THE RINGING WORLD

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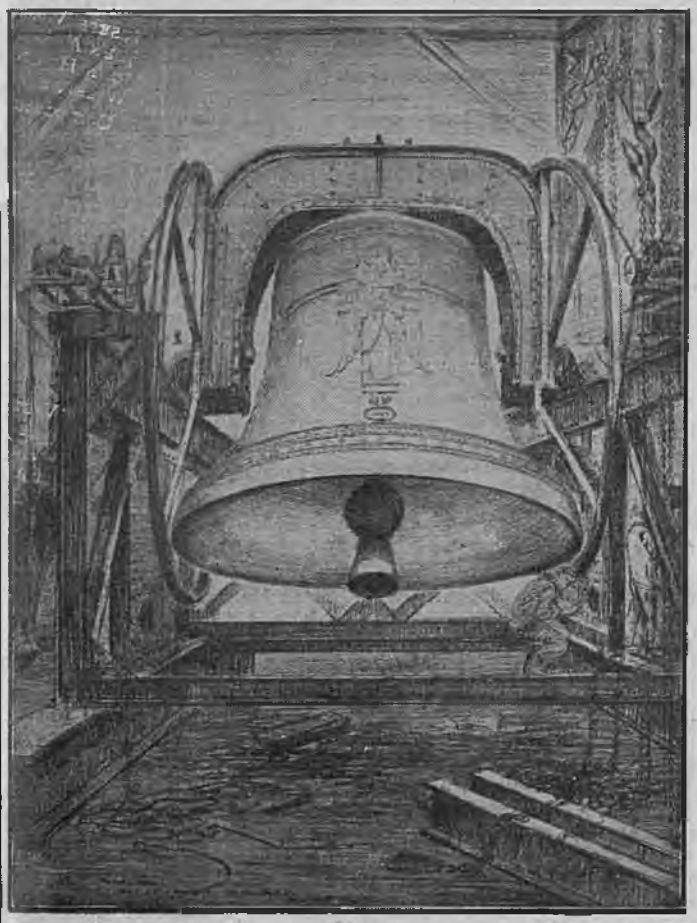

THE 18¼ TON RINGING BELL,
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THE SCIENTIFIC SIDE OF RINGING

The proportion of ringers who take up seriously a study of the scientific side of ringing is comparatively small, and yet it is a deeply fascinating subject. The reasons why so few really enter this department may be many and various; in the case of the majority, perhaps, because they are not scientifically-minded and feel that they could not, without great labour, grasp the many important details which go to make up a successful understanding of the theoretical branch of our art. Others, and there are doubtless many, may have the ability, but not the time or inclination to take it up. But whatever the cause, the number of ringers who have more than a superficial acquaintance with the principles underlying the science is insignificant. Many people have composed peals, because they have been able to put together a series of course ends, and, by the help of proof scales, say whether the peals are true. Yet what percentage of the composers could themselves have got out the proof scales? Moreover, some, even with the assistance of proof scales, have to rely entirely upon the process of trial and error—they have not the knowledge by which they can say beforehand whether any particular plan of construction will carry them to the end they have in view. Again, many of those who have groped more or less blindly in their efforts to 'compose' peals, have often had to waste many hours of work and reject many fruitless results, for reasons not obvious to themselves, except, merely, that their productions have been false. They have no acquaintance with and therefore no knowledge how to utilise to their advantage, that, to them, mysterious thing called 'Q sets.' And it is, we believe, because of the obstacles which they meet and the disappointments which arise as a consequence that many ringers give up bothering their heads about anything except the practical application of the art in the belfry.

It is true that much of the necessary knowledge is hard to come by. The existing text books are not entirely easy to follow—their style is really too 'scientific'; the writers have not dealt with their subjects on what in these days are called 'popular' lines, so that they do not appeal to the mass of ringers. For instance, able and exhaustive as is the 'Investigation into the construction of peals of Stedman Triples' by Sir Arthur Heywood and others in the volume on 'Stedman' in the Snowdon series, it requires not only long and close application to digest it, but its character is such that only the studiously-minded are likely to proceed with it after sampling the first few chapters. To the earnest student, of course, treatises such as this are invaluable, and, indeed, indis-

(Continued on page 822.)

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pensable, but for the average ringer who desires to get below the surface without the boredom of an analytical study of microscopical details, the style of this kind of writing offers no attractions, although, for the purpose for which it is intended, the treatise mentioned is one of the cleverest pieces of work that has ever been penned on a subject relating to ringing. But the ordinary ringer of to-day wants something which he can read without having to force his interest, something which he can understand without racking his brains too extensively, and something which will increase his knowledge of his favourite subject without boring him.

In this issue we begin a series of articles by Mr. J. A. Trollope, who is—and we say it without flattery—one of the most lucid writers on ringing matters that the Exercise has ever known. He has a happy knack of putting very plainly and simply for all to understand, things which have seemed to be complicated and abstruse. In this new series Mr. Trollope deals with a subject which is really of wide importance to ringers, especially to conductors and more particularly to composers, and it will be found that it has been written in a style which readers of all classes will be able to follow with interest, and, most of them, grasp with clarity. He covers the ground of 'Variation and Transposition,' on which many wordy battles have been fought in the past, very widely, and we are quite sure that the articles will add not only to the knowledge of our readers, but to their better appreciation of the values and importance of developments both in method and peal construction.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

*WILLIAM C. DARKE ...	...*Treble*	JOHN S. MORTON	5
JOHN J. LAMB	2	BERTIE W. ALDRIDGE... ...	6
WILLIAM J. BEER	3	FREDERICK J. CULLUM, JUN.	7
THOMAS H. CULVER	4	ARTHUR P. CANNON ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by F. J. CULLUM, JUN.

* First peal away from tenor.

HUGHENDEN, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt.

VICTOR EVANS	...*Treble*	PERCY NEWTON	5
JOHN EVANS	2	RALPH H. BIGGS	6
ARTHUR G. JAMES	3	*FRANK WEST	7
FREDERICK G. BIGGS	4	ROLAND BIGGS	...*Tenor*

Composed by H. T. TUCKER. Conducted by ROLAND BIGGS.

* First peal of Major on a working bell. All are ringing members at the above church.

PULHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 13¾ cwt.

GEORGE HOWLETT ...	...*Treble*	HERBERT FULCHER	5
ERNEST WHITING	2	CECIL BARRETT	6
FREDERICK J. ROOPE	3	TOWNSHEND ADCOCK	7
CHARLES BARKER ... —	4	FRED R. BORRETT ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. PLATT. Conducted by GEORGE HOWLETT.

First peal as conductor.

UPPINGHAM, RUTLAND.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 14½ cwt.

MRS. PHILLIS HUMPHREY	*Treble*	*HARRY BLUFF	5
*ROGER W. DANIELS	2	RONALD RUSSELL	6
J. GEOFFREY GEARY	3	C. ARTHUR MANNING ...	7
CUTHBERT T. H. BRADLEY	4	*GEORGE SLAUGHTER ...	...*Tenor*

Conducted by C. A. MANNING.

* First peal in the method. First peal on eight bells by ringers of 5 and 8. First peal on the bells since 1908. Rung as a welcome to the Rector, the Rev. C. Aldridge, who was inducted the Saturday previous as Rector of Uppingham. The ringers were kindly entertained after the peal by Mr. James Thorpe, whom they wish to thank for his hospitality.

BOLSOVER, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION
AND SHEFFIELD DISTRICT SOCIETY.
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF YORKSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 14¾ cwt.

EDWARD ROBBINS... ...	...*Treble*	JOHN H. BROTHWELL ...	5
JOHN HOLMAN	2	JOHN A. BREARLEY	6
CHARLES MASON	3	*JOHN R. BREARLEY	7
JESSE J. MOSS	4	JOHN FLINT	...*Tenor*

Composed by GEORGE LEWIS. Conducted by JOHN FLINT.

* First peal in method.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
(WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH.)
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 4 lb.

ANDERSON Y. TYLER ...	...*Treble*	JOHN R. MAIN	5
*FREDERICK R. PALMER ...	2	JAMES T. WARD	6
HARRY CHAMBERS	3	JOHN J. MAWBY	7
HARRY GAYTON	4	GEORGE BASFORD... ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by A. KNIGHTS (No. 157). Conducted by A. Y. TYLER

* First peal in the method, Rung as a birthday compliment to J. T. Ward. This composition is now rung for the first time.

WRITTLE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S. Tenor 18½ cwt. in F.

THOMAS LINCOLN	...*Treble*	DR. SPENCER PHILLIPS ...	5
WILLIAM KEEBLE	2	WILLIAM BURGESS	6
PERCY GREEN	3	GEORGE GREEN	7
*HERBERT DEVENISH	4	ARTHUR HEAD	...*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

* First Surprise peal. One hundredth peal for the association by George Green. Rung as a 22nd birthday compliment to Percy Green.

HELMINGHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH.
A PEAL OF LINCOLNSHIRE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 19¾ cwt.

ALBERT E. WHITING ...	...*Treble*	GEORGE BENNETT	5
GEORGE WHITING	2	ERNEST E. LANHAM	6
GEORGE PRYKE	3	T. WILLIAM LAST	7
JAMES BENNETT	4	LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN	...*Tenor*

Composed by REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by T. W. LAST.

This peal was rung to replace the false peal of Lincolnshire rung at the same tower on November 20th, and by the same band excepting the treble ringer, who stood in in the place of L. G. Brett, who was unable to take part.

BINGHAM, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. MARY AND ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
DEXTER'S VARIATION. Tenor 15¼ cwt.

EDWARD FOSTER	...*Treble*	PERCIVAL PRICE...	5
FREDERICK S. PRICE	2	J. FREDERICK MILNER ...	6
GEORGE E. FOSTER	3	*FREDERICK HOOPER	7
ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ...	4	*RALPH MARLBOROUGH	...*Tenor*

Conducted by J. F. MILNER.

* First peal in the method and first attempt.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-EVANGELIST,
A PEAL OF NORFOLK SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;
Tenor 14¼ cwt.

GEORGE ELLIS	...*Treble*	ROBERT SWIFT	5
KEITH HART	2	CECIL NICE	6
GEORGE OLLIVER	3	JOHN DEARLOVE	7
KENNETH SNELLING	4	OLIVER SIPPETTS	...*Tenor*

Composed by J. W. WASHBROOK. Conducted by O. SIPPETTS.

BRAINTREE, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL-THE-ARCHANGEL,
A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt. in G.

SAMUEL WARNE	...*Treble*	FREDERICK RIDGWELL ...	5
ALBERT WIFFEN	2	GRAHAM LINDRIDGE	6
WALTER ARNOLD...	3	LEWIS W. WIFFEN	7
HENRY W. KIRTON	4	WALTER H. HAMMOND	...*Tenor*

Composed by N. J. PITSTOW. Conducted by LEWIS W. WIFFEN.

SHIFNAL, SHROPSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 19¾ cwt.

ROBERT PICKERING ...	...*Treble*	SIDNEY ELTON	5
HERBERT T. PIPER	2	BENJAMIN DALTON	6
KENNETH C. TAYLOR	3	HERBERT KNIGHT	7
EDWARD F. MITCHELL ...	4	JOHN EVANS	...*Tenor*

Conducted by ROBERT PICKERING.

LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.
THE SUFFOLK GUILD.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
Tenor 23 cwt. in D flat.

MAURICE T. SYMONDS...	...*Treble*	WILFRED JARVIS	5
WILLIAM R. J. POULSON ...	2	*LEONARD PRYKE	6
ARTHUR SYMONDS	3	FREDERICK F. MORTLOCK...	7
STEDMAN H. SYMONDS ...	4	LAURENCE POULSON ...	...*Tenor*

Composed by W. GILBERT. Conducted by M. T. SYMONDS.

* First peal in the method on tower bells. The ringer of the tenor has now rung every bell in this tower to a peal.

BRISTOL.
THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Forty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY REDCLIFFE,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;
JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.
Tenor 50 cwt. 2 qr. 21 lb.

WILLIAM A. CAVE	...*Treble*	WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT ...	5
RICHARD CLARK	2	JOHN A. BURFORD	6
WILLIAM KNIGHT	3	ALFRED E. REEVES	7
HENRY PRING	4	JOSEPH T. DYKE	...*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM A. CAVE.

SHERBORNE, DORSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 20, 1930, in Four Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF ST. MARY
A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 46 cwt. 23 lb.

EDWARD G. L. COWARD	*Treble*	FRED A. COWARD	5
WILLIAM H. COLES	2	ALBERT A. HUGHES	6
MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE	3	WILLIAM J. PRESCOTT	7
WILLIAM C. SHUTE	4	JOSEPH T. DYKE	*Tenor*

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by J. T. DYKE.
First peal of Major on the bells.

SALISBURY, WILTS.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 20, 1930, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARTIN,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

*FREDERICK C. SMITH	*Treble*	FRANK W. ROMAINE	5
GEORGE PULLINGER	2	D. CECIL WILLIAMS	6
ERNEST AYLIFFE	3	GEORGE WILLIAMS	7
LEONARD HARRIS	4	*WILLIAM HIBBERD	*Tenor*

Conducted by D. CECIL WILLIAMS.
* First peal. First peal on these bells since April 9th, 1921.

HANDSWORTH, YORKSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 20, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF SPLICED OXFORD AND KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
ILKESTON VARIATION. Tenor 12 cwt.

L. NOEL CAWTHORNE	*Treble*	FREDERICK CARDWELL	5
DORICE TURNER	2	LESLIE HAYWOOD	6
*WINIFRED M. RYDER	3	T. COLIN RYDER	7
ALBERT MASH	4	FRED WATKINSON	*Tenor*

Composed by E. GOBEY. Conducted by F. WATKINSON.
* First 'touch' of Treble Bob. Rung on the tenth anniversary of the opening of the bells.

LONDON.
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 20, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE-THE-MARTYR, SOUTHWARK.
A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES
Tenor 16 cwt.

JOHN A. WAUGH	*Treble*	WILLIAM H. HEWETT	5
JOHN H. CRAMPION	2	WILLIAM R. MADGWICK	6
JAMES E. DAVIS	3	WILFRED WILLIAMS	7
EDWIN F. PIKE	4	CHARLES W. ROBERTS	*Tenor*

Composed by G. LINDOFF. Conducted by C. W. ROBERTS.
This peal was arranged and rung in honour of the wedding of Miss I. Brett and Mr. H. Bywater, which took place earlier in the day at the Church of St. Michael, Cornhill. Also as a birthday compliment to Mrs. Spink, wife of Mr. R. H. Spink, the steeplekeeper of St. George-the-Martyr, Southwark.

WIDFORD, ESSEX.
THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 20, 1930, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
Tenor 11½ cwt. in A.

STANLEY PYE	*Treble*	DR. SPENCER PHILLIPS	5
GEORGE GREEN	2	WILLIAM KEEBLE	6
WILLIAM J. NEVARD	3	PERCY GREEN	7
THOMAS LINCOLN	4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS	*Tenor*

Composed by C. J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.
* First peal of Surprise. The conductor's 50th peal this year.

OVER, CAMBS.—On Monday, December 1st, at the Parish Church, 720 Annable's London Surprise: G. Whybrow 1, M. Ginn 2, B. Wayman 3, R. Thoday 4, F. Warrington (conductor) 5, A. J. Ginn 6. First 720 in the method by 1st, 2nd and 4th ringers.—On Sunday, for matins, a 720 Kent: M. Ginn 1, G. Whybrow 2, D. Adams 3, R. Thoday 4, F. Warrington 5, R. Smith 6.

SIX AND FIVE BELL PEALS.

HOUGH-ON-THE-HILL, LINCOLNSHIRE.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Wednesday, December 3, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Rev. E. Banks James' arrangement.

*LESLIE SQUIRES	*Treble*	HENRY SQUIRES	4
MISS GLADYS NICHOLSON	2	SIDNEY WHALEY	5
JOHN H. HAYNES	3	ARTHUR MACKEARS	*Tenor*

Conducted by A. MACKEARS.
* First peal. First peal of Cambridge Minor by all.

ORSTON, NOTTS.
LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of Oxford Treble Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Single Court, and two 720's each of Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.
Tenor 9½ cwt.

ARTHUR MACKEARS	*Treble*	HARRY SQUIRES	4
HARRY HAINES	2	ARTHUR WARD	5
REV. C. J. SIDRTON	3	SIDNEY WHALEY	*Tenor*

Conducted by A. MACKEARS.
Rung to commemorate the seventh anniversary of the reopening of the bells by the late Dean of Lincoln, Dr. T. C. Fry.

STOKE PRIOR, HEREFORDSHIRE.
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(LEOMINSTER DISTRICT.)
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 240 each of Chase, Christmas Eve, Stedman Slow Course, and 480 each of New Year's Eve, St. Dunstan's, Morning Star, Old Doubles, Original, April Day, Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure and Grandsire. Tenor 6½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. JAINE	*Treble*	JOHN F. FOX	3
THOMAS G. COOKE	2	WILFRED E. BROOKE	4

FREDERICK A. JAINE ... *Tenor*
Conducted by F. A. JAINE.
First peal in twelve methods by all the band, and on the bells.

TUXFORD, NOTTS.
THE NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being two 720's each of Oxford Bob and Single Court, and three of 720's of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 11¾ cwt.

WALTER RICH	*Treble*	HAROLD DENMAN	4
MISS K. BURCHNALL	2	ERNEST A. MIDWINTER	5
MISS G. BURCHNALL	3	LEONARD PIERREPONT	*Tenor*

Conducted by LEONARD PIERREPONT.
Rung for the feast of St. Nicholas.

NORTH COLLINGHAM, NOTTS.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being one extent of Oxford Bob and two each of Plain Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 4 lb.

MRS. C. MCGUINESS	*Treble*	HARRY CARTER	4
CHARLES MCGUINESS	2	JOHN WALDEN	5
*MRS. L. L. EAST	3	MOSES BILLINGS	*Tenor*

Conducted by M. BILLINGS.
* First peal in four methods. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

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LONGDON, WORCESTERSHIRE.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.
(WESTERN BRANCH.)
On Monday, December 8, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 12 six-scores of Plain Bob, each called differently, and thirty six-scores of Grandsire, ten different callings. Tenor 12 cwt.

FRANK LAWRENCE	*Treble*	FRED HAWKES	4
CHARLES YOUNG	2	CHARLES CAMM	5
*JOHN ROWLATT	3	HENRY BISHOP	*Tenor*

Conducted by FRED HAWKES.
* First peal of Doubles. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mrs. K. Lawrence.

FITZHEAD, SOMERSET.
THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.
(TAUNTON DEANERY.)
On Tuesday, December 9, 1930, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Ten callings. Tenor 12 cwt. 1 qr. 12 lb.

BERTRAM T. JEANES	*Treble*	HARRY SEALEY	4
JAMES E. BAKER	2	WILLIAM H. LLOYD	5
JOHN SUMMERHAYES	3	WALTER J. SEALEY	*Tenor*

Conducted by W. H. LLOYD.
Mr. Baker was proposed a member of the association before starting. Thanks are due to the Vicar, Rev. P. G. Bush for use of the bells. He is shortly leaving the parish for Chewton Mendip, and he will take with him the good wishes of many ringers in the Taunton Deanery, to whom he has ever given kindly consideration and interest.

BIDDULPH, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.
On Wednesday, December 10, 1930, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,
A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of York Surprise, Ipswich Surprise, Cambridge Surprise, City Delight, College Pleasure, Duke of York and Violet. Tenor 10½ cwt.

*HAROLD COOPER	*Treble*	JAMES STANWAY	4
*ALFRED H. COTTRELL	2	WILLIAM HAZELDINE	5
*JOHN BEECH	3	JONAH COTTRELL	*Tenor*

Conducted by J. COTTRELL.
* First peal. All the ringers are members of the above tower.

KIMBOLTON, HEREFORDSHIRE
THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(LEOMINSTER DISTRICT.)
On Friday, December 12, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,
A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 each of St. Dunstan's, Old Doubles, Morning Star, April Day, Plain Bob, Canterbury Pleasure, and Grandsire. Tenor 10 cwt.

*JOHN ROBINSON	*Treble*	FREDERICK A. JAINE	4
WILLIAM H. JAINE	2	WILFRED E. BROOKES	5
THOMAS G. COOKE	3	*WILLIAM ADAMS	*Tenor*

Conducted by F. A. JAINE.
* First peal.

GREAT BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 42 six-scores with eleven callings. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

GEORGE F. SWANN	*Treble*	FREDERICK W. RISHWORTH	4
FRED PRICE	2	WILLIAM DAVIES	5
MORRIS J. MORRIS	3	RICHARD C. INGRAM	*Tenor*

Conducted by GEORGE F. SWANN.
First peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band, on the bells, and by the Guild. This was the 200th peal M. J. Morris and G. F. Swann have rung together, including all numbers of Stedman from Doubles to Sextuples, and Cambridge from Minor to Maximus.

GOOSTRY, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,
A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
In seven methods: 720 each of Single Court, Oxford Bob, Plain Bob, Kingston Treble Bob, London Scholars' Pleasure, Treble Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 6 cwt.

ALFRED W. FROST	*Treble*	ALBERT V. REES	4
ERNEST BENNETT	2	JACK TIPPER	5
WILFRED STEVENSON	3	JOHN WORTH	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN WORTH.
First peal in seven methods by all except treble ringer, and first attempt. First peal in seven methods on the bells.

HORSMONDEN, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARGARET,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Seven different 720's. Tenor 19¾ cwt.

EDWIN BROMLEY	*Treble*	REGINALD E. LAMBERT	4
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, JUN.	2	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, SEN.	5
ALAN BROMLEY	3	ROBERT T. LAMBERT	*Tenor*

Conducted by ROBERT T. LAMBERT.
Rung to celebrate the wedding of Miss Mercy Caroline Lambert, eldest daughter of the ringer of the 5th, to Mr. Frederick George Apps, which took place at the above church the same day.

TUSHINGHAM, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CHAD,
A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 11¾ cwt.

HAROLD W. CLDITON	*Treble*	ALBERT CRAWLEY	4
FREDERICK W. CHAPMAN	2	JOHN BRASSINGTON	5
ALBERT J. BRIGGS	3	THOMAS P. BARLOW	*Tenor*

Conducted by JOHN BRASSINGTON.
First peal of Doubles on the bells.

MARSTON BIGGOTT, SOMERSET.
THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.
On Sunday, December 14, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,
A PEAL OF STEDMAN DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;
Forty-two six-scores, with ten different callings. Tenor 8 cwt.

MISS MARCIA WHITE	*Treble*	WILLIAM C. SHUTE	4
JIM RALPH	2	EDWARD G. L. COWARD	5
JOHN METCALFE	3	*JOHN INGS	*Tenor*

Conducted by E. G. L. COWARD.
* First peal. First peal of Stedman Doubles by all the band. Fortieth peal that Messrs. Shute and Coward have rung together. John Metcalfe was elected a member of the association before starting. First peal in the method as conductor.

WELTON.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.
(NORTHERN BRANCH.)
On Monday, December 15, 1930, in Three Hours,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,
A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Tenor 12 cwt.

CHARLES V. CADE	*Treble*	RUPERT RICHARDSON	4
GEORGE W. CADE	2	JOHN A. FREEMAN	5
MRS. RUPERT RICHARDSON	3	GEORGE W. CREASBY	*Tenor*

Composed by Rev. E. BANKES JAMES. Conducted by G. W. CREASBY
First peal of Cambridge Minor by all the band. First Surprise peal on the bells. Ringers of 3, 4 and 5 have now rung peals of Cambridge Surprise, Maximus, Royal, Major and Minor on 'inside' bells.

WINDERMERE.—On Monday, December 8th, at the Parish Church, in 50 mins., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes): J. Tebay 1, F. Wilson 2, T. Newton 3, E. Jennings 4, T. Jefferson 5, F. Hewertson 6, W. Robinson (conductor) 7, W. Walker 8. First quarter-peal of Stedman on the bells and by the ringers of the 1st, 2nd, 5th and tenor, who belong to the local band.

BLACKMOOR, HAMPSHIRE.

THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 15, 1930, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings, 42 six-scores. Tenor 9¾ cwt.

*GEORGE NORRIS	*Treble*	*ARTHUR NORRIS	4
VICTOR SHADBOLT	2	WILLIAM READ	5
*GEOFFREY AMEY	3	*WILLIAM AMEY	*Tenor*

Conducted by WILLIAM READ.

* First peal. First peal as conductor and first attempt. First in the method on the bells. First peal on the bells by a local band.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, LINCS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 6, 1930, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. BRAY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S SIX-PART. Tenor size 15 in C.

MRS. J. BRAY	1-2	JACK BRAY	5-6
*FRANK LORD	3-4	*BERNARD GILLATT, JUN. ...	7-8

Conducted by JACK BRAY.

* First peal in the method 'in hand.' First peal in the method 'in hand' as conductor.

BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, December 12, 1930, in Two Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF THE CHURCH OF ST. PHILIP,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION.

*HERBERT KNIGHT	1-2	†EDWARD J. BROWN	5-6
JOHN THOMAS	3-4	JOHN A. BURFORD	7-8

Conducted by J. THOMAS.

* First peal of Triples 'in hand.' † First peal 'in hand.'

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE

THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, December 13, 1930, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT 34, BELL ROAD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being thirty extents of Grandsire and twelve extents of Plain Bob.

ALBERT D. COLLINS	1-2	JOSEPH FLAVELL	4
HAROLD L. FLAVELL	3	HARRY BOSWELL	5-6

Conducted by HAROLD L. FLAVELL.

Umpire: MR. ABRAHAM GREENFIELD.

This is the first peal in two methods by all the band, who wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Greenfield for their hospitality after the peal.

SURFLEET, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 14, 1930, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT GLYN GARTH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

MRS. R. RICHARDSON	1-2	CHARLES MCGUINESS ...	5-6
RUPERT RICHARDSON	3-4	*MRS. C. MCGUINESS... ...	7-8

Composed by F. A. HOLDEN. Conducted by RUPERT RICHARDSON

Witnesses: MR. and MRS. JOHN WALDEN.

* First peal of Major, first 'in hand,' and first attempt.

RAYNE, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 14, 1930, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. H. RIDGWELL,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

BASIL REDGWELL	1-2	WILLIAM KEEBLE	5-6
LEWIS W. WIFFEN	3-4	ALBERT WIFFEN	7-8

Composed by HENRY TURNER. Conducted by WILLIAM KEEBLE.

RAUNDS, NORTHANTS.—On Monday, December 15th, at St. Peter's Church, 720 Oxford Bob: W. Nunley (first 720) 1, S. Robinson 2, W. J. Whitmore (conductor) 3, E. E. Whitmore 4, W. Copperwheat 5, C. M. Whitney 6. First 720 in the method by S. Robinson and W. Copperwheat.

HALESWORTH BELLS RESTORED.

OCTAVE NOW HUNG ON ONE LEVEL.

The bells at Halesworth Parish Church, Suffolk, have been restored by Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich, who has installed a new massive cast-iron frame, carried on heavy steel girders, and rehung the bells in special steel headstocks, so that the old cannons have been retained. The bells are now all on one level and have been provided with new fittings. The clock is being rebuilt, and Westminster chimes added. The bells were rededicated on Sunday week by the Archdeacon of Suffolk in the presence of a representative and crowded congregation of townspeople.

The service opened with the hymn, 'We love the place, O God,' sung as a processional. Prayers were taken by the Rector, and the lesson read by the Archdeacon.

During the service Archdeacon Darling, accompanied by the Rector and the churchwardens, Mr. C. J. Goodwin and Admiral E. F. Breun, C.B., proceeded to the belfry, where he received the bell ropes from Mr. Goodwin. Having dedicated the bells, the Archdeacon handed the ropes to the Rector. A touch was then rung, the ringers being: A. H. Took 1, L. Hammond 2, A. Lee 3, W. Pearce 4, C. Moss 5, J. Howard 6, F. C. Lambert (conductor) 7, J. Jolly 8.

After the hymn, 'All people that on earth do dwell' had been heartily sung, an interesting address was delivered by Archdeacon Darling, who said it had given him great pleasure to accept the invitation to dedicate the bells. The bell founder and architect had contributed their skill, so that the bells were placed satisfactorily. Unfortunately this was not always so, and in many churches the want of care and foresight, which they had exhibited at Halesworth, had meant the loss of the bells and damage to the church. His own church (Eyke), he said, was a striking example of how bells had been badly used. At one time in the history of the church it was decided that two of the bells were not needed, and the churchwardens got rid of them to buy lead for the roof, and later the lead was sold to have slates on the roof. Another bell was wanted, and there was no room for it on the frame. Ignorant of the stress and strain of the bells on the tower, often made of flint rubble, the frame was cut away and the local carpenter or blacksmith wedged the bell frame securely up against the wall, with the result that the tower cracked. Bells had their message in times of joy and sorrow, and in the past had been much used for parochial purposes. One of the Halesworth bells, added the preacher, had an inscription written on it, which was very rare in this part of the country, many such bells having been lost during the time of the Reformation.

At the conclusion of the address, the Rector announced that the expense of rehanging the bells, etc., would be about £340, of which they had £313 in hand. During the singing of the hymn, 'When morning gilds the skies,' a collection was taken for the fund amounting to £5 2s. 1d.

After the service a well-struck touch of Bob Major was rung by the local band with Messrs. H. Barrell (Bungay) and G. Howlett (St. Margaret's). Ringers were also present from Chediston, Wissett, Huntingfield, Bramfield (Mr. J. Punchard, aged 82), Peasenhall, Badingham, Laxfield, Redenhall, Southwold, Aldeburgh and Ipswich. They took part in touches in various methods, and expressed their great satisfaction at the improved tone and 'go' of the bells. The tenor is 18 cwt. 26lb.

Halesworth Church tower was completed about 1420. Between 1440 and 1480 a peal of five bells from the foundry at Bury St. Edmunds was hung, and two still remain—the treble (now the fourth), 'Sancte-Thoma-ora-pro-nobis,' and the old third, now the sixth, with the legend, 'Johannes-Christi-care-dignare-pro-nobis-orara.' Both bear the arms of the old abbey of Bury—a crown with crossed arrows—with the initial H.S.

In the certificate of 1553 'five bells and a sanctus' were mentioned, and in 1611 the old fourth (now the seventh), which had become cracked, was recast by one William Brend, a Norwich bell founder, and on it is the inscription, 'Anno Domini 1611. A.B.—W.' The original bell frame was at this time taken out of the tower, having become much worn and decayed, and the Brends supplied the frame which did duty for the five largest and oldest bells up to the present restoration. 'In 1624 the tenor bell was recast by William and John Brend, and bears the words 'new repaired by Roger Woods, Erasmus Moss, Churchwardens, Jeffery Barett gave me. W.I.B. 1624.' This Jeffery Barett was born about 1365, being described in a will of 1460 as an old man.

In 1627 the present fifth bell, formerly the second, was also recast by the same man, and its inscription reads: 'Richard Welton and Daniel Barne, churchwardens, Iulii (July), 1627. W.I.B.' In 1759 another bell was added, and in 1770 two trebles to complete the octave. The sanctus bell was recast in 1826, and is now used for the clock.

The ringers of these bells were first mentioned in the will of Wm. Walpole, of Hallisworth, July 19th, 1539, in which he left 26s. 8d. for the priest, clerks, and ringers for their 'bred and drink.' This money, equivalent to £26 now, was invested in a piece of land, and is now included with other charities, but the ringers still receive five guineas a year for ringing on Christmas Day and the Sovereign's birthday. Their records concerning the ringing in the tower date back to 1771.

QUEER STORY 'TOLLED' BY BELLS.

Much has been written of the story of the bells—that of Dick Whittington, for instance—but few have been more queer than that 'tolled' by the bells of St. Osmund's Church, London Road, Derby, on Sunday week.

Ding, dong; ding, dong, they rang. There was nothing unusual about that. But when the inhabitants of the area realised that the hour was 8.30 p.m., they sensed a mystery.

Ding, dong; ding, dong, the bells rang. That was all they could say, but, did the passers-by but know, what a lot they were saying.

Here is the story of the bells of St. Osmund.

After evensong, the organist and some of the congregation remained, unknown to the verger, to practice carols in the organ loft. When the practice was over they found to their amazement that they had been locked in, and the only way of communicating with the outside world was by means of the bells. A parishioner let them out when he went to investigate.

RUTLAND SURPRISE.

To the Editor.

Sir,—The compositions mentioned by my old friend, Mr. H. W. Wilde, will produce the number of changes all right, but is this wholesale bobbing by Befores in Rutland, or any other method, quite the thing?

The result is that five of the seven working bells are ringing the method, the tenors are ringing something different from the other five, and something different from each other.

This can easily be demonstrated by comparing the diagram of the plain course with diagrams of separate courses in which the tenors are always bobbed Before.

Symmetry should be the great thing in change ringing, but there is not much symmetry in the diagram of Bobbed Before Courses.—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE BAKER.

BREWOOD, STAFFORD.—On Thursday, December 11th, at the Parish Church, for Confirmation service by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes) in 47 mins.: G. F. Newman (first quarter peal) 1, A. G. Hunt 2, T. Perry 3, E. F. Mitchell 4, A. E. Winterton 5, Percy Bill 6, J. Perry (conductor) 7, J. Walford 8. After service a 504 of Stedman Triples was rung.

ILFRACOMBE BELLS

FROM A ROVING CORRESPONDENT.

Having been away from Ilfracombe for a few years, and, of course, not having heard its bells for the same period, I recently had a pleasant surprise. As all ringers who visit this 'Queen of watering places' know, Ilfracombe Parish Church is one of the very few places in North Devon where the mysteries of our craft are practised, and, as can only be expected, visiting ringers were attracted to it; not so many of them, however, would climb up to the church to have a ring, as the bells were such a poor lot.

The church, as many know, has a remarkable situation, occupying an eminent position overlooking the sea on one hand, and the town on the other, with the war memorial, in nicely laid-out grounds, at the foot, and ringers, myself included, have often wished to hear a really fine peal sound out from a tower with such a commanding position. That wish has now materialised.

It was during a recent hasty and brief visit, quite oblivious of the fact that any work to the bells was contemplated, that I had the pleasant surprise beforementioned.

When one has been used to, and expects, a few old 'pots and pans' to work in conjunction with clocks, it comes as a bit of a surprise to hear clock chimes that possess a richness and dignity all of their own—it made one's pulse beat to think that they might be clock bells only. Happily, I discovered this was not so, but that the bells of the Parish Church had been cast into a fiery furnace, and out of the Loughborough mire and clay had they been builded up. One often wonders what are the mysteries—if there are any—about the Loughborough moulds— Taylors only specify, like other bell founders, that the bells will be cast of bell metal, yet the timbre has an outstanding characteristic of its own.

It was with regret that I had to forego a visit to the tower while ringing was in progress, but what enjoyment I lost in the handling of a rope I gained by being able to listen to the ringing; they are truly a magnificent peal, and although the tenor weighs only 12 cwt., an impression of greater weight is created. They are truly a grand exchange for the previous set, which had done good service, and future visiting ringers should not fail to have a pull there.

From enquiries I found that all the old bells had recently been recast and hung in a new cast-iron frame. All the latest gadgets have been supplied, nothing has been left undone to make the job a success, and the Church Council and Taylors are to be congratulated on the result, which only shows what co-operation can do.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED.

PICTURES OF CHURCH TOWERS FOR PUBLICATION IN 'THE RINGING WORLD.'

The Editor of 'The Ringing World' will be glad to receive photographs of churches, with a view to their future publication when suitable occasion arises.

The photographs should be accompanied by brief particulars of the bells, with their inscriptions and dates if possible, and any other interesting information about them.

Pictures should, for preference, be photographic postcards, and, where there is any choice, the tower should be a feature.

Obviously, of course, all the pictures cannot be published at once, the object of getting a collection being that the photographs may be ready at hand for use when fitting opportunity occurs.

Will each tower secretary be good enough to send a photograph of his own tower? It should be forwarded in an envelope for protection, and addressed to The Editor, 'The Ringing World,' Woking, Surrey, and the sender should enclose his name and address.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The Ely Association meeting at Cambridge on January 3rd ought to prove a great attraction, for there will be a rare opportunity of ringing at St. Benedict's Church, where Stedman rang.

Ringers generally will regret to hear of the illness of Mr. W. T. Cockerill, the hon. secretary of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and will wish him a speedy recovery.

Boxing Day has seen the performance of many memorable peals, and it is 20 years ago to-day that a band at Clent rang the 9,728 Superlative Surprise Major, which made a new record in the method, the peal of 9,312 at Crawley, which was the longest up to that time, having been rung exactly 16 years before.

On Boxing Day, 1901, the 11,111 Stedman Cinques was rung by St. Martin's Guild at Birmingham, and on December 26th, 1831, a peal of 15,168 Kent Treble Bob was rung at Elland, Yorks.

The Cambridge Surprise Royal record of 10,440 was rung at Walthamstow on December 27th, 1923; and on the same day in 1904 the Midland Counties Association scored the 17,104 Double Norwich Major at South Wigston.

On the last day in the year 1888, a peal of 15,041 Stedman Caters was rung at Appleton, the fourth peal of over 12,000 changes of Caters rung in that year. Two of the others were at the same tower, and the remaining one at Cheltenham.

In many places peal ringing in too little appreciated by the inhabitants. Not so at Uppingham, where a peal is reported this week. In this case the ringers were the heroes of the day, and remarks of approval were heard on all sides, and a veritable feast was prepared for the hungry—and thirsty—performers.

Irthlingborough is coming into its own again. There was a time when this tower figured largely in the ringing performances in higher methods, and then came a period of more or less quiescence. Mr. Anderson Y. Tyler has now got round him another excellent local band which this year has rung London, Bristol, Cambridge and Superlative Surprise Major, all of them conducted by Mr. Tyler.

Recently some Americans raised money for the placing of a window in Purleigh Church, Essex, in memory of its seventeen-century Vicar, the Rev. Laurence Washington, an ancestor of George Washington. As a token of gratitude, the present Vicar gave the Bishop of Oregon a worn-out clapper taken from one of the church bells, which has been passed on to Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

PEACE COMMISSIONER.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—With reference to the peal of Grandsire Caters, published in your issue of December 12th, I desire to point out that the ringer of the 9th (the president of the undermentioned society) is not a P.C. in the sense that you have described him. The letters P.C. after his name, as it was sent in for publication, does not imply that he is a police constable, but a peace commissioner for the City of Dublin, a rank similar to that of a justice of the peace in England, and as it existed prior to the establishment of the Irish Free State.—Yours faithfully,

W. H. WILSON,
Hon. Secretary,
St. Patrick's Cathedral Society.

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

BELLS THAT RANG FOR AGINCOURT.

The parish church of St. Andrew, Holborn, possesses one of the finest rings of eight bells in London. The following interesting article concerning them is contributed by the Rector, the Rev. Edwin Bedford :—

When the old church of St. Andrew, Holborn, was pulled down at the end of the 17th century, owing to the ruinous state into which it had fallen, Sir Christopher Wren, the famous architect, was chosen to erect a new

ST. ANDREW'S, HOLBORN.

[Photo by F. E. Dawe.

church. He kept the old brick tower standing, however, and raised it to the height of 110 feet, casing it with stone. This tower is not considered one of his best efforts architecturally, but it contains one of the finest rings of eight bells in London.

And the bells are old, for when they have been recast from time to time the old bell metal has been used again, so that it is boasted that the bells of St. Andrew's rang out to celebrate the victory of Agincourt !

There are many interesting notes on the old bells contained in Churchwarden Bentley's book—a valued possession of the church since the 17th century. Here are a few of them :—

'The steeple of the Church that now is, was begun to be builded, and the old steeple pulled down in the 25 year of King Henry VI., and made up so that the bells were first hung up therein, and rung in the 35 yr of the said King.'

Item. 'The Churchwardens made or new cast a bell in the 21 year of King Henry VII., whereunto many well disposed parishioners and other people gave much money.'

Item. 'The bells were accustomed to be rung always at the election of a pope—as in all London over—(how much rather ought they to be rung and rung again for our Christian prince), and for these peals the Churchwardens were allowed in their accounts.'

Memo. 'The little bell set up and the steeple covered and leaded in the 18 year of King Henry VIII. to the charge of the parish of £7 or £8.'

Memo. 'A great gathering towards the new bells in the 21 year of King Henry VIII. Thomas Lawrence, of London, bell founder.

'The 1 bell named Spes, 807lb.
'The 2 bell named Katherina, 1,110lb.
'The 3 bell named Maria, 1,414lb.
'The 4 bell named Andrew, 1,825lb.
'Total 52 cwt.'

Memo. 'That Thomas Neale and William Preston, Churchwardens, made account of 3s. and 4d. paid by them of a penalty or fine unto the King's servants for not ringing the bells when the King's Majesty came by.'

'The obit of the Pope was solemnly kept and with great ringing of bells.' 4 Mary, 1557.

Memo. 'A broken bell—to wit the 3 in number—new cast by Hugh Walker.' 8 Eliz.

Item. 'Another bell new cast by Hugh Wadelow and John Bromley, Churchwardens, at the parish Charges.' 9 Eliz.

The present peal dates from 1731 and the bells bear the name of Phelps—now Messrs. Mears and Stainbank—founders, as also the names of the then Rector, Rev. Geoffrey Barton, and the churchwardens. In 1921 two of the bells were recast by Mears and Stainbank, and the peal rehung—iron girders being substituted for the old wooden beams.

The tenor weighs 28 cwt., and the whole peal 5 tons 12 cwt.

In the tower, besides, there still hangs the old 'Sanctus' bell of pre-Reformation times, cast by Robert Mott. This bell is still rung for week-day services to call the people to prayer.

St. Andrew's has a Guild of Change Ringers, three of whom have held the proud position of Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Each Sunday morning and evening the bells are rung, as on special occasions as well, and the practice night is one Thursday each month. The Rector is president of the Guild, Mr. H. Alford Master, Mr. J. Hawkins (steeplekeeper) is secretary, and Mr. W. J. Norton treasurer for the current year.

In May, 1928, Mr. Joseph Rayner—well known in the ringing world—died at the ripe age of 92 years. He had been a ringer at St. Andrew's for 45 years and steeplekeeper for 20, and never did the belfry have a more careful custodian, or church bells a more devoted lover.

A GREAT BADDOW DEDICATION.

A lychgate of English oak, roofed with oak shingles, has been erected at the southern entrance to the churchyard at Great Baddow. The lychgate was provided from a bequest by the late Miss Mary Louisa Crabb, in memory of her family, which had been for many years associated with the parish. It was dedicated by the Bishop of Barking, who referred to the fact that he came there six years ago to dedicate the peal of bells which had been recast and rehung. Such things, he said, were symbolical. The bells rang out the invitation to worship, and the gate was symbolical of an entrance through Christ to God. It was also symbolical of a halting place for them to ponder about higher and spiritual things.

In connection with the dedication, a peal was rung on the church bells conducted by Dr. Spencer Phillips, who is churchwarden.

VARIATION AND TRANSPOSITION.

THE PROBLEM EXPLORED.

By J. Armiger Trollope.

One of the questions which most interest ringers is that of the authorship and originality of methods and peal compositions. Whenever you get one or two of them talking together it is as likely as not to crop up. A peal has been published as composed and conducted by so and so, and people knowing what has been done in the particular method say that it cannot possibly be original. Conscientious secretaries are ofttimes troubled in their minds whether they ought to let certain names stand in their reports as the composers of certain peals, and I am frequently asked my opinion on the originality of compositions. Some little while ago the captain of one of the foremost bands in the country wrote me a long and interesting letter on the subject. He suggested that it was a matter which the Central Council should take up, that some standard of originality should be agreed on, and that a register of compositions made available so that anyone could find out whether a peal was an old one or not. He invited my co-operation, but the subject bristles with difficulties, and though I gave the matter some thought I did nothing. Now, an influential member of the Exercise has asked me to deal with the variation and transposition of peals and methods, and I am going to do so as a necessary part of the other and larger subject.

In the first place we must recognise that the ideas which ringers hold about authorship and originality have been gradually evolved during three centuries, and they have changed from time to time, and are still changing. We shall make a great mistake if we imagine that the various standards of ringing are fixed and unalterable. It is a healthy sign, a sign of life and progress, that what men think in one generation is not quite the same as what they think in the next. Take the form of ringing as an example: its division into lead and course and peal or touch. After more than a hundred years' development ringers adopted the standard that you must have a method which consists of a course which has as many leads, all alike, as there are working bells; and that one kind of bob only is allowable. Later on they agreed that the lead must have certain definite qualities. By this means they arrived at the style of method which is now universally practised. Here, at least, you might think there is finality. But no; method splicing has introduced quite new ideas, and the tendency seems to be that the rigidity of the old standard will be relaxed. It is not that the old has been found to be wrong, but that new development has caused new ideas. So with the standards of authorship. Five and twenty years ago men held opinions about authorship and originality of composition which they thought final. To-day those views are changing, and five and twenty years hence quite different views may prevail.

In the early days there was little question of authorship. It was a recognised fact that certain men had introduced certain peals and methods, but neither in Stedman's two books, nor in the various 'Campanalogias' nor in 'The Clavis' are the names of any composers given. By the accident that Stedman's name became the title of his Principle, his authorship of it has been recognised. Tradition tells us that Porter composed Double Norwich, but for the most part we do not know, or can only guess, to whom the Exercise owes the standard methods—Treble Bob, Cambridge, London and the rest. It is only by tradition that we know that one of the three authors of 'The Clavis' was the composer of the peals given in it. The book says nothing, except that Superlative was 'our own'; and it is quite likely that some, at least, of the peals were ones which were familiar to John Reeves, but were not actually his own composition. Indeed, if I remember aright, there is one peal always reckoned as Reeves', which in the Cumberland peal book is said to be the composition of George Gross.

It is the same with peal boards. As a rule the early ones say nothing about the composer. Where they do it is usually in such exceptional cases as the first peal of Grandsire or Stedman. The earliest peal board of all is an example, and its wording is interesting and instructive. It is the record of the peal of Grandsire Bob Triples rung at Norwich in 1715. It says: 'It has been Studied by the most Acute Ringers in the land, but to no Effect ever since Triple Changes were first Rung; but now at last its found out to the truth by John Garthon, one of the said Society and Rung by him and the rest of the Society.' We can paraphrase it something like this. For a long time ringers knew that there was a peal of Grandsire Bob Triples to be had if only one knew how to apply Bob Minor to seven bells, and John Garthon was the first man who had the knowledge and ability to do so. It is quite a different claim to the modern one of authorship and ownership. The wording of the boards recording the first peals of Grandsire and Stedman Triples are similar. But where boards record peals of Major or Caters or Royal, no composers' names are given. Not till Shipway's book, which appeared about 1820, do we find it the rule to put a man's name as composer to every composition.

But, of course, the modern ideas about authorship had been growing up in the Exercise from very early times. Annable, in his notebook, which was evidently a draft of the book he intended to publish, is careful to put an initial letter under the leads of the six-bell methods he wrote out to show the composers, or perhaps the persons from whom he got them—A for Anable, S for Stedman, D for Doleman, and L for Laughton. Whether he would have put their names in the printed book or not, we cannot tell, for unfortunately it was never completed and never published. But by Shipway's time, when composers had multiplied and had turned their attention to many methods, it was generally recognised that, as nothing could exist without a cause, so there could be no composition without a composer. And, since composition was a vital and high branch of ringing, it was only due to the composer to recognise his work by putting his name to his compositions.

During the nineteenth century these ideas became more definite and reached the opinions generally held five and twenty years ago. In the eighties and nineties there were a number of composers of outstanding ability and industry who produced an immense number of peals. Three of the most typical and leading of these men were Henry Dains, Nathan Pitstow and Charles Henry Hattersley. The Exercise benefited enormously by their work, and their opinions are worthy of respect. Broadly, their view was as follows, and it was shared generally by ringers. They accepted one or two rules of variation. Beyond that, each method or peal was a distinct composition and belonged to the person who first produced it. As a rule it was necessary to publish a peal to prove priority of composition, but other ways, such as ringing it, might be accepted. Once you had made out your title to your peal it was your property. Another man might compose it quite independently. That did not affect the case. Priority of composition was everything. It was no answer for the man to say that he did not and could not know that there had been previous publication. He should have known. It was the business of anyone who wished to enter the ranks of the composers to make himself acquainted with what had already been done. When, as must inevitably happen, someone did by mistake publish a peal that had already been published, it was his duty to apologise and withdraw as soon as the fact was brought to his notice. No one ought to use another's peal without acknowledgment, and it was even held that if a man spoke disparagingly of a composition or a method he was insulting its composer. People thought that they had real rights and property in their peals, and they were ready to fight for them, and did fight for them, as you can see if you turn to the correspondence columns of the ringing papers.

Now, apart from extravagances, if you accept two ideas, these views were quite natural and logical. The two ideas are, first, that each composition, with its definite variations, is a distinct thing: and the other that the composer creates something which did not exist before. Ringers had got to look on compositions in ringing as if they were like literary or musical compositions. Everybody recognises, and the law recognises, property in musical compositions. Why not in peal compositions? It takes, or rather it once took, as much ability and knowledge to compose a peal of Bob Major as a hymn tune. If there is copyright in one, why not in the other? True, the arrangement of bobs in some peals is very simple; but so is the arrangement of notes in an Anglican Church chant. And they are copyright. I think that when Holt issued his broadsheet of peals of Grandsire Triples he had produced something which did not exist before, and, speaking diffidently, as becomes a layman, I think the law would have upheld his property and copyright in his peals.

But it soon became clear that there are difficulties. Holt had to use an infinity of labour and trouble to get his peals, but once they were published it was no great difficulty for other people to get other peals, similar in many ways, but not quite the same. Whose property are they? John Reeves, as we know, found that by bobbing the Q set with the second before he could get an improvement. That was called 'Reeves' Variation,' giving the credit partly to the original author and partly to the author of the variation. Other men were not so particular. In the belfry of Lambeth Parish Church there is a board recording a peal of Grandsire Triples; when and by whom rung I do not remember. It does not matter. But it is said to have been composed by such a one, and to have contained 103 bobs and 2 singles. When we consider all the circumstances, it does not require much imagination to guess that what was rung was half of Holt's Ten Part and half of Reeves' Variation. We may think that it was not quite honest of the man to call it his composition, but I do not know that we ought to. People knew very little about variation in those days, and they may quite well have thought that this really was a new peal.

Shipway does not hesitate to put his name to a peal which is only Reeves' Variation begun at another lead-end. This sort of thing was done continually, and the names of the people who did it forbid us to think that it was anything which was not considered perfectly right and allowable. There are many such instances in Sottanstall's book, and in 'Treble Bob' Jasper Snowdon gives some cases. The three Surprise peals rung at Bennington—Cambridge in 1873, Superlative in 1855, and London in 1870—were all by J. Miller, and all were variations of older compositions. It is pretty sure that Miller knew of the older peals and used them to produce his; but did he know that his variations would automatically produce true peals, as we know it now? I am not so sure. Perhaps he thought he was doing what would be considered quite legitimate now—taking the idea of an old peal and using it to produce another peal with different course-ends and different qualities.

The publication by Jasper Snowdon of 'A Treatise on Treble Bob' in 1878 set up a new standard. He explained that any composition may be varied by beginning it at any lead-end, and that every composition may be reversed and still be true. This was the standard which I said was generally accepted five and twenty years ago. Each composition was regarded as a distinct thing, but it could be varied in these two ways, and the original and the variations alike were the property of the first composer. But now a new factor came into the case. The older composers, all except Fabian Stedman, worked by experimental methods, and looked on their peals as artistic productions. In the late eighties and nineties a new style of composition came in which regarded a peal as the result of mathematical law. C. D. P. Davies and W. H. Thompson were the pioneers of this class of composition, and they were followed by A. P. Heywood, H. Earle Bulwer and others. For the most part they held the current ideas of ownership, and were equally ready as the others to fight for their rights. But it makes all the difference in the long run if you consider a composition as the solution of a mathematical problem instead of an artistic creation. And especially if you teach other people to look at it so.

The publication of the Central Council Collections may fairly be said to have given the death blow to the old ideas of authorship and ownership so far as methods are concerned. The six-bell methods were worked out neither as distinct compositions nor as the solution of mathematical problems. A simple formula was set up which gave every combination of all possible places in a lead. From this, by a purely mechanical process, the different leads were written out. Those which did not produce the proper lead-ends were rejected and the remainder were the full total of Minor methods. In the same way all the Plain Triples and Plain Major methods were produced. The latter number over eight hundred, and of course, they could not all be printed. In making the necessary selection a new plan was adopted. There is a short chapter in the book which begins thus: 'Methods are not isolated independent things. They are related to each other in a number of ways.' It is then pointed out that there is a small number of simple, or 'key,' methods, and that all the others follow from these by means either of combining them together or by varying them according to definite and ascertainable rules. Then follow the simply constructed methods in the order they appear one from another. Anyone who studies this part of the 'Collection of Plain Major Methods' will see that there is no room for individual authorship and ownership. And, indeed, anything of the sort was ignored in making the collection. Where a method had been rung or was known to the Exercise from its having been printed in one of the standard books, its name was carefully given. Many of the others no doubt had been published and possibly named. As they had never been rung, and, to all intents and purposes, were forgotten, it was not considered necessary to search for them, since every possible method was in the hands of the compilers.

What is true of the Plain Methods is equally true of Treble Bob Methods. But with this proviso. The number of methods on the Treble Bob Principle is so immense, so unbelievably immense, that no one will ever be able to claim that he has written them all out, or even an appreciable part of them. But the laws of method construction are now fairly well known. We can see pretty well what is possible. We can see how methods are related to each other. We can by means of short formulæ set down hundreds of methods in any one of which the lead-ends, or for that matter any particular row, can readily be ascertained. During these last thirty years, working on the Methods Committee's investigations, I must have written out many thousands of fresh methods. How many I have worked out in formulæ I should not care to say, even if I knew. But I have never claimed the authorship or ownership of a single one, and most of the new methods which appear from time to time are old friends. I have before me a manuscript book, the result of some investigations I made into Surprise Methods. It measures about eleven inches by eight and four inches thick. It consists of sheets of thin paper, and has nothing but half-leads of Surprise Methods, each one of which stands for two methods, sometimes for four, sometimes for more. How many there are all together I do not know. It is too long a job to count them. These represent only a small proportion of those that can be mechanically written out without any experimenting and with the certainty of arriving at a

(Continued in next column.)

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

JOINT MEETING IN THE SOUTHERN DIVISION.

The quarterly meeting of the Southern Division was held at Rawmarsh on Saturday, December 13th, in conjunction with the other societies in the Southern area of the county, and the result was a successful gathering, upwards of thirty members attending from Ecclesfield, Doncaster, Arksey, Conisborough, Wath, Darfield, Treeton, Handsworth, Rotherham, Felkirk, Sheffield Cathedral, Adwick-le-Street, Ashton-under-Lyne and the local company. Previous to service, good practice was obtained in Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Double Norwich Major and Cambridge Surprise Major. At the usual service the Rev. Canon Scovell officiated, and his address, delivered in his own bright and happy style, was much appreciated. Tea was served in the Parish Room, and the ringers were honoured by the presence of the Rector and his curate and both of the churchwardens.

Previous to the business meeting, the company were entertained to a course of Bob Royal on handbells by the same band that recently rang a peal of Royal, the first in the Southern area for a number of years. It is hoped, now they have started, that they will continue with the good work. The band was Mrs. C. Ryder 1-2, S. Briggs 3-4, A. Nash 5-6, C. Ryder 7-8, and A. Firth 9-10.

The Rector presided at the business meeting, and Mr. G. Lewis, vice-president of the Southern Division, gave a very hearty welcome to the kindred societies, and thanked them for their attendance.

Mr. J. R. Mattock, of Wath, was elected to membership of the Yorkshire Association, and an invitation was given by Handsworth to hold the annual meeting at that place. This was accepted, the date being fixed for March 21st, 1931.

A suggestion was made that the local societies should drop their usual monthly meetings in the month when quarterly meetings of the association are due to be held and combine in a joint meeting. This met with a favourable reception, and the secretaries of the societies concerned promised to bring the matter before their members and do all in their power to give effect to the proposal.

The next annual meeting of the Yorkshire Association is to be held in the Southern area at Wakefield, on Saturday, January 31st, and the secretary asked all who possibly could to attend and help to make it a success.

Mr. Thorpe, hon. secretary of the Sheffield and District Society, and Mr. Gledstone, hon. secretary of the Doncaster and District Society, heartily thanked the Southern Division for the invitation to the meeting, and hoped that the happy relations and good feeling which existed between the local societies and the Yorkshire Association would continue, and, if possible, grow stronger from year to year.

Votes of thanks to Vicar and churchwardens, to the ladies for the excellent tea, and to the local company, were carried and replied to by the Rector and his warden (Mr. Roberts).

(Continued from previous column.)

given lead-end, if only one knows the laws of method construction. When one reaches this stage, what, do you think, is left of any ideas of a method as a distinct composition or of authorship and ownership?

It is only fair at this point to say that when you have more or less blindly written out half a lead of a method, you have not done very much. Before it is any good to the Exercise there are many other things to do. You must know something about necessary qualities, you must work out proof scales and peals. This wholesale manufactory does not supersede the kind of work that Arthur Craven did, or that Messrs. Bankes James and Lindoff and others are doing. But it does throw a flood of light on questions of authorship and ownership which are sometimes hotly debated. When methods are common property, anyone has the right to take one and by working out proof scale and peal composition make it possible for a band to ring it. And if someone says, 'That is only a variation of my method,' the obvious retort is, 'And so is yours of someone else's.' There is no method which will stand any test of originality.

And now the question arises, Can originality be maintained in the case of peal compositions, or must they, too, be considered as, so to speak, common property? Personally, I think that the time will come when the idea that every composition has a composer who has the right to put his name to it will have to be dropped. When we issued the 'Collection of Major Methods' we had to supply peals for those methods where they were not already available. I was strongly in favour of printing them without any composers' names, as was the case with the methods. Probably we should have done so but for the fact that an outside composer had been invited to supply many of these compositions, and it would not have been fair to him to have broken the established custom. I will come to those peals I myself supplied later and show how much originality there was in them. Perhaps I may say, now, that by no accepted rule could I have put other men's names to them. Where that was possible, even by stretching the rule, it was done.

Now, after this long preamble, I come to what I am asked to do. I want to cover the ground as simply and as thoroughly as I can, and, of course, I shall have to say a good deal of what is already generally known. I am not writing for experts, but for the ordinary intelligent member of the Exercise who takes an interest in the scientific as well as in the art side of ringing.

(To be continued.)

THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT.

BY O.P.Q.

The spirit of Christmas is abroad, or it is as I write these lines. With a cold in my head and no fire in the grate, the coalman having forgotten to call because I forgot to pay his last bill, I feel I have thoroughly gripped the mood for penning a few cheerful notes for readers of 'The Ringing World.' This is the season of peace and goodwill—you may have heard that sentiment before, and I certainly do not claim it as an original composition. For a few days, at any rate, we shall put aside our petty squabbles. Over the nuts and wine none of us will care two taps on a cracked bell whether the Painswick peal was a twelve-bell record or a peal of Doubles; whether or not Mr. James George had rung a peal after he had stood for 11 hrs. 36 mins. on the tenor box in the Gloucestershire tower; whether or not a certain London society is the oldest and the leading ringing organisation in the country, or any of those many other little things which seem to worry many of my ringing friends. Let us be merry. I am only concerned about one thing at the moment and that is whether my Christmas dinner will be a record turkey, or the sausage meat I am going to buy for the stuffing—if I get it. As one tramp said to the other, 'If we had only got some ham we could have ham and eggs, if we had only got the eggs.'

* * *

But never mind, we ringers are cheerful folk—sometimes. See how readily we get up early on Christmas morning and disturb the peace and rest of everybody in the parish at some unearthly hour in the interests of 'peace and goodwill'! It is really great fun—for us—to awaken Christians and heathen alike at 5 a.m., to remind them of this peace and goodwill. It may be a pretty custom, but it is also a pretty fiction. There is not much peace for anyone within earshot when the bells begin, and it brings little of goodwill to the ringers—at least, not in the street where I happen to live. After Christmas it usually takes me about twelve months to regain the goodwill, which I lose by helping to ring at five o'clock on Christmas morning, and I ask myself every year, 'Is it worth getting out of a warm bed at that hour to go out into the cold, unaired streets and into a draughty belfry on purpose to upset all my neighbours on such a day as Christmas?' I am quite sure it isn't, after I have done it, and yet every year, like many of you, gentle readers, I do the same thing. Yes, we are cheerful folk, obedient to custom and command. We and our forefathers have done this ever since Queen Elizabeth (or was it Gladstone?) said, 'Let the bells ring out at five o'clock on Christmas morning.' And I suppose we shall always do it, for, after all, it is only the prelude of what we try to give the public on Boxing Day.

Yes, Boxing Day; that is the day for ringers; that is the time when we really do let ourselves go with the bells, and no one seems to mind. Of course, Boxing Day would not be the right day to attempt to beat the Painswick record, for you are not always quite fit on Boxing Day, what with having got up earlier in the morning on Christmas Day, the feasting and drinking you have indulged in, the staying up until morning hours. No, heads are not always quite so clear on Boxing Day as on some days in the year. It is all right, of course, for a five thousand, which doesn't matter whether it is rung or lost, and peals of this kind on Boxing Day are generally cheerful affairs. What matters it if the spirit of Christmas does cause two bells to change course, or a rope to break; it is all part of the fun. Besides, if you lose the peal there is more time to drink to each other's health.

* * *

And speaking of Boxing Day peals reminds me, as someone once said, I have no doubt we have all had queer ringing experiences, especially at Christmas. There are various things which account for them at this time of year, such as, for instance, plum pudding and mince pies, and—other things usually associated with Yuletide festivities. One of the weirdest adventures I ever had happened to me on a Boxing Day. A party of youths of varying age—they ranged from about 70 down to vanishing point—arranged to go out into the country for a peal of Caters, but one by one, after they had met, they dropped out, somewhat like the ten little nigger boys of our nursery days. You shall read the story in rhyme:—

Ten very stalwart ringing youths, imbued with Christmas zeal,
Once set out on a Boxing Day to Slopton for a peal.
But at a country inn they stopped and there the landlord's wine
Made one of them so helpless that they trudged on, only nine.

The road was long, and when they reached the village churchyard gate,
Bill Binns was also missing, so they numbered only eight.
Then eight jolly ringing youths made for the belfry stair,
The last one stuck when half-way up, and only seven got there.

Seven eager ringing youths knew quickly what to do,
Tom Brown said if they liked to start he thought he could ring two.
So off they went, but Tom soon got into a pretty fix,
One of the ropes got round his neck, and that left only six.

They started then for Minor, but it did not long survive;
A bob choked the conductor, then there were only five.
Five frighted youths rushed to his aid, but when on the trap door,
Jim Smith fell through to the church below, and that left only four.

Out of the tower these ringers dashed and bumped into a tree,
The churchyard ghost grabbed 'Ginger' Boast, and that left only three
Three ringers white, with shaking knees, made for the Old Dun Cow.
Joe Binks fell in the village pond, then there were only two.

With hearts revived by potions strong, these two strode out for home;
A roadside ditch claimed Peter Fitch, and I went on alone.
And all around the spectres danced, they stood me on my head—
I sat up quick and rubbed my skull—I'd fallen out of bed.

* * *

There are, of course, various kinds of Christmas spirits—there is no need for me to detail them; you know them as well as I do, but at a church where I used to ring, the spirit of Christmas was once displayed in an unexpected manner. In the 'good old days,' before the advent of 'belfry reform,' the ringers had a habit of laying in a store in the belfry for 'consumption on the premises' during the festive season. There was much ringing to be done, and ringing was thirsty work. Christmas eve was the time when they 'stocked the cellar,' which, as they rang on the ground floor, was behind the door of the stairs leading up to the tower. To old George, the steeple-keeper, was entrusted the task, and the cask, of the purchase. On this particular Christmas Eve he called at the Wagon and Horses for the customary nine-gallon barrel of 'old,' but, being Christmas Eve, he stopped long at the Wagon, and it was pretty late before he started to roll the cask towards the scene of its execution. I don't know whether any of my readers have tried it—I must confess I haven't—but I should imagine that to roll a cask over the inequalities of a village street in the darkness of night, and to steer it along the narrow paths of a churchyard would not be an easy job at any time, but on Christmas Eve of all nights of the year—well, it would be, I should think, inordinately difficult. And so old George found it. He had been gone from the Wagon and Horses some time, when Bill Muggins, nothing by trade, but poacher by profession, came across him, sitting by the side of the road, clasping the barrel and telling it that he did not intend it should run away—not if he knew it. Now old George saw in Bill Muggins a very present help in time of trouble, although at other times he would not care to be seen in his company, and he called upon him to come to his aid and help him direct the recalcitrant barrel to its proper destination. Between them, or rather, in front of them, for Bill did the pushing and George followed on behind, they eventually established the cask under the stairs. George could not see very well in the dark, so he got Bill to lock up the belfry and deposit the key under the mat in the porch ready for the first comer in the morning.

* * *

The inhabitants of the village were aroused, as they expected to be, at six o'clock on Christmas morning with the ringing of the bells. Despite the hour, the ringers were present in force, and, having rung, turned to further herald the day by pledging peace and goodwill to all men in a draught of the 'old.' Old George went behind the door to drive in the tap which he had brought in his pocket. At the first blow of the hammer there was an ominous, hollow sound from the cask, and at the next the tap went home without any of that solid, satisfying feeling which accompanies the final drive into a full barrel. George's misgivings developed into certainty as he carefully lifted the cask. Unquestionably, it was empty, and his chin dropped. The others, waiting on the other side of the door, could not believe the tragic news until about half of them had separately tested the weight of the barrel. And then they held an inquest, at which they formed themselves into coroner and jury combined, with old George as the principal witness. He called on Jim Cowhide to witness that when he left the Wagon and Horses the cask was full, and Jim had to admit that, as he had helped George to get it out of the door of the Wagon, he was quite sure it was full at that time. And George called upon them all to witness that there were no signs of any leakage in the belfry. All the same, it was their money that had been spent, and their throats that were dry, and—well, what was George going to do about it? George didn't know, but he said he would see the landlord of the Wagon at opening time. Meanwhile he could only attribute it to the ghost which was said to haunt the churchyard on Christmas Eve.

* * *

Bill Muggins had the merriest Christmas of his life. Old ale only came his way when he called for a drink at someone else's expense,

and that wasn't often. But 'Father Christmas had brought him a nine-gallon barrel of it this year,' he told his family, and his family had learned never to tell tales. Bill told himself that it was not much trouble to fit a bung to an empty cask, and carry it in the dark from the yard of the Wagon and Horses to the church. It was harder work to get the full cask home—but it was worth it.

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The Editor has entrusted me with the task of reviewing some of the books recently received from publishers, and I would recommend my readers to add the following to their bookshelves:—

'The Treatment of Bells.'—This is a new handbook on the care and preservation of bells, and I give you a few of the hints which it contains—there are, of course, many more equally as useful—so that you can judge of its value for yourselves:—

'Bells being musical instruments should be treated as such. Do not knock them about with a sledge hammer; they resent it. If they are obstinate, it is best to talk quietly with them, and, if necessary, pat them gently. The most stubborn bells can generally be made to go by kindness.'

'It is useless to attempt to produce sound from bells by blowing into them as you would into a cornet or flute. It is easier to blow the froth off a pint of ale. The best results are obtained from bells if they are struck with the clapper, which is usually provided by the maker for the purpose.'

'Where the tones are harsh, these may sometimes be softened by simmering the bells for a few hours over a gentle heat.'

'Bells will not crack if they are never touched.'

'In cold weather the steeplekeeper should wrap the bells in blankets at night, and, if possible, cover them with an eiderdown quilt. They like it (the bells, not the steeplekeepers), and start up quicker in the morning.'

'Frames with rheumatic joints or which have gone groggy at the knees should be made "tight." This can sometimes best be done by lubricating the ringers.'

This book should be kept in every belfry for ready reference. It costs 2s. 6d., and would be cheaper at half the price.

'Make your own Methods,' by Rasper Raindon.—This is a text book that all ringers should have by them for emergencies. It is prepared in ready reckoner form, so that ringers may compile their own methods and at the same time produce the necessary compositions to obtain peals. To the uninitiated, the procedure for doing this appears to be slightly complex, but the author is confident that anyone can master its intricacies in 25 years. It is cheap at a shilling, and would make a suitable Christmas present for a beginner—if he is a young man.

'Christmas Bells.'—This little book of verse is by Abel Puller, who in his preface says he has gained his inspiration from his actual experience as a ringer. Here is the opening of his first poem, which gives the title to the book:—

The bells on Christmas morning, from out the steeple high,
Spread their sounds across the house tops, beneath the starry sky.
(For as yet the sun is hidden; 'tis the hour before the dawn.)
The children wake with laughter; their parents curse and yawn. . . . .

I don't think it is necessary to quote any more of the poem. These lines speak for themselves, and there is plenty more such rot to be found in the volume, if you care to buy it.

'The Missed Sallie.'—Miss Belle Ringer, the author of 'Love in a Belfry,' and 'Eric the Tenorman,' has achieved her greatest success in her new novel, 'The Missed Sallie.' It is a thrilling story of a woman's daring for the man she loved. For poignant treatment and intense drama, we have read nothing to compare with this book—and don't want to!

WHAT IS A 'TWELVE-BELL' PEAL?

To the Editor.

Sir,—I do not think that ever lawyers could equal the amount of verbal quibbling that has amused me ever since the Painswick peal. My own view—as a lawyer—is a very simple one, viz., there are two varieties of twelve-bell peals, one with the tenor covering, the other with the tenor taking part. The Painswick peal was of the former variety, and surpassed in the number of changes any peal in either variety; therefore it is a record in twelve-bell peal ringing. Don't you think this correspondence may now cease? We shall have worries enough in the new year without this one.—Yours faithfully,

Birmingham. J. S. PRITCHETT.

MANCHESTER RINGER'S DEATH.

With much regret we announce the death of ex-P.C. Walter Billinge, of Moss-side, Manchester, which took place on Thursday, December 11th, at the age of 62 years, after a short illness, from pneumonia. The deceased was a member of the City Police band of ringers for many years, until his retirement from the force in June, 1922.

The funeral took place on Monday, December 15th, at the Southern Cemetery.

A plain course of Grandsire Triples was rung on handbells over the grave by P.C. W. Pye, P.C. D. Brown, P.C. F. Page and P.C. W. Robinson, as a token of respect for one who was much respected by all who knew him.

SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.

A PEAL IN SIXTEEN METHODS.

5,120 BY A. J. PITMAN.

2345678	London or Lindoff's No. 10.
— 6423857	Cambridge or Pudsey.
— 4357682	Bristol.
— 5437682	Rutland.
— 6354278	New Gloucester.
— 5634278	New Gloucester.
— 3564278	Rutland.
— 2635847	Bristol.
— 3265847	Cambridge or Pudsey.
5427386	*Rutland or Method B.
— 3254678	*Rutland or Method B.
— 6532847	Cambridge or Yorkshire.
2457683	Rutland, Method C, or Craven's No. 10 Reverse.
5264378	London.
— 3652847	Cambridge or Superlative.
2467385	London.
— 3624578	London.
— 5236847	Cambridge or Yorkshire.
6427583	London.
2654378	Rutland, Method C, or Craven's No. 10 Reverse.
— 3526847	Cambridge.
6457382	Norfolk.
— 2356847	Cambridge or Superlative.
6437285	London or Lindoff's No. 10.
— 2364578	Lindoff's No. 30.
— 5623847	Cambridge.
3467582	Norfolk.
— 2563847	†Cambridge or Lincolnshire.
3457286	London or Method A.
5324678	London or Method A.
— 6253847	Cambridge or Lincolnshire.
3427685	Lindoff's No. 30.
— 6234578	

Repeat four times.

To ensure the truth of the peal the two leads marked * must be rung in the same method.

When method C is rung, method B must also be rung. If Craven's No. 10 Reverse is rung, method A must also be rung, and Lincolnshire must be rung at †.

From this composition peals may be rung in from seven to sixteen methods. For seven ring London, Cambridge, Bristol, Rutland, New Gloucester, Norfolk and Lindoff's No. 30.

Method A.	Method B.	Method C.
12345678	12345678	12345678
21436587	21436587	21436587
12463578	12346857	12346857
21645387	21438675	21438675
26143578	24136857	24183657
62415387	42318675	42816375
26145837	42136857	24186735
62418573	24318675	42817653
64281537	42381765	24871635
46825173	24837156	42786153
48621537	28431765	47281635
84265173	82347156	74826153
48256713	28374516	47286513
84527631	82735461	74825631
85426713	87253416	47826513
58247631	78524361	74285631
85427361	75842631	72458361

Methods A, B and C have been kindly supplied by Mr. Trollope. For Craven's No. 10 Reverse and Lindoff's No. 10 and 30, see 'The Ringing World,' dated August 22nd, 1930.

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A RINGER'S JIG-SAW PUZZLE.

TRY YOUR HAND AT 'COMPOSING.'

If you get tired of eating and drinking this Christmas and are looking for something to do, try this ringer's 'Jig-Saw'; it will provide you with a little mental exercise, and to some it will probably prove an intriguing problem.

In the panel given below are the 30 lead heads and lead ends of a 720—let us, for this occasion, give it a seasonable name—Yuletide Surprise Minor. It is a method in which 2nd's place is made at a plain lead and, of course, 4th's place at a bob. To facilitate manipulation of the figures, cut out the panel and stick it on a card—a post card will do—and then cut the panel along the lines into 30 sections.

What you have to do is to re-arrange the sections so that the whole of them are used. When this has been done you will have a true extent in the method because all the 720 rows have been utilised. The top line in each section is a 'lead head' and the bottom the corresponding 'lead end,' and every lead head of one section must properly connect with the lead end that precedes it by a 24365 or a 32465 transposition. Thus, 126435 lead end can be succeeded by one of two lead heads only: 124653 (by means of 2nd's place) or 162453 (by means of 4th's place). Here are the alternative connections:—

	136524	136524
lead end	126435	126435
lead head	124653	162453
	154326	152364

156423 126354	156342 146253	156234 136452
153246 143652	164523 124365	162534 132465
135426 125634	123456 153624	126543 146325
124653 154326	134562 164235	163254 153462
135264 165432	136524 126435	134625 124536
142356 152643	163542 143265	123645 143526
132654 152436	164352 154263	134256 154632
145236 135642	162453 152364	125346 145623
163425 123564	142635 132546	125463 165324
142563 162345	145362 165243	146532 136245

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE of 'THE RINGING WORLD,' WOKING, SURREY.

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD. — East Berks and South Bucks Branch.—The next practice has been arranged at Denham (8 bells) on Friday, Dec. 26th, at 3 p.m. Tea, at 1s. 3d. per head.—A. D. Barker, Cambridge, Wexham, Slough.

LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Llandaff on Friday, Dec. 26th (Boxing Day), at 4.30. The Dean will preside. Bells (10) available during the afternoon and evening. — John W. Jones, Hon. Sec., Cartref, Barrack Road, Newport, Mon.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637.) — The subscription of 1s. 8d. which entitles members who have not met twenty times to vote on matters of finance is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus' on January 1st, 15th, 19th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 8th (8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 13th, Southwark Cathedral on the 22nd, *St. Giles', Cripplegate, or the Coffee Pot, on the 27th, at 7.30 p.m. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The annual meeting will be held at headquarters, St. Martin's Hotel, on Saturday, Jan. 3rd. Ringing at St. Martin's from 5 to 6. Business meeting at 6.15 prompt. — T. H. Reeves, Hon. Sec., 136, Newton Road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Hinckley District.—The annual meeting will be held at Earl Shilton on Saturday, Jan. 3rd, commencing at 3.30 p.m. Tea in the Schools at 5, followed by business meeting. It is hoped a good attendance will be registered, all ringers being welcome.—W. A. Cope, Smockington, Hinckley.

ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Archdeaconry of Ely.—A meeting in Cambridge on Saturday, Jan. 3rd, 2.30, St. Andrew the Great. 3.55, Stedman Doubles at St. Benedict. 4, Service. 4.30-5, ringing in Stedman's Tower. 5.15, tea at Dorothy Café. 6.30 p.m., St. Mary the Great. All ringers will be very welcome.—K. Willers, Dis. Sec., Sweetbriars, Trumpington, Cambridge.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Bedford District.—The annual meeting will be held at Kempston on Saturday, Jan. 3rd. Bells (6) available at 2.30. Service at 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m., followed by business meeting for election of officers, etc. Please make an effort to attend. —Percy C. Bonnett, Hon. Dis. Sec., Stagsden, Beds.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — The annual meeting of the Nottingham District will be held at St. Mary's (10 bells), Nottingham, on Jan. 3rd. Tower open 5 p.m. All members are requested to attend. Have an early tea and come and try this hefty lot. — E. C. Gobey, 23, Shaw Street, Ilkeston.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.—Devizes Branch. The annual meeting will be held at Devizes on Saturday, Jan. 3rd. The following bells will be available from 3 p.m.: St. John's (8), St. Mary's (6), St. James' (6). Guild service in St. John's Church 4.30. Tea in St. John's Parish Room 5. Business meeting follows tea. All ringers welcome.—F. Green, Branch Hon. Sec., 53, Avon Road, Devizes.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch. — The following branches will hold a joint meeting at Blackburn on Jan. 10th: Blackburn, Preston and Fylde Branches. Bells available from 3 p.m. at Blackburn Cathedral, Holy Trinity and St. Michael's (10, 8, and 8 bells respectively). Meeting 6.30 p.m. Members and non-members cordially invited to attend. Reports to hand.—F. Hindle, Hon. Sec., 58, Anvil Street, Blackburn.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Chiswick on Saturday, Jan. 10th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Tea, etc., arranged as usual. A hearty welcome to all. N.B.—Annual meeting at Isleworth, Feb. 7th.—Wm. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Lincoln District.—Annual meeting at Blankney and Metheringham, Saturday, Jan. 10th. Bells available: Blankney (6) 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea 5.15 p.m. (only for those who send names to H. Marcon, 269, Wragby Road, Lincoln). Business afterwards. Metheringham (8) 6.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION. — Maidstone District.—The next meeting of the district will be held at West Malling on Saturday, Jan. 10th. Tower open for ringing 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30, followed by tea and business meeting. Subscription for 1931 can be paid at this meeting. All ringers welcome. Please notify me early.—C. H. Sone, Dis. Sec., Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION. — Derby District.—The annual meeting for the election of officers for the ensuing year will be held in Derby on Saturday, Jan. 10th. The bells of St. Andrew's (10) will be available from 2.30 p.m. till 4.30 p.m., and the bells of St. Alkmund's (8) from 6 p.m. till 7.30 p.m. The business meeting will be held at St. Andrew's belfry at 4.30 p.m. A good attendance is desired. Tea can be obtained at King's Café, St. Peter's Street.—George Freebrey, Local Hon. Sec., 81, Roe Street, Derby.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—A dinner will be held at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Guildford, on Saturday, Jan. 10th, 1931. Tickets 5s. 6d. each. Only a few tickets are now available. Ringing at Cathedral (8) and S. Nicolas' (10) during the afternoon.—J. S. Goldsmith, Hon. Sec., Southover, Hockering Gardens, Woking.

SWANSEA AND BRECON DIOCESAN GUILD. — The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 17th, at St. Mary's Church, Brecon. Ringing at 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m. Tea and meeting at 5 p.m. Tea will be provided by the Vicar.—F. E. Thomas, Dis. Sec., Belle Vue, Brecon.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.—The tenth annual dinner will be held at the Grand Hotel, Bristol, Jan. 17th, at 6 p.m. St. Ambrose bells (8) will be available at 1.30 p.m. An afternoon attraction, with tea and bun, is being arranged. Details later. Tickets, 5s. 6d., from Edgar Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's, Bristol.

SITUATION WANTED.

RIVETER (hand or automatic), 20 years' experience, or willing to take anything. — Fredk. W. Bailey, 42, Rupert Street, Nottingham.

PUBLICATIONS.

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DEATH OF THE REV. C. C. PARKER.

FORMER MASTER OF THE BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.

We regret to announce the death of the Rev. Claud Campbell Parker, Rector of Corston, vice-president and formerly Master of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, which, for some years, he represented on the Central Council. The deceased gentleman, who held a Prebendary stall in Wells Cathedral, had been Rector of Corston for 27 years, and during that time many improvements had been carried out in the church and parish through his instrumentality.

Prebendary Parker was the second and last surviving son of the late Joseph R. Parker, C.S.I., of the India Office, by his first wife. Educated at Keble College, Oxford, and Cuddesdon Theological College, he graduated M.A. in 1894, having been ordained priest in the previous year. While at Oxford he was a successful coxswain, and, in addition to being actively interested in the Bath and Wells Association, he was fond of golf and shooting. He was head of the social and athletic, as well as the religious life of the Corston district, and will be greatly missed and mourned throughout the neighbourhood. He had been ill for more than a year. Just before Christmas, 1929, he underwent an operation which, at the time, was successful, and he had been able, with help, to resume his duties since July until about a month ago.

The funeral took place on Monday, when the Archdeacon of Bath officiated at the service at Corston, and in the evening muffled ringing, as a last token of respect, took place at Bath Abbey.

HINTON BELLS APPEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In addition to the donations acknowledged individually in the course of post, will you allow me space to acknowledge receipt with thanks of the following anonymous subscription: 'W. W.,' 2s.?—Yours faithfully, J. D. JOHNSON.

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