

BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

CHANGE-RINGING.

The Kent County Association.

At St. George's, Gravesend, on September 3rd, Thurstans' One-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 10 mins. Tenor, 19½ cwt.

Edwin Barnett, sen. .. 1	William Easter 5
Fredk. French 2	John H. Cheesman (condr.) 6
George Conyard 3	Robert Brett 7
William Haigh 4	Lewis Silver 8

Rung with the bells half-muffled, as a mark of respect to the late Rector, the Rev. J. Haslam.

The St. Martin's Guild, Birmingham.

At SS. Thomas and Edmund's, Erdington, Warwickshire, on September 3rd, a peal of DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 58 mins. Tenor, 15 cwt.

Ernest T. Allaway .. 1	Herbert Knight 5
George F. Swanu 2	Charles Dickens 6
James E. Groves 3	Bernard W. Witchell .. 7
Frank Fay 4	Arthur E. Pegler 8

Composed by Henry Dains, and conducted by Bernard W. Witchell. H. Knight was elected a member of the society before starting for the peal.

The Sussex County Association.

At St. Botolph's, Heene, Worthing, on September 5th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 26½ mins. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

Alfred Tulett 1	William Hillman 5
John H. Paice 2	George Williams (condr.) 6
Henry Evans 3	James George 7
Harry Meetens 4	Benjamin Bassett 8

This is the quickest peal on the bells. It is also thought to be the quickest peal of STEDMAN on record.

The Durham and Newcastle Diocesan Association.

At All Saints', Newcastle-on-Tyne, on September 5th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 5 mins. Tenor, 19 cwt.

Chas. L. Routledge .. 1	Alfred F. Hillier 5
Joseph E. R. Keen .. 2	Ernest E. Ferry* (condr.) 6
Robert S. Story 3	William Story 7
Thomas T. Gifton 4	William H. Brumsdon .. 8

[* First peal of STEDMAN as conductor.]

The Hertfordshire Association.

At Oxhey, Herts, on September 7th, Thurstans' Four-part peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 58 mins. Tenor, 9½ cwt.

Hubert Ed-n (conductor) 1	Edward Whitbread .. 5
Ernest E. Hantley .. 2	B. H. Tyrwhitt Drake .. 6
George N. Price 3	Frederick White* .. 7
James George 4	Maurice F. R. Hibbert .. 8

[* First peal away from the tenor.]

The Yorkshire Association.

At Holy Trinity Church, Hull, on September 8th, a peal of STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. Tenor, 26 cwt.

Ernest Marriott* .. 1	George T. Marshall .. 5
George Halksworth .. 2	Charles Jackson (condr.) 6
Frederick Merrison* .. 3	Alfred Naylor 7
Tom Stockdale 4	John W. Dale 8

Composed by J. W. Washbrook, and has ninety of the one hundred and twenty 6-7's come at back-stroke. [* First peal in the method]

At Christ Church, Friesland, on September 10th, 5040 changes, being 720 each of the following: MERCHANT'S DELIGHT, DUKE OF YORK, VIOLET, WOODBINE, NEW LONDON PLEASURE, OXFORD DELIGHT, OXFORD, in 3 hrs. 1 min. Tenor, 15 cwt.

Joseph W. Shaw (condr.) 1	James Dicken 4
James E. Carter 2	Joseph Wood 5
B. Cowling 3	John J. Dicken 6

The second ringer comes from Kirkheaton, the third from Huddersfield, the rest belong to the local company.

Missionary Diocese of Algoma.

OVERDRAFT FUND.

TO clear off a debt incurred chiefly during the illness of the late Bishop (Dr. Sullivan). Owing to the necessity of raising the Clergy Sustention Fund during the time limited by the S.P.C.K. and S.P.G. Grants towards it, it has been impossible sooner to discharge this debt; a special effort is now being made to relieve the Bishop of so heavy a responsibility. £500. are urgently needed. Contributions should be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Mrs A. BURNARD TUCKER, West Town, R.S.O., Somerset.

The Church of England Year Book says:—
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KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION—ASHFORD DISTRICT.—The annual district meeting will be held at Headcorn on Saturday afternoon, September 24th. Tower open at 2; committee meeting at 5.30; tea at 6. Members intending to be present must send their names to me through the secretaries of their bands before the previous Thursday. Half railway fares, but not exceeding 2s., will be allowed to all members present at 6 o'clock.—C. WILFRID BLAXLAND, Hon. Dist. Sec., Hythe.

STOKESLEY.—On August 23th, for evening service, by members of the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Association, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB: J. Clark, 1; G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 2; A. C. Bowes, 3; W. W. Clarkson, 4; W. Lane, 5; J. P. Clarkson, 6.

BOXLEY, KENT.—On Tuesday week, for practice, 720 GRANDSIRE DOUBLES was rung by C. Attwood, G. Pound (conductor), R. Attwood, W. Hope, W. Kilpatrick, A. Haygreen. This was the first 720 with a bob-bell by R. Attwood.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—On September 11th, for morning service, by members of the Ely Diocesan Association, 504 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES: W. Boby, 1; H. S. Symonds, 2; F. Parker, 3; J. Moore, 4; E. Simpson, 5; E. Lincoln, 6; A. Symonds, 7; T. King (conductor), 8.

PRESTON, SUFFOLK.—On September 10th, 720 KENT TREBLE BOB: H. S. Symonds, 1; E. Lincoln, 2; A. Symonds, 3; A. Hollocks, 4; T. Levitt, 5; H. Gladwell (conductor), 6. Also 720 OXFORD: H. Crick, 1; T. Hollocks, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; H. Gladwell, 4; H. L. Poulson, 5; T. Levitt (conductor), 6.

STOLEN BELLS.—The contemplated restoration of the parish church of Swardston reminds us of a curious incident of the first half of the last century—to be accurate, in the last week of 1839—no less than the theft of one of the church bells of Swardston Church. We should imagine that it lay in the church at the time; but, however that may be, the bell was not only stolen, but broken up in the church for the better convenience of removal. Such a task could scarcely have been effected quietly, and sound travels far on a quiet winter night; but the peaceful villagers slept soundly, and, so far as we are aware, the depredators were never traced. Such strange thefts would appear to have been common. At the April Assizes at Norwich, in the same year, two men, named Hall and Palmer, were indicted for stealing a bell from the floor of the church at North Walsham. In this case the booty was removed in a cart, and broken up elsewhere. The prisoners were each sentenced to twelve months' hard labour, which would militate against any suspicion that the Swardston raid was the handiwork of the same parties.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The monthly ringing meeting of this society was held at Calverley on August 27th. Arrangements were made to attempt a peal of BOB MAJOR, but a start could not be made at the usual time owing to a funeral taking place. About 4 p.m. a visit was made to the tower, when 928 changes KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR were rung by the band for the peal. Other members now having arrived, two musical touches of STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung. An adjournment was then made for refreshments. Previous to the business meeting, the tower was again visited, when GRANDSIRE and STEDMAN TRIPLES were rung. The business meeting took place at the 'Thornhill Arms,' Mr. T. Maude in the chair, supported by upwards of twenty members representing the following towers: Headingley St. Chad's, Headingley St. Michael's, Bramley, Pudsey, Leeds, Bradford, and the local company. The minutes of the previous meeting were passed as read on the proposal of Mr. C. Pratt, seconded by Mr. P. Johnson. A vote of condolence, proposed by the President, seconded by Mr. J. Whitaker, with the widows and families of Mr. J. Haley, of Tong, and of Mr. L. Snowdon at Drighlington, past members of the society, was carried in silence, the members standing. The next meeting will be at Tong, on Saturday, September 24th. A vote of thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens for the use of the bells and to the local company for kind arrangements was proposed by Mr. J. W. T. Holgate, seconded by Mr. P. Johnson, and carried, Mr. C. Pratt suitably responding on behalf of local company. Touches of various methods on handbells finally brought the meeting to a close.

A BELL-RINGER'S FUNERAL.—The funeral of Mr. William Verry, a veteran bell-ringer of Handsworth (Birmingham), whose death has already been reported, took place at the Parish Church, Handsworth, on Saturday week. Representatives of guilds and societies of bell-ringers from all parts of the country attended the funeral. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. J. Marshall. After the coffin had been lowered into the grave, the St. Martin's Guild of Handbell Ringers played a plain course of GRANDSIRE TRIPLES. The society of bell-ringers to which the deceased belonged ascended the church tower and rang the usual 'whole pull and stand,' recording the deceased's age, seventy-six years.

ANOTHER OLD BELL-RINGER.—Mr. T. Taylor, of East Anglia, who tolled bells on the death of George IV., has died at the age of ninety-three.

SOME BELL INSCRIPTIONS.

(Continued from page 776.)

OXHEY, HERTS (St. Matthew).

OXHEY is a hamlet of Watford, situated rather more than a mile to the south-west of the town, the population of which has increased very much of late years. An ecclesiastical parish was formed in 1879 out of the parishes of Watford and Bushey, and a church dedicated in the name of St. Matthew was built the following year, the cost amounting to £6000. The church comprises a chancel, nave, aisles, vestry, organ chamber, north and south porches, and a tower at the north-west end, which, previous to the year 1837, only contained one bell; but a new ring of eight, from the foundry of Messrs. John Warner & Sons, were then supplied to commemorate the Jubilee of the late Queen Victoria, and dedicated on June 18th of that year. The sermon at that service was preached by the present Dean of St. Albans. The single bell, formerly hanging in this tower, was removed to Oxhey Chapel, and the small one there was brought here and is used regularly for divine worship. The bells, which are a very light ring, are inscribed as below:—

Sanctus.—John : Walker ✠ 1704.

NOTE.—This is the bell formerly hanging in Oxhey Chapel. I omitted to measure the diameter of all these bells.

Treble.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

Glory to God in the highest.

R. R. Carew gave me.

2.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

On Earth Peace.

Mrs. R. R. Carew gave me.

3.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

Good Will Towarde Men.

T. F. Blackwell gave me.

4.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London 1837.

We Praise Thee.

S. J. Blackwell gave me.

5.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

We Bless Thee.

Mrs. Eley gave me.

6.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

We Worship Thee.

In Mem^y W. A. Tooke.

Given by His Mother.

7.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

We Glorify Thee.

Jubilee Year 1837.

Newton Price, Vicar.

NOTE.—The Rev. Newton Price, B.A., is the first and present Vicar of this parish, and has held the living since 1830.

Tenor.—Cast by John Warner & Sons, London, 1837.

We Give Thanks to Thee For Thy Great Glory.

David Carnegie Gave Me.

NOTE.—There is an enthusiastic band of change-ringers connected with this church. Mr. George N. Price, the Vicar's son, has used great influence in promoting the art of change-ringing in this parish, and himself, with other members of the Oxhey Society, often visits London and suburban churches to take part in ringing peals.

There are seven peal-boards hanging in the ringing chamber, recording the completion of various peals in different methods. Three of these peals were rung by the Ancient Society of College Youths, one by the Hertfordshire Association, and three by the Oxhey Society.

Near the north-west door of the church may be seen a brass plate worded as under:—



In commemoration of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria. This Ring of Bells was dedicated 18 June, 1837. The first bell was the offering of Robert Russell Carew; the second of Mrs. Carew; the third of Thomas Francis Blackwell; the fourth of Samuel J. Blackwell; the fifth of Mrs. Eley; the sixth of Mr. Tooke; the eighth of David Carnegie, and the remaining expenses were defrayed by public subscription. ✠

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