

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

A Weekly Journal of the Ringing Exercise ; and Compendium of Information for the Clergy and Churchwardens.

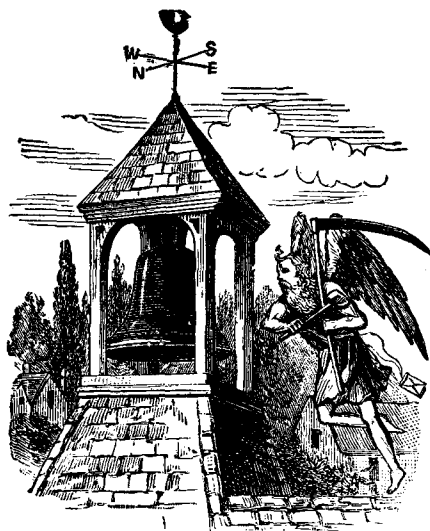
No. 820.—VOL. XVI.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

[PRICE ONE PENNY.]

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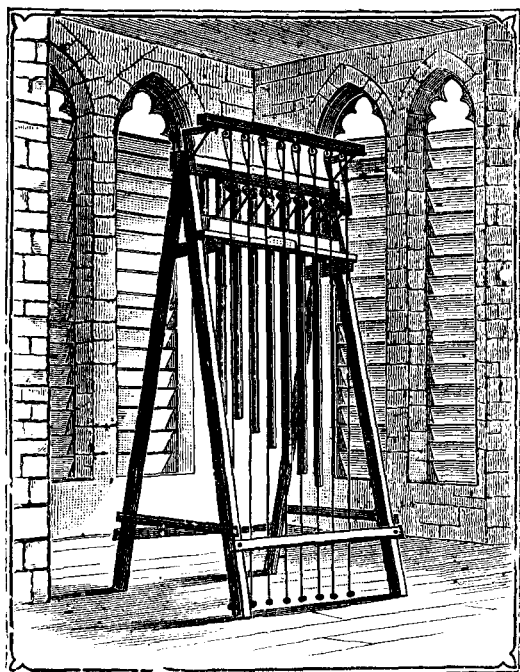
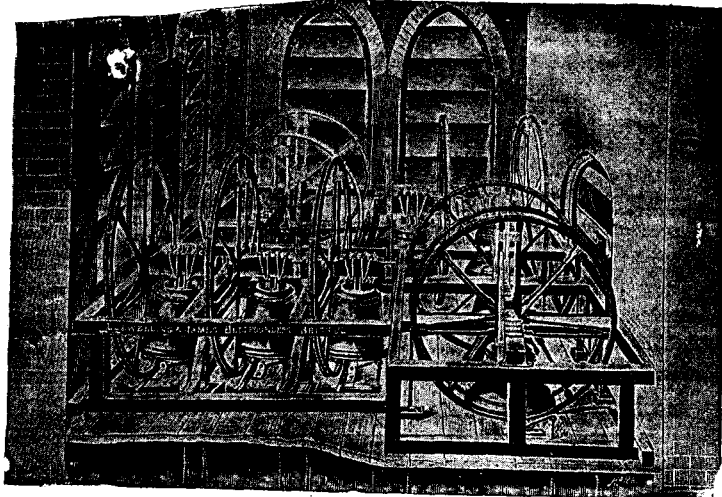
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 820.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

[Vol. XVI.]

MR. WILLIAM BURKIN.

(Vide Portrait.)

The subject of our illustration this week was born at Nutfield, Surrey, on the 13th of August, 1861, and if all accounts are true he began very early to imbibe the essential necessities for making thereafter a very able exponent of our Art. At the age of twelve years he could "prick" out Grandsire Doubles, and under the tuition of his father was able in his fifteenth year to ring several 720s in different methods. His practice upon eight bells was obtained at Bletchingley and Reigate, as Nutfield then, as now, only possesses a peal of six. He accomplished his first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, upon the 3rd at Mitcham, Surrey, on Easter Monday, 18th April, 1881, the last and only peal conducted by Mr. Geo. Russell, who is one of Surrey's old ringing veterans, having taken part in a peal in his 80th year, and whom we are glad to say, is still living. Mr. Burkin's first peal as conductor was achieved at Crawley, on November 16th, 1882—Holt's ten-part. He has taken part in 101 peals, out of which he has conducted twenty-eight; also two performances upon six bells of 5040 changes, each 720 called differently, one of which he conducted. The following comprises his list of performances on eight, ten, and twelve bells:—

			Rung		Conducted
Grandsire Triples	...	...	24	...	15
Bob Triples	...	...	2	...	—
Oxford Bob Triples	...	...	1	...	—
Union Triples	...	...	5	...	2
Stedman Triples	...	...	15	...	4
Bob Major...	...	...	4	...	1
Kent Treble Bob Major...	...	...	12	...	4
Double Norwich Major	...	...	4	...	—
Superlative Surprise Major	...	...	4	...	2
Grandsire Caters...	...	...	9	...	—
Stedman Caters	...	...	8	...	—
Bob Royal	...	...	1	...	—
Kent Treble Bob Royal	...	...	4	...	—
Stedman Cinques...	...	...	7	...	—
Kent Treble Bob Maximes	...	...	1	...	—
			101		28

The Peal of Treble Bob Maximus in which Mr. Burkin took part was the first rang upon the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral, on the 24th of November, 1894. He has taken part in two peals consisting of more than 5000 changes, viz.: 10,080 Kent Treble Bob Major at Ashstead, Surrey, on Wednesday, December 26th, 1894, in 5 hrs. 51 mins., conducted by himself, and a 6550 Stedman Caters at Fulham, on Saturday, October 24th, 1896, conducted by W. E. Garrard.

Mr. Burkin filled the office of Master of the Ancient

Society of College Youths since November 1894 to November of the present year, having thus been twice re-elected. Being happily possessed of a quiet, unobtrusive shrewdness, he carried out the duties of that office in a most business-like manner, at periods when firmness and qualifications for the conduct of business were essential, and he retired from the office with the genuine good wishes of his fellow members. He is also a member of the St. James's Society, the Surrey Association, the St. John-at-Hackney Society, and the Nutfield parish church Society.

"ARUNDEL SURPRISE."

By THE REV. H. EARLE BULWER.

I am glad Dr. Carpenter has drawn attention to Mr. G. Baker's method, "Arundel Surprise," and I agree, in the main, with his estimate of its merits. It is really Double Norwich Court Major adapted to the Treble-bob hunt. Mr. Baker has not told us whether this results from design or accident. I am inclined to think the latter. Anyhow the adaptation is very ingenious and worth examination. Not only are the Double Norwich permutations all there in alternate groups of four rows, but, with one deviation, the Double Norwich work in all its details, and in their proper order. The additions necessary to double the length of the lead are mostly either duplications of Double Norwich work, or the obvious offspring of the Treble-bob hunt. It may be interesting to note these, as well as the one departure from the Double Norwich rule which I have mentioned. The work of Double Norwich Court Major presents three phases, viz.: the work in front and behind; the Treble-bob work up and down; and the place-making by far and near places. All this is closely followed in "Arundel Surprise"; but the double dodges in front and behind become five-pull dodges, and there is, of course, a single dodge additional with the treble in 1-2 and 7-8. To the Treble-bob work up and down places are added, one place being made on each side of the dodge, both in 3-4 and 5-6. The regular place-making work of Double Norwich is in duplicate with the addition of a dodge between the two places of each half of this work, and a dodge in the intermediate position going from and to the place-making position. In Double Norwich the rule for entering the place-making positions is, that if you leave front or behind with a place, you begin the near places with a place; and if you leave front or behind with a dodge, you begin far places with a dodge. The arrangement in "Arundel Surprise" amounts to a reversal of this: for the near places are introduced by a dodge, and the far places by a place. Double Norwich ringers, therefore, if they practice this method, must remember this, or they will find themselves in trouble. The rule for "Arundel" may be summed up thus: leave front or behind with a single dodge, begin near places with a dodge; leave front or behind from a long dodge, begin far places with a place.



MR. WILLIAM BURKIN.
(Of Nutfield, Surrey.)

[*Supplement to "THE BELL NEWS."*]

The treble is, of course, not so constant and invariable a guide as in Double Norwich; but she still passes between the places of one half or other of the place-making work, being dodged with there; and the Treble-bob bell up and down passes her as usual in 4-5. It is the extra place-making of the Treble-bob bell which causes the contiguous places to be present; but I should not be inclined to condemn an otherwise interesting method on their account. I doubt very much whether Double Norwich peals could in all cases be adapted to this method. Some, which admit of being halved, might; but three-part peals would have to be almost recomposed, and so would many others, unless wanted to run to 10,000. It may be a question how far the adaptation of an existing plain method to the Treble-bob system affects the claim to originality; but that need not prevent us admiring the ingenuity by which such a result has been obtained.

A NEW PEAL OF BELLS AT HAVERING, ESSEX.

Those of our readers who take an interest in politics—and there are ringers who do, while alas! there are some who do not even exercise their rights as citizens of the realm—will remember the sad accident which befel the late Mr. J. Theobald, M.P. for the Romford division, and how strongly we appealed for the suggestion that had been made that the memorial to him should be the erection of a peal of bells at Havering, the church in which as Mr. Davies, of Barking, put it at the meeting of the Essex Association when a resolution in support of the proposal was passed, "where the late member worshipped from time to time, and where in the pretty little churchyard his mortal remains had been laid to rest." For some reason, not made public, the Committee appointed for the purpose of raising the funds for a memorial, did not carry out the erection of a memorial of any kind, consequently Havering Church was still left without a peal of bells. As briefly mentioned in our last, thanks to the generosity of Miss McIntosh, of Havering Park, supported by others, a grand ring of six has just been erected.

Essex is generally described as a flat county. True it forms part of that tract of country on the eastern side of England which comprises the largest connected space of level ground in the whole island, but the tourist from London who selects his path through Chigwell Row, Havering, South Weald, Brentwood, to Laindon Hills, will traverse some of the finest country in the kingdom. From various parts of the Havering Hills can be seen extensive views of Essex, Surrey, Kent, and even Herts. and Middlesex, and upon a clear spring or summer's day, the Crystal Palace and the shipping upon the Thames are plain to the naked eye.

There was once a royal palace at Havering. It has been suggested that the spot was chosen as being in the heart of Essex forests, which abounded with game, and because it was a scene of great natural beauty. The first mentioned quality was no doubt an important one in the eyes of the early kings, but it was one that attached to many other parts of the district. As to natural beauties and extensive scenery, probably the Saxons and Normans cared for none of these things, but they could and did appreciate the condition of good drainage and a plentiful supply of water. The site of the palace was on a little oasis of pebble beds and pebble gravel in the desert of London clay, and just on the borders of the fertile chalky boulder clay. On these pebble beds good drainage and spring water could no doubt be had, and yearly settlers knew this and acted on their knowledge. Not a vestige remains of the Royal Palace, but it was close to the church. Edward III. retired here after the Christmas feast at Westminster, 1376, when he formally invested the young prince, afterwards Richard II. to the succession to the crown. From Havering Richard II. rode to entrap his uncle the Duke of Gloucester to his death. The young Prince Edward VI. and his sisters Mary and Elizabeth were brought up at the palace, and the last monarch who slept beneath its roof was Charles I., who rested here in 1641, when Mary de Medici came over to this country. A few years after, in 1650, a survey was held, and this palace is there-

in described as "a vast heap of old ruins, decayed buildings, and valued at £480." On the 25th of September, 1828, this royal manor of 1530 acres, with all its crown rights and prerogatives, including the power of appointing magistrates in the Liberty, was knocked down by auction to Hugh McIntosh, Esq., in whose family it still remains.

Romford, Hornchurch and Havering, or Havering-atte-Bower as it was originally called, were not only one ecclesiastical parish with a mother church at Hornchurch, but also comprised one civil parish. It was to these parishes that a charter was granted in 1465, forming them into a Liberty. Among the privileges which the charter gave was that of the election of a people's magistrate. A meeting of the inhabitants was held and the election was by show of hands, the present writer having upon the death of the late Mr. C. P. Matthews taken part in the election of his successor. The Lord of the Manor appointed a high steward, who for many years was the Rev. E. Fox, Vicar of Romford. The high steward appointed a deputy, and these three formed the commission of the peace, holding a court of quarter session, with power to try prisoners for various indictable offences. A sentence of seven years' penal servitude passed upon a watch thief, was referred to by Sir Charles Dilke in the House of Commons. Happily the Liberty since the passing of the Local Government Act has been merged into the county. These were an extension of the privileges which they had enjoyed probably from the time of Edward the Confessor. This monarch spent much of his time at Havering, where he either built or restored the royal palace, and who, according to an old legend, was disturbed by the songs of the nightingales and other woodland warblers of the night, while engaged at evening vespers. Near by the church is the village green, upon which stands an ancient elm of over four centuries old, and near by there still stands the old village stocks as in the days of yore. Among the legends of the superstitious and credulous ages as to the origin of the name Havering is that of King Edward being present at the consecration of a church, an old man disguised as a beggar solicited alms. Edward not having any money or his almoner with him, gave the beggar the ring from his finger. Years afterwards two English pilgrims who had lost their way in the Holy Land, came across a company in which was a fair ancient looking man, white and hoary. Having heard the story of the pilgrims he sent them on their way, and said "Say unto Edward your kyng that I grete him well, by the token that he gaaf to me this rynge with his own hands at the halouwyng of my church, whyche rynge ye shall deliver him agayn, and say ye to hym that he dispose his goodes, for within sixe monthes he shall be in the joye of them wythe me; where he shall have this reware for his chastite and for his good lyringe." The pilgrims returned, found the King at Havering, and upon giving up the ring said "have-ring," hence the name.

Havering Church, which is dedicated to St. John the Evangelist, was built in 1878, on the site of the old edifice with its wooden spire and solitary bell, and was formerly the private chapel of the palace. There are still a few monuments but the only important feature is the top of the font which is of Purbeck marble, octagonal, and with simple ornament of rounded arches. It is certainly eleventh century work, and was probably placed there in the time of the Confessor. The parish register does not begin till 1677. The present church is larger than the old one. It has a nave and one side aisle, a chancel and chancel aisle. The materials used were internally brick; the exterior is faced with splint flint dressed with Bath stone. The tower is square with a circular staircase. Most of the furniture is of recent date, and there are but few features of any special note.

At the restoration of the church in 1878, a tower was erected with a view of at some future time placing therein a ring of bells. Afterwards various attempts to obtain a ring, the idea has, as previously announced, been carried out. The work was entrusted to Messrs. Warner, of the Cripplegate Foundry, and that firm has placed a ring of six in one of their independent iron frames. The frame is so built and the hanging so arranged, that at some future period two more bells can be added, an idea, which when carried out, will make one of the best of rings of eight bells. The work was only commenced on the 2nd inst., and within a week the bells were ready for ringing. Messrs. James and Keeble, of Romford, with Messrs. Skinner, Gordon,

Edwards, and other employees of Messrs. Warner, rung for a preliminary opening, and the "go," combined with the tone and the excellence of the entire appliances, proved perfection itself. The tenor is in the key of E flat. Mrs. McIntosh, of Havering Park, presents the 4th, 5th, and tenor; the other donors are Mrs. Pemberton-Barnes, the patron of the living; Mr. G. Hope, J.P., of Havering; and Mrs. Matthews, of Marshalls, Romford; the latter lady presenting a bell in memory of her husband, formerly managing director of Ind, Coope and Cos. Romford Brewery.

After the ringing on the 9th, the workmen engaged, with Messrs. James and Keeble, were entertained at supper.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.

The November ringing meeting of this society was held on the 27th, at Christ Church, Armley. Ringing commenced soon after the appointed time, 2.30, with an attempt for a peal. Fairly good striking was done well into the second 720, when unfortunately a bob was missed, and "stand" was called. An adjournment was made to the meeting house "The White Horse," Town Street; refreshments over quickly. Another visit was made to the tower, when mixed bands rang touches in various methods up to 7 p.m. The business meeting was then held at the above-named hotel. The President (Mr. J. W. T. Holgate) took the chair. The minutes of previous meeting held at Holbeck (R. C.) were passed as read; proposed by Mr. H. Lockwood (Leeds), seconded by Mr. M. Broadbent (Armley). The date for next meeting by rotation falling on Christmas Day, it was proposed by Mr. M. Broadbent, seconded by Mr. J. Whitaker, that the next meeting to be held at Pudsey, be on the 18th of December. An amendment was next proposed by Mr. J. Thackray, seconded by M. Lockwood, that the date be January 1st, 1898. On the vote being taken the amendment was carried. It was decided to attempt a peal of Bob Major; the selection of the band and other arrangements was left to the secretary. A hearty vote of thanks to the vicar, wardens and local company for use of bells, etc., was proposed by Mr. W. Abbshaw, of Rothwell, seconded by Mr. J. J. Logan, of Headingley, and unanimously carried: the usual compliment also being given to the chairman. A new set of twelve handbells was introduced to the meeting, the property of Mr. Kerry, late of Attleborough, near Norwich, winner of "THE BELL NEWS" Competition. Everyone was loud in praise of the tune and tone of them. They were rung in Grandsire Cinques, Caters, Triples and a touch of Bob Major. The best thanks of all present was given to Mr. Kerry for the kind use of his handbells. Mr. Kerry responded and concluded by saying that anything he could do to forward the interests of ringing or this society his bells would be at disposal. A similar compliment was paid to Mr. Lockwood, for contributing to the evening's proceedings, playing several popular airs on a set of tapping bells by the late W. Pawson, of Leeds. The whole proceedings during the afternoon and evening can fairly claim to be one of the pleasantest gatherings in the records of the society.

Ringers' Outings.

THE KILDWICK SOCIETY.—On Saturday, December 11th, the ringers of the parish church journeyed over to Addingham by bus, a distance of about six miles, to ring a 5040 on the bells of St. Peter's (by request), and were successful in so doing. They were met by Mr. Cottam, of the local company, who conducted them to the church. They started into changes at 5 p.m., coming into rounds at 7.52 p.m. Afterwards Mr. Cottam took them to supper at his residence, which was thoroughly enjoyed; then to The Fleece hotel, where a social evening was spent with the rest of the local ringers. They started on their homeward journey at 10 a.m., all having thoroughly enjoyed their outing. Thanks are due to the local company for having everything in readiness, and also to the rector for the use of the bells.

Next week the first of the coupons will be issued for the next "gift." This will comprise a splendid eight-day time-piece, made by a well-known English firm, a very superior article indeed.

Obituary.

GEORGE BARROWCLIFFE.

On Wednesday, December 15th, there passed away, after some weeks of suffering, George Barrowcliffe, Captain of the ringers of Workop Priory Church, and well known by all the members of the North Notts. Association. Mr. Barrowcliffe commenced ringing in the tower of Workop church when he was eighteen years of age, and forty-two years has he been connected therewith; even when he lived in a neighbouring village some six miles off for a year or so, he continued his membership of the Workop belfry, and paced the journey on foot to Workop and back each Sunday and practice-night in all weathers. George Barrowcliffe was an enthusiast in ringing, and even to the last, when the poor fevered brain could no longer control his speech, his words were of the tower and bells and practice. The writer of these lines—his Vicar—can also bear testimony to his true religious feeling: he set a noble example to his colleagues by his frequent communions, and nothing grieved him more than non-attendance at Divine Service of those who called together the congregation. He was buried in the cemetery adjoining the church he loved so well on Sunday last—a muffled peal being rung morning and evening—and the large number who followed him to his grave gave full evidence of the respect in which he was held.

REV. T. C. H. BOUGHTON LEIGH.

It is with much regret that we have to record the sudden death on the 14th instant of the Rev. T. C. H. Boughton Leigh, vicar of Rodmersham, Kent, at the early age of 43 years. Although not a ringer himself, he took a very deep interest in ringing and ringers, and was an honorary member of the Kent County Association. An account of his lavish hospitality to the local band, and of his unveiling a peal-board only a short month ago, was duly recorded in "THE BELL NEWS." On Sunday, the 19th instant, muffled peals were rung at all the services. Immediately after evensong, the usual whole pull and stand was rung, while the coffin was borne into the chancel, where it rested, covered with wreaths, those at the foot being placed there by the leading choir boy as a tribute from the choir and ringers. Then followed a most impressive service, after which the coffin remained in the chancel, watched by Messrs. J. G. and J. Grensted, until Monday morning, when it was conveyed to Cuckfield, Sussex, for burial, a funeral service being held simultaneously at Rodmersham. The death of their president is a terrible blow to the ringing society.

Correspondence.

While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

ARUNDEL SURPRISE MAJOR.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me through your columns to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Carpenter for his favorable comments on the above method. At the same time I should like to point out that Arundel Surprise shares with New Cumberland Surprise (and there is no better or more interesting method than Mr. Bulwer's) the distinction of being a double Treble Bob method with a clean proof scale, but there are still some distinctive features in Arundel Surprise worthy of note. (1) All places are made the right way (*i.e.* at hand and backstroke). (2) No double places in 3-4 or 5-6 are consecutive, each double place being separated by a dodge, or the crossing of different bells to the place-making. (3) The changes are alternate quadruple and triple changes throughout the course. When I first discovered the similarity of the method to Double Norwich Court Bob Major, I felt inclined to call it Double Norwich Surprise, but after all I came to the conclusion it would be better to give it an independent name. I have also to thank Mr. Bennett (also a member of St. Peter's Society, Brighton) for confirming my opinion as to the qualities of Arundel Surprise before I published same. GEORGE BAKER.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. DEDICATION OF NEW BELLS.

On Sunday, the 19th instant, Bishop Cheetham (representing the Archdeacon of Bath) conducted the service at All Saints' Church, Long Ashton, near Bristol, for the dedication of the three additional bells which Sir Greville Smyth has kindly presented to the church in commemoration of the Jubilee. Formerly there was a peal of six bells only, and now, thanks to the generosity of the Lord of the Manor, the church is in the possession of a full peal of eight, which will be one of the best, if not the best ring of eight in the Diocese. The three new bells represent the first, second, and seventh. They were cast by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of London, and were hung by Mr. Blackburn, of Salisbury, in a new iron frame. The fact of the new peal being hung in a double tier has necessitated the raising of the church tower about eighteen inches and the putting in of a fine new oak roof. The expense of these alterations has been borne by the donor, who in 1868 presented to the church the tenor bell, which weighs 36 cwt., and is considered as heavy as any in the Diocese with the exception of those at Wells Cathedral and Wrington. The new bells bear the following inscription:—"The gift of Sir J. H. Greville Smyth, Bart., Jubilee Commemoration. 1897. Lucius H. Deering, vicar; Thomas Dyke and W. J. Kempe, churchwardens." In addition to the peal, No. 5 bell of the old ring, an interesting pre-Reformation bell, with the inscription, "Sancte Johannes Baptista, ora pro nobis," will be hung alone for tolling purposes and for the clock to strike on. The service was attended by a large congregation, which included Sir Greville and Lady Smyth, who were accompanied by Miss Way and Colonel Du. Vernet, Mr. C. E. D. Boutflower, the local secretary of the Diocesan Association was also present, as well as representative ringers from the neighbouring parishes of Abbott's Leigh, Barrow Gurney, Nailsea, Tickenham, Wraxall, and Dundry. Bishop Cheetham was assisted by the vicar, the Rev. Lucius H. Deering. After the Dedication the bells were raised in peal and then the hymn, "O thanks to Thee our gracious Lord, for all Thy gifts of love" was sung. Bishop Cheetham, in a short address, said he was desirous of its bearing the mark of thanksgiving. First of all, it should be a thanksgiving to God. They should recognise God's hand in all their benefits. Let them do so with regard to that gift to their parish and parish church to-day. In the next place, let them thank their benefactor, the donor of that great gift. Let them be grateful to him for his ready will to do what otherwise could not have been done. They saw at once how great an advantage there was in having friends among them so ready and so willing. Nor should the event which called it forth be absent from their minds that day. After referring in warm terms to the Queen's Jubilee he went on to say that he did feel that he might gather up the threads of that great celebration in the one brief remark that they did esteem the Queen's lengthened reign. The closing hymn was "Hark, on high the joyful music! Hark, the concert of the bells!" The bells were rung at intervals between the afternoon and the evening services. Through the kindly forethought of Mr. Dyke, the Churchwarden, the ringers were provided with a substantial tea. It might be added that a photograph of the new bells has been taken by Sir Greville Smyth's daughter, the Hon. Mrs. Irby.

RINGMER OLD CHURCH AND ITS BELL.

Mr. W. Heneage Legge has contributed a paper on "Bell Casting in the Seventeenth Century" to the "Reliquary and Illustrated Archaeologist." He particularly refers to an old bill, dated 1662, of the charges incurred in the casting and hanging of a bell for the parish of Ringmer, and remarks:—

"This document, written with very good penmanship on long foolscap paper, now yellow with age, I was fortunate enough to discover, whilst acting on the Documents Committee of Ringmer Parish Council, among the parish books and papers. It is entitled 'An account of ye churchwardens charge anno '82,' and contains many miscellaneous items, as well as 'a particuler of ye charges in casting and hanging ye bell.' In addition it throws some light upon the obscure history of Ringmer church tower and bells, which has long been a subject of considerable debate and conjecture. . . Endeavouring to put together

in their relative positions these various gleanings from the past, this appears to be the conclusion of the whole matter. Firstly, that an ancient tower of masonry, with a bell—or bells—was destroyed, possibly by lightning, at some period preceding the building of the west wall (necessitated by this destruction) and its Perpendicular window; secondly, that in 1682 a new bell, partly made from the old bell metal found in 'ye rubbish in ye Ile,' was hung in a wooden belfry among the ruins of the old tower; thirdly, that this belfry was destroyed, probably by fire, within the following century: fourthly, that in 1804 a new bell by Mears, of Whitechapel, was hung in a turret at the west end of the ridge of the nave; this being finally displaced in 1885, to make way for the present tower. Of this latter all we need say is that it is built of flint, with stone dressings, the top being battlemented and terminated by a weathercock. It contains a peal of bells and a chiming clock. The greater part of the cost of the whole erection was borne by Mr. W. L. Christie, J.P. The name of the founder of the bell with which we are now mainly concerned is preserved to us in the old manuscript. William Hull, for such was his name, at the beginning of his career was foreman to John Hodson, of London, bell founder. His initials are sometimes found on bells, such as those at Hailsham, together with the name of his master. About the year 1680, William Hull set up for himself at South Malling, where he died in 1687, and was succeeded by his son. I have not been able to find any bell-mark attributable to him."

Mr. Legge then gives the old document, and in adding a few particulars elucidatory of some of the items, says:

"Mr. Lillie was the vicar at the time of the founding of the bell. He was instituted in 1680, and died in 1690. The parish clerk was Bodenham, and the manuscript of this 'churchwardens' account' is probably in his handwriting. The entries of money payments for 'ringing ye 8 A clock bell' relate, no doubt, to the curfew bell, which was an observance not wholly discontinued even as late as the eighteenth century. From the very small charge of four shillings 'for washing ye Surplus and other church linnen, and scouring up ye utensils,' we may conclude that these articles were neither numerous nor costly."

There is an item of ten shillings for killing four foxes, and Mr. Legge says it is remarkable to find such a payment recorded in a parish document of a village where a pack of harriers or foxhounds has been kept for more than a hundred years. With the paper are given three illustrations from drawings which have not yet been previously published. That of the wooden belfry of 1785 is a particularly interesting discovery.—From *The East Sussex News*.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

The annual December meeting of the Central Committee was held at the Hon. Secretary's (Rev. F. J. Helmore) house at Canterbury, on Saturday, December 11th. It was decided (a) to hold the Annual General Meeting on Whitsun-Monday, May 30, 1898, at Lewisham; (b) to give the same allowances as last year at annual district meetings, viz.: Tea and half the railway fare up to but not exceeding two shillings.

Mr. A. Palmer (Maidstone) proposed: "That the peal of Treble Bob Royal reported as having been rung at St. Clement Danes, London, on October 9th, 1897, be not entered in the peal-book."

This at first did not find a seconder; but afterwards Mr. F. W. Thornton (Greenwich) seconded it, as he said, "for the sake of discussion." The evidence as to the "firing" etc. complained of in a letter to "THE BELL NEWS" appeared to be somewhat conflicting. Accordingly the motion was withdrawn, the general feeling of the Committee being adverse to so sweeping a condemnation owing to the difficulty of obtaining distinct and unbiassed evidence in such cases. It was hoped however that the discussion might be useful in tending to discourage the temptation to score peals "at any price," no matter how they may have been rung.

WEST HAM (Essex).—On Sunday evening, November 21st, for Divine Service, 1260 Grandsire Caters in 50 mins. H. Bottrill, 1; A. Deards, 2; G. Pearl, 3; G. R. Pye, 4; E. Lucas, 5; E. Pye, 6; W. H. Doran, 7; E. Wightman, 8; W. Pye, 9; G. Hayden, 10. Composed by J. P. Bradley.

RE-OPENING OF SCAWTON CHURCH, YORKS.

On Wednesday, the church of St. Mary's, Scawton, which for some months has been closed for entire restoration and renovation, was reopened for public worship by His Grace the Archbishop of York. Visitors to the Hambleton range of hills and the beautiful scenery near Rievaulx Abbey will be quite familiar with the unpretending church at Scawton, which has maintained its primitive simplicity through the vicissitudes of many generations. There is every reason for believing that it was erected in 1146. The weight of accumulated years and the storms of centuries had long since made visible the decay of this Early Norman structure, which was beyond dispute the oldest unrestored church in Yorkshire. At the time the present work was undertaken its condition was thoroughly deplorable, and altogether unfit for worship, with its decayed roof, its cracked walls, and tottering porch; while its wooden bell-cot, which rose a yard above the roof, had some time ago become so unsafe that it had to be removed. Of the two bells one bears the shield of the founder, and the inscription "Campana Beate Marie." The shield has representations of a pastoral staff, a bell, candlestick, and melting pot, surmounted with the inscription, "John 'es de Copgraf me fecit." For this bell the late Prior of Ampleforth made an offer £100 and a new bell, but it was declined. The other bell is inscribed "T. Sculton, 1676, P. W." The much-needed restoration of the church has been brought about in a large measure through the indefatigable efforts of the present rector, the Rev. R. P. Norwood. Amongst the chief subscribers to the restoration fund are: the Church Extension Society £200, the Earl of Feversham £50, the Archbishop of York £20, Mr. E. W. Beckett, M.P., £20. In the course of restoration the main points of interest have been retained. The porch has been entirely rebuilt, also part of the west end, and the original window restored. The outer walls have been carefully repaired where required, and the whole completely repointed. The roofs have been renewed, the heavy stone slates replaced by red tiles, the chancel roof brought to its original pitch, a new bell-cot provided, all dressed stonework stripped of its plaster and whitewash, floors replaced with cement concrete, etc., and the church now has a neat appearance. To carry out the necessary work about £600 was required, the greater portion of which has already been promised or received. The masonry has been carefully executed by Mr. Cornforth, of Coxwold, and the woodwork by Mr. Herbert Nicholson, of Old Byland. A new American organ has been bought to replace the old harmonium, and various gifts have been made to the church, including three frontals (of the value of nearly £100) for the altar, by the rector; and a beautiful brass cross for the altar by Mrs. Purdy, of Thirsk.

There was a crowded congregation at the reopening services. The Archbishop and clergy, Rev. R. P. Norwood, rector; Rev. C. N. Gray, rector of Helmsley; Rev. R. Prowde, vicar of Kilburn; the Revs. George Deane and L. C. G. Hewett, curates of Helmsley; and the Rev. W. Hughes, rector of Hawnby, robed at the house of Mr. Cuthbert and walked in procession to the church, preceded by the rector, who, on reaching the door, gave out the hymn, "The Church's one foundation," which was sung while the clergy and people moved to their seats. The lessons were read by the Rev. C. N. Gray and the Rev. R. Prowde, and the service was intoned by the Rev. R. P. Norwood. The Rector announced that about £80 was still required, and that a gentleman at Harrogate, styling himself "A Bradford merchant," had sent him a cheque that morning telling him to fill it in payable to the fund, if the offertory was £10 he was to double it, but if under he was to half it. He hoped they would give liberally. The Archbishop selected as his text Psalm xlviii. 8, "We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord." The offertory amounted to £7 12s. 7d. After the service the Archbishop, the Earl of Faversham, and Lady Ulrica Duncombe inspected the alterations, conducted by the architect, Mr. H. Fowler, of Durham. At the service in the evening the church was again crowded, when the lessons were read by the Rev. L. C. G. Hewett, and the preacher was the Rev. R. P. Norwood, who based his discourse on Psalm xxix. 2, "Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

HAILSHAM, SUSSEX.

THE NEW CLOCK AT THE PARISH CHURCH.—The dedication service was held in the parish church on Friday evening, Nov. 19th, and there was a large congregation. After a short voluntary on the organ by Mr. Verrall, during which the Vicar and Rev. W. J. Clay and choir took up their respective positions in the chancel, the hymn, "All people that on earth do dwell," was sung. Rev. W. J. Clay read portions from the evening service, after which Psalm cxliv. was recited. Mr. Towler then read the lesson, which was taken from Matthew xxv. 1-13, after which the *Nunc Dimittis* was sweetly sung, this being succeeded by the Creed, collects and special prayers. The Vicar next gave a brief address explanatory of the dedication service. This was an event, he said, to which they had all been looking forward with great anticipation. They were thankful that during the erection of the clock there had not been any accident. In case of sickness or any other cause anyone who desired to have the chimes stopped for a time could do so, owing to the provision of the necessary appliances. It was hoped to place a brass plate in the belfry, stating the occasion upon which the clock was erected. Throughout, the erection of the clock had been a public matter. It had been a people's affair. The amount for the clock had now been subscribed and all that those present were asked to do that night was to give to the offertory for the clock fund, as a little might be required for repairs. The clock having been started, the hymn, "Oh, God, our help in ages past" was sung, after which the Vicar pronounced the Benediction. The curfew was then rung by Reuben Bignell as the congregation was leaving the church. This Diamond Jubilee memorial clock is made on the same principle as the great clock at Westminster. It shows the time upon two dials (west and south) and strikes the hours and Westminster quarter chimes. The most noticeable part of the going train is the escapement, which is known as the double three-legged gravity invented by Lord Grimthorpe. The maintaining power which keeps the clock going while being wound is Lord Grimthorpe's improved bolt and shutter. The pendulum bob weighs 2 cwt. Probably a third dial, on the north side, will be added in the spring. The residents of Hailsham have been very enthusiastic over the Jubilee, while the number of subscribers to the clock has been abnormally great.

EVENLODE, WORCESTERSHIRE.—DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH BELLS.

To commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, it was felt by one and all of the parishioners of Evenlode that an attempt should be made to put the church bells into thorough working order. The matter was as eagerly taken up as it was generously responded to, and it was decided to recast the 2nd and 4th, quarter-turn the tenor, and rehang the whole in a steel frame, with entirely new fittings. Messrs. H. Bond and Sons, bell founders, of Burford, Oxfordshire, were entrusted with the work, and they have most satisfactorily carried it out. The tone of the recast bells is decidedly good and well in character and unison with the others; the steel frame most substantial, accurately fitted and bolted together. The bells have the following inscription: "Henry James Kelsall, M.A., Rector; C. H. Collins and H. Hunt, Churchwardens; H. Bond and Sons, Founders, Burford, Oxon, 1897."

The dedication ceremony took place on Sunday afternoon, December 5th, in the presence of a crowded congregation. The service was fully choral, and the Rural Dean (Rev. Canon Houghton) preached a powerful and eloquent sermon, and the service concluded with the processional hymn—"The Church's One Foundation." As the congregation dispersed the bells were rung by the Longborough ringers.

ASPLEY GUISE (Beds).—On Saturday, November 20th, at the church of St. Botolph, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. M. Matthews, 1; E. Herbert, 2; M. Lane, 3; Cyril Herbert, 4; H. Harris, 5; W. Chibnall (conductor), 6. And 720 Oxford Treble Bob. Charles Herbert, 1; D. Harris, 2; S. Avis, 3; Cyril Herbert, 4; E. Herbert, 5; M. Lane (conductor), 6. Also 720 Bob Minor. M. Lane, 1; S. Avis, 2; M. Matthews, 3; Cyril Herbert, 4; H. Harris (conductor), 5; E. Herbert, 6.

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DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 1s. 6d.
Contains rules and instructions for pricking and ringing the method; a linear diagram of the plain course; a collection of touches and peals; instructions for proving, and a history of the earlier performances with a list of peals down to 1884 (78 pages)

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Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication arriving later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1897.

ONCE more we have the season of Christmas with us. The period which our common Christianity teaches us should be one when fervent expressions of goodwill ought to be absolutely sincere and genuine; when wavering friendships should be renewed and solidified; when differences should be made up, and resolutions formed against the temptations to further ruptures of friendly communication. The season also of rejoicing: the yearly gathering of the family; the period of receiving and making presents; the season of the most ecstatic joy for the young; the time for general happiness, in fact with all, especially those who enter with a proper spirit and feeling into the Christmas festival.

If Christmas works such good effects, surely no one would desire to abolish such a festivity. There are some eccentric people who look upon our keeping of Christmas as a fetish, or a barbaric superstition. They are welcome to look so upon it; doubtless it pleases them, but their belief hurts no one. It will be kept still in spite of all ob-

jectors. The season has been in existence a few years, and will remain, aye, as long as the earth shall endure.

We ought to remember, however, that during the period of Christmas discomfort, pain and misery is never absent. Such forces indeed are in as full activity as ever. If they can be relieved, it seems at this time a more paramount duty than ever to do so. The poor we have always with us; not beyond our reach, be it observed, but "with us," in close contiguity. Adversity spares none. Can we render any assistance towards alleviating some of it, if only a little? Do we know that any of our brethren are in necessity or want? This is essentially the season for ministering relief, no matter in how small a proportion. There is a beautiful sentence in a very old book about the administering of a cup of cold water in "My" name, and a promise follows certain of fulfilment.

For some years we have been accustomed to heartily wish to all our readers—"A MERRY CHRISTMAS!" and with the same sincerity we repeat the compliment now; hoping that we may be privileged to repeat it for many years to come.

The Metropolis.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS AND THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 16, 1897, in Three Hours and Twenty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ALFEGE, GREENWICH.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 25 cwt.

JOHN JAMES LAMB Treble.	ISAAC GEORGE SHADE .. 5.
WILLIAM FOREMAN 2.	FREDERICK W. THORNTON 6.
FREDERICK S. BAYLEY .. 3.	JOSEPH WAGHORN, JUN. .. 7.
REV. GEO JAMES BAYLEY .. 4.	HARRY FLANDERS Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF and
Conducted by FREDERICK SHELBURNE BAYLEY.

Arranged and rang as a farewell peal (1) to the Rev. George J. Bayley, M.A., curate of Greenwich, who has been appointed to Southwark, and (2) to his brother, Mr. Frederick S. Bayley, who shortly leaves Greenwich for Portsmouth. It was the reverend gentleman's first peal of Treble Bob.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 16, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WOOLWICH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 13 cwt.

ARTHUR J. NEALE Treble.	WILLIAM WEATHERSTONE 5.
GEORGE H. DAYNES 2.	RICHARD GEORGE CARTER 6.
BENJAMIN J. SHELTON .. 3.	WALTER INGHAM 7.
WILLIAM G. GROVE 4.	WILLIAM BEDWELL Tenor.

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS and
Conducted by WILLIAM BEDWELL.

A note to this peal will be found on another page.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WALWORTH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES; HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 15 cwt.

HARRY BARTON Treble.	†GEORGE E. SYMONDS .. 5.
WILLIAM H. WEBBER* .. 2.	†WILLIAM H. PASSMORE .. 6.
FREDERICK G. PERRIN .. 3.	THOMAS LANGDON 7.
HARRY R. PASSMORE* .. 4.	*JOHN W. GOLDING Tenor.

Composed by THOMAS LANGDON.

*First peal. †First peal in the method. First peal as conductor.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 18 cwt.

SIDNEY WADE Treble.	JOHN R. SHARMAN 5.
ALBERT PITTAM 2.	WILLIAM WARD 6.
ARTHUR HARDY 3.	HENRY STUBBS 7.
WILLIAM BURROWS 4.	ARTHUR JACOB Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS and Conducted by WILLIAM WARD.

The Provinces.

SUNDRIDGE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1897, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Grandsire, and two each of Plain Bob, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob. Tenor 15 cwt. 1 qr. 21 lbs.

ROBERT STONE Treble.	GEORGE STEER 4.
GEORGE B. SELBY 2.	HENRY J. SELBY 5.
DAVID WRIGHT 3.	THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE .. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE.

This is the first peal of Minor on the bells, and by all the band. These bells sadly need rehanging in a new frame, the present one being very much decayed. The inscription on the 5th is—"Thomas Bartlett made me, 1619."

MANCHESTER.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1897, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5079 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

JOHN SMITH Treble.	HARRY CHAPMAN 6.
GEORGE E. TURNER 2.	JOHN EACHUS 7.
WALTER BROWN 3.	RICHARD RIDYARD 8.
ALFRED CROSS 4.	SAMUEL WOOD 9.
SAMUEL GREENHALGH .. 5.	THOMAS RUSHTON Tenor.

Composed by C. H. HATTERSLEY and Conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.
Reference to this peal will be found on another page.

SPELDHURST, KENT.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Wednesday, December 15, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY THE VIRGIN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. LAMBERT* .. Treble.	GEORGE TURLEY 5.
STEPHEN PERKINS 2.	JAMES MAYNARD 6.
THOMAS CARD 3.	ALBERT E. EDWARDS .. 7.
RICHARD PELLING 4.	GEORGE A. CARD Tenor.

Composed by FREDK. DENCH and Conducted by GEORGE A. CARD.

*First peal in the method and hails from Horsmonden. This composition, in thirteen courses with the sixth the extent home, is now rang for the first time, and was rung in honour of the birthdays of Messrs. Lambert and Pelling, their brother-ringers wishing them many happy returns.

STEYNING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 16, 1897, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES; IN THE KENT VARIATION.

CHARLES SMART Treble.	GEORGE GATLAND 5.
ARTHUR GATLAND* 2.	JAMES N. FROSSELL .. 6.
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH 3.	ALFRED J. TURNER 7.
JOHN SMART 4.	KEITH HART Tenor.

Composed by HENRY DAINS and Conducted by KEITH HART.

*First peal of Treble Bob and first attempt. This peal has the 6th its extent in 5-6, Messrs. Goldsmith and Turner belong to Lewes, Hart and Frossell to St. Peter's, Brighton, and the rest to the local band.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION AND THE WINCHESTER
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 16, 1897, in Two Hours and Nineteen Minutes,

AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. H. BURRELL, ESSEX BUILDINGS,
LONDON ROAD,

ON HANDBELLS, RETAINED IN HAND,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' COMPOSITION.

WILLIAM PYE 1-2.	ERNEST PYE 5-6.
GEORGE R. PYE 3-4.	STAFF-SERGT. A. PYE .. 7-8.

Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Umpire—W. Watson, who had a copy of the peal before him and marked off every six-end as rung. The above is the first peal in the method on handbells by four brothers, and was rung at the first attempt.

BEDFORD.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. PAUL'S COMPANY, BEDFORD.)

On Thursday, December 16, 1897, in Two Hours and Forty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of the following:

Cambridge Surprise, College Pleasure, College Exercise,
London Scholars' Pleasure, Violet, Woodbine, and Oxford.

Tenor 7½ cwt. in B.

EDGAR TINGEY Treble.	WILLIAM J. BARKER .. 4.
CHARLES WM. CLARKE .. 2.	CHARLES CHASTY .. 5.
CHARLES R. LILLEY .. 3.	FRANK HULL Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES CHASTY.

First 5040 of Treble Bob Minor as conductor.

HUNTINGDON.—THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES.
Tenor 16 cwt.

CHARLES WM. CLARKE .. Treble.	WILLIAM H. FUSSELL .. 5.
ED. FULLER READ* .. 2.	CHARLES R. LILLEY .. 6.
FRANCIS V. H. SINKINS .. 3.	*WILLIAM T. JOHNSON .. 7.
CHARLES CHARTY .. 4.	*JAMES HALL Tenor.

Composed by JOHN CARTER and Conducted by C. W. CLARKE.

*First peal. Reference to this peal will be found on another page.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 18½ cwt.

GEORGE R. FARDON .. Treble.	SAMUEL ANDREWS .. 5.
JOHN N. OXBORROW .. 2.	HENRY S. ELLIS .. 6.
CHARLES T. P. BRICE .. 3.	HENRY R. NEWTON .. 7.
GEORGE W. MULLEY .. 4.	THOMAS BEADLE .. Tenor.

Conducted by HENRY R. NEWTON.

The above ringers belong to St. Stephen's, Westminster (except Mr. Beadle) who met for a peal of Superlative, but meeting short he kindly rang the tenor, for which they are much obliged.

QUEDGELEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

(THE ST. MICHAEL'S JUNIORS, GLOUCESTER.)

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 9½ cwt.

JESSE GILLET Treble.	ROBERT A. BARRETT .. 5.
FRED. G. MAY 2.	ERNEST E. DAVIS .. 6.
JOHN AUSTIN 3.	HENRY MITCHELL .. 7.
WILLIAM T. PEGLER .. 4.	ARTHUR E. PEGLER .. Tenor.

Composed by W. HARRISON and Conducted by JOHN AUSTIN.

NORTON, DERBYSHIRE.—THE OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE
AND YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATIONS.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Three Hours and Fifty-three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 6336 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 16 cwt.

JOSEPH ATKIN Treble.	ARTHUR SLATER .. 5.
THOMAS WHITWORTH .. 2.	GAD BUTCHER .. 6.
EDWIN JAMES 3.	ARTHUR KNIGHTS .. 7.
WILLIAM LAMBERT* .. 4.	WILLIAM BIGGIN .. Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.

*First peal on eight bells. This peal, on the three-part plan, contains the 5th and 6th their extent in 5-6, with both bells six times at home, and the 4th her extent in 6ths place. Rung to commemorate the conductor's 38th birthday, which occurred the day previous. Messrs. Whitworth and Lambert hail from Treeton.

EASTBOURNE, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 18, 1897, in Three Hours and a Half Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES. Tenor 15 cwt. 2 qrs. 22 lbs. in F.

ROBERT J. DAWE .. Treble.	EDWARD C. MERRITT .. 5.
ISAAC G. SHADE .. 2.	KEITH HART .. 6.
FRANK BENNETT .. 3.	HARRY WESTON .. 7.
JOHN S. GOLDSMITH .. 4.	GEORGE WILLIAMS .. Tenor.

Composed by FRANK BENNETT and Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

Reference to this peal will be found on another page.

CAVERSHAM, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(THE ST. PETER'S SOCIETY.)

On Monday, December 20, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES. Tenor 14 cwt.

H. SIMMONDS .. Treble.	J. HANDS .. 5.
R. T. HIBBERT .. 2.	G. ESSEX .. 6.
E. J. MENDAY .. 3.	H. SMITH .. 7.
E. W. MENDAY .. 4.	T. NEWMAN .. Tenor.

Conducted by T. NEWMAN.

This peal is Johnson's variation of Middleton's peal. First peal in the method by all the band.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 20, 1897, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12 cwt.

FREDK. J. HARRISON .. Treble.	ALFRED T. HILLIER .. 5.
WILLIAM HOLMES .. 2.	*ERNEST E. FERRY .. 6.
JOHN W. DAWSON* .. 3.	*ROBERT RICHARDS .. 7.
HUGH D. DALL .. 4.	CHARLES L. ROUTLEDGE .. Tenor.

Composed by A. KNIGHTS and Conducted by FREDK. J. HARRISON.

*First peal in the method.

NETHERTON, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 20, 1897, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;
IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

JOHN TOWNSEND* .. Treble.	HARRY TASON .. 5.
WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT .. 2.	WILLIAM TALBOT .. 6.
WILLIAM R. SMALL .. 3.	SAMUEL SPITTLE .. 7.
JOHN W. SMITH .. 4.	JOHN SMITH .. Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM MICKLEWRIGHT.

*First peal in the method. This is the first peal on the bells since their augmentation to eight, and was rung at the first attempt. Messrs. Micklewright and Spittle hail from Dudley; Small from Tipton; Mason from Old Hill; the rest are local men. This peal was rung as a compliment to D. Robinson, Esq., for his generous gift of two new bells as a jubilee offering.

DEANE.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Monday, December 20, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

Tenor 14 cwt.

ROBERT DUCKWORTH .. Treble.	*JOSEPH POTTER 5.
THOMAS PEERS 2.	HENRY MOSS 6.
JOHN POTTER 3.	TITUS BARLOW 7.
REV. H. J. ELSEE 4.	ALBERT E. WREAKS .. Tenor.

Composed by W. HARRISON and Conducted by ALBERT E. WREAKS.

First peal in the method by the Bolton branch. The Rev. H. J. Elsee, Wreaks, and Moss hail from Bolton; Duckworth, Peers, and Barlow from Deane; Potter (2) from Walkden. Rang at the first attempt. †First peal. *First peal in the method.

BRISTOL, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

On Tuesday, December 21, 1897, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS (CITY),

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

BROOK'S VARIATION.

Tenor 19 cwt.

HERBERT H. TUCKER .. Treble.	GILBERT PEARCE 5.
ALFRED PEARCE 2.	FRANK GOODING 6.
CHARLES H. HORTON 3.	HARRY PORCH 7.
GEORGE T. DALTRY 4.	JAMES RICHMOND .. Tenor.

Conducted by HARRY PORCH.

The above is the first peal of Stedman Triples by a local band since 1855. First peal of Stedman Triples by ringers of the treble, 3rd, 5th, 6th and tenor, and first by H. Porch as conductor. The ringers of the treble, 2nd, 5th and 6th were pupils of the conductor.

Date Touches.

THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, December 7th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1897 changes, in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. H. Sholicar, 1; J. Sholicar (conductor), 2; P. H. Harvey, 3; J. Pilkington, 4; W. J. Taylor, 5; H. J. Ellis, 6; G. Prescott, 7; T. Martland, 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Countess of Lathom.

THE OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ECKINGTON (Derbyshire).—On Saturday evening, December 18th, at the parish church, a date touch of 1897 changes, in 1 hr. and 8 mins., being 457 Duke of York, and 720 each of Violet and Oxford. F. Hancock, 1; W. Price, 2; J. Morton, 3; S. Robinson, 4; G. Marsden, 5; G. Norman (conductor), 6. Tenor 17 cwt. Rung on the back six at the first attempt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—BLACKBURN BRANCH.

BURNLEY (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, December 7th, at Holy Trinity church, a date touch of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 1897 changes, in 1 hr. 7 mins. *T. Knowles, 1; F. Towns, 2; R. Hartley, 3; D. Campbell, 4; N. Townsend, 5; R. Ashworth, 6; D. Heys, 7; T. Redman (conductor), 8. Composed by Tom Lockwood. *Longest touch.

BEXHILL (Kent).—On Tuesday, November 20th, at St. Peter's church, a date touch of 1897 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 2 mins. B. Eastwood, 1; *N. Cruttenden, 2; H. Hobbs, 3; G. Marchant, 4; *T. J. Ades (conductor), 5; T. Hunnisett, 6; B. Hobbs, 7; W. J. Sharpe, 8. *Longest length. B. Hobbs hails from All Saints, Eastbourne; the rest are local men.

RICHMOND (Yorks).—On Friday evening, December 10th, at St. Mary's church, a date touch of 1897 changes, in 1 hr. 3 mins., being 457 and two 720s of Plain Bob Minor. A. Shelton, W. Phillips, J. T. Rushton, R. Briscoe, R. Borrowes (conductor). This is the first date touch on the bells and the greatest extent of changes by an entirely local band.

Miscellaneous.

THE ELY DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

CAVENDISH (Suffolk).—On Sunday, November 21st, for the afternoon service, touches of Treble Bob; and on Monday evening touches of Oxford Treble Bob, with C. Honeybell and S. Slater, of Glemsford. Rung in honour of the 21st birthday of Mr. Bernard Pettitt, the

leader of the Cavendish company. After the ringing Mr. Pettitt invited the whole of the company to his residence to partake of his hospitality, which consisted of a hot supper, and a very pleasant evening was spent by all present.

HAWKEDON (Suffolk).—On Saturday, November 20th, the following members, all resident in this village, rang at the parish church six 6-scores of Old Doubles, and six 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in 1 hr. A. Taylor, 1; W. Clarke, 2; A. Crick, 3; W. Taylor, 4; G. Middleton (conductor), 5. Tenor 11 cwt. This is the longest touch by all the band, who commenced to learn change-ringing last January after the bells had been rehung. Mr. S. Slater, of Glemsford, gave the young band a few lessons of instruction, and by perseverance the above was obtained. In January last not a change-ringer was residing in the village.

LONG MELFORD (Suffolk).—On Friday, November 19th, 1040 Bob Major, in 40 mins. H. S. Richold, 1; H. Duce, 2; C. G. Bixby, 3; A. Ambrose, 4; T. Cadge, 5; E. Ambrose, 6; F. Connell, 7; S. Ford, 8. Composed by E. Ambrose and conducted by C. G. Bixby. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. F. Connell and Mrs. C. G. Bixby, wife of the conductor, the ringers wishing them many happy returns.

STANSTEAD (Suffolk).—On Sunday, November 21st, at the parish church, 720 Kent Treble Bob, in 26 mins. H. S. Richold (first 720), 1; S. Slater, 2; G. Smith, 3; A. J. Clarke, 4; R. Gowers, 5; R. Brett (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

LOUGHTON (Essex).—On Wednesday, November 3rd, for practice, 518 Grandsire Triples. *J. Moule, 1; E. Wightman (conductor), 2; *H. Gowers, 3; *J. Kimberley, 4; E. Bacon, 5; *W. Miller, 6; G. Carter, 7; W. Clark, 8. *Longest touch on eight bells. On Tuesday, November 16th, 784 Double Norwich. E. Wightman (conductor), 1; W. H. Doran, 2; E. Bacon, 3; F. Freeman, 4; J. Rann, 5; G. Carter, 6; W. Clark, 7; W. Pye, 8.

WOODFORD (Essex).—On Monday, November 8th, for practice, 720 Grandsire Minor in 26 mins. K. C. Fox, Esq., 1; H. Gowers, 2; W. Miller, 3; J. Kimberley, 4; J. Mardell, 5; E. Wightman (conductor), 6. First 720 in the method by all.

LEYTONSTONE (Essex).—On Sunday morning, November 21st, for Divine Service, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob in 25 mins. J. Moule, 1; E. Wightman (conductor), 2; H. Gowers, 3; W. Miller, 4; J. Mardell, 5; T. Beams, 6. First in the method by all except the conductor, and first on the bells.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

LEWES (Sussex).—On Tuesday, November 9th, for practice, 168 Grandsire Triples. W. Trusler, 1; T. Miller, 2; H. Jones, 3; W. Pelling, 4; R. J. Dawe, 5; C. Painter, 6; J. S. Goldsmith, 7; J. Steadman, 8. Also 252 Stedman Triples. A. Rooke, 1; A. J. Turner, 4; the rest as before. And 224 Bob Major standing as in the first touch, except A. Turner, 6; C. Painter, 7; J. S. Goldsmith, 8. Also 210 Union Triples. J. Shoesmith, 1; H. Jones, 2; J. Goldsmith, 3; W. Pelling, 4; R. Dawe, 5; A. Turner, 6; C. Painter, 7; J. Steadman, 8. Also another touch of Stedman. All the above were conducted by J. S. Goldsmith. And 168 Grandsire Triples. A. Seal, 1; A. Rooke, 2; W. Trusler, 3; W. Pelling, 4; A. Turner (conductor), 5; C. Painter, 6; J. S. Goldsmith, 7; R. Dawe, 8.

WOBURN (Beds).—On Monday, October 25th, at St. Mary's Old Tower, 1008 Bob Major. W. Janes, 1; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 2; M. Matthews, 3; Charles Herbert, 4; S. Avis, 5; H. Harris, 6; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 7; E. Herbert, 8. And a 504 of Bob Triples. Charles Herbert, 1; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 2; M. Matthews, 3; E. Herbert, 3; S. Avis, 5; H. Harris, 6; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 7; F. Bowler, 8. On Saturday, October 30th, 336 Bob Major. Cyril Herbert (conductor), 1; E. Herbert, 2; Charles Herbert, 3; G. Valentine, 4; G. Cowley, 5; H. Harris, 6; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 7; S. Wolfe, 8. And 224 Bob Major. E. Yates, 1; Cyril Herbert, 2; Charles Herbert, 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; G. Cowley, 5; E. Herbert, 6; S. Wolfe, 7; G. Valentine, 8. Also 336 Grandsire Triples. G. Cowley, 1; E. Herbert, 2; Charles Herbert, 3; G. Valentine, 4; S. Wolfe, 4; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 6; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 7; E. Yates, 8. And 224 Kent Treble Bob Major. M. Matthews, 1; E. Herbert, 2; Charles Herbert, 3; G. Valentine, 4; S. Wolfe, 5; H. Harris, 6; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 7; Cyril Herbert, 8. Messrs. Cowley, Valentine, and Yates hail from Stony Stratford; Wolfe from Wolverton. On Monday, November 1st, 720 Bob Minor. W. Janes, 1; M. Matthews, 2; S. Avis, 3; H. Harris, 3; E. Herbert, 5; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 6. On Monday, November 15th, 350 Grandsire Triples. S. Avis, 1; Charles Herbert, 2; M. Matthews, 3; Rev. W. W. C. Baker, 4; E. Herbert, 5; D. Harris, 6; Cyril Herbert (conductor), 7; R. Marshall, 8.

AN OLD STORY WITH A NEW FACE.



OLD NED BLAKE was said by the village ringers to be "quite a character." No doubt he was. Most ringers have known many old fellows of the sort. They are to be found in nearly every country ringing society, and taken altogether form a not unpleasant feature in the landscape—if the term may be applied to a ringing company's surroundings. Ned Blake was a character, and rejoiced in the fact. Among other things he was a gravedigger, an undertaker's man, a bricklayer's laborer, a hedger and ditcher, a thatcher, general porter—any mortal thing, nothing came amiss to him—but above all, he was a musician. In this last-named capacity he shone with terrible refulgence—while playing his instrument wearing a superannuated tile with what was supposed to be a strip of gold lace. Old Ned played the keyed-bugle; an instrument out of date somewhat in these brass band days, but thought a deal of at one time. For many years he was one of the village waits, but a new leader of that body objected that Ned played too loud and swamped the efforts of the other performers. He therefore resigned his position on "the waits," and did not fail to let his *ci-devant* colleagues know what he thought of them all. He certainly was a "character," ready to do anything for you, from taking a simple message to the unstopping of a drain. But unfortunately for Ned's repute a feeling had arisen that he was prone to "shift" any article not his own which opened a chance for a commercial transaction. Ned's integrity in fact became open to suspicion.

It is hardly necessary to say that Ned was one of the village ringing society—a fairly good company, able to ring Grandsire and Treble Bob. Some of the members were rather well-to-do as village folk, especially the parish grocer and provision dealer, who frequently put a job into old Ned's way.

One 23rd of December, Ned had been on the make, or to use his own phrase—"bin a buskin with the bugle." As he was nearing home in the evening, Mr. Barnett (the grocer above mentioned) in whose warehouse old Ned often earned a honest penny, was as he passed, about to close his establishment for the night, when he cried out through the mist, "Is that you, Ned?"

"That's me, master; my stars and garters, aint it gallows cold."

"Seasonable weather, Ned; we shall have a dry Christmas, and some nice clear frost. I want one or two little jobs done to-morrow; there's some currants to sieve, some lump sugar to chop, and several other things. You could make a long day if you like, and have nothing else to do."

"I've got nothink, leastways not nothink perticler; but it'll wait. What time shall I come?"

"Oh, early; say eight o'clock, not later. I shall be up pretty soon in the morning, packing; we shall be busy as the day breaks. You can take down the shutters directly you come."

"Right you are, master, I'll be there at sharp eight."

At eight o'clock the following morning—the 24th December—Ned was at his post. Taking down the shutters he marched into the shop, and found Mr. Barnett hard at work concocting various parcels for his patrons of that day.

"Hello, Ned; why you have donned the unicorn, as our old friend Mrs. Partington would say."

Ned had never heard of this lady, but he knew what was meant.

"Yes," said he, "I've put my regalia on, 'cause I'm going to give 'em a tune at 12 o'clock to-night in the kitchen at Squire Marriott's. The servants are going to see the Christmas in." The "regalia" consisted of his head piece already mentioned.

Ned was up to his eyes in business all day long. There was a deal of work to do in the warehouse among the various stores which a business of the kind embraces. He had also delivered many parcels of goods at the houses of various customers, several of whom had plied him with generous Christmas liquor, which he was by no means loth to partake of. At 9 o'clock he was sent upon his last errand for the night, and on his return he found the grocer himself in the act of putting up the shutters.

"Why didn't you stop till I comed?" said Ned. "Dash my

stars and garters, if it aint colder than ever," and his teeth chattered as he spoke.

"All right, Ned, get inside out of the cold. I'll finish this, and then we will have something to warm us. Get inside."

Ned obeyed, and just at this moment the coachman of the village Squire passed by, and detained the grocer for a few minutes' conversation. While this was taking place, and just as he was about putting up the last shutter to his window, Mr. Barnett, taking a peep through the glass, saw Ned seize a pound of Aylesbury butter from a shelf in the back part of the shop, and quickly conceal it within his hat.

"Oh, oh!" said the grocer to himself, "that's what you are up to, Master Ned, is it? I shall keep my eye upon you."

Having closed the shop he came to where Blake was standing, saying, "Now Ned, we'll have a little something warm this cold night. I've got a fire alight in the little back warehouse, and we'll make ourselves comfortable for a time. Jack Lockhart and Charley Clark will be in directly, and then we can tap off a quarter-peal nicely; you can ring 7-8 you know."

Ned was about demurring to the quarter-peal arrangement, when a loud knock was heard at the shop door, and on its being opened the two worthies above-named entered. The weather was of course the first topic of conversation, and this being got over Mr. Barnett enquired of the new-comers about the ringing arrangements for the morrow.

Lockhart said that he had called upon Badger (the sexton) as he came along that evening, and was informed that the Rector wished the bells rung exactly at 8.0 a.m. on Christmas, for the early Celebration. So they had arranged to meet a quarter of an hour before. Lockhart added: "You must mind and not be late, Ned, to-morrow, for it's a shilling fine, you know."

"Ned is going to the Squire's to-night to give the servants some music," said Mr. Barnett, "don't you stop too long there, Ned."

"I shall be there all right to time," answered he.

Mr. Barnett then led the way to the little back warehouse already mentioned. This apartment was nearly filled with old wood cases which had once contained groceries and provisions. There was a stove with a fire in one corner, four boxes being placed in close contiguity thereto for seats for the company.

"Strikes a bit warmer here" says Lockhart; "nice and comfortable like."

"This is better," says the grocer. "They'll bring us in something warm to drink directly. Get the bells out Ned."

"I can't stop long," rejoined he; "You know where I have got to go."

"But that's not till 12 o'clock, we can do plenty before that. Let's ring a course, then perhaps the girl will be in."

By this time Ned had begun to have some doubts about the contents of his hat, especially as the seat he occupied gave him more than his share of warmth from the fire, and being also close up to the wall he could not move without disturbing the others. All being seated they started to ring a course. At the fourth lead Mr. Barnett called a bob, which, as every one knows, brought 6-7 together behind. But Ned would not dodge the proper way, he would come down before the 6th, and the touch in consequence failed. Just then the servant came in with a large steaming jug of hot cocoa.

"Bring some mugs in," said the grocer. "Now, my boys, this is the stuff for cold nights. Don't spare, there's more where that came from. Now Ned, old man, have a blow out of this. You don't look cold now, though."

The mugs came in, and each took a draught of the hot drink. They found, however, that the cocoa was not altogether innocent, for it was impregnated with a considerable quantity of rum, which made their eyes twinkle, almost.

"Now we'll have another try at the bells," said Mr. Barnett. "That has warmed us a bit."

Ned wished himself out of it. The contents of his hat had begun to give way to the warmth of the room, and the hot draught he had just swallowed assisted the melting process. Streaks of oil poured down each side of his face, which he incessantly mopped away with a large cotton handkerchief, but all to no good, for before another 300 changes had been rung he felt himself in a perfect bath.

"You aint up to it to-night, Ned, but you ought to be able to

ring the tenors easy enough. Let's have another noggin of the cocoa."

The liquor was again served out, Ned taking a good long pull, making him appear hotter than ever. The butter was evidently undergoing a rapid process of dissolution. Another try for the quarter-peal resulted in failure.

"We shan't do anything to-night, I can see," said Mr. Barnett. Turning to the defaulter, he said: "Why, Ned, you seem to perspire an awful lot, as if you were warm. Why don't you take your hat off?"

"I think I'll be off, I aint in trim to-night for handbells," jamming his hat on his head firmer than ever. He had said the same more than once during the evening.

"Well, if you will go, Ned, you must go. But mind to-morrow morning, at a quarter to eight."

"I shall be there in time," he replied.

The old man was glad to get clear to relieve his feelings, and also to examine the condition of his hat's interior. The butter was nearly all melted away, and he had gone through a course of anointing which was far from comfortable. By the aid of his handkerchief he made a hasty toilet as he wended his way to the squire's, where, on arriving, he was soon at his ease. There was no necessity there for keeping his hat on, and Ned abandoned himself to the pleasures of the evening without fear.

Mr. Barnett chuckled greatly over the episode, but kept the matter to himself like a sensible fellow. He determined, however, to let Ned hear about it when an opportunity occurred.

The morning of Christmas had arrived, and the ringers were appearing one by one at the belfry door. Jack Lockhart had called on his way for old Ned, but was told that he had not been home all night. He had evidently stayed at the Squire's, and it was, therefore, very doubtful whether he would put in an appearance. Exactly at a quarter to eight Badger (the Sexton) opened the belfry door, and the seven ringers ascended the steps.

"We shall have to ring seven only unless Badger comes up," said Lockhart, "Well, let's peel and begin; its too cold for standing still."

They "peeled" accordingly, but just as they were about to start, some one was heard on the steps, and in a minute or two old Ned appeared, out of breath almost.

"Ketch hold," says Lockhart. "I thowt you'd be late. That bugle o' yourn will be your ruin."

Old Ned was silent. He had made a night of it at the Squire's, and had lain before the kitchen fire there. He looked—well, readers of this history can better imagine his appearance than any description which could be given. His hat with its golden band of lace was completely ruined. No one will wonder at Mr. Barnett enjoying Ned's condition. His hair was still saturated, and his shirt appeared to have undergone a process of dipping in grease. The ringers could not understand whatever had happened to him, and their private speculations on his appearance caused several trips in the ringing.

When the touch was concluded old Ned had to "toll in" for the early service. Mr. Barnett remained till the last, and just as he was about to depart, whispered to Ned thus: "That was the very best Aylesbury, Ned, but I shan't charge you for it. I have had its worth in amusement; and you will have discovered that honesty is the best policy."

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

FARNHAM (Surrey).—On Sunday, November 21st, for evening service at the parish church, 630 Grandsire Triples, in 22 mins. H. L. Garfath, jun. (longest touch), 1; A. Smith, 2; J. Hawkes, 3; C. Fry, 4; H. L. Garfath (conductor), 5; A. LeClercq, 6; E. Clapshaw, 7; H. Herrington, 8.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Saturday, November 6th, 448 Superlative Surprise Major. W. Watson, 1; A. J. Perkins, 2; G. R. Pye, 3; E. Wightman, 4; W. H. Doran, 5; E. Pye, 6; J. Dale, 7; W. Pye (conductor), 8. On Sunday evening, November 14th, for Divine Service, 672 Superlative Surprise Major. After service 448 in the same method, standing as before.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday evening, October 28th, the Charing band had a run on their bykes to Hollingbourne, near Maidstone, where they were met by the local ringers. The bells being raised in peal a 360 of Grandsire Minor was rung by P. Edwards, J. Shorter, W. Good, H. Ward, H. Goodwin, W. Spice (conductor). Also 720 (six 6-scores called differently) Grandsire Doubles. W. Hallow, J. Shorter, W. Spice (conductor), H. Ward, H. Goodwin, E. Day. After a course of Bob Minor and several 6-scores of Doubles a pleasant half-hour was spent with the local men before returning home on our wheels. This splendid ring of six (tenor 21 cwt.) has lately been rehung by Gillett and Johnson, of Croydon, and now go splendidly, this being the first change-ringing since the rehanging. W. Hadlow hails from Lenham, Shorter from Bearsted.

THE BELLS OF DURHAM.

I heard them as worn pilgrims hear
The welcome shout, "the shrine is near!"
Those dear old bells of Durham.
They thrill'd and fill'd the moonlit air,
With tones of triumph, song, and pray'r;
Those sounding bells of Durham.
Chiming mem'ries of martyr dead,
Of Kings that led, and kings that fled;
Of hosts whose lot with theirs was cast,
When earth was younger; voices past!
And tongues that told, as time had need,
A Dunstan brave; a saintly Bede;
Whose tones struck hearts, before their own
Taught echoing hills to antiphone,
The pealing bells of Durham.

Send your sound to hearts unfeeling,
Pleadings chording with your pealing,
Rich old bells of Durham.
Seek where guilt in woe is lying,
Search where saints in faith are dying;
Great old bells of Durham.
Penetrate to minds unthinking,
Pierce to heedless souls fast sinking;
And as you voice the passing knell,
For saints and centuries as well,
Tell o'er to ages yet unborn.
On fast and feast, at night and morn,
One lives, Who fills with love profound
The world; as ye this air with sound,
Grand old bells of Durham.

Mute scenes, 'tis said, "prompt men to love;"
E'en more your varied voices move,
Then, sweet old bells of Durham.
If saintly spots have saintly might,
"What doth make manifest is light,"
Then, blessed bells of Durham.
If sand and snow and rock are bless'd,
Which martyr feet in passing press'd;
If pilgrim tears bedew the sod
Where heroes bled, where virtue trod;
If sun and sea, and fane and flower,
Have each some worship moving power;
If souls by sight and sound are taught,
And holy things stir holy thought;
Then, holy bells of Durham.

THE ST. MARTIN'S SCHOLARS, STAMFORD.

STAMFORD.—On Tuesday, November 30th, on handbells, 720 Bob Minor in 16 mins. R. S. Cox, 1-2; R. Wyche (first 720), 3-4; Rev. H. L. James (conductor), 5-6.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD PEAL-BOOK.—A RECORD of Five Hundred and Twenty Peals rung by this Guild. Paper covers, 1s. 2d.; cloth do., 1s. 8d.—Blackwell, Reading; or the Hon. Sec. of the Guild—the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Dunsden Vicarage, Reading, Berks.

Notices.

The charge for the insertion of notices in this page is One Penny per line (five words may be reckoned to a line). Repetitions at half that rate. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

Llandaff Diocesan Association.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. John's schoolroom, Cardiff, on Monday, December 27th, at 3 p.m. The bells of St. John's Church will be available for ringing. N.B.—The place of meeting is altered to Cardiff because Merthyr, as decided by quarterly meeting at Trevechin, is not available.

REV. D. H. GRIFFITHS, *Hon. Sec.*
Colum Road, Cardiff.

H. G. WHITE, *Assistant Hon. Sec.*
18, Cymmer Street, Cardiff.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—St. Michael's, Cornhill, will not be available for a practice on Tuesday, December 28th. Business meeting at head-quarters that night, at 9.30. The sum of 1s. 8d. in lieu of booking fees is now due.

WILLIAM T. COCKERILL, *Hon. Sec.*
37, Tradescant Road, South Lambeth, S.W.

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The next monthly ringing meeting of the above society will be held at Pudsey (8 bells), on Saturday, January 1st. A peal of Bob Major will be attempted at 2.30; business meeting at 7 p.m. at The Park hotel. Handbells provided.

R. BINNS, *Hon. Sec.*
18, Irwin Street, Hogg's Field, Holbeck.

Ely Diocesan Association.—A meeting will be held at Soham, on Tuesday, January 4th, 1898. The bells of Soham (10) and Fordham (6) will be available all day.

R. M. CROFT, *Hon. Sec.*
The Berristead, Wilburton, Ely.

The Middlesex County Association.—North and East District.—The next quarterly meeting of the above district will be held at St. Stephen's, Hampstead, on Saturday, January 15th, by the kind permission of the Rev. J. Kirkman. The tower will be open for ringing from 5 p.m., and the attendance of members and their friends is cordially invited.

ARTHUR T. KING, *Hon. Sec.*
18, Ravenscroft Park Road, Barnet.

The St. James's Society.—In consequence of the repairs now in progress at St. Clement Danes, the meetings at that steeple are suspended for the present. Notice will be given of their resumption.

R. A. DANIELL, *Hon. Sec.*
20, Bucklersbury, E.C.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—At a meeting held at the new head-quarters, The Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., on September 21st, it was resolved that a testimonial be presented to Mr. Matthew A. Wood, of Bethnal Green, as a mark of esteem and in appreciation of the good work he has done towards the advancement of change-ringing during the past fifty years. Subscriptions towards this object will be gladly received by any of the following committee:—Messrs. F. S. Bayley, Burkin, Butler, Cockerill, W. Davies (Liverpool), Dorrington, T. Hattersley (Sheffield), Horrex, Hughes, T. Mash, Newton, Prime, Pettit, F. W. J. Rees (Nayland, Colchester), Smith, Springall, Waghorn, jun., and Winney. Saturday, April 2nd, 1898, is the suggested date for the presentation to be made, and intending subscribers are earnestly requested to send in their subscriptions at least a week before that time.

NOTES TO PEALS.

THE PEAL AT WOOLWICH.—This was Messrs Sheldon's and Carter's first peal in the method, and W. G. Grove's 50th peal, made up as follows: Grandsire Triples, 15, conducted 4; Grandsire Caters, 1; Stedman Triples, 7; Oxford Bob Triples, 1; Bob Major, 2; Kent Treble Bob Major, 22, conducted 1; Double Norwich Major, 2. Total 50.

THE PEAL AT MANCHESTER.—This is the first peal of Stedman Caters by all except the conductor, and is supposed to be the first peal of Stedman Caters rang in Manchester since the year 1826; the first in the city, as Manchester has been made a city since that date; and first in the present tower, and first by the Lancashire Association. All the band are likewise members of the Ashton-under-Lyne society.

THE PEAL AT EASTBOURNE.—This was the first peal of London Surprise by Messrs. Dawe and Goldsmith, and the first peal of Major on the bells. It was also the 50th peal by J. S. Goldsmith, who is only nineteen years of age, the following being the list: Grandsire Triples, 10, conducted 3; Grandsire Major, 1; Grandsire Caters, 1; Union Triples, 1, conducted 1; Stedman Triples, 9, conducted 1; Stedman Caters, 1; Bob Major, 10, conducted 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 5; Double Norwich, 5; Superlative Surprise Major, 5; Cambridge Surprise Major, 1; London Surprise Major, 1. Total, 50. This peal which is in two equal parts, contains the 4th and 6th their extent in 6ths place, without the 2nd or 3rd in that position at a course-end, and is now rung for the first time. Messrs. Dawe and Goldsmith hail from Lewes; Shade from Greenwich; the rest from St. Peter's, Brighton. The ringers wish through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS" to thank the vicar for the use of the bells and the local band for having everything in readiness.

THE PEAL AT HUNTINGDON.—W. H. Fussell hails from Slough; Read and Johnson from Peterborough; Clarke, Chasty, and Lilley from Bedford; the rest are local men. Messrs. Read, Fussell, Johnson, and Hall were proposed members of the Bedfordshire Association previous to starting for the peal by Mr. C. W. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Sinkins. The ringers take this opportunity of thanking the vicar, the Rev. H. L. Jackson, for the use of the bells.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

JAMES BURROWS.—We are making enquiries about the matter.

R. HASTED.—It was purely an error. We are very sorry that it caused the unpleasantness, and will gladly make amends if you will inform us how to do it.

X. Y. Z.—It is only a variation. The calls are merely put in different places. The Editor's quarter-peal was the first obtained with the twenty-four 6-7s, and several variations of this have been had. The calls were varied to obtain the 4-6s at the same time, but being merely a variation of the original, was not published.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD (Wirral Branch).—At St. Saviour's parish church, Oxtown, on Thursday, November 18th, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 52 mins. C. Owens, 1; J. Evans, 2; J. Owens, 3; W. Hughes, 4; J. Grant, 5; G. Newton, 6; J. Hughes, 7; W. Grimant, 8. Composed and conducted by G. Newton.

Compositions.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

By ARTHUR KNIGHTS, *Chesterfield.*

6336.

2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H
3	6	4	5	2	I		2	
3	4	5	6	2		I	2	
4	3	2	6	5	2		2	
6	2	3	4	5		2	2	
6	3	4	2	5		I	2	
6	4	2	3	5		I	2	
4	5	2	3	6	I		2	
3	4	2	5	6		I		
4	6	2	5	3	I		2	
4	2	5	6	3		I	2	
4	5	6	2	3	I	-	2	2
5	3	6	2	4	I		2	
2	5	3	4	6			2	
4	2	3	5	6		I		

Repeat the last six courses.

This peal has the 5th and 6th the extent each way in 5-6 with both bells six times at home, also the 4th the extent in 6ths place. First rung at Norton, Derbyshire, on December 18th, 1897. Conducted by the author.

Notice to Advertisers.—Advertisements of articles wanted, to sell, or exchange, are charged at the prepaid rate of one penny for four words. Advertisements of situations wanted, or vacant (for ringers only), are inserted free. The figures of compositions are inserted free, unless proof is required.

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WANTED a Situation as Under-Gardener, or as Groom and Gardener. Four years in last situation as Groom and Gardener. Change-ringer on six; member of the Ely Diocesan Association. Age 21; single, with good character. Address, W., care of Editor.

TIMEKEEPER seeks permanent situation. Excellent change-ringer in Standard methods. Member of the Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire Associations. Excellent references. Apply X. Y. Z., office of this paper.

GAS and Hot Water Fitter wants job. Good change-ringer from twelve-bell tower. Member of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association. Apply to H.P., care of Editor.

SITUATION WANTED as plumber; general hand; change-ringer; member of Herts Association.—Apply, J. Shepherd, Church Road, Hatfield, Herts.

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COMPOSITOR seeks situation. Change-ringer. G. Gerrard, 30, Bradford Street, Handbridge, Chester.

WANTED.—Situation as caretaker or any place of trust. Eight years last place; unrepachable references from influential gentlemen. Change-ringer on eight; member of Norwich Diocesan Association. Age 28. Address, J. G. M., care of Editor.

Situations Vacant.

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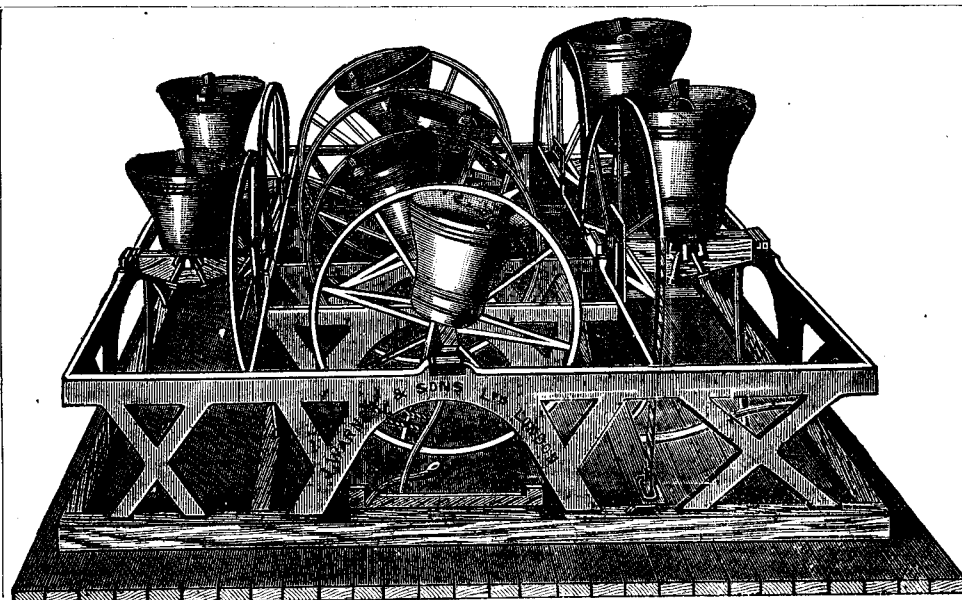
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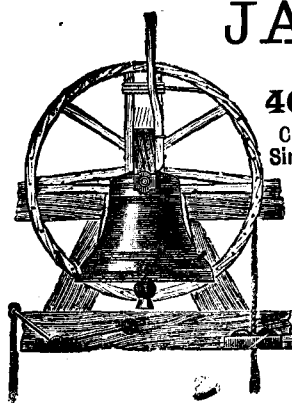
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