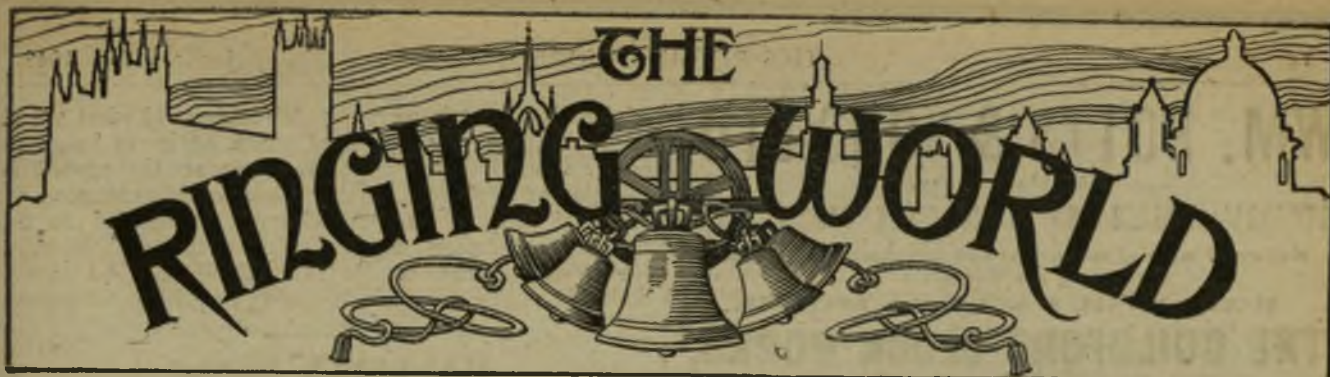




No. 1,659. Vol. XXXVIII.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 8th, 1943.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for
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UMPIRES FOR HANDBELL PEALS.

Last Saturday, by eleven votes against nine, the Ancient Society of College Youths decided not to delete the rule which says that peals rung on handbells shall not be booked unless they are vouched for by an umpire. The decision cannot however be taken as in any way affecting the question whether umpires are generally necessary when handbell peals are rung. As was pointed out, the society has never expressed an official opinion on the matter; all it has done is to say that the presence of an umpire is necessary if the peal is to be entered in the peal book, and this is not the only condition required.

In the interesting debate a wide range of opinions was expressed, most of the arguments advanced being by this time fairly familiar to our readers. Quite evidently it is a matter upon which general agreement is not at all likely to occur. What did decide the matter on Saturday was the feeling that it is not advisable to alter rules during the present abnormal conditions of war time.

There was also an impression that the rule is an ancient one come down from the past ages, but for that there is not much justification. The rule does not appear in the society's book published in 1891, and we have an impression that it was passed towards the end of the last century when a very determined attempt was made to prevent un-umpired handbell peals being recognised by any association.

The Central Council discussed the matter, and came to a somewhat vague and non-committal decision which, while not absolutely forbidding peals without umpires, was intended to discourage them.

Since those days conditions have very much altered. While far more handbell peals are rung, the difficulties of getting competent umpires have not lessened. It is abundantly clear that the presence of an average witness is no real safeguard against deliberate fraud. A band which is capable of publishing performances it knows are false is quite capable of seeing that its umpires are men with standards no higher than its own. But do such bands exist? And if there are isolated instances, are they worth bothering about?

Nevertheless it remains true that in many instances umpires are most desirable and almost essential, and in such cases a band will usually, for its own sake and satisfaction, see that they are present. But we are quite sure that no rule can be drawn up which will satisfactorily define when an umpire must be present and when it does not matter.

Even if this could be done there remain the problems

(Continued on page 14.)

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of deciding what is a competent umpire and what are his duties, and the standards by which he is to judge the performance. These problems have so far proved insoluble and are likely to do so; but nothing but good can come of these recurrent exchanges of opinion on this question of umpires, for they show that there is a strong feeling in the Exercise that everything must be done to maintain the truth and high quality of peal performances.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1942, in Two Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
*FRANK I. HAIRS ... 3-4	EDWIN BARNETT ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Two Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15.

*MISS MARIE R. CROSS ... 1-2	ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 5-6
EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 3-4	*R. GORDON CROSS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method on handbells.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Composed by C. W. ROBERTS. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

A birthday compliment to Frank I. Hairs. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, December 27, 1942, in Two Hours and Twelve Minutes,

At 2, FLINT COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL.

Tenor size 15 in C.

GEORGE H. SPICE ... 1-2	BETTY SPICE ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4	WILLIAM SPICE ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Four Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF LITTLE BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor size 15.

*MRS. E. A. BARNETT ... 1-2	EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4	FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER.

* First peal in the method.

THE OLDEST RINGER.

In reply to the enquiry by Mr. H. Bird asking who was the oldest ringer to take part in the victory ringing, Mr. James George writes that he chimed the 5th, 6th and 7th for 20 minutes at Bishop Ryder's Church, Birmingham, and rang the tenor up for ten minutes. He was then twelve days off his 89th birthday.

BURGESS HILL, SUSSEX.
THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 28, 1942, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At RESTORMEL, JAMES LANE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15.

MRS. F. I. HAIRS ... 1-2 | *EDWIN A. BARNETT ... 5-6
ERNEST C. S. TURNER ... 3-4 | FRANK I. HAIRS ... 7-8

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY. Conducted by ERNEST C. S. TURNER

* 100th peal on handbells. First peal in the method on handbells by the association.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.
THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

At the RESIDENCE of Mr. W. H. BARNES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor size 14½ in C sharp.

MRS. JACK BRAY ... 1-2 | JACK BRAY ... 5-6
FRANK LORD ... 3-4 | PTE. PHILIP BARNES, R.C.S. 7-8

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by JACK BRAY.

TUNSTALL, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, December 29, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At 2, FINE COTTAGES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS'.

Tenor size 15 in C.

JOHN E. SPICE ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 5-6
BETTY SPICE ... 3-4 | WILLIAM SPICE ... 7-8

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 30, 1942, in One Hour and Forty Minutes,

At 35, WOOSTOCK ROAD,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being three 720's of Oxford and four of Kent, with two different callings for each method. Tenor size 15 in C.

*BETTY SPICE ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 3-4
JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob. † First peal of Treble Bob Minor. First peal of Treble Bob as conductor.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 1-2 | BETTY SPICE ... 5-6
BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 31, 1942, in Two Hours and Twenty-Six Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

CHRISTINE J. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 5-6
MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 3-4 | REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE ... 7-8

Composed by E. M. ATKINS. Conducted by REV. M. C. C. MELVILLE

LEICESTER.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday and Friday, December 31 1942, and January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

At ST. GEORGE'S HALL, COLTON STREET,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

JILL POOLE ... 1-2 | PERCY L. HARRISON ... 5-6
HAROLD J. POOLE ... 3-4 | ALFRED BALLARD ... 7-8

FREDERICK E. WILSON ... 9-10

Composed by JOHN CAPTER. Conducted by HAROLD J. POOLE.

Umpire—Harry Wayne. Witness—John Daniels.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Five Minutes,

At BEECROFT.

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

*BETTY SPICE ... 1-2 | JOHN E. SPICE ... 5-6
*WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 3-4 | DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 7-8

Composed by A. KNIGHTS. Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

* First peal of Treble Bob Major. † First attempt for a peal of Treble Bob. First peal of Treble Bob Major as conductor.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.
THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, January 1, 1943, in Two Hours and Twenty-Seven Minutes,

At BEECROFT,

A PEAL OF SPLICED PLAIN AND GAINSBOROUGH LITTLE BOB ROYAL, 5060 CHANGES;

Tenor size 15 in C.

MONICA J. F. RICHARDSON ... 1-2 | WILLIAM L. B. LEESSE ... 5-6
JOHN E. SPICE ... 3-4 | BRENDA M. RICHARDSON ... 7-8

DOROTHY T. RICHARDSON ... 9-10

Arranged by J. BRAY.

Conducted by JOHN E. SPICE.

First peal in this variation of Bob Royal by the whole band and for the association.

BOURNEMOUTH.
THE WINCHESTER AND PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, January 2, 1943, in Two Hours and Eight Minutes,

At 116, ALMA ROAD,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Ten different callings, 42 six-scores.

MISS JESSIE C. CHICK ... 1-2 | ARTHUR V. DAVIS ... 3-4
*JOHN V. DAVIS (16 years) ... 5-6

Conducted by ARTHUR V. DAVIS.

Witness—Mrs. Arthur V. Davis.

* First peal.

THE SHEPHERD'S KALENDAR.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very interested to read your article about the Shepherd's Kalendar. You say you know of only one copy, belonging to Mr. E. M. Atkins.

In 1935, about a year before he died, our old organist lent me a copy of this book, which used to belong to his grandfather. After his death I asked if the family would sell it to me, but I was unable to get it. I do not know if they still have it, or if it was destroyed with other papers and books. He was organist at our church for 55 years.

A. RELFE.

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THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

(Continued from page 4.)

THE DUKE OF CUMBERLAND.

In after years there grew up a tradition that when Prince Charles Edward entered Carlisle the first time, mounted on a white charger and preceded by a hundred Highland pipers, the Cathedral bells were rung to welcome him; and this so displeased the Bishop that, as a punishment, he ordered that they should not be rung again for a hundred years, a sentence which was duly carried out. That was the story universally believed eighty years later, and always told to visitors to the Cathedral. John Hopkins, of Birmingham, an assiduous collector of items of interest relating to bells and ringing, wrote to Ellacombe that 'at the time of the Scotch Rebellion the bells of Carlisle Cathedral were rung. It so offended the Bishop, he ordered the bells not to be rung for one hundred years. At the expiration of that time, on the very day, they rang merrily.'

But the tale does not seem very convincing. If the bells were rung at all in 1745, it was not by the orders of the Cathedral clergy, for they, under the leadership of Chancellor Waugh, had been the most steadfast supporters of the Government during the siege. Nor is the sentence at all a likely one. Bishops in the Church of England have very little control over their cathedrals, less, in fact, than over an ordinary parish church, and in no case can their authority last beyond the term of their individual office. The then Bishop of Carlisle was Sir George Fleming, an old man nearly eighty years of age, who died shortly afterwards, and who left behind him a name for the possession of Christian virtues.

It would be interesting to know who was supposed to be punished by the sentence. Hardly the clergy, for they were loyal; hardly the townsmen, for they did not own the bells. If it was the bells themselves who were the offenders, the story reads more like the act of an eastern despot than of an English bishop.

But the truth seems to be that the bells did not cease to be rung, for Robert Billings, in his 'History of Carlisle Cathedral,' published in 1840, says that the third was cracked when ringing for peace after Waterloo, and was then removed to the back of the altar. He goes on to say that 'a few years ago, from the supposition that the ringing shook the tower, it was resolved to ring them no more. Small cords were then attached to the tongues over pulleys and conveyed through the groining to the floor of the tower.'

In 1845 the cracked bell was recast, and the ringers of the Parish Church of St. Stephen went to Cocker-mouth to practise for the peal which was to be rung when the supposed ban was lifted. But the Cathedral bells were never rung. Then and for long after they had no wheels.

I imagine this tradition arose from the long silence of the bells, the recasting in 1845, and some hazy recollection of Major Belfour's demand. It is another of those picturesque legends connected with bells and ringing which, on investigation, turn out to have no foundation in fact.

After the Battle of Culloden, the Duke of Cumberland remained in the Highlands to complete the subjection and settlement of the country. The task was accomplished with the utmost rigour and brutality. No quarter was given to fugitives from the battle, prisoners were shot in cold blood, villages and crops burnt, and men and women

flogged and tortured. For these atrocities the Duke must be held responsible. He spoke of the Lord President, who ventured to remonstrate with him, as 'that old woman who talked to me of humanity.' But in London the feeling was of relief and jubilation. The old Jacobite sentiment, typified by men like Thomas Hearne, was never strong in the capital, and was dying even in Oxford and the country parsonages. Increasing prosperity, and settled government under Sir Robert Walpole, had given people a dislike of change and a dread of civil strife. The Highland invasion seemed an irruption of savages, and the general who had conquered them was acclaimed as a popular hero.

The Duke's return was eagerly looked for. The newspapers of the time have several statements saying that he was expected at such and such a time, and then that his journey was postponed; and finally he arrived unannounced and unnoticed by the general public. Six days after he had set out from the north, 'The General Advertiser' stated that 'there is no certain account when H.R.H. the Duke of Cumberland will set out from Fort Augustus', and it was not till the third day after his arrival that it printed a message from Whitehall, dated July 26th, saying that 'yesterday about One o'Clock in the Afternoon, his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland arrived at the Palace of Kensington, and immediately waited on his Majesty.'

From this it is certain that the Duke did not 'enter the Metropolis by the Old North Road through Kingsland and Shoreditch,' that he did not even come through the City, and that therefore the London Scholars could not have welcomed him with a merry peal on Shoreditch bells.

But now that he was back, loyal London went mad in its extravagant welcome. The Duke was acclaimed as the saviour of his country, and flattery both flowery and poetical was heaped upon him. The Commons voted a pension of £25,000; he was made Chancellor of St. Andrew's University and Ranger of Windsor Great Park; Tyburn Gate was renamed Cumberland Gate and so remains to this day; and the many Duke's Heads, the signs of taverns and inns all over the country, are named after him. At Sadler's Wells Theatre a new song was sung called 'The Royal Hero's Return'; at New Wells a masque, 'The Battle near Colloden House,' was performed; and (much more important) Handel's great oratorio, 'Judas Maccabeus,' was specially written and performed at Covent Garden Theatre in his honour, though the most characteristic number, the chorus, 'See the conquering hero comes,' was an afterthought not added till the following year.

But among all this praise there were from the first some discordant notes. When it was proposed to make him a freeman of one of the City Companies, an alderman remarked audibly, "Let it be the Butchers' then." The name stuck, and history knows him and always will know him as the Butcher of Culloden.

His later campaigns in Germany were unsuccessful, and in 1757 he fell into disgrace and resigned his command. Among his other activities was the foundation of the Jockey Club and the laying out of Virginia Water. He bred Eclipse, most famous of all race horses in the history of the turf. He died in 1765, and was buried in Henry the Seventh's chapel in Westminster Abbey.

(Continued on next page.)

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS—Continued from previous page

The character of the man can roughly be judged from this brief account of his career. He had many good qualities. He was brave and his soldiers adored him. His understanding was strong, judicious and penetrating. He had a high sense of honour and duty and was eminently a man to be trusted. But he was proud, unforgiving, and fond of war for its own sake. His nature was hard, and he rarely tempered with mercy what he considered was justice. His action at Carlisle shows that he had no sentiment in favour of bells or ringing.

Such was the man after whom the Society of Cumberland Youths was named and such was the political situation during which it was founded. We may definitely rule out any idea that there was any personal contact between the Duke and the new society.

What of the London Scholars? Is it true that they were the predecessors of the Cumberland Youths and that they changed their name?

(To be continued.)

A SERVICE PEAL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In these days when His Majesty's Forces are so uppermost in our minds, it may be interesting to recall that Friday, Jan. 8th, 1943, is the 29th anniversary of the first peal rung entirely by members of His Majesty's Regular Forces.

The peal, 5,056 of Bob Major, composed and conducted by L.-Sergt. F. A. Holden, was rung at St. Mary Magdalene, Gillingham, Kent, on January 8th, 1914, by Warrant Officer W. A. Cook, Royal Navy; L.-Sergt. F. A. Holden, Royal Marines; Stoker A. Playle, Royal Navy; Pte. F. Souter, Essex Regt.; 2nd-Cpl. G. Gilbert, Royal Engineers; Musician V. A. Jarrett, Royal Engineers; Pte. Percy Gibbs, King's Own Regt.; and L.-Sergt. J. Bennett, Royal Marines. There were three firsts in the peal. Messrs. Bennett, Gilbert and Jarrett (now all pensioners) are still about and looking forward to ringing the victory bells, but Messrs. Cooke and Holden have passed on.

Can any reader give me any information regarding the three other members of the band?

V. A. JARRETT.

RINGING IN GLASGOW.**HANDBELLS IN THE CATHEDRAL.**

To the Editor.

Sir,—Once again we were able to have the ten bells rung open on Christmas Day from 10.15 to 11 o'clock. We were glad to welcome two new visitors—Gnr. G. Parsons and Major Freeborn, both from London. At the request of the Rev. A. Neville Davidson, minister of Glasgow Cathedral, a band of St. Mary's Cathedral Society rang Grandsire Caters on hand from the gallery above the rood screen for 10 minutes before the morning service on Sunday, December 27th. They were E. Bounphrey 1-2, H. Sargent 3-4, R. G. Townsend 5-6, W. H. Pickett (conductor) 7-8, E. Stafford 9-10. With the exception of the regular ringing at the Empire Exhibition (1938), this is the first time change ringing has been heard in public in Glasgow. The ringing was much appreciated by the congregation and the ringers warmly thanked from the pulpit.

The Glasgow Cathedral—built on the site of the old Church of St. Mungo—was 'taken over' by the Presbyterians at the Reformation and remains Church of Scotland. At this time, when the cry for unity is heard on all sides, we, the ringers of St. Mary's, are happy to have formed a link between the two principal denominations in Scotland.

I have been asked by the members of our tower to express our appreciation of 'The Ringing World.' In spite of the shortage of paper, etc., you have made it of greater interest to a wider circle. Thank you, sir.

Wishing you, 'The Ringing World' and all our ringing friends a happy and peaceful new year, we would especially remember all ringers who have been deprived of their bells through enemy action.

ERNEST A. STAFFORD, Hon. Sec.

HANDBELLS IN LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL.

The new Cathedral Choir School has just completed its first year, and one feature of the school life has been the regular handbell ringing practices for both tune and change ringing.

A pleasing feature of the Cathedral services on Sunday was the ringing of rounds and carols by five of the choristers—Freddie Farrow, John Knaggs, Tony Jeffs, Geoffrey Walker and Bobby Matthews—for ten minutes before both matins and evensong.

The bells were rung from the extreme east end of the Cathedral, and they were heard clearly throughout the whole of the great building.

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Etc.

BELFRY GOSSIP.

The many friends of Mr. W. J. Prescott, the Binging Master for Bath and Wells Diocesan Association, will hear with regret that he is lying seriously ill at his home, Hope House, Shaftesbury Road, Bath, with pneumonia and phlebitis.

Mr. William Spice, who took part in two handbell peals recorded this week, is in his 83rd year. He has long been a prominent ringer in North Kent.

At Leicester the New Year was rung in on handbells. The peal of Stedman Caters recorded elsewhere began at 9.35 p.m. on New Year's Eve and ran into rounds at 12.27 a.m. on New Day's Day.

The first peal of Double Oxford Bob Royal was rung at Wednesbury on January 2nd, 1909; and the first peal of Forward Royal at Loughborough on January 3rd, 1890.

John Jagger was born on January 3rd, 1860.

On that date in 1803 the Cumberlands rang John Reeves' nine-course peal of Treble Bob Royal (5,200 changes) at St. Mary-le-Bow. James Marlton turned the tenor in single-handed.

On January 4th, 1784, the Oldham men rang 14,480 changes of Bob Major in 8 hours 24 minutes.

The first true peal of Stedman Caters on handbells was rung by the Cumberland Youths on January 4th, 1855.

Alfred W. Grimes died on January 5th, 1917.

The College Youths rang the then longest peal of Stedman Cinques, 7,524 changes, on January 6th, 1851, at St. Giles', Cripplegate.

Henry Johnson died at Aston on January 7th, 1880. Samuel Thurston died at Norwich on January 9th, 1841.

The College Youths rang the first twelve-bell peal outside London on January 7th, 1767, at Cirencester; and on the same date in 1817 the Birmingham men rang the first peal of Treble Bob Caters.

THE BAN.

CONTINUED PROTESTS.

The following letter from the Rev. Howard Dobson, Rector of Huntingfield, Suffolk, appeared in 'The Daily Telegraph' last week:—

As the declared policy is to continue the ban on bellringing and as, according to the authorities, invasion is still expected to happen, may I make a few simple comments.

1. I am the custodian of the bells of the parish church. I have never been told officially by the bishop or anybody else that the bells must not be rung except by permission of the military or of the Government. If I did not listen to the radio or read the newspapers (and I am not obliged to do either) I should not know of the ban.

2. I have never been told by anybody precisely in what circumstances the bells are to be rung as a warning.

3. There are two ringers in this parish, myself and the churchwarden. If anyone unused to ringing were to attempt to ring the bells he would probably either fail to make any noise at all or he would crack his skull on the bell-frame.

4. Therefore, if this use of the bells is intended seriously as a warning (and I question this), the points I have raised ought to be considered by the authorities, whoever they are.

Some people object to campanology at any time. I am inclined to think one or more of them took advantage of an emergency to fasten this new regulation upon us. The sooner it is cancelled the better for our spirits and our cause.

Later on 'The Telegraph' printed two letters on the same subject. The first, from Mr. C. G. Gambier-Bousfield, said: 'Many of us know the lines in "Bonnie Dundee," "The bells were rung backward, the drums they were beat."

'In olden times, on joyful occasions the bells were rung, beginning with the highest toned bell, the sound descending to the lowest.

'For an alarm the process was reversed, the lowest toned bell being rung first and the sound ascending to the highest.

'Hence "the bells were rung backwards."

The other was by 'Historicus': 'In 1338, when invasion from France was constantly threatened, an order was sent to the sheriffs of all the maritime counties.

'It ordained that in an area of at least seven leagues (21 miles) from the coast only one bell could be rung for church services, but when the signal came that the French fleet was sighted, every bell in every church was to be continuously rung to warn the inhabitants.'

QUEX PARK.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Mr. Morris, in his interesting account of Quex Park, says 'there is no complete record of peals rung there.'

About 35 or so years ago these were all collected. Major Powell-Cotton had the top half of the ringing chamber panelled out and all the peals recorded to date. Subsequent peals were to be recorded only if they were the first in the method on the bells. Since then only one such peal has been rung there, Bob Maximus in September, 1935, which the late Mr. F. E. Dawe conducted.

With the exception of two peals by the London County Association, and two, possibly three, by the Cumberlands, the remainder have been all rung by the Kent County Association since the last one recorded in the tower, so a complete record is easily available.

If my memory is correct, the peal which J. P. Powell rang the tenor to in 1820 was Bob Triples and was the second peal on the bells.

Crayford.

E. BARNETT.

DEATH OF MR. JOHN FLINT.

WELL-KNOWN MIDLANDS RINGER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John Flint, who passed away suddenly at his home, 45, Uxcroft Lane, Bolsover, on December 19th, at the age of 71 years.

He was born at Ashover, Derbyshire, and had lived at Bolsover since 1892. He learned to ring there, and on the installing of the new peal in 1898 was made Ringing Master, a position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. Flint's first peal was in two plain Minor methods on October 6th, 1900, and on January 26th, 1901, he conducted his first peal. In many of his earlier peals especially he was associated with such well-known local ringers as Arthur Craven, Arthur Knights, Sam Thomas and the Rev. A. T. Beeston, and during each of the five years from 1909 to 1913 he was included in the bands of the late William Pye on their ringing tours.

In all, Mr. Flint rang 513 peals, of which he conducted 182, with 351 different ringers and for 14 different associations. They were rung in 152 towers, in 35 counties, and 168 were rung at Bolsover; 106 of them he conducted.

He put in a life's work learning young ringers at Bolsover and elsewhere, and the young invariably received his encouragement and sympathy.

Mr. Flint was an ardent churchman and was actively identified with various aspects of church life. He had an unobtrusive charm of manner and was highly respected and esteemed by all sections of the people of Bolsover. He will be much missed, especially in the local belfries, where no ringing meeting was complete without him. As a hobby ballringing was a source of great joy to him, to which he devoted so much of his enthusiasm and leisure time.

His list of peals is as follows: Minor 13, Grandsire Triples 1, Caters 7, Stedman Triples 9, Caters 24, Cinques 5, Bob Triples 1, Major 19, Royal 3, Forward Major 1, Royal 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 66, Royal 24, Maximus 1, Oxford Treble Bob Major 4, Royal 4, Double Norwich Major 89, Caters 2, Royal 4, Superlative Surprise Major 91, Yorkshire 38, London 34, Bristol 21, Norfolk 21, Cambridge 13, New Cambridge 14, Pudsey 4, Peterborough 2, Rutland 2, Belgrave 1, Whitminster 1, Hinton 1, Cambridge Royal 4, Yorkshire Royal 1, on handbells 4.



THE LATE MR. FLINT.

THE CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On September 25th in 'The Ringing World' appeared a very brief but seemingly a rather sarcastic letter as to the why and wherefore and name of the society.

Since then several letters have appeared, but I cannot trace anything in the way of a direct answer. Perhaps the following which I received on a Christmas card the other day may satisfy your correspondent's curiosity. The card was a picture of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church outside, and on opening I find the enclosed printed: 'Erected in 1721 by James Gibbs. Buckingham Palace being in this parish, pews are reserved for the King and Prince of Wales, and births of all Royal children entered in the register. Nell Gwynne was buried here.'

This, to me, seems a very sensible answer as to how the society got the word Royal tacked on to its name, the church having been the headquarters of the society as long as I have been a member, viz., 57 years.

I may say at the time of my election several influential gentlemen were in office and were no doubt responsible for looking for something that would add dignity to the society.

I thought these few remarks may interest readers of 'The Ringing World' as members of the society.

GEORGE WILLIAMS.

1, Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh, Hants.

DETACHED TOWERS.

AND SOME QUEER BELLS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I am very interested in Mr. Morris' articles on detached towers, but he has missed one in Herefordshire at my old home, Marden, five miles from Hereford.

There are six lovely old bells there, tenor 16½ cwt. I rehung them for W. Greenleaf in 1910, before he went abroad. He recast the 4th and 5th. The tenor is a lovely bell by Finch, of Hereford, who also cast the tenors at Woolhope, Lugwardine and Wellington. He must have been a roaming bell founder, because the old core was lying about in the rectory orchard for years when I was a boy, and I think it is now buried in the pool that is nearly filled up.

Marden tower was built as a battle inspection tower in Offa's time. When they built the church they built a spire. It is right close to the river, and when it is a good flood it gets into the tower and church. I can remember some benches and planks to make a temporary floor to ring the old year out and the new in. I was only 12 years old, but Mr. Owen Lang taught me when I was 10.

The old 4th was a Coney bell, and I have seen lots of his about in my travels, but I cannot say much for any of them. Their music to me is like hitting a shovel on a gatepost.

If Mr. Thomas is in Hereford and goes to St. Peter's High Tower he will see some of the queerest shaped bells he ever saw in his life. They are a heavy old five and have not been rung for over 50 years. I was one of the two who rang the tenor. We thought she had square bearings.

Then again if he got time to go to Lisvain, a little church near Penylan, Cardiff, he will find 2½ bells, there being a large piece out of the third. The Rector of Llanthen asked me to call and see if it was possible to get them recast into a peal, but the tower is far too small to carry them. The old people there told me that the bells were supposed to have a great amount of silver in them, but I asked my mate, who was with me, to tap them round and the tone sounded more like lead. I asked him, 'Did you tap that on your bowler hat?' As far as I remember, they were Coney's bells.

There are many other queer old bells I could show Mr. Thomas if he is ever this way.

BERT WEAVER.

18, Arcot Street, Penarth, near Cardiff.

MINOR AND DOUBLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—'Querist' must have written his remarks on the above with his 'tongue in his cheek,' as he must surely realise that the details published in Belfry Gossip are of outstanding achievements in the history of the Exercise. It appears to me, as a novice, that most peals of Doubles and Minor (I refer specifically to those in a single method) are achievements only in the eyes of those ringing or conducting their first peal, rather than something of great interest and value to the Exercise at large.

So far as his dig at the experts is concerned, his experience has fortunately never been mine. Rather has mine been that there have been too many novices (including myself) anxious to have a go at a method they thought they could manage, with the result that the few experts standing in for the touch have had an unhappy time trying to pilot them through what sometimes turned out to be a dismal failure.

I have the greatest respect for the experts I have met, one of whom took the trouble to arrange and conduct my only two peals (both Bob Minor) solely for the pleasure given to those of the band who, in each case, were scoring their first.

I venture to suggest that the 'real experts' are not like 'Querist's,' and if they occasionally get a little 'fed-up' with novices they are to be forgiven. I have at times given them trouble, and doubtless shall again, but they have always been ready and willing to give help when needed.

'FAIRPLAY.'

CENTRAL TOWERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Recent correspondence on central towers and churches where ringing is done in full view of the congregation recalls to my memory Staunton in Gloucestershire, a peal of six between Coleford and Monmouth, which my father often spoke of as the place where his uncle and his five sons were the ringers. The ropes here fall in the chancel.

Another odd feature in this church is, I believe, the pulpit, which is built out from, and approached by a staircase inside, one of the pillars.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

BEACONSFIELD.—On Thursday, December 24th, at St. Mary and All Saints' belfry, a quarter-peal of Plain Bob Major (1,260 changes) in 43 minutes: H. Wingrove (conductor) 1-2, K. E. Fletcher 3-4, D. R. Fletcher 5-6, Rev. R. F. R. Routh 7-8.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.—Three courses of Stedman Cinques by E. G. Fenn, Mrs. R. F. Deal, H. G. Miles, H. Langdon (conductor), R. W. Green, H. Hoskins, H. G. Cousins, T. Langdon, C. W. Roberts, J. G. Prior, R. F. Deal and J. Waugh.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—402 Grandsire Triples by W. S. Langdon, W. L. B. Leese, W. H. Passmore, G. N. Price, F. Shorter (conductor), A. A. Hughes, A. B. Peck and J. Bunley.

ACLE, NORFOLK.—Call changes, Grandsire Doubles and Plain Bob Minor: W. High, J. Wilkerson, D. Baylis, J. Priest, R. Barber, Leadbetter and Miss Leadbetter.

BARNBY-IN-THE-WILLOWS and BALDERTON, near Newark.—Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor by P. Hayes, E. and K. Willcock, T. and J. Vessey, K. W. Mayer, Miss K. Vessey and Mrs. D. Mayer.

BATH.—The bells of the Abbey and St. Mark's were rung during the morning.

BEACONSFIELD.—Rounds and touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and of Plain Bob Major. Thirteen ringers took part, including Mr. B. Lambert, a visitor from Norfolk.

BISHOP'S STORTFORD.—Touches of Grandsire Triples were rung at the Parish Church. Mr. W. Wilkinson, the oldest member of the band, who reached the age of 80 on the previous day, rang the tenor.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.—Twelve ringers were present, including Pte. P. Barnes, who was home on leave. Touches of Grandsire Triples, Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob were rung.

CLIFTON.—At Emmanuel Church by Clifton Parish Church ringers, rounds and Queens and Grandsire Triples: H. S. Gregory, H. W. S. Gregory, W. J. Rawlings (conductor), W. H. Cole, W. Webb, Mrs. Bowles, W. F. Bonner, F. Baker and S. Mann.

COLCHESTER.—At St. Peter's, Bob Minor, Grandsire Triples and Bob Major, including a 672, by Messrs. G. Burch, G. Boyden, W. Chalk, H. T. Pye, E. P. Duffield, V. Kerridge, also H. Finch (Hythe), Rouse (Cheltenham), Ptes. Maul (Swindon) and Gosling (Windsor). F. L. Bumpstead was also present, but unable to take part.

CHRISTCHURCH, HANTS.—At the Priory Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1,295 changes) in 55 minutes: G. Preston (conductor) 1, Miss Sparshott 2, E. T. Griffin 3, E. Hinton 4, Mrs. Williams 5, Prof. R. O. Street 6, F. Blake 7, F. Sparshott 8, G. Scragg 9, H. Gillard 10. Also 504 Grandsire Triples, in which Mrs. Witts took part.

DARTFORD, KENT.—Six of the band, including one home on leave, rang Grandsire Doubles from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Nine ringers were present to ring from 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Those taking part were R. A. Jenkins, J. Wheadon, H. Raynor, A. J. Thompson (Swanscombe), Craftsman T. E. Walker (R.E.M.E.), J. E. Bailey, Mrs. J. E. Bailey, P. Mills and E. Fuller.

DUNMOW.—Touches of Plain Bob Minor with tenor covering by W. Smith, A. Smith, Pilot-Sergt. W. Mitson, G. Saunders, G. Schleutier, L. Wright and Mrs. Wright.

FAKENHAM.—Well-struck rounds and set changes and two plain courses of Bob Major by Mrs. Owens, Mrs. Simms and Miss Cooke, Messrs. Owens, Simms, G. A. Cooke (conductor), Master W. G. Cooke, E. Cooke and G. Dye.

FARNDON, CHESHIRE.—Call changes and firing: Messrs. R. Ince, J. Thomas, J. Carr, H. Hughes, E. Emuion, T. Partington, T. Simon, sen., H. Youde and A. E. Richards. Miss B. M. Richards, on vacation from college, was able to take part. The choirboys rang for Sunday evening service on the handbells (12).

GORTON, MANCHESTER.—At Brookfield Church, Plain Bob Minor and call changes by Messrs. E. F. Mawby, E. Seddon, J. Fearnhead, A. S. Fearnhead, J. Potts, F. Mason and J. Harker, local ringers, and two visitors, A. Barnes (Reddish) and W. J. Howard (Denton).

HELMINGHAM and FRAMSDEN.—Courses of Kent Treble Bob Major and Cambridge Surprise and touches of Stedman Triples by William Wightman, John Arbon, W. J. Button, W. Whiting, G. Pryke, George and James Bennett, jun., L. C. Wightman, L. G. Brett and T. W. Lest.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—At St. John's Church, two touches of Grandsire Caters: J. J. Pratt, W. Honor, F. J. Smith, Mrs. and P. W. Goodfellow, A. R. G. Twinn (on leave from the Army), C. A. Over, W. H. Gutteridge, D. Keen (on leave from the Navy), T. Bannister, W. H. Coles and E. Easton.

HORSMENDEN, KENT.—720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: Pte. F. J. Lambert, jun., Francis Bromley, Pte. R. T. Lambert (conductor), Pte. R. E. Lambert, Cpl. A. Bromley and Pte. A. W. West.

HURST, BERKS.—Good rounds and several plain courses of Grandsire Triples were rung. Nine ringers were present, six being members of the band practising when the ban was enforced.

ISLEWORTH.—Call changes and Queens by Lieut. and Mrs. Rogers, Messrs. H. Brooks, G. Dodds, P. and A. Thirst, D. Salvage, L. Dixon, D. Chamberlain, F. D. Bishop and E. V. Beadie, Miss K. Brooks and Miss J. Urwin.

KNEBWORTH.—The following men took part in the ringing: J. Fernley, Capt. D. H. Pink, C. Spicer, A. G. Crane, William and Walter Scott, J. Childs and C. Dennis. The ringing was good and much appreciated by the public.

LEICESTER.—At St. Margaret's, Grandsire Doubles, Triples and Caters, also touches of Stedman Triples, Bob Major and a course of Cambridge Surprise Major. The ringers of the Caters were Miss Margaret Morris treble, Ernest Morris (conductor) 2, George Hum-

phreys 3, Edwin Cattell 4, Thomas Bent 5, Josiah Morris 6, Edward R. Whitehead 7, George S. Morris 8, Arthur Cattell 9, W. Tanser tenor.

LEISTON.—At St. Margaret's Church, touches of Bob Major and Kent Treble Bob: Rev. A. H. N. Waller (Rector), C. Whiting, J. G. Rumsey, G. Greenacre, R. Kersey, L. P. Bailey, F. Youngman, E. S. Bailey, G. Wilson, J. M. Bailey and J. T. Clarke (Bushey).

LONDON.—The bands of St. Stephen's, Westminster, and Lambeth Parish Church combined. The ringers were T. Wyatt, W. Hardy, Corpl. J. Hardy, F. Holland, R. Kemp, Corpl. R. G. Kemp, J. Taylor and C. M. Meyer. A welcome visitor was W. B. Leese.

MINCHINHAMPTON, GLOS.—A quarter-peal of Stedman Doubles (1,260) by F. Canter treble, H. Newman 2, F. Simmonds 3, F. Ponting (conductor) 4, H. Barrati 5, J. Hammond tenor.

NORTH WEALD, ESSEX.—A quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles in 46 minutes: Rifleman C. Maynard, A. B. King, H. S. King, H. King (conductor), S. Law, S. Blotch. Also a quarter-peal of Bob Doubles in 49 minutes: L. Parris, A. B. King, H. S. King (conductor), H. King, W. Pearce and W. Bingham. First quarter-peal by W. Bingham.

NORTON SUBCOURSE, NORFOLK.—240 changes each of Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Also at Raveningham, extents of Bob, St. Simon's and Grandsire Doubles: A. Walpole, S. Fenn, R. A. Warman, H. W. Barrett, G. Walpole and D. Fenn.

RETENDEN, ESSEX.—120's of Grandsire Doubles, touches of Plain Bob and a well-struck 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor: Messrs. C. Jay, F. Jay, W. May, F. C. May, F. Frost, G. Frost, W. Cresswell and Mr. H. S. Hobden, of Eastbourne.

RODBOURNE CHENEY, WILTS.—Grandsire Doubles with rounds for some beginners and a very good fall. The local ringers were pleased to welcome Mr. T. F. King, of Bath.

ST. ALBANS.—At St. Peter's, two courses of Grandsire Caters and one of Bob Royal by a mixed band of St. Peter's and Cathedral Societies and visitors from Uxbridge and Plymouth. On Christmas Eve midnight, before the service, handbells—carols and Grandsire—were rung by the St. Peter's band.

STANMORE.—At St. John's Church, the bells were rung by Messrs. G. A. Hughes, E. J. Leversuch, H. Moxom, G. Cheshire, W. Wenban, C. Wenban, D. Cattell and F. Alleyway, Mrs. G. Savill and a friend from Bristol, Mr. Williams.

SUTTON, ISLE OF ELY.—Several touches of Bob Doubles by C. Thulborn, A. Faux, P. A. Corby (conductor), G. Howard, S. Few and H. Gimbert. Call changes were also rung, in which G. Howell took part.

LONG SUTTON, LINCOLNSHIRE.—Bob Major and Bob Minor by C. T. Watts, A. W. Townsend, S. Mumby, J. Smith, H. Harrison, W. Burridge, G. Mackinder, R. Bunn, E. Boon and H. Carbutt. Messrs. H. Harrison and G. Mackinder have rung on 50 Christmas Days out of a possible 52.

SWINDON.—A good company assembled both at Christ Church and St. Mark's. Grandsire Caters was rung at Christ Church and Grandsire Triples at St. Mark's.

GREAT TEW, ESSEX.—Grandsire Triples and Doubles by R. Tustian, B. Morley, L. Larnor, W. Cross, V. Hitchman, L. Clifton, R. Taplin, P. Lowe and C. Shelton. At Little Tew, hymns and Grandsire Doubles were played by Mrs. E. Warr.

WALTHAMSTOW.—At St. Mary's, 399 Stedman Caters, by R. Maynard, jun., H. Rumens, J. H. Wilkins, C. T. Coles (conductor), R. Maynard, sen., J. C. Adams, E. E. Holman, L. E. Last, F. C. Maynard and H. Strange. Also a touch of Grandsire Caters, in which H. Street and F. C. Taylor took part. Several of the above had previously rung at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow, touches of Grandsire Doubles and Triples.

WRINGTON.—Grandsire Triples and Caters. All the local ringers turned up, including the Rector, and the ringing was quite good considering the lack of practice.

THE LATE EDWIN J. HARDING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I was very sorry to read of the death of Mr. Edwin J. Harding, of Portsmouth, in last week's 'Ringing World,' and I would be glad if you will allow me to place on record one example of his enthusiasm.

In September, 1930, I met him at St. Mary's, Portsea, and after the practice mentioned quite casually that I wished he lived nearer Crayford, because with the return of Mr. E. H. Lewis from his 'exile' in Scotland, I could see just enough 'Edwins' to ring a peal. He said, 'You arrange it, I'll come,' and later his parting words were, 'Don't forget that peal.'

The peal was arranged in the December following, and I wrote him at Portsmouth. My letter was forwarded and I received a reply from Berrynarbor, where he had gone to live in the meantime, 'to say he would be at Crayford on the date stated. I replied that to ask him to come all the way from North Devon for a peal of Bob Major, especially in the winter, was imposing on good nature, and suggested dropping the idea, at least until the following summer. By return of post I had another letter from him saying that on no account was I to postpone the attempt.

I am pleased to say the peal was successful, and I have always felt grateful to him for making it possible.

E. BARNETT.

Crayford.

HUGH REGINALD HAWEIS. A VICTORIAN WRITER ON BELLS.

(Continued from page 579.)

The extract we gave recently from Haweis' 'Music and Morals' will give a pretty good idea of the man's style and outlook. He was, it must be remembered, a popular preacher, a rather extreme example of a type which was fairly common forty or fifty years ago, but has now almost entirely disappeared. These men got their effects by heightening the lights and darkening the shadows of everything they said. A lot of it was only platitude dressed up in gaudy rhetoric, but it was extremely effective and a delight to listen to. Only at the finish there was often not much in it, and when it was put into print was as flat as the beer left overnight in a glass.

Whether Haweis did actually believe that a great tower 'rocks to and fro' in a tempest, and 'the enormous clappers of the bells swing slowly,' is no great matter. What he wanted to do was to create the impression that at the top of a high tower a strong wind can be very impressive and even alarming. In the same way, what he has to say about Belgian bells and (by contrast) English bells, must be read in the light of his preferences and prejudices. He is always the popular preacher trying to create an impression, not the sober writer trying to convey prosaic facts. His essay goes on:—

Bells are heard best when they are rung upon a slope or in a valley, especially a water valley. The traveller may well wonder at the distinctness with which he can hear the monastery bells on the Lake of Lugano or the church bells over some of the long reaches of the Rhine. Next to valleys, plains carry the sound furthest. Fortunately many of the finest bell towers in existence are so situated.

It is well known how freely the sound of the bells travels over Salisbury Plain. Why is there no proper peal, and why are the bells not attended to there? The same music steals far and wide over the Lombard Plain from Milan Cathedral; over the Campagna from St. Peter's as Rome; over the flats of Alsatia to the Vosges Mountains and the Black Forest from the Strasbourg spire; and, lastly, over the plain of Belgium from the towers of Tournai, Ghent, Brussels, Louvain and Antwerp. The belfry at Bruges lies in a hollow, and can only be seen and heard along the line of its own valley.

To take one's stand at the summit of Strasbourg at the ringing of the sunset bell, just at the close of some refulgent summer's day, is to witness one of the finest sights in the world. The moment is one of brief but ineffable splendour, when, between the mountains and the plain, just as the sun is setting, the mists rise suddenly in strange sweeps and spirals and are smitten through with the golden fire which, melting down through a thousand tints, passes, with the rapidity of a dream, into the cold purples of the night.

Pass for a moment in imagination from such a scene to the summit of Antwerp Cathedral at sunrise. Delicately tall, and not dissimilar in character, the Antwerp spire exceeds in height its sister at Strasbourg, which is commonly supposed to be the highest in the world. The Antwerp spire is 403ft. high from the foot of the tower. Strasbourg measures 468ft. from the level of the sea, but less than 403ft. from the level of the plain.

By the clear morning light, the panorama from the steeple of Notre Dame at Antwerp can hardly be surpassed. One hundred and twenty-six steeples may be counted, far and near. Facing northwards, the Scheldt winds away until it loses itself in a white line which is

none other than the North Sea. By the aid of a telescope ships can be distinguished out on the horizon, and the captains declare they can see the lofty spire at one hundred and fifty miles distant. Middleburg at seventy-five, and Flessing at sixty-five miles, are also visible from the steeple. Looking towards Holland, we can distinguish Breda and Walladue, each about fifty-four miles off.

Turning southward, we cannot help being struck by the fact that almost all the great Belgian towers are within sight of each other. The two lordly and massive towers of St. Gudule's Church at Brussels, the noble fragment at Mechlin, that has stood for centuries awaiting its companion, besides many others, with carillons of less importance, can be seen from Antwerp. So these mighty spires, grey and changeless in the high air, seem to hold converse together over the heads of puny mortals, and their language is rolled from tower to tower by the music of the bells.

'Non sunt loquellae neque sermones audiantur voces eorum.'

'There is neither speech nor language but their voices are heard among them.'

Such is the inscription we copied from one bell in the tower at Antwerp, signed F. Hemony, Amstelodamia (Amsterdam), 1658.

Bells have been sadly neglected by antiquaries. There are too few churches or cathedrals in England concerning whose bells anything definite is known, and the current rumours about their size, weight and date are seldom accurate. In Belgium even, where far more attention is paid to the subject, it is difficult to find in the archives of the towns and public libraries any account of the bells. The great folios at Louvain, Antwerp and Mechlin, containing what is generally supposed to be an exhaustive transcript of all the monumental and funereal inscriptions in Belgium, will often bestow but a couple of dates and one inscription upon a richly-decorated and inscribed carillon of thirty or forty bells.

The reason for this is not far to seek. The fact is, it is no easy matter to get at the bells when once they are hung, and many an antiquarian, who will haunt tombs and pore over illegible brasses with commendable patience, will decline to risk his neck in the most interesting of belfries.

The pursuit, too, is often a disappointing one. Perhaps it is possible to get half-way round a bell, and then to be prevented by a thick beam, or the bell's own wheel, from seeing the other half, which by a perverse chance generally contains the date and name of the founder. Perhaps the oldest bell is quite inaccessible, or, after half an hour's climbing amidst the utmost dust and difficulty, we reach a blank or commonplace bell.

To anyone who intends to prosecute his studies in belfries, we should recommend the practice of patience, an acquaintance with the Gothic type, and a preliminary course of appropriate gymnastics. These last might consist in trying to get through apertures too small to admit the human body, hanging from the ceiling of a dark room whilst try to read an illegible inscription by the light of a lucifer match held in the other, attempting to stand on a large wheel whilst in gentle rotation without losing your equilibrium, and employing the bell ropes as a means of ascent and descent without ringing the bells.

(To be continued.)

DETACHED TOWERS OF ENGLAND.

BY ERNEST MORRIS.

(Continued from page 9.)

Ledbury, Herefordshire, St. Michael's Church has a fine detached tower on the north side of Early English date, with a spire 120ft. high, and it contains a ring of eight bells. The clock here has chimes which were played every three hours, at 3, 6, 9 daily. The spire has twice been struck by lightning, fortunately without serious damage. The church is a spacious one in Norman and later styles, and its foundation goes back at least to 1085. It has also a north porch of large size.

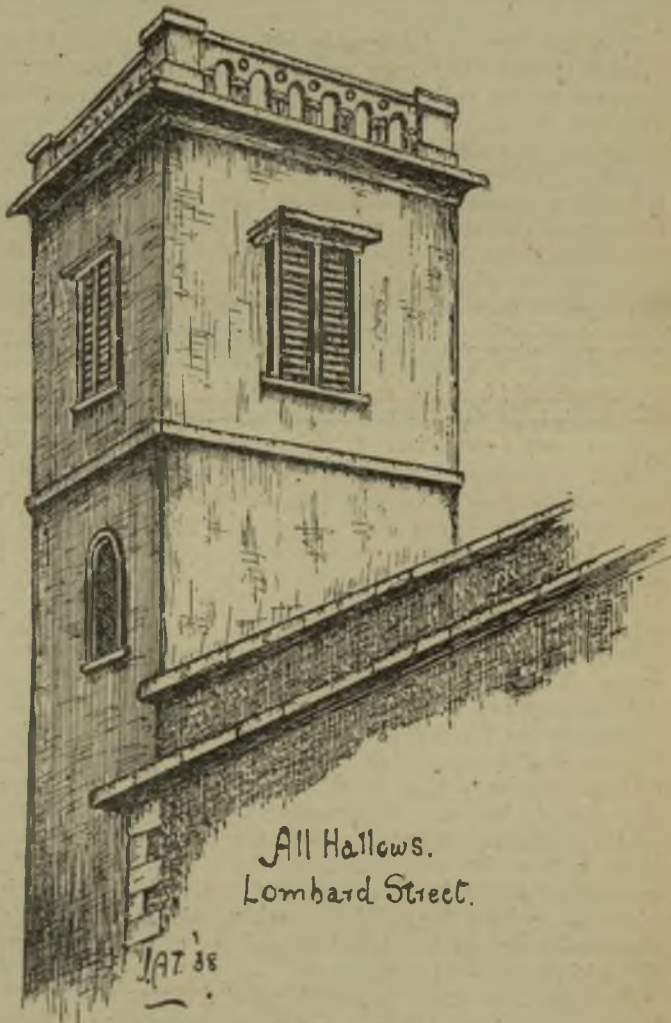
Tarpole, in the same county, stands near Leominster, and its church—St. Leonard's—has a detached tower standing to the south-west. The tower proper is square of one stage with rubble walls. Inside these walls a sturdily-built timber frame supports the three bells and the stone-tiled roof of pyramidal form, with its lantern and bell chamber. Part of the structure dates probably from the early 14th century, but there is also some comparatively modern woodwork. It was restored in 1900.

In Kent, at Barfreystone, near Dover, the ancient Church of St. Nicholas has no tower, so cannot by any stretch of imagination come under the head of this series, yet it is unique, as the one bell it possesses hangs in a nearby yew tree. R. C. Hussey, Esq., F.S.A., writing in 1840, states: 'The bell is ancient, on it is an invocation to St. Katherine.' The Rector now writes: 'In 1900 it was removed to the yew tree, and the bell rope, which outside is encased in a metal tube, runs through the west wall into the church, from whence the bell is rung. The arrangement is not very good, as the tree muffles the sound, and in severe frosty weather the rope gets frozen somewhere and cannot be pulled.' The church is late Norman work (c. 1170), and is perhaps a unique specimen, and famous for its sculptures.

Middlesex has examples of detached towers at Hornsey and Hackney, and a semi-detached one at Twickenham. I am not able to give details of Hackney, St. Augustine, although I possess a photo of the tower, but Hornsey, St. Mary, has a ring of six bells in its ancient tower which was left standing when the old church was demolished in 1927. This tower was built in the year 1500, but the top portion is modern. The walls are of ragstone, rubble and brick, with freestone dressings. It is 13½ft. square, and in the north wall is a fireplace with hollow chamfered jambs and four-centred heads. The present church was built on a site immediately adjoining the east end of the old church.

At Twickenham on a new estate has been re-erected the Church of All Hallows, of Lombard Street, London. The writer has visited it quite recently and can testify to its very great beauty, the ancient richly carved altar piece is extremely handsome, and the walls are panelled 9ft. high. The pulpit and sounding board above, as well as two fine oak door cases at the west end, are fine, and the organ is encased in a richly carved case. The tower, built of stone, is very simple and has a cornice and parapet to complete it, its height being about 85ft. Through the doorway in the tower, entrance is gained to the church by means of a porch and vestibule. It seems strange to see—in its new setting—immediately under the tower, a large gravestone stating, 'Beneath this spot lies . . . and on the vestibule walls many ancient mural

tablets saying, 'Near this spot lies . . . and they lie more than twenty miles away. All Hallows', Lombard Street, suffered seriously in the Great Fire, and a new church was erected in 1694, a bell being presented by parishioners in 1679. 'Through all the changing scenes of (its) life,' it eventually served no less than four parishes, St. Benet, Gracechurch, St. Leonard, Eastcheap, St. Dionis, Backchurch, and its own. St. Benet's was pulled down in 1867, having been rebuilt in 1685 after the Fire, and this had a tower and steeple with obelisk-shaped spire 149ft. high. St. Leonard's was not rebuilt after the Fire, and its parish was joined to St. Benet's. St. Dionis' was rebuilt in 1674, and its tower, added 1684, was 100ft. high. This church was pulled



down in 1878, and its ring of ten bells, which were purchased in 1727 at a cost of £479 18s., were rehung in the tower of All Hallows'. And now All Hallows' has been taken down (1938-9) and rebuilt on a grand new site on the new Chertsey (by-pass) Road at Twickenham. This new-old church is what is described as 'the successor' church, and here the whole of the interior furnishings and woodwork were transferred, the tower re-erected, together with the ancient monuments and

(Continued on next page.)

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 4d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with the minimum charge of 2/-. For Notices other than of Meetings 6d. per line (minimum 2/6).

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

BOURNEMOUTH.—A meeting will be held in St. Peter's Hall, Hinton Road, on Saturday, January 9th, from 2.30 p.m. Handbells. Tea 4.30 p.m. Short service 5.30 p.m. More handbells to follow.—Arthur V. Davis.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at the Bell Foundry, Whitechapel Road, E.1, at 3 p.m.—A. B. Peck, Hon. Sec., 1, Eversfield Road, Reigate.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual general meeting will be held at Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells 2.30 p.m. Business meeting 3.30 p.m. Tea can be arranged for those who notify me not later than January 14th. All are welcome.—D. Smith, Hon. Sec., 28, Chapel Street, Shafton, near Barnsley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th, at the Town Hall. Handbells only, from 3.45 p.m. Admission only with identity cards. Reports to hand.—Frank Reynolds, Branch Sec., 5, The Hill, Clifton Road, Prestwich.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—The annual district meeting will be held at Bocking on Saturday, January 16th. Service at 4 p.m. Handbells available from 2 p.m. Please bring own eatables, cups of tea will be provided.—Hilda G. Snowden, Hon. Dis. Sec.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—The next meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16th. Handbells in the vestry 3 p.m. Service 4.30 p.m., followed by tea and meeting.—G. R. Newton, Branch Sec., 57, Amphill Road, Liverpool 17.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—Quarterly meeting Stourbridge, St. Thomas' (D.V.), Saturday, January 16th, 3 p.m. Bells available 'silent.' Service 4.15 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Handbells and usual evening arrangements.—B. C. Ashford, Sec., 9, Bowling Road, Stourbridge.

LADIES' GUILD and BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Chew Deanery.—A combined meeting of the above will be held at Long Ashton on January 16th. Bells available 3 o'clock. Service 4 o'clock. Tea 4.30. Will those requiring tea kindly notify Mr. Yeo, Long Ashton, near Bristol.—N. G. Williams, Weston House, Bath.

LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.—Northern Branch, Gainsborough District.—The annual meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Gainsborough, on Saturday, January 23rd. Six silent bells available during afternoon and evening. Service at 4. Meeting at 4.30. Please make your own arrangements for tea.—George L. A. Lunn, 248, Lea Road, Gainsborough.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 23rd, at All Saints', Colchester. Handbells at Parish Hall at 2.30 p.m. A service at 4 p.m. A cup of tea and business meeting in the hall 5 o'clock. Fresh officers may have to be elected.—Leslie Wright, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Cherry Green, Thaxted, Dunmow.

'THE CHURCH BELLS OF BERKSHIRE,' Part VII., reprinted from the Berkshire Archaeological Society's Journal by kind permission of the society. Price 6d. To be obtained from the author, Mr. F. Sharpe, Derwen, Launton, Bicester, Oxfordshire.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.

HANDBELLS FOR SALE.—A set of ten handbells. What offers?—Fred Blatch, Norwood End, Fyfield, Ongar, Essex.

21 HANDBELLS, chromatic, tenor 6in. diameter, only slight repairs required.—Offers to S. Moore, 4, Edward Street, Northwich, Cheshire.

DEATH.

KIRK.—Suddenly, on December 29th, 1942, Dorothea C., the beloved wife of Francis Kirk, of 48, King's Road, St. Albans.

DETACHED TOWERS.

(Continued from previous page.)

memorial tables as stated above. The old ring of ten bells, however, were not rehung in the rebuilt tower, but offered to the new Cathedral at Guildford. The tenor is 19 cwt., and eight are by Thos. Lester, 1750, and others by Richard Phelps, 1726. Other churches are to be built out of the proceeds of the sale of the site of All Hallows', Lombard Street, and the first to be consecrated (December, 1941) were All Hallows', North Greenford.

(To be continued.)

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