6. Tenor, 9½ cwt. [* College Youths.]

CORRESPONDENCE.

Morning Prayer, Sermon, Holy Communion.

Sir,—The Comment upon the arrangement of these three services, or functions, which appeared in *Church Bells* of November 12th, loses much of any force it may possess in consequence of a blunder for which I am willing to be regarded as the cause, although I thought that it was turned out in manuscript correctly. The whole subject may be regarded as hardly worth notice by some Churchfolk, although it appears to me as possibly one which might be attended to with great advantage for the people, whom we all wish to win over to Church practices. Allow me then to restate my notion. And for the sake of clearness, let me show the scheme as I think it might be worked, commencing from any one of the times suggested. Thus:—

Celebration.	Hymn. Sermon. Hymn.	Morning Prayer. Hymn. Litany. Hymn.
Fifty minutes.	Forty-five minutes.	Sixty-five minutes.
9.45 to 10.35	10.35 to 11.20	11.20 to 12.25
Or 10 to 10.50	10.50 to 11.35	11.35 to 12.40
Or 10.30 to 11.20	11.20 to 12.5	12.5 to 1.10
Or 11 to 11.50	11.50 to 12.35	12.35 to 1.40

I suppose that the hymns before and at the close of the sermon would be rather long, and that the bell would also be tolled at those times for two or three minutes. They who chose to be present at the first and second services would be in church one hour and thirty-five minutes. They who came to the second and third services would be there one hour and fifty minutes. They who remained throughout all three services or functions would be in church two hours and forty minutes. And I assume that every part of every service would be rendered in the best possible manner, so that they who attended any one service might feel that they were really engaged in a true service of devotion, or for spiritual edification.

Possibly, however, the following method might be preferred, by which, perhaps, each one of the three functions would be reverently performed, each in fifty minutes, or two and a half hours for the three. This would require the Litany in the second column, when the method would be thus:—

Celebration.	Hymn. Litany. Sermon. Hymn.	Morning Prayer. Hymn or Anthem. Hymn.
Fifty minutes.	Fifty minutes.	Fifty minutes.

This arrangement would have some advantages. But would the people be likely, with such an arrangement, to stay or come to the third service? I fear not. It appears to me that some arrangement is practicable whereby the morning hours may be used more profitably than they now are, in a way to secure one good sermon (chiefly for edification) and to render all the services hearty and attractive. I do not say that I have hit on the best scheme. But I shall be very thankful if these suggestions may lead on to something profitable and useful, which may secure the attendance of 'all sorts and conditions of men' in the morning on Sundays. 'All sorts and conditions of men' must be won. Would these plans be of any use in rendering the services convenient and intelligible to them? G. V. (*The writer of the Comment alluded to*).

The Census of Worshippers.

Dear Sir,—Your paragraph referring to St. John's, Broad Court, is based on a statement in the *British Weekly*, which is inaccurate. The attendance on October 24th, *morning*, is correctly given, but the evening attendance is stated to have been 621—much larger than it really was. I do not think that more than 410 persons were present—a greater number than usual, for our ordinary winter evening congregation has been about 280. The population of our parish is declining, and now scarcely exceeds 2000.

83 *Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, W.* Edward Venables, *Vicar.*
Nov. 15th, 1886.

The Bishop of Liverpool.

Sir,—You will oblige me by adding the following few lines to my recent letter, which were accidentally omitted from it, at the end of the second paragraph:—

'Who made him a judge or a divider over those with whom he has nothing whatever to do, and of whom he can have no personal knowledge as to the matters in question? Not a paper in the country but testifies weekly, and even daily, to the devotion and labours of the clergy; and when they might look for sympathy and encouragement under their trials and difficulties, this ungenerous Bishop of Liverpool—he in his *ex-cathedrâ* arm-chair—has nothing but cold water to chill them with.'

When I wrote to you not long ago, I was, as far as I then knew, the first person to say a word in defence of my brethren, the clergy; but since then