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**TWO NOTABLE RINGERS.**

Last week it was our sad duty to record the passing of two men whose names have for many years been familiar to all our readers, and few ringers will have heard the news without some expression of real regret. In these days happily the Exercise is so closely knit together and the sense of brotherhood is so genuine that even those who never came into personal contact with William Willson or Gabriel Lindoff cannot altogether escape the feeling of personal loss. And it is a loss, though of both men it can be truly said that their life's work was done, and they departed full of years and honour.

Lindoff and Willson were men who differed widely in almost every way. Lindoff was pre-eminently a composer, a man who spent much of his available time working out peals for others to ring, and perhaps no other composer had a gift equal to him for producing just those peals which best suited ringers' needs. How much that has contributed to the advance and development of peal ringing is not easy to estimate. But he was not merely a man of figures, though his long sojourn in Ireland debarred him largely from peal ringing; he was eminently a practical ringer; he had made an excellent record before he went to Dublin; he lost no opportunities of holiday peal ringing; and as a ringer of long lengths he had few equals. It was this happy combination of the practical and the theoretical which probably made him the outstanding success as a composer that he was. In the best sense of the word his work was utilitarian. He took little interest in some of the more abstruse discussions which from time to time have exercised the minds of composers, and he seldom engaged in controversy, though in his younger days he had more than one strenuous tussle with Henry Dains and Charles H. Hattersley over questions arising out of Treble Bob and Superlative. Even in these it may be said that the fight was not of his making but was forced on him. He was essentially of a modest and tolerant spirit.

William Willson was just the opposite. Equally free from malice and bad feeling, he was a bonny fighter, who especially in his younger days delighted in controversy and dealt his slashing blows right and left with rare gusto. When he had something to say he said it without mincing of words, and it would not be altogether unjust to hint that he sometimes stirred up a row just for the fun of the thing. But it is just as certain that no one enjoyed the fun more than those who caught his heaviest blows, especially when they could give back as good as they got.

Do not let us imagine that all this was mere fooling. There was method in it, and good came out of it, too.

(Continued on page 554.)

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According to the proverb it takes all sorts of men to make a world, and it takes all sorts of ringers to make an Exercise. Some of the sorts perhaps we could very well dispense with, but we should be much the poorer without men of the types of Lindoff and Willson. Both of them belonged to the generation which did its chief work in the years before the last war, years which seem now so remote. But they were important and fruitful years, and years when seed was sown of which the later generation reaped no small benefit. We ringers are what we are mainly because of what those men did who went before us. We benefit by their work, and it should be an incentive and encouragement to us to go and do likewise. Among those men who served their own generation and whose work remains for the benefit of them that follow, we do not hesitate to give honourable places to Gabriel Lindoff and William Willson.

## HANDBELL PEALS.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, October 13, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. A. W. LLOYD,

**A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;**

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART (7th observation). Tenor size 18 in G.

\*AUBREY W. LLOYD ... 1-2 | GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 5-6

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3-4 | THOMAS W. LEWIS, R.A.F. ... 7-8

Conducted by G. J. HEMMING,

Umpire—James Hemming.

\* First peal. Arranged for A.C.1 T. W. Lewis, R.A.F., when home on leave

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, November 10, 1941, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 8067 CHANGES;**

HAROLD J. POOLE ... 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6

G. STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3-4 | ERNEST MORRIS ... 7-8

JOSIAH MORRIS ... 9-10

Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Witnesses—Frederick E. Wilson and Mrs. H. J. Poole.

Rung to the respected memory of its composer, Mr. William Willson, immediately after the funeral service and during the interment. The handbells were half-muffled by Mr. Harry Wayne.

NOTTINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, November 11, 1941, in Two Hours and Three Minutes,

AT VERNON HOUSE, FRIAR LANE,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven extents.

\*BERNARD BROWN ... 1-2 | REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH ... 3-4

RALPH NARBOROUGH ... 5-6

Conducted by REV. R. D. ST. J. SMITH.

\* First peal of Bob Minor.

EVESHAM, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Wednesday, November 12, 1941, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. J. HEMMING,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 18 in G.

\*MISS KATHLEEN M. JOHNSON 1-2 | GEOFFREY J. HEMMING ... 5-6

JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3-4 | \*AUBREY W. LLOYD ... 7-8

Composed and Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Witnesses—Alderman J. and Mrs. Hemming.

\* First peal of Major. Specially arranged and rung as a compliment to Alderman James Hemming upon his election as Mayor of the Borough of Evesham and to Mrs. Hemming.

PUDSEY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

*On Wednesday, November 12, 1941, in 1 wo Hours and One Minute,*

AT 9, PEMBROKE ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5046 CHANGES;**

MISS L. K. BOWLING ... ..	1-2	PERCY J. JOHNSON ... ..	5-6
WILLIAM BARTON... ..	3-4	JOHN AMBLER ... ..	7-8

Composed by YORR GREEN. Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

BURBAGE, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

*On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,*

AT SYEDMAN, SKETCHLEY ROAD,

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Seven different extents. Tenor size 15 in C.

*ALFRED JORDON ... ..	1-2	†ALFRED BALLARD ... ..	3-4
†FRANK K. MEASURES... ..		5-6	

Conducted by F. K. MEASURES.

\* First peal of Minor. † First peal of Minor on handbells. First peal of Minor on handbells by the Hinckley District.

WEST GRINSTEAD, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

*\*On Sunday, November 16, 1941, in One Hour and Fifty-Six Minutes,*

AT 92, BUTCHER'S ROW.

**A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;**

Tenor size 15 in C.

GEORGE W. MASSEY ... ..	1-2	EDGAR R. RAPLEY ... ..	3-4
CECIL R. LONGHURST... ..		5-6	

Conducted by EDGAR R. RAPLEY.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Dennis Brock, of Sunbury-on-Thames, who is now serving with H.M. Forces in the Middle East.

**ST. MICHAEL'S MOUNT.**

ITS BELLS AND ITS 'CHAIR.'

In his book on Saint Michael's Mount, published in 1932, Canon T. Taylor gives a full description of the church and the bells, from which we take the following extracts. In view of recent correspondence they will be read with interest.

The present church (writes Canon Taylor) was built some time during the fourteenth century, probably towards the end of it. The ring of bells was cast for the tower between the years 1385 and 1408, and in 1433 Sir John Arundell bequeathed a sum of money towards the construction of the rood screen, which was removed early in the eighteenth century.

The same Sir John Arundell bequeathed a similar sum of money towards the maintenance of the 'light of St. Michael,' the beacon on the church tower. A bequest for the same purpose is found in the will of Peter Beville, Esq., which was proved in 1515. The lantern, octagonal in shape, of very hard stone, is situated at the south-western angle of the embattled parapet of the tower, and, being no longer required as a receptacle of the beacon light, has become associated with the good or evil fortune of newly-married couples, the first, bride or bridegroom, to reach it and to be seated in it after the marriage ceremony, acquires henceforth supreme control of domestic affairs. The real St. Michael's Chair is a craggy tor in the west part of the island, and is described by Norden as 'somewhat dangerous for access.'

Of the six bells, five were procured for the tower towards the close of the fourteenth century and dedicated in the usual manner. The names given to them were chosen from the heavenly hierarchy and commemorate those five orders of angels which in the Liturgy are found in the daily Preface to the Sanctus, wherein the worshipper is invited to unite with them in his tribute of praise to God. The five orders are Angels, Dominations, Powers, Virtues and Seraphin. When naming the bells the prior appears to have reckoned Michael among the thrones one of the highest of the hierarchy.

De Borlase fortunately preserved an account of the bells as he found them in the eighteenth century. They were then five in number, and of them the fifth, or tenor, had been recast in 1640 and bore coin impressions of that date. In 1785 the second bell was broken up and two others (now the second and third) substituted for it. The original inscription on this bell was, 'Sancte Nicholæ: Ora pro nobis; Ordo Principatum.' The third and fourth (now the fourth and fifth) bear the cross of William Ffounder, who has been identified with William Dawe, a London founder (1385-1408). The capital letters are Lombardic. As already stated, the tenor bell has been recast. There can be little doubt that it originally bore the name of St. Michael, the patron of the church.

St. Nicholas, whose name was invoked on the second bell, is the patron of sailors.

**THE LATE MR. WILLIAM WILLSON.**

MUFFLED HANDBELLS AT LEICESTER

FUNERAL.

The funeral took place on Monday, November 10th, at the Church of St. John the Divine. The service was fully choral and was conducted by the Rev. A. E. Harris, Vicar of St. John's, and the Rev. J. Axford, Vicar of the Church of the Holy Apostles, in which parish Mr. Willson had resided for many years.

As the cortege entered the church the organist played 'O rest in the Lord.' The hymns, 'On the resurrection morning' and 'How bright these glorious spirits shine,' were sung, and during the service a solemn half-muffled handbell course of Grandsire Caters was rung by Frederick E. Wilson 1-2, George S. Morris 3-4, Ernest Morris 5-6, H. J. Poole 7-8, J. Morris 9-10. One may in all sincerity and reverence here repeat the beautiful words written by Mr. Willson himself:—

'The bells in cadence sweet,  
Pour muffled music down;  
Their dirge a message oft repeat,  
"After the Cross—the Crown,"'

Five of Mr. Willson's fellow ringers acted as bearers, viz., Edward Norman, Frank Howe, Ralph Hubbard, of St. John's, Frederick H. Dexter, of Leicester Cathedral, and Colin Harrison, of Loughborough Bell Foundry.

Among the many beautiful floral tributes were a wreath from St. John's Society, of which the late Mr. Willson was for so many years Ringing Master, and one in the shape of a standing bell from the members of the Midland Counties Association.

Among the congregation were representatives of many towers, including Messrs. A. H. Ward (Derby), R. H. Bartram (Melton Mowbray), R. Mount (Waltham), Fred Kilborn (Desborough), J. Pole and R. Barrow (Belgrave), C. Bird (Broughton Astley), A. Bailey (Knighton) and others. The Ladies' Guild was represented by Mrs. H. J. Poole, and the Midland Counties Association by Miss I. B. Thompson (hon. treasurer), Mr. A. J. Harris (Central Council representative), the secretary and vice-president, who took part in the service as mentioned above. Owing to illness Mr. W. E. White (trustee) and Mr. J. H. Swinfield (Central Council representative) could not attend, but sent letters of sympathy and condolence. Among the many local ringers present, in addition to those named, were Messrs. W. H. Clarke, W. Aldridge, J. Smith, J. Hill, of St. John's, and S. Cotton, T. Taylor, E. Rawson, J. Grant, of the Cathedral.

The deepest sympathy goes out to the relatives, especially Mr. Willson's four daughters, Lilian A., Hilda, Winnie and Muriel, all of whom were taught to ring bells, the first two having rung many peals. Immediately after the service a half-muffled handbell peal was rung in the church, the composition of the late Mr. Willson, the account of which will be found in the peal columns.

**THE MAYOR OF DUNSTABLE.**

ALDERMAN A. E. SHARMAN RE-ELECTED.

By a unanimous vote, Dunstable Town Council re-elected Alderman Arthur E. Sharman as Mayor on Nov. 10th. He was described as an ideal war-time Mayor, but the hope was expressed that, as a reward for good service, he might end his term of office on a note of peace and victory.

Alderman F. G. Keep, in proposing Alderman Sharman's re-election, said: 'It is a fitting tribute to a year's work well and truly performed. When he accepted office he put service before self, and now successful he has been in that direction can best be judged by the facts.'

Alderman Sharman had put Dunstable's rightful claims to the forefront, and in the committee room he had sought to attain the maximum results with the minimum delay of time. His chairmanship had been scrupulously fair and not in the least dictatorial.

His attitude had always been one of calm determination and confidence in the future, and such virtues make him an ideal war-time Mayor.'

Recalling the Mayor's words on his election last year, 'My wife and I promise to place ourselves at the service of all that is good in the town, without distinction of class or creed,' Councillor Parrott said the promise had been fulfilled with conspicuous success, and he asserted that the co-operation and enthusiasm of the townspeople would be with them in the coming year.

Councillor Parrott added that the untiring efforts and self-sacrifice of the Mayor and Mayoress had won the heartfelt thanks and appreciation of the townspeople, who wished them success and happiness during the coming year.

Seconding, Councillor F. Kenworthy said Alderman Sharman was not an old man in Council years, but from the very first the Council had recognised that in him they had a man who possessed a mind capable of dealing effectively with the many problems, and that not only had he a mind that was capable of dealing with them, but he had revealed a heart capable of dealing with them also.

The Mayor spoke of the changes war had brought. 'It would be a brave man who dared to predict what the future holds, and I am not going to attempt it,' said the Mayor. 'The testing time may come in the next year, and if it does, Dunstable people will face it with the great courage I know they possess, yet it is my greatest wish that before November, 1942, the world will be at peace.'

## THE CENTRAL COUNCIL. THE LADIES' GUILD.

(Continued from page 545.)

When Miss Edith Parker founded the Ladies' Guild in October, 1912, she intended it to take its place among the other societies and associations on terms of equality. For that two things at least were necessary. One was to show that the new guild could ring peals unaided; the other was to secure recognition by the Central Council.

The first presented no great difficulty. Three months before the guild was founded the first peal entirely by ladies had been rung at Christ Church, Cubitt Town, with Miss Parker as conductor.

Against the fulfilment of the second object there were obstacles which Miss Parker did not realise, but she took the best course possible to overcome them by speaking to Sir Arthur Heywood at the Council's meeting in London in 1912, and asking his advice.

That put Heywood into a great dilemma. The whole idea of women as church bell ringers was distasteful to him. He thought them entirely out of place in the belfry. Mixed bands of men and women would in his opinion be most objectionable, and his prejudices rather resented the intrusion of women into what he considered was a sphere belonging exclusively to men. I do not doubt he was influenced not a little by the suffrage agitation which ran contra to his whole ideas of social order. In one of his speeches he obscurely hinted at it. No one could tell, he said, where the women would not push themselves, but he did hope they would leave the belfries to the men. In judging him, we must remember that in his class and in his time there was a general convention that men should always give way to women; and women should always allow to men a nominal primacy and certain reserved spheres of activity. The demand for sex equality was a denial of a most important social convention.

If the question had come to a head four or five years earlier, and if it had been raised by a man, there is little doubt that Heywood would have taken a decided line and discouraged the whole thing. As he said himself, he was a man of strong opinions, and he usually let the Council know what they were. But when Miss Parker spoke to him in 1912 he was taken at a disadvantage, and for probably the first and last time during the many years he was president he was not sure of himself and failed to give the Council a firm lead.

For one thing he was a gentleman, and it was a lady who asked his advice. Whatever his opinions might be, he could not but treat her with kindness and courtesy. And he felt, as did so many more, the difficulty of objecting to an individual lady ringer, though it was easy enough to object to lady ringers as a whole.

There was another thing which consciously or unconsciously influenced him. At that meeting the Council, by its resolution welcoming 'The Ringing World,' had shown him that his personal opinions and prejudices must not prevail against the general wishes of the Exercise. He had been taught a lesson and he showed he had not forgotten it. So he gave Miss Parker a kindly and courteous, but non-committal answer, and promised that her request for the recognition of the new guild and its representation would be considered by the Council.

There appeared to be one difficulty. The minimum number of members necessary for representation was

seventy-five, and the guild had not yet reached that. Would it be possible, asked Miss Parker, to waive the rule for once? In the event the difficulty did not arise, for membership increased at such a rate that Miss Parker withdrew her suggestion and decided to wait until the full qualification was reached.

The matter came before the Council at Newcastle in 1913. Mr. G. F. Coleridge was entrusted with the duty of opening the debate, but Heywood, in accordance with his usual custom, made a preliminary statement. He told the Council that Miss Parker had spoken to him and asked his advice. He had pointed out the difficulty about the membership qualification, and she had since agreed to wait until their numbers reached seventy-five. There was therefore no definite proposal before the Council, and what they had better do was to discuss the matter and ventilate it without passing any resolution. It was a matter on which a large number of ringers thought strongly one way or the other, and he did not think the representatives then present should take upon themselves to express a definite opinion as to what the association they represented thought about it. They might open up the question, and then go back to their associations and find out their feeling, so that later they could come to a definite decision.

It was wise advice, but not just the sort that he usually gave to the Council when any important matter had to be decided.

The debate was not a very illuminating one, for the majority of the members were in very much the same position as Heywood. They did not like the idea of women ringers (it cut across all their traditions and prejudices), yet they could not put their objections into any terms that looked reasonable. Their attitude could have very well been summed up in Lord Melbourne's famous saying, 'Why can't you leave it alone?'

Mr. Coleridge pointed out that ladies were already members of existing associations, and there was nothing to prevent one of them being elected as a representative member of the Council. Others argued that women ringers were already represented on the Council through the territorial associations, and did not need any special representation through the Ladies' Guild. That sounded like a good argument, but was not so really for, of course, the object of the Ladies' Guild was to secure the special recognition of women ringers.

Mr. George P. Burton came forward as the uncompromising opponent of women ringers in any and every way. His opinion was that it would be best if they were kept out of the belfries altogether. He said that his own tower of Mancroft had been threatened with their intrusion, but he was glad to say it had been saved from such an awkward predicament. So far as the Ladies' Guild was concerned, it was far too soon to think about giving them representation on the Council. They were said to have rung a peal, and that had made a few hot-headed people lose their heads.

C. E. Matthews spoke up for the ladies and mentioned Miss Alice White and others who were doing useful work in his association. C. W. O. Jenkyn took a similar line. Canon Elsee agreed with Mr. Burton to a large extent, and did not like the idea of mixed bands, but no one could say what the future had in store, and the time might come when women would serve on some of the most important councils of the Church.

Summing up, Heywood repeated that very few representatives would be prepared to vote without finding out what their associations thought. To vote for representation, he said, did not necessarily imply that they were in favour of mixed bands, and he tried to make a distinction between lady handbell ringers and lady tower-bell ringers. He had always been in favour of the former, and seemed to think it would be possible in that way to satisfy the ambitions of those ladies who were attracted by change ringing. But whether a guild which consisted mainly of handbell ringers should be represented on the Council was a question which required careful thought.

By the year 1914 the membership of the guild had exceeded eighty, and as the ladies wished for representation a formal application was made. It came before the Council at the Winchester meeting.

The old prejudices were still very much alive, and when a number of the Council members talked the matter over between themselves and said what they thought without restraint, they all declared that they intended to oppose the application.

On the day of the meeting I was standing in a group in the street outside the meeting place when Heywood joined us. 'What are we going to do about the ladies?' he said. 'I suppose we shall have to let them in.' That really decided the matter, but the forms had to be gone through, and in due time Heywood called for a definite vote. Whereupon Mr. Joseph Griffin moved that the Ladies' Guild should be admitted upon the same terms as any other association. Canon Baker seconded, mentioning that his own association, the Bedford, had just elected a lady as a vice-president.

The feeling in favour was evidently more marked than

at Newcastle, and those who spoke, including C. E. Matthews, C. W. O. Jenkyn, and A. T. King, generally supported the ladies. Not so Mr. Burton—

Among the faithless faithful only he;  
Among innumerable false unmoved,  
Nor number, nor example with him wrought  
To swerve from truth or change his constant mind.

Fortified by the opinion of the committee of his association, he entered his protest against the admission of the Ladies' Guild to the Council. So far as he was aware they had not yet rung a peal, and he asked if they were suitable creatures to come and sit with men. The day before they had burnt down a church.

Paradoxically this speech clinched the whole matter and turned a certain victory for the ladies into an overwhelming triumph. The members who had been sitting on the fence slid down quietly on the women's side, and those who had been trying to screw up their courage to oppose, when they heard their side of the case put so nakedly and so brutally, stole over to the enemy. A solid mass of hands was held up when the question was put to the vote, with Mr. Burton as the solitary dissident. I looked round curiously to see what had become of those who the night before had pledged themselves to opposition. One and all they voted for the ladies.

#### CAMPANOLOGY.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—You ask (quoting 'The Sunday Times'), 'What is Campanology?' The answer is that Campanology is a vile, pretentious, bastard word, which should never be used by any self-respecting member of the Exercise. People who call our art Campanology, and themselves Campanologists, should be rigorously excluded from the society of all decent ringers.

The same applies to men who call bell towers 'campaniles.' T.

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### BELFRY GOSSIP.

Congratulations to Mr. John Austin, who was born 78 years ago last Wednesday.

We are pleased to hear that besides Mr. J. O. Lancashire another member of the band who rang the first silent peal of Stedman Cinques, Mr. Samuel Cotton, is still alive.

The first peal of Imperial the Third Major was rung at St. Giles', Norwich, on November 17th, 1760. At the conclusion John Webster, the ringer of the sixth, after ceasing his bell, fell dead. The tragedy is recorded in verse on a stone tablet in the belfry. Webster was a prominent man among the early Norwich Scholars. A letter from him to Dr. Charles Mason, of Cambridge, misled Jasper Snowdon into thinking that Benjamin Annable disapproved of the Singles in Holt's peals of Grandsire Triples. What Annable 'did not approve of' was the scheme for publishing Holt's peals by subscriptions. There were reasons for his attitude.

The Norwich Scholars rang the first peal of London Surprise Major at St. Andrew's in that city on November 17th, 1835, and on November 18th, 1824, they rang at St. Michael's, Coslany, 8,448 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major.

The Burton-on-Trent men, with Jasper Snowdon, rang 7,200 Double Norwich Court Bob Major at Beeston in Notts on November 18th, 1882. At the time it was the longest length in the method.

The first silent peal of Stedman Triples was rung at St. Paul's, Burton-on-Trent, on November 20th, 1886.

The Australian tourists rang Kent Treble Bob at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Sydney, seven years ago yesterday, and two days later they rang Stedman Triples at Darling Point.

Fifty years ago to-day eleven peals were rung. They consisted of Grandsire Triples 4, Caters 1, Stedman Triples 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 1, Royal 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 1, and Minor 2. The Grandsire Caters was at All Saints', Fulham, and was Mr. Frank Bennett's first peal on ten bells.

### MR. JAMES GEORGE.

VETERAN'S 88th BIRTHDAY.

One of the most remarkable men in the Exercise is Mr. James George, not only for what he has done, but for what he is doing now and threatens to do in the future.

Next Thursday he will be 88, and despite all he has gone through in the last 18 months, including the amputation of his left leg, maintains his characteristically cheerful outlook on life, and says he is looking forward to ringing further tower bell peals when the war is over. That's the spirit, and it has pulled Mr. George successfully through his recent ordeals.

Mr. George, who now resides at Quinton Hall, Quinton, Birmingham, would like his ringing friends to know that he is making good progress, and he thanks all those who have sent him kind messages of sympathy.

His peal ringing career has been almost phenomenal, for in 50 years he ran up a total of 1,280. It began at St. George's Church, Camberwell, on February 16th, 1889, and ended—for the time being—at Leicester on November 30th, 1939, with Stedman Triples on handbells for his 86th birthday.

In between he did all sorts of wonderful things; the bigger and rougher the better he liked it. And there is one thing he seems to have made a practice of; he has a habit of being the last survivor of certain notable performances. He's the only one left, for example, of those who rang in his first peal. In 1896 he rang in three peals of Royal on the old bells of St. Philip's, Birmingham—notorious chest crackers some of them—and rang the eighth to one and the tenor to the other two. He is the last survivor of these peals. And there's lots of others. When his one thousandth peal was celebrated at Wolverhampton, he reeled off quite a list of peals and reminded the party after each that he was the only one left of the band. Well, I have rung some interesting peals with Mr. James George. He's nearly 25 years older than I and—and I don't like it. But let that pass.

One of the troubles about James George is that the longer he has lived the worse he has seemed to get. Years ago he rang in three peals of Stedman Cinques in 24 hours at Queen's Park; in 1911, when he was 57, he rang the tenor at Ashton-under-Lyne to the 12,240 of Kent Treble Bob Maximus in 8 hours 39 minutes. Ten years later he rang the 42 cwt. tenor at Cornhill to a birthday peal of Stedman Cinques and promised to come back in 50 years for another. Well, who knows! And then on November 28th, 1925, the day after his 72nd birthday, he rang the old 53 cwt. tenor at Bow, Cheapside, to a half-muffled peal of Treble Bob Maximus, in 4 hours 7 minutes, for the funeral of Queen Alexandra.

One might add to the exploits of James George, but this will suffice to show the manner of man he was and is. If it is possible to triumph over handicap he'll do it, and his friends everywhere look forward to the time when his health—and the war—will enable him to get back to the belfry.

J. S. G.

## DEATH OF GABRIEL LINDOFF.

### A GREAT COMPOSER.

#### His Work for the Irish Association.

Gabriel Lindoff is dead and the Exercise has lost one of its greatest figures of all time—great in knowledge, great in achievement, great in personal charm. He passed away on Friday, November 7th, in a Dublin Home, whither he had been removed from hospital a week or two before when it was realised that recovery after a collapse was practically impossible. For a fortnight before his death he was seldom conscious.

Gabriel Lindoff's name has been a household word among ringers for more than fifty years, and whilst most members of the Exercise know him chiefly for the vast contribution which he has made to the science of ringing, those more intimately acquainted with him can best appreciate his painstaking devotion to the art, the extraordinarily vast explorations he undertook into the scientific aspect of ringing and the developments which were the outcome of his labours.

In this connection it should be remembered that the beginnings of his work took place in the days when men knew little of the production of methods and compositions by formulæ. Everything they did was done largely by trial and error, and Lindoff himself was one of the first to prove that much of the work could be reduced to mathematical form and progression.

Apart, however, from all this mass of investigation, carried on within the quietude of his own home, Lindoff did a wonderful work for practical ringing in Ireland.

He was born in Leiston, Suffolk, on November 19th, 1868, so that had he lived until this week he would have been 73 years of age. He joined the Royal Engineers in his youth, and after his term of service went to live in Lincoln, until a great opportunity came to him.

When Lord Iveagh gave the majestic ring of ten bells to St. Patrick's Cathedral in 1897, Lindoff went to Dublin as instructor of the band at the Cathedral, and he had made Ireland his home ever since. Not only did he build up the band at the Cathedral very quickly, but he early on promoted the Irish Association, of which he was elected the first secretary 43 years ever since, as guide, counsellor and friend. Naturally in a land where change ringing was

little known and towers for the most part sparsely scattered, the difficulties were great, but slowly, yet none the less surely, Lindoff built up the organisation, which now extends from Londonderry to Limerick.

His sojourn in Ireland robbed him very largely of peal ringing opportunities, yet he had taken part in many historic performances and travelled to this country to do so. For a man of such restricted peal ringing opportunity he had probably shared in more record performances than any other, and in this sphere his capabilities were thought of very highly by William Pye, with whom he rang a number of long lengths. For instance, Gabriel Lindoff had never rung a peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, but William Pye, one of the best judges of a ringer's ability, without hesitation put him in the record peal of 15,312 at Ashton-under-Lyne in 1929.

But then had they not shared in the earlier glories of the 11,111 Stedman Cinques at Birmingham in 1901, the 11,328 of London Surprise Major at King's Norton in 1903, the 18,027 Stedman Caters at Loughborough in 1907 and had not Lindoff kept up his flair for long peals by taking part in the 11,232 of Superlative Surprise Major at Bolton in 1927 and the 17,824 of Oxford Treble Bob at Heptonstall about three months later? William Pye knew his man and Gabriel Lindoff did not let him down.

In addition to the long peals already mentioned, Mr. Lindoff was in two abortive attempts, one in 1923 when he took part in an 18,240 Kent Treble Bob Major in 11 hours 13 minutes at Mottram, which turned out to be false. In 1928 he took part in an attempt for 22,096 Double Norwich Major, which ended after 18,360 changes had been rung in 10 hours 52 minutes.



THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

Lindoff organised many toufs for English ringers in Ireland, which those who took part in them remember with pleasure, and he organised them with a genius that always spelled success. The principal part of his own peal ringing in higher methods was done on these and similar ringing tours in this country under the leadership of Pye and others.

Mr. Lindoff had been a member of the Central Council since 1920, as one of the representatives of the Irish Association. Previously the association had been represented by the Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry only from 1903 to 1912, but in 1920 they became affiliated once more and elected two members, of whom Lindoff was one, and he continued as one of the members up to his death. When the activities of the Peals Collection Committee were revived a few years ago, to get together a collection of compositions suitable for general use, Mr. Lindoff was made the 'convener.' The work was practically completed just before the war broke out, but, of course, has not yet been published.

Gabriel Lindoff bore a name outstanding in more than one respect. Every ringer knows him as a great composer, every conductor as a painstaking and reliable producer. But his very name itself had an appeal in it seldom found in English nomenclature. It was a unique and striking combination which created a fascinating impression, whether spoken or read—Gabriel Lindoff.

To ringers of long experience what a wealth of talent, what a flood of memories the name brings back.

## MR. LINDOFF AS A COMPOSER.

### His Wonderful Versatility.

To the majority of our readers Mr. Lindoff will best be known through his compositions, and it is as a composer that his name will most be familiar to future generations. There his fame is secure, for though he has not to his credit any one outstandingly popular peal like J. J. Parker's Grandsire Triples, Thomas Thurstans' Stedman Triples, or John Pritchard's Bob Major, more compositions by him have probably been rung than by any other man dead or alive. His interest in composition began when he was still a lad at Leiston, and the first peal he called was his own composition.

The interest begun so early never flagged for more than half a century, and probably received a great stimulus from his long exile in Dublin, since he was cut off active participation in peal ringing in the higher methods except when he could pay a visit to England or welcome a touring party in Ireland. Patience and thoroughness, added to natural gifts, enabled him to explore in turn most of the methods in ordinary practice and to provide just that sort of peal best suited for the conductor's use.

His first compositions were in Bob Major, for that was the method rung by the band he learnt with. Here one of his peals, a 5,376 in six parts reducible to 5,152, had some measure of popularity with other bands.

From Bob Major, Mr. Lindoff turned his attention to Treble Bob Major, and at, for him, a fortunate time. The method was then more extensively practised than any other on eight bells and for long had been a favourite one with composers. The wide scope and variety, and the enormous number of possible peals, together with the difficulties created by internal falseness, made the method a fascinating study for scores of composers whose work is so well and so clearly set out in Jasper Snowdon's Treatise on Treble Bob. Indeed, so many men had been working in this field that 50 years ago it was commonly said that everything possible had been done and nothing was left for newcomers.

But it so happened that the standards set by John Reeves, when in the eighteenth century he first put composition in the method on a sound basis, had altered very little. His idea was to get the largest number of changes in the fewest number of courses and to make the sixth, and if possible the fifth, work the extent both right and wrong. The men who followed adopted and developed these ideas, and gradually the extent with the tenors together and peals with the sixth the extent in all conceivable ways were produced.

Then in the early eighties a three-part peal by Earle Bulwer appeared almost casually. It broke away from and reversed the old musical standards. Instead of trying to keep the most musical bells their extent in sixth's at the course end, he tried to keep the most unmusical bell, the second, out of that position. That set a new ideal which in time was followed more or less by all composers, and peals were produced not, as before, to have the sixth the extent right and wrong, but to have the second and third never in sixth's place.

### A NEW FIELD IN TREBLE BOB.

A whole new field was opened up in Treble Bob composition, and of it Gabriel Lindoff took full advantage. There was keen competition to produce the first peal with the second and third never in sixth's, for at the time it was not an easy job. Mr. Lindoff was the first to succeed, but as his earliest peal started with bobs at Home, there was an outcry from his older rivals that it was not playing the game. The Central Council, however, formally decided that the plan was perfectly valid.

Mr. Lindoff then went further and produced some of the three-parts with 2-3 part-ends which now became the popular peals with conductors.

(Continued on next page.)

## THE LATE MR. GABRIEL LINDOFF.

(Continued from previous page.)

The increasing popularity of Superlative Surprise gave Mr. Lindoff another opportunity, and here he produced a large number which were rung. So he did in London Surprise, where he took full advantage of the discovery by Mr. F. Dench that the method has a clear proof scale if bobs at In and Fifths are called in every course. James W. Washbrook was the first to turn this to full account, and he used it to compose the 11,328 which was rung at Drayton in 1896.

London composition with continuous In and Fifths is practically restricted Bob Major composition, and 5,184 changes are the only handy length possible; but Mr. Lindoff introduced one or two full courses. That gives some risk of internal falseness, but makes a very large number of peals possible. William Pye was very partial to this style of composition and he called dozens of Mr. Lindoff's peals.

Gabriel Lindoff has the distinction of composing the longest peal of London yet rung, 14,112 changes, and he himself took part in the performance. The amount of true material in the method is strictly limited, and the way it can be put together is strictly limited too; it was, therefore, not surprising that Law James in his independent investigations should have discovered what is essentially the same peal, only when James put it together he was able to include one lead more.

Composition in Bristol Surprise Major so long as the tenors are not parted is the same as composition in Treble Bob without any fear of internal falseness. Here Mr. Lindoff did good work and many of his peals have been rung. Here, too, the longest length as yet rung was by him. As a composition it has been beaten by many changes.

Just as the development in Treble Bob composition gave Mr. Lindoff his first great opportunity, so the increasing popularity of the half-and-half peals of Stedman Caters and Cinques opened another great field for him, of which he did not fail to take full advantage. He composed the 18,027 of Caters rung at Loughborough in 1909, and the 11,111 of Cinques rung at Birmingham in 1901, as well as the 19,738 Caters rung on handbells at Guildford in 1912. The latter was a reduction of a 22,222; and to get this length, and yet have the second half of the peal in the handstroke position, the changes were started at backstroke.

Grandsire Triples was for many years considered almost the most difficult method for composition and few men ventured to tackle it, but here Mr. Lindoff produced more than one excellent peal, though for the most part conductors never look further than Parker's 12-part and Holt's Original.

The above description by no means covers all Mr. Lindoff's work as a composer. He has some fine compositions in Double Norwich, including one with the 60 course ends and a longer length (in-course) than had previously been obtained; and we must not forget the service he rendered to those bands who were seeking for new Surprise methods to practise. A very large proportion of the methods rung by the talented Suffolk bands at Leiston and Helmingham were worked out by him, and other bands have also benefited by his work in this field.

When we remember how important good compositions are to peal ringers we can begin to form some estimate of the debt the Exercise owes to Gabriel Lindoff.

### FOUNDER OF THE IRISH ASSOCIATION.

-FORTY-THREE YEARS AS SECRETARY.

Gabriel Lindoff, as is recorded above, was born at Leiston, Suffolk, where he spent his childhood's days. When in his teens his interest in bellringing was aroused while daily watching the work on the hanging of the local peal of bells, and he determined to teach himself how to ring a bell. This he did when about 17 years old at St. Margaret's, Leiston, where, unknown to local ringers, he taught himself how to control a bell, and when he first appeared in the presence of a team he created much amazement by his capabilities.

In 1896, the year of his first peal of 5,000 Bob Major at Leiston, he joined the Royal Engineers, in which later he became an Army schoolmaster, and was stationed near Gillingham, Kent, where he instructed the local band of ringers. His progress in change ringing was rapid and he was soon conducting peals of 5,000 changes. In the meantime he was for a time stationed at Aldershot and put in some spade work at Farnham nearby, where he called peals with the local men.

In 1896 he left the Army and took up a position in Lincoln, and there connected himself with the local ringing circles. His stay, however, was short, for in 1897 he left England and became instructor to the ringers at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, where a new peal of ten bells (tenor 45 cwt.) had recently been presented by the late Lord Iveagh, K.P.

The founding of the Irish Association was due to his initiative. In 1898 he circularised five local ringing societies with a view to founding a national organisation. The response was encouraging, and on Saturday, October 22nd, about 25 ringers from Dublin and district, nearly all of whom knew very little of change ringing, met in St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School, Dublin, to give birth to the Irish Association. At this meeting Mr. R. R. Cherry (Lord Justice Richard Cherry as he afterwards became) was elected president and Gabriel Lindoff was elected hon. secretary, a position which he held throughout his lifetime. The office is now vacant for the first time.

The first peal of 5,000 for the Irish Association was rung on handbells in 1899. This was followed by a peal on tower bells in 1900 and from that time progress in change ringing and peal ringing was rapid. Eventually almost every ringing society in the country joined the association, making a membership at present of about 300 ringers.

Through his efforts the ten at St. Patrick's, Dublin, were augmented to twelve in 1909. The two trebles were presented by Lord Justice Cherry and a semitone was hung for ringing.

During the war years (1915-1918) no meetings were held by the Irish Association, as so many of its members were in the Army, while local trouble also made travelling long distances uncertain. Nevertheless, Mr. Lindoff kept the interest alive, and in 1919 the association once again met, but only for two years, for in 1921 trouble again occurred and the association did not meet until 1925. It has not, however, failed in its meetings since.

St. George's Society, Dublin, elected Mr. Lindoff their vice-president in 1930, and since that time this society has progressed in change ringing and now have two peals to their credit unassisted.

After a number of attempts at meetings of the association to elect Mr. Lindoff president, he was eventually elected to that office in 1934, but only on the condition that he held the office of hon. secretary at the same time. The chairman of the meeting on one occasion refused Mr. Lindoff's name as a candidate for president, adding that 'we want Mr. Lindoff for a more important office.'

As most of the ringers in the British Isles already know, a presentation, to which subscriptions came from almost every association affiliated to the Central Council of Church Bellringers, of which he was a member, was made to Gabriel Lindoff in 1938, in the form of a gold watch suitably inscribed and an illuminated address to mark the completion of 40 years as hon. secretary for the Irish Association.

He had over 400 peals to his credit, rung for almost every association, of which he was a member. He conducted 39 of his 65 peals rung for the Irish Association.

He was 'at home' when teaching recruits and never spared himself in his efforts to produce good ringers. He was much loved by the ambitious learner, with whom he would spend hours in explaining matters.

He was active up to the end of 1940, when his health commenced to fail, but this did not deter him from his activities until last March, when he was confined to bed for a few weeks and was absent for the first time from an Irish Association meeting. He recovered sufficiently to enable him to return to regular Sunday service ringing until about two months ago, when he became suddenly seriously ill.

His much lamented death occurred on Friday, November 7th, at a Dublin Home of Rest. His loss will be keenly felt by the Irish Association and in ringing circles in general.

He was laid to rest on Monday, November 10th, in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, the Rev. J. L. P. Atkinson, M.A., Dean's Vicar, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, officiating at the service. The coffin was borne to the grave by a party of bellringers, and about forty bellringers from Dublin and district attended the funeral, which took place in very inclement weather.

Mr. Lindoff is survived by one son—Gabriel George Lindoff.

### AN APPRECIATION.

By C. T. COLES.

The hand of death has taken from us another great ringer in the person of Gabriel Lindoff. To many present-day ringers he was little known personally, but in days before the war a week seldom passed without his name appearing in the peal columns of 'The Ringing World.' For years he has been known as one of the leading and most reliable composers of peals. His collection of compositions of Stedman Caters and Cinques is surpassed in numbers only by the late John Carter's broadsheets, and his London Surprise peals number scores of thousands. In other methods, notably Superlative Surprise, he has given the Exercise many excellent compositions, whilst he has also been the composer of many long peals, including the London and Bristol Surprise records, and the 18,027 Stedman Caters rung at Loughborough in 1909, to which peal he rang the ninth.

My first recollection of meeting him was during a ringing tour in Hampshire in September, 1928, when I was invited to join the tourists in a peal of Stedman Cinques at Winchester Cathedral. Gabriel was, of course, his usual modest self, and this meeting with him proved to be one of many such delightful happenings. Less than a year later he rang in what turned out to be his first peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus, the 15,312 at Ashton-under-Lyne. It was owing to Gabriel's good efforts, and quite possibly due to his great friendship with the Ashton-under-Lyne ringers, that this peal was arranged at that tower. As an old campaigner and ringer of long peals Gabriel was able to stay the course in spite of his anxiety, expressed afterwards, to do his best in his 'first peal in the method.'

A year or two later 'Gay,' as he was affectionately called, joined the 'Pye' party on its annual tour, and he was a regular member of that party until the outbreak of war stopped ringing. One of these tours, a most memorable one in Eire and Northern Ireland, was arranged by him in 1936, and his great efforts on that occasion, resulted in a successful tour and a delightful week's holiday. He was one of that type of ringer dear to the heart of the leader of a tourist band, always ready to stand in a peal, or to stand out of a peal.

(Continued on next page.)



**A PEAL OF TRIPLES AT WELLS.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The peal of Stedman Triples rung at Wells Cathedral, and mentioned by Mr. A. H. Pulling in your issue of November 14th, was a very fine performance. It was intended to ring Stedman Caters, but the band turned up one short and Triples was substituted.

The peal was rung during one of the tours arranged by Mr. Pulling. I have not the details by me, but I believe it was on August 11th, 1925, and the band was Major J. H. B. Hesse, Messrs. A. H. Pulling, G. Williams, E. P. Duffield, J. A. Cole, C. H. Dobbie, W. T. Beeson, G. Steere and O. Sippetts.

I heard the whole of the peal and it was the finest ringing that I have had the pleasure of listening to.

The striking was so good that it may have appeared monotonous to some people, because I remember that a lady who noticed I was interested in the ringing enquired of me if the bells were being rung by 'machinery.'

GEORGE PULLINGER.

Bishopstoke, Hants.

**YORKSHIRE RINGER'S TRAGIC DEATH.**

A verdict of 'Accidental death' was returned by the Craven Coroner on Mr. George Cecil Wallace, railway clerk, of Bracklenley Lane, Emsay, who met his death on Monday week on his way to work after colliding with a G.P.O. mail van. The driver was exonerated from blame at the inquest.

The funeral took place at the Emsay Parish Church. Mr. Wallace was held in high esteem, as was shown by the number of colleagues who attended the funeral to pay their last respects. The service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. W. M. Lister).

Mr. Wallace was born at Derby and came to Skipton some years ago as a clerk on the L.M.S. Railway, where he worked for many years, being sent later to Leeds, and was engaged there up to the time of his death. He had lived at Emsay for some years, and was a member of the local Home Guard.

Up to the beginning of the war he was an active bellringer at the Skipton Parish Church, a duty which he had carried out for many years. He was also keenly interested in ambulance work in connection with the L.M.S. ambulance unit. He leaves a widow and three children.

**SPLICED SURPRISE MAJOR.***To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—The enclosed plain courses will, I think, be of interest to those who are interested in Spliced Surprise Major.

Might I again express my admiration of the way in which you are keeping 'The Ringing World' as interesting as ever despite the scarcity of news?

C. KENNETH LEWIS.

o/o 23, Grimshaw Street, Preston.

		False Course Ends.	
2345678	A. denham	65432 (7)	32546 6
5738264	Superlative	43265 (2)	53624 (7) 24365 (4)
8674523	London		
7856342	Yorkshire	24365 (2)	
6482735	Belgrave		
4263857	Cambridge	32546 (1)	
3527486	Rutland	65432 (1)	53624 (2)
	<i>An Alternative.</i>		
2345678	Aldenham	65432 (7)	32546 (6)
5738264	Pudsey		
8674523	London		
7856342	Yorkshire		
6482735	Belgrave		
4263857	Cambridge	32546 (1)	
3527486	Rutland	65432 (1)	

For peals with the first of these courses it would appear that Middleton's peal of Cambridge is true, but no other. The variations with bobs Before cannot be used.

**THE LATE MR GABRIEL LINDOFF.**

(Continued from previous page.)

Only on one occasion can I recollect him expressing a desire to stand in a particular peal attempt, and this was on the Irish tour already referred to, when he called the first peal of Cambridge Royal in Ireland, at the Cathedral at Enniskillen.

Gabriel Lindoff was, too, a delightful companion in the hours 'off duty,' and his store of anecdotes passed many an hour away. Many ringers will mourn him, and more than one tourist party will miss him. When our bells are rung once more, the sound of them will always bring back pleasant memories of a great and true English gentleman.

**LONDON CITY CHURCHES.**

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS MAY OPPOSE RESTORATION.

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sure that the views of Mr. John Summerson, expressed in his address to the Architectural Association, do not represent the views of the majority of members of that body, which has in a number of ways shown its appreciation of Wren's work. Most architects, I believe, would be glad to see a complete restoration of Wren's churches were this possible, but while we may, in view of Mr. Summerson's position, deplore his materialistic opinions, we must admit the futility of rebuilding in some of the cases where congregations are almost non-existent.

I hope and believe that we shall see the reconstruction of the more important churches, such as St. Bride's, Bow and St. Lawrence Jewry, with the best of their original features reproduced. In cases where a complete restoration is not possible, public opinion will probably ensure the retention of the towers (if they are of artistic value, as at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane). We must, however, anticipate opposition from the big banks and other commercial interests, who have for long coveted the best of the sites. It will be remembered that a few years ago some of our own 'vandals' made a determined onslaught on no less than 19 City churches! This was defeated (with the loss only of All Hallows', Lombard Street) largely through the opposition of the Corporation and the architectural and archaeological societies.

The steeple of Bow will certainly be put in order; but whether its condition will allow of a ringing peal equal in weight to the old remains to be seen. It is a fact that in many of these buildings (even St. Paul's) the internal work is very inferior to the excellent masonry we see outside, so that they are highly susceptible to the action of fire or explosives. We can't altogether blame our forefathers for this; they deserve our respect and admiration for their achievement in rebuilding about fifty parish churches (besides commencing a new St. Paul's) within a few years of the Great Fire, which must have sadly impoverished the City. We must admit that the bells of Bow rather overloaded the tower (though a modern frame would have overcome this to some extent), and I am prepared to see in the future a lighter peal than we have been accustomed to. After all, we can get a very good effect with a tenor of 35 or 40 cwt. should a reduction in weight be unavoidable.

It will be the duty of the London ringing societies, with the aid of the Central Council, to raise their voices in no uncertain manner at the proper time to ensure that the new Bow bells are worthy of the tower and its ringing history.

I think, by the way, that Mr. Summerson confused St. Mary Aldermanbury with St. Mary Aldermanbury. The former church is quite a good one, and has a fine tower; it is interesting as being one of Wren's incursions into Gothic. I hope that at some future time the stone finials on the tower pinnacles will be replaced; they have been missing for several years. St. Mary Aldermanbury was not one of the best examples of Wren's work.

A correspondent seeks information about my old Parish Church of St. Mary, Islington. The church is practically destroyed, but I am happy to say the steeple and bells have survived. The tower was never very strong, and I fear it will have been further weakened by its ordeal; it dates from 1754 and was the design of a joiner, Lancelot Dowbiggin. In my young days I used to sit below his monument, which bore a sculptured representation of his compasses, tee-square, etc. We were rather proud of the mahogany pulpit with its great sounding board carried on finely carved Corinthian columns. This had been for many years diverted from its proper purpose to serve as a table top in the workhouse. We have lost several excellent examples of this item of church furniture, not only in the recent troubled period, but in 'restorations' of former years. I believe all the other bells mentioned by your correspondent are intact, though some of the churches have suffered severely by enemy action.

R. F. DEAL.

Since writing the above I find I have been too optimistic regarding St. Vedast's, Foster Lane. After many attempts I have succeeded in getting into the church, and find that the tower, though outwardly showing no sign of damage, is internally in rather a bad state. The base is blocked by a mass of charred debris, in the midst of which one or two bells can be seen. Of course, it is impossible to tell what condition they are in.

The Rector is taking all necessary steps for the preservation of the bells and other remaining objects of interest. St. Vedast's bells were, I believe, the heaviest six in London (tenor about 16 cwt.) and the tower is considered one of the best of the smaller ones by Wren.

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## GRANDSIRE CATERS.

By EDGAR C. SHEPHERD.

### THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPOSITION.

(Continued from page 539.)

The device used by John Martin to extend the available courses in the Tittums was what he designated 'Calling the 7th down out of the Tittums.' He calls the 7th before, In and Out at 6 with a Double. The Tittum position is broken up for 198 changes, and is then re-established, the total result being the same as if a 78 has been called. The bell behind the 9th is undisturbed so that if the 6th is in that position the music is tolerable. In other cases it is very poor stuff. Martin knew this quite well, and felt that he was only making the best of a bad job.

Below his 10,080 he writes: '10,080 as is hear prick'd, and has got all the Musick in it as can be Thrown into it, and by filling up five of the Blanks it Will make a peal of 11,070, and by Filling up the Other five Blanks it will make a peal of 12,060, and the Greater Lengths you Run the More Deficient the Music in some parts must be. But preserve and get all the good Music you can.'

Martin set out his peals and touches by the Bob leads, indicating by dotted lines in red ink the places where the 7th might be 'called down.' The example given here shows how they appear in the composer's book, and the reference to filling up the blanks will be readily understood. From 2653489 one may call a bob at 7, and so arrive at 36245978 in seven leads; or one may, from 26537489, call the 7th down, insert 198 changes, and still arrive at 36245978.

The famous 10,080 is given here as it appears in Shipway's book.

23456789

75293846	1	35426978	1	36524978	1
46738295	3	46357289	5	54367289	5

52493867	2	63457289	6	43567289	6
{ 67538492	3	{ 47638592	5	{ 57438692	5
{ 75638492	6	{ 76438592	6	{ 74538692	6
{ 56738492	6	{ 64738592	6	{ 45738692	6
43526978	1	53624978	1	63425978	1
{ 67458392	4	{ 47568392	4	{ 57648392	6
{ 74658392	6	{ 75468392	6	{ 76548392	6
{ 46758392	6	{ 54768392	6	{ 65748392	6
				34625978	1

'The bobs from 46738295 four times repeated produce 42356978, when three bobs, viz., 8th and 9th before, with one at home, complete the peal. By omitting those bobs which are included in the six braces, the following numbers will be produced: omitting five of them, out of either part, will produce the 11,070; out of two parts, the 10,080; out of three, the 9,090; out of four, the 8,100; out of five, the 7,110; and omitting the whole of the bobs braced will reduce it to 6,120. By coming round from 42563 in the fourth part, with five of the braced bobs omitted out of the four parts, the number will be 5,309; and omitting another brace will reduce it to 5,111. J. Martin, Leicester.'

For his 10,080 Martin omitted the braced bobs in parts 1 and 2, where the 2nd and 4th are behind the 9th, and

lengthened out the blocks where the 3rd, 5th and 6th were fifth's place bells. For him the music was more important than the symmetry. This is what he writes of his 7,002:—

'7,002 is more compleat when each course is Lengthen'd Equal, that is Each Course having the 7th Down Once In It, it may to the Eye Look more compleat to see Each course equal, and that is the Reason I wrote it so—But was I to call it I would call all the course the same as the 6,012, Except the Course with the 6th Behind ye 9th and In that Course I would Through the whole 990—By Calling 7th Down five times in that course—or Otherwise would call three of them in the Course of 6 behind 9th and Two of them in the Course of third behind 9th. the Ear and Not the eye is to be considered, what think you Brother String of This method?'

Was there ever a more categorical statement of musical policy? And to the query at the end, surely each Brother String must reply, 'It is well said, John Martin.'

The plan of splicing non-Tittum blocks into Tittum peals is found also in the works of William Doubleday Crofts, Martin's friend and rival. Crofts was born about 1740 and died in 1809, and his ringing MSS., which fortunately are preserved in very good condition, show that he was a very able composer.

Mr. J. W. Parker, of Sunderland, examined the MSS. very carefully some years ago, and wrote as follows: 'The whole of the papers are extremely interesting and, considering the time they were written, reveal the writer as a wonderful man. At that time there could have been little or no chance of learning from an outside source, and yet the contents of the MSS. show Crofts to have the knowledge of and a keen insight into many things which would put him to the forefront, even to-day. . . . The most interesting is the writer's proof of Treble Bob methods by the lead ends.'

Reference to Croft's work on Treble Bob will be found in Snowdon's 'Treatise on Treble Bob,' where two of the old composer's compositions are reproduced.

The portion of Crofts' papers devoted to Grandsire Caters gives nearly 100 touches, all on the long course plan, all having the 6th behind the 9th, and all round at hand from 42563978. In opening courses, the composer uses 8-2 for placing the 6th behind the 9th. There are two peal compositions, 6,065, and the 10,260 rung at Nottingham in 1778. A copy of John Martin's 8,046 is carefully set out. It is unsigned, and there is no acknowledgment of the authorship.

Crofts, as is mentioned elsewhere, was a Nottingham attorney-at-law, and the setting out of his MSS has something of the precision and formality usually associated with law processes. The pages are beautifully written and carefully tabulated. They have not, however, the warmth and intimacy of Martin's book.

Thomas Sibson's name first appears in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob conducted by John Martin at Leicester in 1786. In 1709 Sibson called a date touch of Grandsire Caters in which Martin rang the 7th, and this is the last recorded touch in which the older composer rang.

Martin died in the October of that year, and Sibson seems to have assumed the post of composer and conductor to the Leicester Scholars. His peals of Grandsire Caters show no advance on those of his predecessors, and here and there he uses Martin's device of calling the 7th down.

(To be continued.)

**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 the minimum charge of 1/6.

NOTICES must be received NOT LATER THAN MONDAY.

All communications should be sent to THE EDITORIAL OFFICE OF 'THE RINGING WORLD,' LOWER PYRFORD ROAD, WOKING, SURREY.

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

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Newbury Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at Newbury on Saturday, November 22nd. Service 4.30 p.m., Parish Church, followed by tea and business meeting.—T. J. Fisher, Hon. Sec., Manor Lane, Newbury.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Meeting for practice at Cradley (D.V.) on Saturday, November 22nd, 3 p.m. Tower bells available ('silent'). Tea 5.15 p.m. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—Bernard C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Green Road, Stourbridge.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 22nd, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

GUILDFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Leatherhead District.—A district meeting will be held at Leatherhead on Saturday, November 29th. Bells (8, clapperless, tower) or handbells available from 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea at the Duke's Head 5.15, followed by business meeting. Everybody is welcome, but if you require tea please send numbers to Mr. G. Marriner, 7, Poplar Avenue, Leatherhead, as early as possible.—A. H. Smith, Hon. Sec.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Watford District.—Annual district meeting, Saturday, November 29th, at the Studios, Falconer Road, Bushey. Handbells from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting 5 p.m. Names for tea to Mr. E. Jennings, 50, Rudolph Road, Bushey, by November 26th.—H. G. Cashmore, 24, Muriel Avenue, Watford.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—Meeting at St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, on Saturday, Nov. 29th. Handbells in the Parish Room adjoining from 3 p.m. Short service 4 p.m. Tea 4.30 p.m. Bring your own sugar. Business and more handbell ringing.—T. J. Lock, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The next meeting will be held in the Church School at Birstall on Saturday, November 29th. Handbells from 3 p.m. Business meeting 4.30 p.m. A good muster is requested.—H. Lofthouse, Hon. Sec., 8, Wortley Road, Leeds, 12.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—A meeting will be held at the Woodbarners Cafe, Apsley End, on Saturday, November 29th, at 4 p.m. Handbells will be available. I shall try to arrange for tea to be available.—W. Ayre.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.—Exeter Branch.—Annual meeting will be held at St. Sidwell's, Exeter, on Saturday, December 6th. Service 4 o'clock.

Tea in the Institute 4.45. Handbells available. Will those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st (not later)?—W. H. Howe, Hon. Sec., 8, Courtenay Road, Exeter.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Tonbridge District.—A meeting will be held at Tunbridge Wells on Saturday, December 6th, when the accounts and balance sheet for 1941 will be presented. Service at St. Peter's at 4 p.m. Tea (free) at 4.45 in the Parish Room. All those requiring tea must let Mr. E. J. Ludd, 4, William Street, Tunbridge Wells, know not later than Wednesday, December 3rd. Eight silent bells will be available. There are a few more subscriptions owing, which the hon. district secretary would be glad to receive before the meeting.—T. Saunders, Hon. Dis. Sec., Peckham Bush, Pad-dock Wood.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Stony Stratford on Saturday, December 6th. Handbells 3 p.m. Service 3.30. Those requiring tea please notify me by December 1st. All welcome.—R. H. Howson, Hon. Sec., 19, Greenfield Road, Newport Pagnell, Bletchley.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL (GLASGOW) SOCIETY.—Regular practice meetings on the tower bells (10) with the apparatus will now be held on the first and third Saturdays of each month at 3 p.m., followed by handbells. All welcome.—E. A. Stafford, Hon. Sec.

**HANDBELLS FOR SALE.**

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**TWO LOST FRIENDS.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—It is with deep regret that I read of the passing of two old ringing friends, Mr. W. H. Preston, of Melbourne, and Mr. Gabriel Lindoff.

The former was a member of the Gillingham band formed by my brother, A. Haigh, about 1885, and after struggling along, trying to ring Grandsire Triples, he managed to ring one peal on December 7th, 1889. He left shortly afterwards for Melbourne and we had not heard much about him since.

I had been in touch with Mr. Lindoff ever since he joined the Royal Engineers about 1886. He joined the Gillingham band and remained a most valuable member until he left us, to our regret, for Lincoln. It is not possible for me to pay tribute to such a valuable friend and comrade. He was a most unassuming man. We rang many peals together, the Grandsire Triples at Aylesford in 1887 and the first peals of Oxford Treble Bob Major, Superlative and Cambridge for the Kent County Association. I know of no ringer who has done more for the Exercise, and his work will live long after we have gone.

W. HAIGH.

Etchingam, Sussex.

PEALS IN REGULAR PARTS.—Whenever it is possible, peals should be divided into equal parts, to be repeated at regular intervals. The propriety of such a division is obvious, as the bob-caller can more easily retain the peal in his mind, can better select the musical positions, and in conducting the peal can more readily ascertain the truth of the changes as they proceed by observing the last change of each part, which is termed the *part-end*.—William Shipway.

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