BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION OF RINGERS.

THE annual general meeting of members was held this year at Bury St. Edmunds on Easter Monday, when about seventy representatives of companies from various parts of the diocese were present. The splendid ring of ten bells in the Norman tower naturally formed a centre of great attraction, and many touches of different methods were rung at intervals during the day, both there and in the almost adjoining tower of St. Mary's Church; whilst visits were also made to the neighbouring parishes of Fornham St. Martin and Horringer, which boast each a capital ring of six. At two o'clock all the members gathered for dinner at the 'Golden Fleece' Hotel, after which the real business matters of the day were transacted, the Ven. the Archdeacon of Sudbury (one of the Vice-Presidents of the Association) being in the chair. He was supported by the Revs. Kenelm H. Smith (Ely), J. M. Clarkson (Brington), W. W. Covey Crump (St. Neots), and H. B. Woolley (Bury St. Edmunds), with Messrs. R. A. Daniell (London), C. E. Borrett (Hon. Secretary of the Norwich Diocesan Association), and other well-known members of the ringing fraternity.

The annual report for 1902, which was read by the Rev. W. W. C. Crump (General Secretary), showed that the condition of the Association was a most satisfactory and encouraging one. During the year eight local meetings had been held, besides the annual general meeting, at Ely, Wilburton, Bury St. Edmunds, Huntingdon, Lavenham, Sudbury, Cottenham, Fulbourn, and Sawston, the average attendance at which had been considerably better than in previous years. The number of members had also increased, and in the matter of peals rung during the twelve months all former records had been exceeded. The genial founder and ever-popular Treasurer of the Association (Rev. K. H. Smith) then explained its financial position and prospects, and presented his balance-sheet for the past year. In the unavoidable absence of the auditor (Mr. E. Ambrose, of Long Melford), a letter from him was read, stating that the accounts had been excellently kept.

On the motion of Mr. W. Taylor (Newmarket), seconded by Mr. S. Slater (Glemsford), the report and balance-sheet were adopted amid general applause, and ordered to be printed as usual. The election of officers for the ensuing year was the next business, and the following were unanimously elected to fill the respective offices: General Secretary, Rev. W. W. Covey Crump (St. Neots); Treasurer, Rev. K. H. Smith (Ely); Auditor, Mr. J. R. Tod (Shelford); and District Secretaries for the various Archdeaconries in which the Association works—each holding its own local meetings independently from time to time during the year—as follows: Isle of Ely, Mr. A. Pilgrim (Ely); Ely (i.e., the Archdeaconry), Mr. P. Webb (Ickleton); Huntingdon, Mr. G. D. Coleman (St. Neots); Sudbury, the Rev. H. B. Woolley (Bury St. Edmunds). The Rev. W. W. C. Crump was also appointed to represent the Association on the Central Council of Ringers, which meets in London at Whitsuntide. Several vacancies on various Committees were filled up, and a considerable number of new members were proposed and duly elected.

The proceedings concluded with customary votes of thanks to those local clergy who had kindly granted the use of their bells for the occasion, and also to Archdeacon Hodges for presiding. Next Easter the annual meeting will take place in Cambridge.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford.

AT the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Wolverhampton, on April 11th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. Tenor, 23 cwt.

William G. Hall	1	William Fisher	5
George Burrows	2	Robert Pickering	6
Frederick J. Steele ..	3	Herbert Knight (condr.) ..	7
John Perry	4	Thomas O'Connor	8

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to Edward Nicholls, who for more than fifty years was a ringer at the above church.

The Yorkshire Association and the Sheffield and District Society.

AT St. George's, New Mills, Derbyshire, on April 13th, a peal of YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 changes, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. Tenor, 13½ cwt.

George Hollis	1	David Brearley	5
William Lambert	2	Arthur Craven	6
Rev. A. T. Beeston ..	3	John Flint	7
Charles Severn	4	Sam Thomas	8

Composed by A. Craven and conducted by S. Thomas. First Association peal on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to D. Brearley.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.

AT St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, on April 13th, Thurstans' peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 47 mins.

Albert Coles	1	Henry Torble	5
William D. Smith ..	2	Henry Springall (condr.) ..	6
Henry C. Alford	3	Richard J. Turner	7
Alfred B. Peck	4	Arthur Coles	8

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The Case for the Voluntary Schools.

By the Rev. S. E. DYMOTT, M.A., Vicar of St. Bridget's, Wavertree, Liverpool.

This leaflet bristles with figures, and deals with the case of all the Voluntary Schools, not only that of the Church Voluntary Schools. It will be found invaluable for general distribution.

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THE CHURCH NEWSPAPER COMPANY, Ltd., 3 & 5 Cecil Court, St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.

The Middlesex County Association.

At All Saints', Fulham, on April 13th, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5091 changes, in 3 hrs. 16 mins. Tenor, 21 cwt.

Frederick G. Perrin ..	1	William S. Smith.. ..	6
Arthur Jones	2	George H. Daynes ..	7
Sedley J. Collins	3	William H. Hollier ..	8
Thomas Gwynne	4	Reuben Charge	9
John W. Kelley	5	Thomas Daynes	10

Composed by Edgar Bennett and conducted by William S. Smith.

The Norwich Diocesan Association.

(The All Saints' Society, Sproughton.)

At St. Mary's, Ufford, Suffolk, on April 13th, a peal of Treble Bob Major, 5088 changes, in the Kent Variation, in 2 hrs. 58 mins. Tenor, 14½ cwt.

Alfred Ward	1	Charles Parker	5
Albert A. Girling.. ..	2	Harry J. Mee	6
George W. Mee	3	Alfred G. Rivers	7
Charles Mee	4	Frederick Mee	8

Composed by N. J. Pitstow and conducted by F. Mee. A. Ward was made a member of the above Society before starting.

Also at St. Mary's, Framsden, Suffolk, on April 13th, a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 5104 changes, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. Tenor, 16 cwt.

William Groom	1	George Wightman ..	5
Ernest E. Lanham ..	2	George Rowe, jun. ..	6
Edgar Hicks	3	Alfred S. Wightman ..	7
William Wightman ..	4	William C. Rumsey ..	8

Composed by Edgar Wightman and conducted by George Wightman.

Lancashire Bell-ringers' Meeting.—A meeting of the members of the Lancashire Association of Eight-bell Change-ringers took place at Leyland Parish Church. On entering the belfry a mixed band rang a peal of 500 changes of Grandsire Triples, and the Leyland ringers afterwards completed a peal of Kent Treble Bob. Several other selections were also given. At a meeting presided over by Mr. James Banister it was decided to hold the next meeting at Broughton Church on May 16th. A vote of thanks to the vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells closed the meeting.

BELL INSCRIPTIONS.

(Continued from page 408.)

THORNFORD, DORSET (St. Mary Magdalene).

Churchwardens' Accounts.

		£	s.	d.
1665.	To ye ffoxe hunters		5	0
	To Geo. Master for a ffoxe killing		1	0
1666.	To Mr. Barker Vicar of Sherborne for Leech-rest 4 years last past		3	4
1666-7.	To Xtoph Manfyell for new casting two Bell braces ffor ye ffyre at London		13	6
			2	6
1670.	Paide to Daggle for carring of ye money to Soesbery (Salisbury) yt. was cathered ffor ye redeaming of ye Inglesh outt of Torke		1	0
	For a glass Bottle			6
1671.	Given to ye young men at Ester to make them Dreink		1	0
	To Mr. Wats in order to ye setting up of ye Church Clock	1	0	0
1678-9.	ffor conveyance of ye contribution towards ye rebuylding of St. Paul's London		1	0
1679-80.	spent with Thos. Purdy (Purdue) at Clostworth and at Thornforde..		2	8
	Paid John Eares (Eayres) for takeing downe of ye Litell Bell		1	6
	for beere when ye bell was down			6
	for hollinge of him awaye		1	6
1680-1.	Spent on ye parish at ye takinge downe of ye bells		3	6
	for our expences for five dayes about ye bells ..		9	6
	paid y two writes (Wrights) of Yeatminster for ye Iron worke		16	3
	Spent upon Perdew (Purdue) and ye other wakemen at ye hangінge of ye bells		2	0
	Paid to John Eares and his sonnes for there worke..	1	8	0
	for ye carredge of ye bells out and home again ..	1	0	0
	paid and secured to be paid to perdew (Purdue) for castinge of ye bells and over metell and for castinge of ye brasses	21	9	6
1683.	Laid out for a new bel wheal		15	0
	paid ye smith for Clams and nails and his laber ..		2	6
	Laid out in beare at ye bargain making			6
	Laid out for beare at ye setting of ye wheal.. ..			10
1687-8.	ffor ye Church bibells new forell and claspes ..		18	0
1688.	Paid for ye King's proclamacon and the book for Thanksgiveing for ye young prince feigned		2	0
	Gave in beer to the ringers att the freeing of the Byshops		4	0
1690.	Gave the ringers for the victory in Ireland			6
1697.	pd John Moore for meanding the Quoffer (coffer) ..			4
	Gave a woman that was carryed from tything to tything by Robrt Tuck			6
1698.	Gave to a Captain soldier		1	0
1702.	October 18th. John Hankins Churchwarden killed then in Eivor Wood 2 hedge hoges			4
	December 23. Lett then unto John Tucke mason and George Dunham a tutt Bargon (a piece-work job) to laye downe the stones in ye Chancell and for other work about ye Church		7	6
	Gave the day of Thankesgiveing of the news from Vigse unto the Ringers and on ye 5 of Novbr		1	6
1706.	spent in beer at the viewing of the work to bee done about the oyle (aisle)..		1	0
1707.	paid to Geoarge eyars (Eayres) for a new church hatch (gate)		3	0
	paid to thomas hont (Hunt) for the eiere geare (iron work and nails)		2	0
	Spent in Beer on George Eyers about making bargain for tymber for the Oyle (aisle)		1	0
1708-9.	pd for casting the Bell	7	0	0
	pd for 71 pounds of new mettle at 1s. 2d. p pd is ..	4	2	10
	Paid for 5 dayes and half for a Carpenter to hang the Bell at 2s. 6d. p day is		13	6
	pd John Moore for 4 dayes work and half about ye same		5	3
	Spent in expences at Closatt (Closworth) and at home about ye bells		9	0
	pd for for leather for the Clappers of the Bells ..			7
1712.	pd the smith for Rightinge the Eier gare (iron-work) abt the letle bell			9
	Spent at Mounter's with Mr. Goller and some of the p'sh of Thornford to try to make the bargon about the leds of the Church		1	3
1713.	Paid for mending the loock of the dooar and macking (making) the cay (key)			9
	for a Roap for the medel bel		3	2
	Gave 4 semen that there sheep wors cast away ..			6
	Gave 3 travelers mooar that have los 2 legs and 1 arm			6
1742.	George Hardy Bill for work about 2 bells			9
1746.	paid ye passon for his dinner at Visitation		2	0
1754.	pd for a bissom (besom) to clean the church			1
1755, Mar 31st,	it was then ordered in order to destroy those noxious Virmen call'd Norway rats that a penny be pd for every old rat and a half penny of each young one.			
1830.	Loud (allowed) for strings for Musick (an annual allowance)		10	0

The following is a Smith's bill in the year 1816:—

1816.	Ch warden Beal to Andrew Humber.			
	May 28th for a nu cach an—eir for ch hach ..		1	2
	July 28th for riten a loke an a nu ce of galery dor..		1	4
			2	6

The correct wording would be 'for a new catch and—iron for church hatch or gate, for righting a lock and a new key for Gallery door.'

The undermentioned paragraph, relating to an old custom in Thornford parish, appeared in the 'Evening Mail,' December 13th, 1824:—

'In the village of Thornford, near Sherborne, a custom exists among the tenants of depositing 5s. in a hole in a certain tombstone in the Churchyard, which prevents the Lord of the Manor from taking tithes of hay during the year. This must invariably be done on St. Thomas's Day before 12 o'clock, or the privilege is void.'

The tombstone with the hole in it is still to be seen in the churchyard, but the custom was discontinued soon after the above-mentioned date.

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