

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

Peal of 5000 Stedman Caters.

By JOHN ROGERS, London.

With the least number of calls, seventy-three, the shortest coming-home course, from the Tittum course-ends twenty-six changes, and the greatest and most musical qualities any limited composition in this method ever had, or will be obtained 'for ever.'

First course by calls at 1.2.6.16.18.				Start full slow six.				Calls at			
6 3 2 5 1 4	4 5 1 3 2	2 1 3 4 5	5 3 4 2 1	1 4 2 5 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	16
3 1 2 5 4	4 3 5 1 2	2 4 1 3 5	5 2 3 4 1	1 5 4 2 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	-
2 5 3 1 4	5 1 4 3 2	1 3 2 4 5	3 4 5 2 1	4 2 1 5 3	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	-
2 1 5 3 4	5 3 1 4 2	1 4 3 2 5	3 2 4 5 1	4 5 2 1 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	-
5 3 2 1 4	1 4 5 3 2	3 2 1 4 5	4 5 3 2 1	2 1 4 5 3	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	-
5 1 3 2 4	1 3 4 5 2	3 4 2 1 5	4 2 5 3 1	2 5 1 4 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	-
5 2 1 3 4	1 5 3 4 2	3 1 4 2 5	4 3 2 5 1	2 4 5 1 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	-
1 3 5 2 4	3 4 1 5 2	4 2 3 1 5	2 5 4 3 1	5 1 2 4 3	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	4 15 -	-
1 2 3 5 4	3 5 4 1 2	4 1 2 3 5	2 3 5 4 1	5 4 1 2 3	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	4 - - -	-

This composition has the five large bells fixed in the same relative position at course-ends throughout, the composition being on the five small bells introducing the King's change, 9 7 5 3 1 2 4 6 8 x, and other musical changes. Dedicated to King Edward VII.

Death of Mr. C. W. Holdich of Werrington, Northants.

PERHAPS the oldest and most enthusiastic bell-ringer in the county passed away recently in the person of Mr. Charles W. Holdich, at the residence of his son, the Rev. C. W. Holdich, Vicar of Werrington. Mr. Holdich was a son of the late Rev. Thomas Holdich, Rector of Maidwell, and had attained the age of eighty-three years. He was a solicitor by profession, and for many years resided at Sleaford. Seventeen years ago he retired from business and went to reside in Peterborough, where he remained until seven years ago, when he went to the house of his son at Werrington. He was widely known and highly esteemed by his many friends. In the thirties and early forties nothing delighted him better than to gain permission to drive the coaches in the County of Northampton, and he repeatedly spoke with pride of his association with the coaches in the good old days. He was also an enthusiastic bell-ringer, and had been an amateur ringer since his

boyhood days. A claim to be the oldest ringer was recently put forward on behalf of a Bethnal Green ringer, who rang on the occasion of Queen Victoria's accession, but Mr. Holdich could beat that record, for he was one of a team of eight ringers who, in Lincolnshire, celebrated the anniversary of her late Majesty's birthday on the 24th May, 1837, when she was 'Princess Victoria,' and, of course, before she ascended the throne. He assisted in ringing at her Coronation, and at her wedding.

Mr. Holdich was, indeed, an active ringer throughout the whole of the Queen's reign, and took part in the ringing of the half-muffled peal on the St. John's Church bells at Peterborough on the occasion of her Majesty's funeral. He assisted in ringing on very many of the birthdays of the members of the Royal Family, and other state occasions in the last sixty-four years, and, amongst other occasions of rejoicing, on the termination of the war with Russia in 1856, and the Victorian Jubilees of 1887 and 1897. He has for the last seventeen years (except in 1898, when, although in the belfry, he was too unwell to take part) assisted in the ringing on 'Wyldebore's Day,' at St. John's, and he spoke with pleasure of the many happy hours he had had in the belfry, and of the many friends he had met there. His record was probably unique.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Essex Association.

At St. Peter's, Colchester, on April 13th, a peal of NEW CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 9 mins. Tenor, 20½ cwt.

Francis L. Bumpstead ..	1	Ernest Pye ..	5
George R. Pye ..	2	William Keeble ..	6
Edward Borrett ..	3	Wesley Watson ..	7
Herbert P. Harman ..	4	William Pye ..	8

Composed by Gabriel Lindoff, and conducted by William Pye. First peal in the method on the bells. The ringers wish to thank the Vicar, the Rev. C. Tuffitt Ward, for the use of the bells, and Mr. F. L. Bumpstead, steeple-keeper, for having everything in readiness.

ALSO at All Saints', Feering, Essex, on April 13th, a peal of SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 changes, in 3 hrs. 3 mins. Tenor, 18 cwt.

James Newman ..	1	George R. Pye ..	5
Egbert Borrett ..	2	Ernest Pye ..	6
Herbert P. Harman ..	3	William Keeble ..	7
Wesley Watson ..	4	William Pye ..	8

Composed by Nathan J. Pitstow, and conducted by William Pye. First peal in the method on the bells.

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The Essex Association and the Norwich Diocesan Association.

At St. Barnabas', Great Tey, Essex, on April 14th, a peal of LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 changes, in 3 hrs. 38 mins. Tenor, 15 cwt.

Walter Ladhams ..	1	George R. Pye ..	5
Ernest Pye ..	2	William Keeble ..	6
Herbert P. Harman ..	3	James Motts* ..	7
Lewis W. Wiffin* ..	4	William Pye ..	8

Composed by James W. Washbrook, and conducted by Wm. Pye. [* First peal in the method; also first peal in the method on the bells.]

The Worcestershire and Districts Association.

At St. James-the-Great, Colwall, Herefordshire, on April 18th, a peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 56 mins. Tenor, 11 cwt.

William Bright* ..	1	William C. Jones ..	5
William Powell* ..	2	Arthur Hadley* ..	6
Albert Hill* ..	3	James E. Groves ..	7
William H. Johnson* ..	4	James Perry† ..	8

Composed by John Carter, and conducted by J. E. Groves. The second peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES rung in Herefordshire. [* First peal of Stedman. † First peal.]

The Waterloo Society, London, and the St. Margaret's Society, Westminster.

At St. Margaret's, Westminster, on April 18th, a peal of TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 changes, in the Kent Variation, in 3 hrs. 28 mins. Tenor, 28 cwt.

Ferris J. Shepherd* ..	1	Fredk. G. Perrin ..	6
Arthur N. Hardy ..	2	James E. Davis ..	7
John H. Cheesman ..	3	William J. Jeffries ..	8
Ernest H. Nixon ..	4	Thomas Langdon ..	9
William Weatherstone ..	5	Arthur Jacob ..	10

Composed by Henry Dains, and conducted by James E. Davis. This composition has the 6th her extent home nine courses. [* First peal of ROYAL.]

The Ancient Society of College Youths.

At St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on April 18th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs.

Matthew A. Wood* ..	1	Herbert Lingdon (condr.)	5
James Scholes ..	2	Albert Coles ..	6
William Truss ..	3	Arthur Barkus ..	7
Charles S. Burden ..	4	Arthur Coles ..	8

[* This is Mr. Wood's 365th peal.]

The Sussex County Association.

(RYE BRANCH).

At the Parish Church, Rye, on April 21st, Gabriel Lindoff's Twenty-part peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 57 mins. Tenor, 19 cwt. 27 lbs.

Edward Curd ..	1	Charles Price ..	5
Francis A. Vincett ..	2	Ernest S. Reed ..	6
George Billenness ..	3	William Billenness (condr.)	7
Thomas A. Vincett ..	4	Walter Tomsett ..	8

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to the late Dr. Edward Adamson, who was for several years churchwarden and sidesman at the above church and was buried on that day.

STOKE, COVENTRY.—On Easter Sunday, for morning service, 7 six-scores of GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, each called differently: J. Fennell, 1; H. Horwood, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; W. Maund, 4; J. H. White (conductor), 5; A. Flowers, 6. After service, 480 in the same method, standing as before. On Sunday, April 19th, 600 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES: J. Fennell, 1; H. Horwood, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; S. Hope, 4; J. H. White (conductor), 5; A. Flowers, 6. On April 25th, 120 PLAIN BOB DOUBLES: A. Flowers, 1; J. H. White, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; S. Hope, 4; H. Horwood (conductor), 5; E. Johnson, 6. Also two courses of BOB MINOR: A. Flowers, 1; J. H. White, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; S. Hope, 4; W. Maund, 5; H. Horwood, 6. And two courses of GRANDSIRE MINOR and a 72: A. Flowers, 1; H. Horwood, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; S. Hope, 4; W. Maund, 5; J. H. White (conductor), 6. Also 96 in the same method with J. Fennell, treble; the others as before. These are the first touches of MINOR on the bells. On April 26th, for morning service, 360 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES: J. Fennell, 1; J. H. White, 2; W. H. Rees, 3; W. Maund, 4; H. Horwood (conductor), 5; A. Flowers, 6. After service 240 in the same method, with A. Flowers, 1; E. Johnson, 6.

REDHILL, SURREY.—At St. John's Church, on April 18th, a quarter-peal of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 1260 changes, was rung in commemoration of the eighty-seventh birthday of the Rev. H. Gosse, the donor of the bells. H. Ewins, 1; J. Kenward, 2; A. Longhurst, 3; E. Dawey, 4; W. Edwards, 5; P. Etheridge, 6; H. Card (conductor), 7; E. Kenward, 8.

KING'S LYNN.—On April 12th, for morning service, by members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, 448 BOB MAJOR; also for evening service, 560 BOB MAJOR. W. G. Cross, 1; T. Giles, 2; W. Sedgley, 3; J. Green, 4; W. Brook, 5; W. Curson, 6; A. Markwell (conductor), 7; R. Crome, 8.

MR. J. R. HAWORTH, who has been connected with CHURCH BELLS since its commencement, reached his eighty-second birthday on the 21st ult., having been born on April 21st, 1821. He is the senior member of the Ancient Society of College Youths (established 1637), and believed to be the oldest change-ringer in London.

SHAMLEY GREEN, SURREY.—Some time ago Mrs. Boys offered to replace the one bell that has done duty in the church spire for some forty years, with three tubular bells, in memory of her husband, the late Mr. H. S. Boys, who was churchwarden for some years. A vestry meeting was held to consider the offer, and it was decided, if possible, to increase the number to six. An appeal for funds met with a ready response, and the peal of six tubular bells are now in position. The bells were rung for the first time on Easter Sunday.

ST. ANDREW'S BELLS, HALSTEAD.—The annual vestry meeting for St. Andrew's parish was held at the Town Hall on Easter Monday, the Rev. E. H. Oakley, vicar, presiding. The churchwardens were re-elected. The Vicar said a serious matter would shortly come before the parish, viz., the condition of the bells. He thought it a question for the whole parish rather than for the congregation of St. Andrew's. Mr. Portway said the bells had been inspected by an expert, who reported that certain repairs were urgently needed, the cost of which would be about £80. At the same time it would be a good opportunity for completing the octave, for which two new bells were needed. The total cost would be about £200. He thought, with the Vicar, that the cost was a town matter; he thought, also, that if they appealed to the whole parish for subscriptions, the bells should be at the service of the whole of the parishioners, whether Nonconformist or Church people, on occasions of social rejoicing. Mr. Morton asked if the bells had ever been refused to any one. It was stated that that was the case sixteen years ago, but the reason was that no ringers could be found. It was understood that a parish meeting would be called to consider the whole question.

BOCKING (ESSEX) BELLS.—At the Bocking vestry meeting, the Rev. E. V. Casson, curate, presiding, Mr. Joseph Savill, re-elected people's warden, stated that in February last one of the church bells broke down, and experts reported that the girders supporting the six bells were very much worn, and some of them were unsafe. All would have to be taken out, and the cost of rehanging would be £35. To add two new trebles to the present peal, and so complete the octave, would cost an additional £145. It was stated that the bells had been working for forty-seven years since they were last put in order. Mr. Savill said he brought the question to the notice of the Dean, and he received a letter in reply from Mrs. Carrington, enclosing a cheque for £36 to meet the cost of rehanging the bells. It was decided to convey the thanks of the vestry to the Dean and Mrs. Carrington for their kindness. Mr. F. Warren, one of the ringers, said that if the two extra trebles could be added to the Bocking peal, it would make one of the best in Essex. People outside the parish had promised to support the work. Mr. Samuel Hayes, of West Ham, speaking as an experienced ringer, and as a native of Bocking, said the addition of the two bells would not cause any more sound nor be an annoyance to people living close by, as the completing of the octave would take away monotony and give a proper musical sound. It was unanimously resolved to appeal to the parish for the sum required to complete the peal, and the following were appointed on the Committee, viz., the two churchwardens, with Messrs. H. S. Tabor, F. Warren, C. Bearman, W. Moore, and A. W. Tyler.

THE BELLS OF CORSLEY, WILTS.—Since the accident to the third bell at the parish church an expert from Salisbury has made a thorough inspection of the belfry, and ascribes the cause of the damage to the bells being fitted with iron stays and sliders. Another bell has been found to be cracked on the crown, and the cannons of the tenor are broken, while all the bells are deeply pitted where the clappers strike, and the fittings, wheels, and clappers are very much worn. The estimate of the cost of recasting the third bell and making the others safe is £100, while an additional £200 will be required for putting in a new framework. Corsley possesses a very good peal of bells, and it is to be hoped that there will be a ready support of the Bell Fund.

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