

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record :

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

No. 877.—VOL. XVII.]

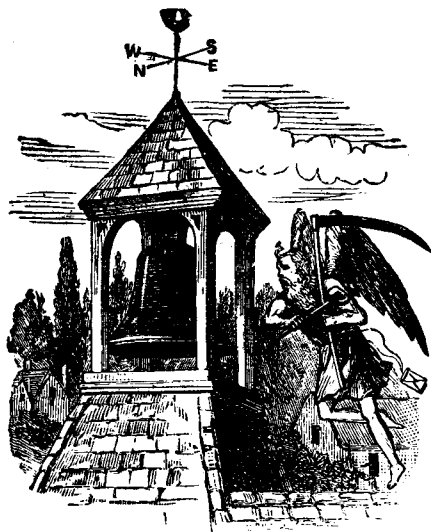
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1899.

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London.	Crawley Parish Church
Sherborne Abbey.	Corbridge-on-Tyne, do.
Sydney Town Hall,	Pontypool (Trevethin
N.S.W.	Church.)
Hammersmith Parish	Windermere Church.
Church.	Eiffel Tower, Paris.
Gateshead Clock Twr.	Dunstold Parish Ch.
Duke of Albany Memo-	Aylesford do.
rial, Cannes.	St. Mark's Church, St.
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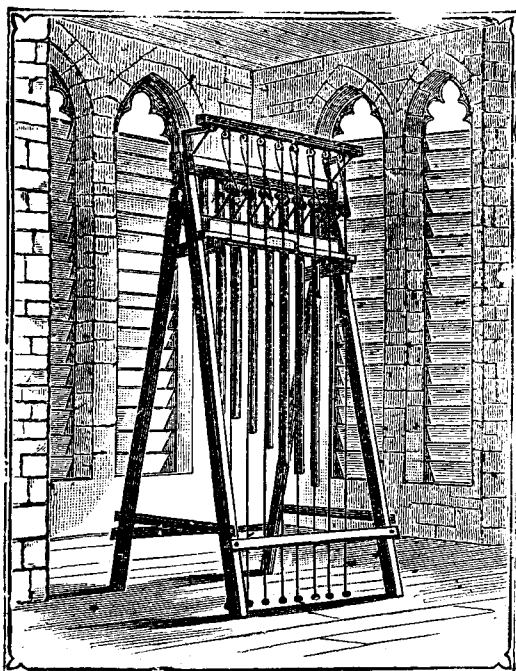
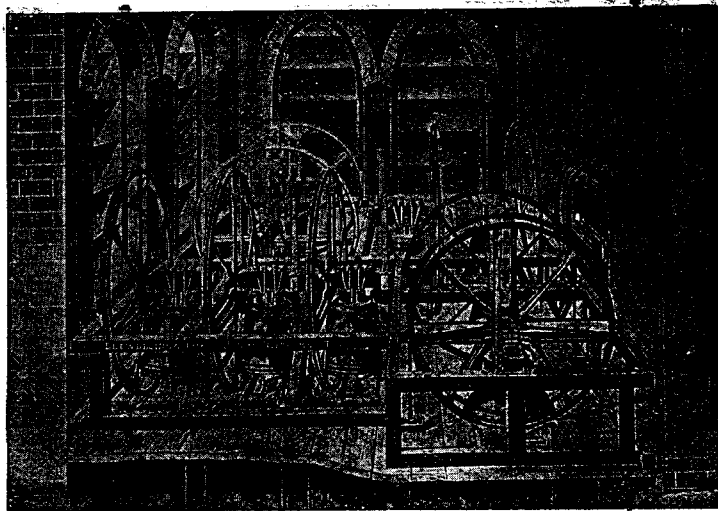
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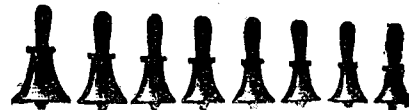
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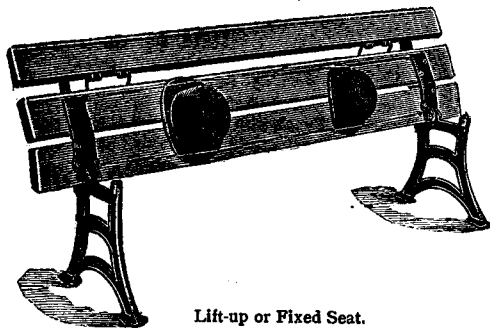
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 877.]

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1899.

[Vol. XVII.]

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION.

Wind, rain, and sleet, with various other equally well-known concomitants which go to make out-door existence miserable, characterised last Saturday, when the Yorkshire Association held its twenty-third annual meeting at Bolton, a pleasant suburb of the town of Bradford. But these untoward atmospheric surroundings did not prevent a large attendance of members, who filled the electric cars as they left Bradford throughout the afternoon. In the school, Miss King, the worthy Vicar's daughter, was busily engaged with a large number of other ladies preparing for tea. In another part of the school, auditors, president, and treasurer were actively employed finishing the audit and counting up the votes recorded for committee-men as the papers were handed in, while from the tower a short distance away came the sound of the bells. Shortly after three o'clock the Lightcliffe branch commenced ringing the service touch, and at four o'clock choral service was held in the church. For this event Mr. Albert Smith, the genial choir-master, had been untiring in getting together a full choir. Divine Service commenced with the hymn—"Thou art coming, O my Saviour." Prayers were said by the Rev. J. W. Clough, and the choir sang the anthem—"The radiant morn hath passed away." The next hymn—"Hark, hark! my soul, angelic songs are swelling," went with spirit, after which the Rev. C. H. King, Vicar of Bolton, then preached the annual sermon, from Ex. xxviii. 31-35. By special request we give the rev. preacher's discourse in full:—

"Naturally, the cause of our assembling to-day, carries our thoughts to the sweet-toned instruments of the Church which hang in her towers, and which as they swing send forth their music far and wide. Though, in taking up this subject this afternoon, it is not my intention to dilate at length into the history of the introduction of bells into the Christian Church, or into our domestic use, yet we might profitably, for a few moments, investigate what is at all times a most interesting subject. That bells were used in the old Israelitish days under the Mosaic economy is very certain. In my text we learn that the high priest's dress was bordered with golden bells, to indicate to the people the time when he should go into the holy place, at an especial time, for an especial purpose, to burn incense, that they might join him in their prayers and supplications for pardon and peace. Some writers make those bells on the holy robe to be typical of the sound or coming of the Gospel of Christ Jesus our Lord into the world, giving notice of His entrance into the veil for us. They founded their idea upon Psalm lxxxix. 15—'Blessed are they that hear the joyful sound, bringing joy and peace in the midst of the darkness of a world sunk in the unbelief and contempt of all that is good, pure, and holy.' But little mention is made of bells from this time until the introduction of the Christian religion, and even then not at first, but some 400 or 500 years after.

"Campanology is an interesting study, and would well repay any research into its history. Pliny and other ancient writers give some notice in their writings of the use of bells, but from the description of them they must have been of an indifferent shape and character, and of very indifferent tone. We also read of the bells (so called) that were fastened round the ankles of Egyptian women and girls, but these were really only hollowed pieces of metal, which by striking together gave forth a pleasant

sound. To-day let us be satisfied with some simpler facts connected with campanology, but none less interesting.

"Any one who has lived for a time in oriental lands or in a Mahomedan city will be struck with staid melancholy silence on the principal holy day or day of prayer, compared with the joyous ringing of bells on the day of worship in Christian countries, and especially in our own land of freedom; one is so chilling, frigid, and unnatural, the other so bright and peaceful. In oriental countries the muezzin, or crier, mounts the mosque to announce the hour of prayer from a balcony. His voice, trained to carry far by constant practice, certainly effects its object by its harsh unmusical grating sound.

"The bell has had a strange history in relation to introduction of Christian worship. Bells, though they answer divers purposes in the present day would never have come into existence at all but for the fostering care of Christian worship. In the early days of the Church bells would have been entirely unnecessary, and immediately after the introduction of Christianity would have been an impossibility in view of the bitter persecution of the early Christians. The first meetings of the early infant Church took place in upper rooms, generally the very least room in the house, and in other quiet secret places, and we suppose that all the worshippers were aware of the hour for meeting. Subsequently, when the bitter persecutions began, the Christian worshippers were accustomed to gather together in catacombs, in caves, in mysterious hiding places. Bells, as an invitation or a summons to worship in those days of bitter persecution would have been an impossibility, as well as a great danger.

"When basilicas began to be used as places of worship after the troublous times of persecution were over, and the Christian religion became recognised by law, and could raise its head openly, then the plan of calling the congregation together was by means of a "tessera," or watchword, which was passed round one to another. But shortly before this time, in a remote district in the Christian world, a custom had been commenced from which bells and our future campanology has since sprung. In the monastery of Pachomius, in Egypt, where many fugitives from persecution lived by hundreds, leading a devoted life of prayer and ascetism, it was the custom to send a man round, who struck a blow with a mallet on the door of every cell to inform the dweller therein that the hour of worship had come. Probably this man had assistants, as it would be too lengthy a business for one man to inform hundreds. This was too cumbersome and laborious a method, and a substitute had to be found. A man was stationed in some convenient place with a piece of wood (the best kind of sounding wood) and a mallet, who by hammering on this homely instrument, gave the call to service quite as effectually, and with far less trouble. The next step in the evolution of the bell was that a man made the discovery that if two or more pieces of board were fastened together in the shape of a box, instead of the simple board, and was struck by a mallet from side to side, a greater clatter or body of sound will be raised. The box was suspended by a rope, and thus the primitive bell ringer performed his rude, singular, and unmelodious duties. Such bells were called 'signa,' thus we behold the first kind of bell used not only in monasteries, but in churches, to summon people to the House of Prayer. Cortes mentions that similar instruments were found among the Mexicans, only the Mexican wooden bells were more shapely, being beautifully formed, some in the shape of a poppy, or other flower. The next step was to make these bells of metal instead of wood. There is no definite record of when this important change in bell-manufacture was introduced. That it was very gradual is certain. The old square form was still adhered to, the bell made in the shape of a box, without any kind of lid, but of iron. Some of these square bells are to be seen in the present day. There is one in the monastery of St. Gall, perhaps the oldest bell in existence. It is most rudely made, and looks no

different from an iron box; the tone of it when struck is both harsh and unpleasant. In Denmark and Ireland such bells are reported to be still in existence as curiosities. The iron was sometimes coated with bronze, either to sweeten the tone or to improve the appearance of the bell, and to preserve it from decay. The round form of bells gradually took the place of the old square one, and indeed seems a natural innovation, though as to how or where it was invented we have no certain testimony. Considering that the metal bell had to be cast in a mould, one shape was as easy to the artificer as another, and all feelings of symmetry pointed to the rounded form. Copper and tin now began to be used instead of iron, as the mixture gave forth a sweeter tone. Other metals too have been found in mediæval bells, silver and gold in large quantities. The explanation as to how these precious metals came there puzzled campanologists for a long time. A study of mediæval manners and customs however revealed the fact that when a bell was being cast for a church in those days the members of the congregation met together in great numbers, and while the metals were fusing in a large cauldron over a wood fire, people cast into the molten mass coins of gold and silver, chains, rings, and other ornaments, thinking it a pious act to give of their substance to the beautifying of their church bell. Some bells were made in those days of more costly material than copper and tin. Six silver bells were not uncommon in German churches, but in Italy purity and beauty of tone were most successfully cultivated, and bells of pure gold were occasionally employed. At Bologna there were three golden bells, which made celestial ringing, whose loveliness has been celebrated by poets. The Italian bellfounders exceeded the rest of Europe in the melody and beauty of the tone of their bells. Bells were first known in France in the year 550, although they had been known but little used 150 years before. In our own country King Egbert commanded every priest to sound the church bell or bells at proper hours. Bells were used in churches by order of Pope John ix., about 900, as, he said, "a defence, by ringing them, against thunder and lightning." They were first cast in England by Turketal, chancellor of England under Edmund I. His successor improved upon his invention, and caused the first tuneable set to be put up in Croyland Abbey in 960. It would be possible to trace down from this time the increase in their manufacture and the improvement in tone. But I hope enough has been said to arouse the interest and zeal of some young campanologist to enquire into their history, and to give us the benefit of their labour and research.

"Having said so much, or so little rather, about the bells, may I say a little about the ringers, or the bell men? As was said a short time ago, there has been a great revival of a better state of things in our English belfries, they are no longer what they were a hundred years or more ago. But I look for a greater improvement. Are not our ringers officers of the churches in the belfries, as much as choirmen are officers to the congregation in the chancels? When the high priest went into the holy place the people knew of his presence by the sweet sound of the golden bells, and I would have our ringers known (not as they were in olden times), by their upright honourable Christian lives, living as men who knew they were officers connected with the house of God, and conscious of their position, endeavouring to set an example to others. My dear fellow-change-ringers, I am proud to know that I am one of you. I see we number nearly 1000 members: what a small army for God we might be if we would! I have stood in the front ranks of 6000 men, each man carrying an instrument of death, a deadly weapon. We are but a sixth of that vast number, but instead of threatening death and misery, how easily might we live a life of peace and joy, by living earnest loyal Christian lives, not merely as officers of the House of God, but as followers, *i.e.* imitators of the Lord Jesus, for after all that is what is wanted. Will you bear with me while I speak of a matter which lies very near my heart, and from to time has greatly disturbed me? Having summoned the congregation to the House of God for prayer and praise, do you feel that your duty is finished? Are you not men of "like passions" with ourselves? Do you not need to humble yourselves, and make your common supplication, and join in the common prayer, praise, and thanksgiving? I know I am treading on dangerous ground; but why do so many of you turn your backs on His house? some Sabbath to Sabbath, and from year to year, never by any chance meeting with those whom you with

no little exertion have called together. My dear fellow-change-ringers, we are but men, with one life to live here. But it is not all of life to live, after this life cometh the judgment. How shall we, many of us, answer for the seeming contempt, indifference, of the service of our Master, and His house. I think every officer in the house of God should be an earnest Christian; living so that all worldly-minded men may readily recognise that there is some difference between them and him. I desire very sincerely that we have our names enrolled not only on the splendid list of change-ringers, but in the Lamb's Book of Life."

After the sermon came the hymn "All praise to Thee my God this night," which concluded the service; and then steps were retraced to the school for tea, while the Skipton branch were ringing a touch. Here were soon gathered some 250 or more members, who had come from Armley, Bingley, Bradford, Bramley, Birstall, Brighouse, Chesterfield, Calverley, Darfield, Drighlington, Dewsbury, Guiseley, Headingley, Hull, Harrogate, Halifax, Huddersfield, Leeds, Lightcliffe, Low Moor, Mirfield, Narton, Ossett, Otley, Pontefract, Pudsey, Queensbury, Rothwell, Rotherham, Sheffield, Shipley, Skipton, Sandal, Tong, Wakefield, York, and other places. A thoroughly excellent meat tea was soon in process of serving, and very satisfactorily brought round without hitch of any kind, thanks to the efficient management of the ladies. Tables were shortly afterwards cleared most expeditiously, and the rooms prepared for the meeting, which were well filled.

Mr. W. Snowdon, President, occupied the chair, supporting whom were the Rev. C. H. King, Vicar, the Rev. J. W. Clough, curate, Councillor T. A. Williamson, and several officers and committee-men.

The Chairman briefly opened the meeting, and read the minutes of the Skipton meeting, which was adopted, after which Mr. Albert Smith sang "Ring out, wild bells."

The annual report and balance-sheet was then presented, the former of which stated that the total number of members was now 974, an increase of forty on the previous year. Sixty peals had been rung during the year at thirty-one churches. The balance-sheet shewed that £8 had been added to capital account, bringing the invested funds of the Association up to £222 15s. 1d. On the proposition of Mr. J. W. T. Holgate (Bramley), seconded by Mr. S. Palframan (Bolton), the report and balance-sheet were unanimously adopted.

Then followed a song—"A boy's dream," by Master F. Longthorne.

The President next announced the result of the poll for four seats on the Committee. The first three elected were Messrs. Charles Jackson (Hull), John Holden (Saddleworth), and Harry Williams (Headingley); Messrs. J. Yeadon (Guiseley), and D. Stephenson (Ossett) tied for fourth place, and it was agreed to decide by show of hands, when Mr. Yeadon was re-elected.

The President then referred to the death of Mr. Frank Price, a late member of the Committee, and it was resolved that a vote of sympathy and condolence be sent to the widow.

Mr. C. Nicholson followed with a song—"Every bullet has its billet."

A cordial vote of thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. T. Hattersley (Sheffield), and carried amid loud cheers, to which the Rev. C. H. King and Mr. J. Cockshott briefly replied.

Miss F. Hardisty then sang very sweetly the song—"For all eternity."

No invitation being forthcoming for the place for hold-

ing the May meeting, the arrangements were left in the hands of the Committee according to rule; but an intimation was given by the Rotherham branch of their intention to put forward that town for the meeting in September.

Mr. J. Craven followed with a song—"The Sailor's Grave;" after which Mr. George Bolland (Tong) proposed, and Mr. Abbshaw (Rothwell) seconded, a vote of thanks to the choir, which was passed most heartily.

At the request of the President the Rev. C. H. King, on behalf of the Association, presented Mr. B. T. Copley an envelope containing £10., in recognition of his nine years of service as Honorary Secretary, accompanying the gift with many kindly expressions of goodwill to the recipient, and referring to their unbroken friendship for a quarter of a century.

Councillor T. A. Williamson then presented to Mrs. Copley a handsome silver sugar basin, expressing his pleasure, and that of Mrs. Williamson, in being amongst them that day, and especially in being their medium for such a pleasing duty as giving recognition to the worthy helpmeet of a faithful officer.

Mr. Copley was warmly cheered on rising to acknowledge the gifts, and the kind words which had accompanied them.

Mr. T. Moseley next contributed a humorous song—"Under the circumstances:" after which Mr. Charles Jackson (Hull) moved, and Mr. Harry Williams (Headingley) seconded, a vote of thanks to the ladies, which was carried heartily.

Mr. J. Stead followed with a song—"The mighty deep," and a vote of thanks to the Bolton branch was moved by Mr. W. Billows (Skipton), seconded by Mr. J. Lawson (Lightcliffe), and acknowledged by Mr. B. T. Copley.

The Rev. C. H. King moved a vote of thanks to the president; this was seconded by the Rev. J. W. Clough, and briefly replied to Mr. Snowdon, which concluded the formal business.

Mr. Rhodes Broadley, organist, accompanied the songs on the piano in very creditable fashion. It should be added that every item of the day's arrangements was carried out without a single hitch. All, both Vicar, ladies, and ringers set themselves to make the meeting thoroughly successful and enjoyable, and nothing was forgotten or left undone which would conduce to the comfort and convenience of the visitors. The musical portion of the meeting was an entire new departure, and thanks to Mr. Albert Smith, choirmaster, who arranged this, the innovation proved most popular to the large assembly of members gathered in the schoolroom; and altogether this twenty-third annual meeting will rank as one of the most successful of the many gatherings of the Yorkshire Association.

THE WORCESTER CATHEDRAL GUILD.

The Annual General Meeting of the above Guild was held on Friday, January 20th, the Rev. J. G. Floyer, the new Warden of the Guild, occupying the chair. After going through the ordinary business of the Guild the following members were elected to the various offices for the ensuing year: Mr. G. Checketts, Master; Mr. W. Lebbon, Deputy-Master; Mr. W. H. Johnson, Secretary (re-elected); Mr. B. S. Hill, delegate to the Association; and Messrs. W. Powell and C. Jones as committeemen. Mr. A. Hadley was elected a member of the Guild.

The Rev. J. G. Floyer, in a few remarks, said it gave him great pleasure to become Warden of the Guild, and

as he could already ring rounds, he hoped in the near future to be able to take hold of a rope and help his new friends through a touch of Caters. He thanked the past officers for their services, and expressed his wish to become an honorary member of the Worcestershire Association. A pleasant meeting was then brought to a close.

ST. IGNATIUS THE MARTYR, SUNDERLAND.

On Wednesday evening, January 11th, the ringers of the above church were kindly entertained at the vicarage by the Vicar and Mrs. Boddington, when Mr. Robert T. Manning, the Secretary of the band, was presented with an elegant reading lamp, as a wedding gift, from the Vicar and his brother-ringers.

The Vicar, in making the presentation, spoke of the good work done by the Secretary since the formation of the band, and wished him and his bride a long and happy life.

Mr. Manning suitably responded.

After the presentation a business meeting was held, and four new members were elected as learners.

IMPRISONED IN A TOWER.

A serious accident, which might have had a fatal termination, occurred last week to Mr. G. W. Steele, of Chester-le-Street. It seems that Mr. Steele with an assistant proceeded to the clock in the parish church spire in order to examine the striking apparatus, which is situated under the tenor. On going down between the 4th bell and the oak beam on which it rests, he inadvertently placed his foot on the wrong side of the wheel, and the bell being up came over, and wedged him against the frame. The assistant seeing his perilous position, ran at once for help. Fortunately, the sacristan and a company of young men were inspecting the interior of the church, and they proceeded to where Mr. Steele was, and succeeded in lifting the bell and releasing him. He was at once taken home, and medical aid summoned. Mr. Steele has sustained a severe shock.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. PEAL COLLECTION.

Mr. Henry Dains, whose address is 147, Barnsbury Road, Islington, N., again asks authors of compositions in this method to send in their peals to him without delay. As previously mentioned he has already had a large number of peals sent in, but there are still several good names absent. Personally I should like to see every composer represented, but to copy all peals that have been published is a big task, and there are other reasons why I should not do this. Therefore to make this work a success the co-operation of every gentleman of the Exercise concerned is absolutely necessary.

FRAMS DEN (Sfnolk).—On Sunday, January 1st, for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, 640 Kent Treble Bob Major. J. Creasy, 1; W. Wightman, 2; J. Durrant, 3; G. Thurlow, 4; S. Wightman, 5; G. Perry, 6; W. Bullock, 7; G. Wightman (conductor), 8.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD PEAL-BOOK.—A RECORD of Five Hundred and Twenty Peals rung by this Guild. Paper covers, 6d.; cloth do., 9d.—Blackwell, Reading; or the Hon. Sec. of the Guild—the Rev. R. H. Hart-Davis, Dunsden Vicarage, Reading Berks.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

A Quarterly Meeting of the North and East District of the above Association was held on Saturday, January 21st, at the church of St. John-at-Hackney, and was well attended by members from all parts of Middlesex and adjoining counties, from Burnham in Bucks. to Walthamstow in Essex. The bells were raised at 4 o'clock, and frequent touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and of Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Major were rung, and throughout there was a large and satisfactory attendance. The Vicar of St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton, had also given permission for the opening of his tower to the members; but as they were on the point of making a start news came of the death of the Rev. D. Kingsford, rural dean of Hackney, and Vicar of St. Thomas's, Stamford Hill. A message was brought to the belfry that, in the circumstances, the Vicar wished that the bells might not be rung. The ringers at once dispersed and returned to St. John's Hackney, where the news of the sad occurrence was confirmed later.

Shortly after seven o'clock a movement was made to the parish room, where well-furnished tea tables gave evidence of a hearty welcome. Some sixty ringers sat down to partake of the hospitality so thoughtfully prepared for them, after which a musical programme was commenced of a highly varied and interesting character. There were songs delightfully rendered by the Rev. L. Mc N. Shelford, Rev. C. E. Thornely, Messrs. Nuttall, W. D. Smith and Albert Coles; recitations admirably given by Mr. J. Gardner; and when Mr. W. D. Smith and his talented family took possession of the platform for a series of performances in handbell music, the delight of the audience was unmistakable. The clever manipulation of the treble parts by Mrs. Smith, and the intelligent activity of Miss Annie L. Smith (nine years of age) and Masters Joseph C. and Edward J. Smith aged 15 and 16 respectively), in selecting the appropriate bells, resulted in a contribution to the harmony of the evening as unique as it was delightful. The tenor and bass parts were played by Mr. Albert Coles and Mr. W. D. Smith respectively. The tunes played were Lord Hardwicke's March "Elfin Waltz," "Bonnie Dundee," and "Nelly Grey." Nor must we omit to mention the several courses of Grandsire Caters, faultlessly rung at intervals in the programme by F. Rumens, 1-2; W. B. Manning, 3-4; M. A. Wood, 5-6; W. D. Smith, 7-8; A. Coles, 9-10; in short, the whole entertainment was admirably conceived and as admirably carried out. It is needless to say that the efforts of all were enthusiastically received.

The Hon. and Rev. H. G. Lawley, Rector of the parish, joined the meeting at 9 o'clock, and kindly responded to a vote of thanks for the use of his bells, and for the hearty welcome given to the Association. In a brief acknowledgment, he professed a profound ignorance in the art of ringing, but at the same time managed to be in thorough sympathy with his audience. Ringers have none too many of these pleasant meetings, where, as in this case, the clergy not only join with them, but cater actively for their enjoyment. The memory of such an evening will linger, and as the Hon. Secretary phrased it "such right good fellowship will do more for the advancement of the Association than any amount of labour and pains spent by him in the details of organisation." We almost fancy that we hear him exclaim *O! si sic omnes!*

A PEAL OF 362,880 GRANDSIRE CATERS, 6d.
Contains the full extent of changes on nine bells. Forwarded Post Free, on receipt of 7d. By James Hewitt, 16 Chapel Row, Gosport.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD, BEDS.

The bells of All Saints church, Leighton Buzzard, were re-opened on Saturday, January 7th, after being rehung by Messrs. Webb and Bennett, of Kidlington, to whom great credit is due for the excellence of their work and the "go" of the bells. They were opened by the Oxford Guild, the peal being recorded in this journal, and the names of ringers from several places. Every man was charmed with the "go" of his bell, and the peal was much enjoyed by the ringers and also by listeners in the town, who much appreciated the ringing of their grand old bells after a silence of three months.

After the peal the ringers adjourned to The Swan hotel, where a nice luncheon was spread under the direction of the committee and churchwardens, viz., Messrs. R. Richmond, G. Willis, Ruggles, and G. Green. Very great thanks are due to Mr. G. Green for the energetic way in which he has worked to get the bells rehung; but for him and his undaunted perseverance they would still be hanging in their old bad condition.

After doing justice to the lunch the ringers again adjourned to the tower where they found a good number of ringers from Bedford and other places. The meeting of the Bedfordshire Association was held in the afternoon. Some good touches were rung in the evening by the visitors; Mr. George, of Rugby, came in for a short time. The time passed all too quickly, and a pleasant evening came to a close, as the visitors had to leave in time to catch their trains for home. One and all expressed their great satisfaction at the going of the bells, and Messrs. Webb and Bennett are to be highly congratulated and recommended for the system upon which they carry out their work.

New head-stocks, new clappers and wheels, quarter-turned, cannons cut off the last four, and frame well bolted, which is very massive and in good condition. This is the work they have done to the bells, and close examination shews not one stone has been left unturned; everything is perfection; such workmen are to be highly recommended.

N.

GOLDHANGER, ESSEX.

For some years past the five old bells in this church have been unfit for ringing. The bells are a very ancient peal, two bearing the date 1657, the other three Wm. Chapman, London, fecit, 1781. It has been the efforts during the past year of the Rector, the Rev. F. T. Gardner, and the Rev. C. G. Littlehales to get the bells put in proper order, and about the latter part of last year they were taken away and the old 4th recast and a new treble added, making an excellent ring of six. The whole work was entrusted to H. Bowell and Son, of Ipswich, to whom great credit is due for their excellent work. The dedication service took place on Wednesday, December 28th, at 3.30. The hymn "The Church's one foundation" was sung, and the first part of the service was read by the Rev. C. G. Littlehales, and the first lesson by the Rev. F. Theobald, Rector of Wigborough, the second by the Rector. The Great Totham ringers rang the opening touch, and after the singing of another hymn an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre from St. Luke ii. 14—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill towards men." He said: Bells we have heard at the Christmas festival from very ancient times: a re-opening and dedication of new ones fits in mostly with the celebration of Christmas. Glory to God in the highest. The act of worship is a privilege; in the

first instance to angels, second to men; but in a lower sense in things such as the sun, moon and stars, the wind, etc. Bells have a similar capacity of voicing the emotions both of the ringers, and we find repeated by inscriptions on our old bells such mottoes as "I will praise my God, not by word but by voice;" "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men." Bells are often used to usher in the coming of peace after warfare. The bells may seem to utterly ring away all malice and breathe goodwill to all.

The service over the bells were at once set going again, and a 720 of Plain Bob rung by the Great Totham band, conducted by T. Hammond. Ringers were present from Coggeshall and Kelvedon. The visitors were entertained to tea at the rectory by the Rev. F. T. Gardner. The "go" of the bells is all that can be desired.

On Sunday, January 8th, a company of ringers from Great Bentley, and Messrs. Bowell, of Ipswich, paid a visit to the church, and some good ringing was done, the Rev. C. G. Littlehales ringing the treble in a 6-score of Grandsire Doubles. An excellent dinner and tea was prepared by Mr. McDonald, of The Chequers.

A company of change-ringers has been formed under the able tuition of Mr. H. G. Rowe, gardener at Goldhanger rectory, assisted by the Rev. C. G. Littlehales.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—ROSSENDALE BRANCH.

A meeting of this branch was held on Saturday, January 21st, at Newchurch, but owing to the heavy rain during the early part of the afternoon only those who were really determined not to be outdone by the weather put in an appearance, and most of these only at a late hour. From 5.30 the bells were kept going in various touches of Triples, until the Rector (the Rev. J. W. Bennett), appeared, reminding them that it was time for their business meeting. Haslingden was fixed upon as the place for the next meeting, and the usual votes of thanks were accorded, to which, the Rector, in replying, announced that he would endeavour to provide them with a tea the next time a meeting was held in his parish. After the meeting a 720 of Woodbine was rung.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHRIST CHURCH, EASTBOURNE.

At the practice on Tuesday night, January 24th, we had the pleasure of the company of brother-strings from Hailsham, Pevensey, Old Town (St. Mary's), and All Saints, Eastbourne, nineteen ringers being present altogether. There being so many present, long touches were out of the question, but we endeavoured to accommodate all with a pull, and we trust that all had an instructive and happy evening. One of our Hailsham friends rang his first 504 of Grandsire Triples on the 5th, and it was also the first 504 by E. Mallard on the treble. We also had a course of Treble Bob Minor. Several courses of Stedman Triples were also rung, and a 168.

We trust that such meetings may tend to bring us closer together, and that the individual members may derive benefit, and that it may then spread to the bands they represent, and finally that it will strengthen our Association.

We trust that the year 1899 will be a year of good work and progressive, in Eastbourne and district, and if we will all pull together it must be so, H.

Obituary.

HENRY BASTABLE.

On Wednesday the 18th inst., barely three weeks after his fiftieth birthday, passed away one of the most highly respected and talented ringers of the Birmingham district. In our issue of June 29th, 1889, appeared an account of his ringing career, with what was generally acknowledged to be a most successful portrait. We then took occasion to refer to a serious illness he experienced many years ago, which destroyed his then splendid physique, and brought on the complaints to which he has now succumbed at so comparatively early an age. Since his first peal on September 24th, 1868, which was conducted by his schoolfellow, Mr. G. W. Baldwin, and between whom and himself there has always been a most cordial friendship and understanding, the history of his ringing career has been intimately bound up with that of St. Martin's Society of Birmingham, the Holt Society of Aston, and their present day successor the St. Martin's Guild of Birmingham. Although handicapped since his first illness by a somewhat frail frame and delicate health, surely of him as much as of any man might it be said that his motto was—"Do it with thy might!"

His indomitable and painstaking perseverance, although unsuited to long-sustained and wearying effort, crowned with success many an undertaking of which giants in the Exercise might well be proud. Of such it needs only to instance his conducting the first peal on handbells in the Midland Counties, the first peal of Stedman Caters on handbells ever rung out of London, and the first peal of Cinques in that method in hand. As a conductor of tower bell ringing he was equally celebrated, and from Doubles to Cinques or Maximus, his talent fully entitled him to the position he held as Ringing Master at St. Martin's. The Guild loses an officer whose equal it will be hard to find, and whose popularity can never be excelled.

Not, however, for ringing abilities alone will his memory be cherished by many a friend throughout the length and breadth of this ringing isle. Most modest and unobtrusive of men, our "Harry Bas" endeared himself to every one with whom he came in contact, by his genial ways, and by an ever ready tact and thought for others' comfort.

He was buried on Monday last 'neath the shadow of his old parish church (Handsworth) where his early ringing was achieved, and within sound of the noisy youth attending his old school. At the close of our Church's beautiful and impressive service a course in hand was rung over the grave, followed by muffled touches upon the tower bells, while latter on in the evening muffled ringing could be heard at the neighbouring Church of St. John's, Perry Barr.

Many an old ringing friend and many a shopmate was present, and his bereaved relatives must have felt that he was indeed mourned as a brother.

EDWIN CASHMORE.

It is with regret that I have to report the death of the above ringer, who died at his residence on the 14th inst. Although not a ringer of many peals, he was a regular attendant at the meetings connected with the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, of which he had been a member since the commencement in 1883. He was brother to the late Mr. Paul Cashmore, the well-known composer, conductor, and bell-ringer of West Bromwich. His remains were laid to rest at the Parish Church of All Saints, where for many years he had officiated as sidesman, the bells of which were rung muffled for the services on Sunday. He was seventy-one years of age, and leaves a widow and family to mourn his loss. R.

ECCLESTON, LANCASHIRE.

A large new clock has just been fixed in the parish church tower, Eccleston, which shows time on a large outside dial and on a smaller dial inside the church. It strikes the hours and has all the latest improvements. Messrs. John Smith and Sons, Midland Clock Works, Derby, has carried out the work.

JASPER W. SNOWDON'S WORKS.

ROPE-SIGHT: 1s. 6d. FOURTH EDITION.
Commences by explaining how to manage a bell; deals with Change-Ringing on three, four, five, six, seven and eight bells in the PLAIN BOB METHOD, giving touches and peals in each case; and closes with instructions for conducting, etc., etc. (143 pages).

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NOW READY. Contains full explanations and rules for ringing all the best methods, from five to eight bells, with plain-course diagrams of each printed in full, with coloured lines. 40 pages of diagrams and 87 of descriptive letterpress.

GRANDSIRE; 2s. 0d. THE METHOD, ITS PEALS, AND HISTORY. WITH PORTRAIT AND MEMOIR. EDITED BY HIS BROTHER, WM. SNOWDON. COMPLETE WITH AN APPENDIX BY THE REV. CHARLES D. P. DAVIES, M.A., OXON. Commences with ringing on five, six, and seven bells, for the benefit of a earner; gives instructions on composing, proving, varying, and reversing, conducting and calling round; and ends with a general survey of the practical and scientific aspect of the composition of triples—thus forming a complete reference book for all grandsire ringers. (210 pages).

TREBLE BOB. PART I. out of print and under revision.
Part I. contains instructions for pricking, transposing, proving, composing, and conducting peals; an essay on the *In and Out-of-course* of the changes; and a history of the various compositions and performances. Part II. contains classified peals of Minor, Major, Royal, and Maximus, with their reverse variations; remarks on the different qualities; particulars of first performances, composers' names, &c., &c. (236 closely printed pages *Part II.* (136 closely printed pages) may be had separately, 2s. 1½d.

DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR. 1s. 0d.
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)

Forwarded, Post Free, on receipt of remittance, by WM. SNOWDON,
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"DUFFIELD:" A MUSICAL METHOD FOR 8, 10, AND 12 BELLS, containing full directions for ringing, pricking, and proving the method; together with a collection of Peals of Major, Royal, and Maximus; also an Explanatory Appendix. By ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD, BART., M.A. Gratis application to SIR ARTHUR HEYWOOD, BART., DUFFIELD BANK, near Derby

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" 6 "	3s. 3d.
" 3 "	1s. 8d.

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher E. W. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

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, JANUARY 28, 1899.

THE good folk of Leighton Buzzard have profited by the "agitation" which was made some time ago with respect to the bells of their parish church. These bells have been restored, and put into splendid going order, as we read.

We think that the discussion which took place wherein the Leighton bells and ringers were prominently alluded to, must, if not the actual cause, have greatly assisted in the work of restoration; and we may certainly claim a share in whatever distribution of praise is made. However, the rehangings of the bells is a fact, and the local company have now got the matter in their own hands. No one will now expect to hear from them of appeals for a teacher, or any other weakness; they have a good start made for them, and the recent restoration puts everything in their favour. Now brethren of Leighton, let us soon hear that you are doing something to be talked of.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE.

The annual meeting will be held at Norwich, on Tuesday in Whitsun-week, May 23rd, 1899.

Notices of motion must reach the Hon. Secretary not later than Tuesday, April 25th. They must be in writing, and signed by two representatives.

Hon. Secretaries of societies are reminded that subscriptions to the Council are now due and should be remitted to the Hon. Secretary without delay, at the rate of 2s. 6d. for each elected representative. The Hon. Secretary would also be greatly obliged for information as to any change in representatives, or their addresses, that has taken place in the last year. H. EARLE BULWER, Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn. Hon. Secretary.

The Metropolis.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 19, 1899, in Three Hours and Thirty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES, BERMONDSEY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5035 CHANGES.

Tenor 25 cwt.

WILLIAM PYE	Treble.	*STAFF-SERGEANT A. PYE .. 6.
ALFRED W. BRIGHTON .. 2.		*FREDERICK A. NUNN .. 7.
GEORGE R. PYE* 3.		*ERNEST PYE 8.
CHARLES WILKINS 4.		*JOHN H. CHEESMAN.. .. 9.
HARRY HOSKINS 5.		*HARRY FLANDERS Tenor.

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF, and Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

*First peal of Stedman Caters. This composition has the 6th in 2nds place throughout.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Three Hours and Thirty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, WALTHAMSTOW,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB ROYAL, 5000 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 19 cwt.

ROBERT J. MAYNARD* .. Treble.	*GEORGE R. PYE 6.
CHARLES HOPKINS 2.	†THOMAS MAYNARD 7.
GEORGE GRIMWADE* .. 3.	*EDGAR WIGHTMAN 8.
CHARLES S. BURDEN .. 4.	ERNEST PYE 9.
WILLIAM PYE 5.	FREDERICK A. NUNN .. Tenor.

Composed by T. HURRY, and Conducted by THOMAS MAYNARD.

*First peal in the method. †First peal in the method as conductor. First peal of Royal on the bells.

The Provinces.

EAST DEREHAM, NORFOLK.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, January 17, 1899, in Three Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES.

Tenor 24 cwt.

ARTHUR BERWICK* Treble.	FRANK GEO. BURLEIGH .. 5.
STEPHEN BUCK 2.	JAMES WELLS 6.
FRED W. ADCOCK 3.	WILLIAM LEGGATT 7.
DENIS TYE 4.	SAMUEL F. BURLEIGH .. Tenor.

Composed by F. HOPGOOD, and Conducted by FRANK G. BURLEIGH.

*First peal. Rung as a farewell peal to the conductor, who is leaving the town.

BUSHEY, HERTS.—THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(THE BUSHEY SOCIETY.)

On Wednesday, January 18, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 13 cwt.

WILLIAM G. WHITEHEAD Treble.	WILLIAM I. OAKLEY 5.
ERNEST E. HUNTLEY .. 2.	WILLIAM J. S. THORN .. 6.
FRANK A. SMITH 3.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM .. 7.
WILLIAM E. OAKLEY .. 4.	THOMAS HUSSEY Tenor.

Conducted by ERNEST E. HUNTLEY.

This peal was rung on the occasion of the marriage of the Rector of Bushey (the Rev. G. Montagu Hall) with Miss Cory Wright, of Highbate.

PERRY BARR, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD, BIRMINGHAM.

On Friday, January 20, 1899, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 13½ cwt.

CHARLES WILLIAMS Treble.	ALFRED FLOWERS 5.
HENRY MIDDLETON 2.	THOMAS J. ELTON 6.
WILLIAM ELLIS* 3.	CHARLES H. WATTS .. 7.
WILLIAM S. PRITCHETT .. 4.	WILLIAM SHORT Tenor.

Composed by J. REEVES, and Conducted by WILLIAM SHORT.

This peal was rung with the bells half-muffled, as a last token of respect to the late Henry Bastable. *First peal in the method.

BORDEN, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

VICARS' SIX-PART. Tenor 23 cwt.

GEORGE W. HONEYSETT* Treble.	EDWARD E. FOREMAN .. 5.
STANLEY HUTSON 2.	WILLIAM TASSELL 6.
HARRY FOSTER* 3.	CHARLES R. MILLWAY .. 7.
RICHARD STAINES 4.	GEORGE WOOD Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES R. MILLWAY.

*First peal.

WALKDEN, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 13½ cwt.

JOHN DENNER Treble.	ALFRED POTTER 5.
JOHN POTTER 2.	HARRY CHAPMAN 6.
JOSEPH TURNER 3.	RICHARD RIDYARD 7.
JOSEPH POTTER 4.	SAMUEL OAKES Tenor.

Conducted by RICHARD RIDYARD.

This is the first peal of Stedman by Messrs. Denner, Turner and Oakes, and the first peal of Stedman on the bells.

SOUTHOVER, LEWES, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S TWELVE-PART. Tenor 17 cwt. 3 qrs. 27 lbs.

ALFRED S. LANGRIDGE .. Treble.	JAMES N. FROSSELL .. 5.
KEITH HART 2.	JOHN S. GOLDSMITH .. 6.
WILLIAM PELLING 3.	ALFRED J. TURNER .. 7.
ROBERT J. DAWE 4.	JOHN F. STEADMAN .. Tenor.

Conducted by JOHN S. GOLDSMITH.

This peal was rung with the bells deeply muffled for Mr. William Hillman who was buried on that day, and who was churchwarden of the parish, a vice-president of the local ringers' guild, and a parishioner for over fifty years.

DRAYTON, BERKS.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(READING BRANCH.)

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-one Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 9 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lbs.

JOHN TUCKERTreble.	WM. P. ROUTH, Esq. .. 5.
ALFRED E. REEVES 2.	WILLIAM NEWELL 6.
ARTHUR W. HIGGS 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
CHARLES GILES 4.	ERNEST BRUCETenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

PENDLEBURY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,
AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REEVES' TEN-PART. Tenor 15 cwt.

GEORGE MORRIS*Treble.	*CHARLES SEDDON 5.
JAMES HINDLEY 2.	†JAMES WILSON 6.
THOMAS LINGARD 3.	‡JOHN BRISCOE 7.
ALBERT WALLWORK 4.	*JAMES W. HINDLEY .. .Tenor.

Conducted by THOMAS LINGARD.

*First peal. †First peal with a bob bell. Rung as a birthday compliment to C. Seddon, his brother-ringers wishing many happy returns.

UPPER BEEDING, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, January 21, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-nine Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 8 cwt.

GEORGE SEARLE*Treble.	GEORGE WILLIAMS 5.
HENRY STALHAM 2.	ARTHUR GATLAND 6.
EDWIN RAPLEY 3.	JOHN SMART 7.
FRANK BENNETT 4.	GEORGE GATLANDTenor.

Conducted by GEORGE WILLIAMS.

*First peal, for whom it was arranged. It is also the first peal of Grandsire on the bells.

ERITH, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, January 22, 1899, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES. Tenor 18 cwt.

HARRY FLANDERSTreble.	EDGAR WIGHTMAN 5.
GEORGE R. PYE 2.	ALFRED W. BRIGHTON .. 6.
CHARLES WILKINS 3.	ERNEST PYE 7.
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 4.	WILLIAM PYETenor.

Composed by CHARLES MIDDLETON, and
Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

First peal in the method by all except A. W. Brighton. First in the method on the bells, and was rung at the first attempt.

CAVERSHAM, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.
(HENLEY BRANCH).

On Monday, January 23, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-four Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR,
5056 CHANGES. JOHNSON'S VARIATION OF MIDDLETON'S.

H. SIMMONDSTreble.	E. W. MENDAY 5.
T. NEWMAN 2.	G. ESSEX 6.
E. J. MENDAY 3.	H. W. SMITH 7.
R. T. HIBBERT 4.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. .Tenor.

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
BROOK'S VARIATION. Tenor 18 cwt. in E.

HENRY PRINGTreble.	HERBERT TUCKER 5.
ALFRED PEARCE 2.	CHARLES GORDON 6.
FREDERICK PEARCE 3.	GEORGE T. DALTRY 7.
GILBERT PEARCE 4.	PERCY CAMETenor.

Conducted by GEORGE T. DALTRY.

EDENBRIDGE, KENT.—THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1899, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF SS. PETER AND PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 14½ cwt.

JOHN MAYLAN†Treble.	THOMAS WALLIS 5.
JOSEPH EDWARDS‡ 2.	JAMES HEASMAN 6.
JOHN STEDDY* 3.	RICHARD JENNER 7.
JACK PRESTON 4.	‡PETER SMITHTenor.

Conducted by JOHN STEDDY.

†First peal away from the tenor. ‡First in the method with a bob bell. *First peal as conductor. †First peal in the method.

PONTEFRAC, YORKS.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1899, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;
Being 720 of Violet, and two 720s each of Kent, Oxford, and Woodbine. Tenor 11½ cwt.

WILLIAM A. PEASETreble.	THOMAS PEASE 4.
WM. P. BROOK 2.	JOS. E. KEEN 5.
GEORGE WILCOCK 3.	W. HECKINGBOTTOM .. .Tenor.

Conducted by J. E. KEEN.

This is the first peal on the bells, also the first peal of Treble Bob Minor by the whole band, and the first peal by Messrs. Pease (2), Brook, and Wilcox, and the first peal with a bob bell by W. Heckingbottom.

WITNEY, OXON.—THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, January 24, 1899, in Three Hours,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 20 cwt.

FRED WHITETreble.	GEORGE HOLIFIELD 5.
RICHARD WHITE 2.	WILLIAM NEWELL 6.
CHARLES HOUNSLOW 3.	REV. F. E. ROBINSON .. 7.
FRANK HOPGOOD 4.	F. STEDMAN WHITE } Tenor.
	JOHN MONK }

Conducted by the REV. F. E. ROBINSON.

Rung to celebrate the birthday of the Rector, the Rev. Canon Norris.

Handbell Peals.

BUSHEY, HERTS.

**THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION, AND THE
ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.**

On Sunday, January 22, 1899, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes,
AT THE HOUSE OF MR. BUCKINGHAM,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.

GEORGE N. PRICE* .. 1-2.	W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM 5-6.
HERBERT MARTIN* .. 3-4.	*CHARLES GEORGE .. 7-8.

Composed by W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM, and
Conducted by GEORGE N. PRICE.

Umpires—Mrs. Buckingham and Mr. F. A. Smith. *First peal of Major on hand bells.

Date Touches.

THE LIVERPOOL DIOCESAN GUILD.

CROSTON (Lancashire).—On Monday, December 26th, for practice at St. Michael's church, a date touch of Grandsire Triples in 45 mins. *T. Dalton (conductor), 1; J. Hale, 2; T. Banister, 3; W. Sumner, 4; R. Hough, 5; John Ascroft (longest length), 6; W. Walton, 7; †Jas. Ascroft, 8. *Longest touch as conductor. †Longest touch. This is the longest touch on the bells since they were rebung, and the seventh bell recast in September last by Messrs. Taylor.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

PAINSWICK (Gloucestershire).—On Thursday evening, December 22nd, a date touch of 1898 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 17 mins. G. Browning, 1; S. Baker, 2; H. Grosvenor, 3; W. Hale (conductor), 4; H. Scrivens, 5; J. Poole, 6; W. Bateman, 7; A. Hanks, 8.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BROMHAM (Beds).—On Sunday, January 1st, in 1 hr. 9 mins., at St. Owen's church, a date touch of 1899 changes, consisting of four 6-scores of St. Simon's Doubles, four of Plain Bob, seven of Grandsire, and ninety-nine changes of Grandsire Doubles. B. Carrier, 1; C. Mortimer, 2; C. D. Smith (conductor), 3; J. A. Smith, 4; R. Carrier, 5; A. Mortimer, 6.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Sunday, January 1st, fifteen 6-scores and 99 Grandsire Doubles, in 45 mins. J. Keeble, 1-2; B. Keeble, 3-4; Mrs. Keeble, 5-6.

WESTBURY-ON-SEVERN.—On Tuesday, January 3rd, a date touch of Minor, in 1 hr. 5 mins., being 720 Plain Bob, 720 College Single, and 459 Grandsire Minor. E. Allen, 1; R. Hughes, 2; F. Allen, 3; S. Watkins, 4; W. Glead, 5; T. Hart (conductor), 6. Tenor 21 cwt.

PEVENSEY (Sussex).—On Saturday, December 31st, a date touch of Grandsire Minor, in 1 hr. 7 mins. H. Colbran, 1; E. Beal, 2; G. Penfold, 3; T. Beal, 4; J. Bray, 5; E. Brant (conductor), 6.

Miscellaneous.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SWANSCOMBE (Kent).—On November 13th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. H. Milhams, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; W. Lane, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. On November 27th, 720 Kent Treble Bob. H. Milhams, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; W. Lane, 4; J. Broom, 5; M. Digby (conductor), 6. On Sunday, December 11th, 720 Cambridge Surprise. W. Lane, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. On Christmas Day, 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Broom, 1; G. Hayes (conductor), F. J. Ring, 3; W. Lane, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Martin, 6. Also 720 Oxford Treble Bob. W. Lane, 1; G. Hayes, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; M. Digby, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Martin (conductor), 6. On Saturday, December 31st, 720 Kent Treble Bob. A. Broom, 1; W. Martin, 2; F. J. Ring, 3; W. Lane, 4; J. Broom, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6. On Sunday, January 1st, 720 Cambridge Surprise. W. Lane, 1; J. Broom, 2; G. Hayes, 3; F. J. Ring, 4; W. Martin, 5; W. Harper (conductor), 6.

SUNDRIDGE (Kent).—On Wednesday, January 11th, at the parish church, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor. W. G. Granger (first in the method), 1; G. Steer, 2; D. Wright (conductor), 3; H. J. Ford (first in the method with a bob bell), 4; H. J. Selby, 5; T. Groombridge, 6.

THE CHEPSTOW AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

CHEPSTOW (Monmouthshire).—On New Year's morning at 12 a.m., 720 Bob Minor (twenty-two singles) with 7-8 covering in 25 mins. A. Paddock (first 720), 1; S. Hopton, 2; J. Prickett, 3; R. Thompson (conductor), 4; W. Freestone, 5; J. Morley, 6; F. Bye, 7; E. Lode, 8.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

LAWTON (Cheshire).—On Sunday evening, January 3rd, for Divine Service at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor in 23 mins. J. Hancock (first 720), 1; J. James, 2; W. Massey, 3; J. Wildblood, 4; G. Biddle, 5; W. Rigby (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 on the bells by the local band.

THE BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BATHFORD.—On Saturday, December 10th, at the parish church,

ten 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles each called differently in 47 mins. A. Martin, 1; G. Janes, 2; W. C. Ricketts, 3; H. C. Hallett, 4; J. Taylor (conductor), 5; T. Burden, 6. First 720 by Messrs. Martin, Janes, and Burden.

BATHEASTON.—On Tuesday, December 13th, at the parish church, ten 6 scores of Grandsire Doubles in 47 mins., each called differently. A. W. Snell, 1; J. Taylor (conductor), 2; W. C. Ricketts, 3; H. C. Hallett, 4; G. W. Hutchings, 5; E. G. Snell, 6. First by Messrs. Snell (2), and Hutchings. Also the first by the local band.

NORTON FITZWARREN.—On November 16th, for practice, 720 College Pleasure. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Creed, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. On December 11th, for Divine Service, 720 College Pleasure. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Chaplin, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. On December 14th, for practice, 720 Kent. I. Creed, 1; F. Wyatt, 2; F. Saunders, 3; H. Creed, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. On December 25th, for Divine Service, 720 College Exercise. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Creed, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. On December 28th, for practice, 720 College Exercise. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Chaplin, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. On January 1st, for morning service, touches of College Exercise, College Pleasure, Woodbine and Kent were rung. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Creed, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6. For evening service touches of Duke of York, New London Pleasure, Violet and Oxford. F. Wyatt, 1; F. Saunders, 2; I. Creed, 3; H. Chaplin, 4; T. Creed, 5; J. Cridland, 6.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

BRISTOL.—On Sunday, December 11th, at St. Stephen's church, 896 Stedman Caters. W. A. Cave (conductor), 1; F. W. Elles, 2; R. Clark, 3; W. Knight, 4; H. Pring, 5; C. Horton, 6; F. K. Howell, 7; C. H. Gordon, 8; W. J. Hinton, 9; H. Tucker, 10. On Tuesday, December 13th, an attempt was made for a peal of Superlative Surprise Major, but it came to grief after ringing 3 hrs. 10 mins. owing to a change-course. C. H. Horton, 1; F. Elles, 2; W. A. Cave, 3; J. D. Matthews, 4; C. H. Tomkins, 5; C. H. Gordon, 6; T. W. Radford, 7; W. J. Hinton (conductor), 8. On Saturday, December 17th, an attempt for a peal of Stedman Caters came to grief after ringing 3 hrs. 7 mins. F. May (conductor), 1; W. A. Cave, 2; H. Pring, 3; C. H. Tomkins, 4; R. J. Wilkins, 5; J. D. Matthews, 6; F. K. Howell, 7; F. Price, 8; T. W. Radford, 9; W. Knight, 10. On handbells 518 Grandsire Triples. G. Daltry (conductor), 1-2; H. Tucker, 3-4; F. W. Elles, 5-6; C. H. Horton, 7-8. On Sunday, December 18th, touches of Major and Stedman Caters were rung with the Rev. H. C. Courtney (Minehead), and H. Brown (Bath).

STAPLETON, NEAR BRISTOL.—On Wednesday, December 28th, at the parish church, 720 Grandsire Minor. G. Guy, 1; J. Bawn, 2; W. Tiley, 3; C. H. Horton (conductor), 4; T. W. Staddon, 5; J. Long, 6.

PAINSWICK.—On Sunday, December 4th, for Divine Service in the morning, 216 Grandsire Caters. For Divine Service in the evening, 648 Grandsire Caters. G. Browning, 1; T. Peters, 2; W. Mills, 3; H. Grosvenor, 4; R. Baker, 5; W. Hale (conductor), 6; S. Baker, 7; J. Poole, 8; H. Scrivens, 9; A. Hanks, 10. On Thursday evening, December 8th, for practice, 559 Grandsire Triples. G. Browning, 1; H. Grosvenor, 2; W. Mills, 3; H. Scrivens, 4; S. Baker, 5; J. Poole, 6; W. Hale (conductor), 7; A. Hanks, 8. On Sunday evening, December 11th, for Divine Service, 630 Grandsire Triples. G. Browning, 1; T. Peters, 2; W. Mills, 3; R. Baker, 4; S. Baker, 5; J. Poole, 6; W. Hale (conductor), 7; A. Hanks, 8. On Thursday, December 15th, for practice, 742 Grandsire Triples. G. Browning, 1; S. Baker, 2; W. Mills, 3; W. Hale, 4; H. Grosvenor, 5; J. Poole, 6; W. Bateman, 7; A. Hanks, 8. On Sunday, December 18th, for Divine Service in the afternoon, 504 Grandsire Triples. G. Browning, 1; H. Grosvenor, 2; W. Mills, 3; R. Baker, 4; H. Scrivens, 5; S. Baker, 6; W. Hale (conductor), 7; A. Hanks, 8.

THE SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

SEEND (Wilts).—On November 7th, three 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. F. S. Wilson, 1; A. Brown, 2; F. Merritt, 3; T. Jones, 4; J. E. Willshire, 5; S. Hillier (conductor), 6.

DEVIZES (Wilts).—On November 5th, at St. John's church, 504 Grandsire Triples. A. Draper, 1; T. Raddon, 2; C. H. Hampton, 3; A. Brown, 4; C. R. Hampton, 5; W. A. Johnson, 6; S. Hillier (conductor), 7; F. Merritt, 8. On October 3rd, 360 Stedman Doubles. W. H. Johnson, 1; C. D. Heginbottom, 2; C. H. Hampton, 3; C. R. Hampton, 4; S. Hillier (conductor), 5; A. Draper, 6. On December 22nd, 504 Grandsire Triples. A. Brown, 1; C. D. Heginbottom, 2; T. Raddon, 3; C. R. Hampton, 5; A. Draper, 6; S. Hillier (conductor), 7; F. Merritt, 8.

THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

LEISTON (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, December 27th, eight members attempted G. Lindoff's peal of 5152 Kent Treble Bob Major, but after ringing 5088 changes in 3 hrs. and 7 mins., it came to an untimely end. J. Button, 1; W. Taylor, 2; E. Wigg, 3; C. Bailey, 4; E. Bailey, 5; E. Todd, 6; C. Samson, 7; A. J. Lincoln (conductor), 8.

NORWICH.—On Sunday, December 18th, for Divine Service at St. John's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 27 mins. G. Smith, 1; P. Sadler, 2; E. Francis, 3; F. H. Knights, 4; G. Howchin, 5; J. Bum, 6. On December 21st, at St. John's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 28 mins. W. Bales, 1; E. Francis, 2; A. Hills, 3; G. Howchin, 4; C. E. Borrett (conductor), 5; F. H. Knights, 6. At St. Laurence's church, 720 Bob Minor, in 30 mins. H. J. Borrett, 1; G. Howchin, 2; A. Hills, 3; E. Francis, 4; C. E. Borrett (conductor), 5; W. Bales, 6. These were rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor. On Sunday, December 20th, at St. Peter Mancroft, for the annual Advent ringing, 1008 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, in 45 mins. E. Ward, 1; W. Bales, 2; P. Sadler, 3; A. G. Warnes, 4; G. Howchin, 5; C. E. Borrett (conductor), 6; F. H. Knights, 7; F. Knights, 8; F. J. Howchin, 9; G. Smith, 10. Tenor 43 cwt.

PULHAM MARKET (Norfolk).—On Tuesday, December 27th, at the residence of Mr. R. Borrett, on handbells, 720 Bob Minor, in 19 mins. Egbert Borrett, 1; Harry J. Borrett, 3-4; Charles E. Borrett (conductor), 5-6. At St. Mary's church 720 Bob Minor, in 29 mins. F. Roope, 1; F. R. Borrett, 2; H. J. Borrett, 3; C. Baker, 4; F. R. Surridge, 5; C. E. Borrett (conductor), 6.

HINGHAM (Norfolk).—On Saturday, December 10th, for practice on handbells, 720 Bob Minor in 18 mins. A. Hallock, 1; G. Whitehand, 2; T. Cudbrid, 3; R. Bilham, 4; J. Sadd, 5; W. Tuttle (conductor), 6. First 720 by Messrs. Hallock and Bilham. On Sunday morning, December 11th, for Divine Service at St. Andrew's church, 720 Bob Minor in 25 mins., standing as above. First 720 on tower bells by Messrs. Hallock and Bilham; also first 720 on tower bells as conductor by W. Tuttle. For evening service 720 Bob Minor in 26 mins. A. Andrews (first 720), 1; G. Whitehand, 2; Rev. D. Hamer, 3; R. Bilham, 4; J. Sadd, 5; W. Tuttle (conductor), 6. On Thursday, December 15th, for practice, 720 Bob Minor in 27 mins. A. Hallock, 1; G. Whitehand, 2; Rev. D. Hamer, 3; R. Bilham, 4; J. Sadd, 5; W. Tuttle (conductor), 6; E. Eagling (covering), 8. On Sunday, December 18th, after Divine Service, 720 Bob Major in 29 mins. W. Muffitt, 1; G. Whitehand, 2; W. Tuttle, 3; W. Larkey, 4; Rev. D. Hamer, 5; R. Bilham (longest touch an eight bells), 6; J. Sadd, 7; E. Eagling (conductor), 8.

THORNHAM MAGNA (Suffolk).—On Sunday evening, December 25th, for Divine Service, 360 Grandsire Doubles. A. Symonds, 1; J. D. Buckingham, 2; E. Buckingham, 3; H. Symonds, 4; G. E. Symonds (conductor), 5. On Monday, December 27th, 360 of Doubles, being 120 each of Stedman Slow Course, St. Simon's, and New Doubles. U. Rose, 1; J. D. Buckingham, 2; E. Buckingham, 3; H. Symonds, 4; A. Symonds (conductor), 5.

GISLINGHAM (Suffolk).—On Monday, December 26th, 360 Bob Minor. W. Warner, 1; E. Youngs, 2; H. W. Symonds, 3; A. Symonds, 4; E. Buckingham, 5; J. D. Buckingham (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BARKING (Essex).—On Sunday morning, January 18th, for Divine Service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. A. L. Hume, 1; E. Fenn, 2; G. Faulkner, 3; A. C. Hardy, 4; A. J. T. Carter, 5; C. Fenn (conductor), 6; R. Fenn, 7; T. Faulkner, 8. First quarter-peal as conductor.

THE LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

MAGOR (Monmouthshire).—On Monday, December 26th, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor. J. W. Jones, 1; F. Attwell, 2; J. Clutterbuck, 3; J. Butler, 4; W. Coombes, 5; E. Davies (conductor), 6.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

RATBY.—On Sunday, December 13th, at the parish church, 720 Bob Minor (fourteen bobs and two singles). J. Hill, 1; L. Copesey, 2; J. Wilson, 3; E. E. Smith, 4; *A. Palmer, 5; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 6. Also another 720 (thirty-two bobs and two singles). J. Hill, 1; C. R. Lilley (conductor), 2; *C. Toone, 3; *J. Toone, 4; J. Wilson, 5; L. Copesey, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. *First 720.

STOKE ARCHDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

BUCKNALL (Staffordshire).—On Sunday, November 13th, for Divine Service, 720 Dewsbury Surprise. J. Preston, 1; W. Wheeldon, 2; G.

Clarkson, 3; J. E. Wheeldon, 4; C. Preston, 5; W. Twigg (conductor), 6. First in the method by all. On Sunday, November 20th, 720 Wells Surprise. C. Preston, 5; the rest as before. For evening service 720 College Pleasure. On Tuesday, November 22nd, for practice, 720 Ringers' Surprise. J. Preston, 1; W. Wheeldon, 2; G. Clarkson, 3; J. E. Wheeldon, 4; D. Preston, 5; W. Twigg (conductor), 6. First in the method by all. On Sunday morning, November 27th, for Divine Service, 720 York Surprise. For evening service 720 Bristol Surprise. D. Preston, 2; W. Wheeldon, 4; C. Preston, 5; the rest as before. On Thursday, December 1st, on the occasion of the opening of a bazaar by Her Grace the Duchess of Sutherland, 720 Kent Treble Bob and 720 Lichfield Surprise. J. E. Wheeldon, 5; the rest as before. On Sunday morning, December 4th, for Divine Service, 720 York Surprise. On Sunday morning, December 11th, for Divine Service, 720 Chester Surprise. G. Clarkson, 1; W. Wheeldon, 2; D. Preston, 3; J. E. Wheeldon, 4; C. Preston, 5; W. Twigg (conductor), 6. For evening service 720 Rochester Surprise. G. Hobbs, 1; D. Preston, 2; G. Clarkson, 3; the rest as before. For evening service 720 Surprise, C. Preston, 3; G. Hobbs, 5; the rest as before. On Christmas Day 720 Lichfield Surprise. J. Preston, 1; W. Wheeldon, 2; G. Clarkson, 3; C. Preston, 4; G. Hobbs, 5; W. Twigg (conductor), 6.

EMBERTON (Bucks).—On Monday, January 2nd, some 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles. F. Mynard (first 6-score), 1; J. Lett, 2; W. Mynard, 3; J. Lovell, 4; W. Freeman (conductor), 5. Also four 6-scores of St. Simon's Doubles. J. Lett, 1; F. Hopper (Olney), 2; W. Mynard, 3; W. Freeman, 4; J. Lovell (conductor), 5. And two 6-scores of Plain Bob. J. Lett, 1; J. Lovell, 2; W. Mynard, 3; W. Freeman, 4; F. Hopper (conductor), 5.

EYNESBURY (Hunts).—On Monday, December 26th, at the parish church, a 720 Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles). S. Irons, 1; S. Hawksford, 2; G. Coleman, 3; J. W. Tirrell, 4; H. J. Sutton (conductor), 5; C. Chasty, 6. Messrs. Tirrell and Chasty belong to St. Mary's, Peterborough; the conductor to St. Mary's, Petworth, Sussex; the remainder to St. Neots.

GREAT BENTLEY (Essex).—On Thursday, December 29th, for practice, 1008 Bob Major. E. Hills, 1; W. J. Nevard, 2; H. E. Bowers, 3; *G. A. Andrews, 4; *G. Lancaster, 5; *C. Clarke, 6; *G. Jennings, 7; W. J. Hazell (conductor), 8. *Longest length on eight bells, and first attempt.

OLNEY (Bucks).—On Saturday, December 17th, 720 Bob Minor. J. Lett (first 720), 1; T. Wright, 2; F. Hopper, 3; W. Freeman (conductor), 4; H. Lett, 5; J. Lovell, 6. On Christmas Day 720 Plain Bob. F. Boswell, 1; F. Hopper, 2; W. Wright, 3; W. Jones, 4; S. Smith, 5; R. Raban (conductor), 6. And 720 Bob Minor. F. Boswell, 1; W. Wright (conductor), 2; F. Hopper, 3; W. Jones, 4; T. Wright, 5; S. Smith, 6.

PENGE (Surrey).—On Thursday, December 22nd, at the church of St. John the Evangelist, 720 Kent Treble Bob. G. Wilson, 1; T. Town, 2; T. P. Richards, 3; W. J. Battson, 4; T. Chandler, 5; G. Wickens (conductor), 6. On Thursday, December 29th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure Minor. E. Edwards, 1; T. Town, 2; T. P. Richards, 3; J. Marshall, 4; G. Wickens, 5; W. J. Battson (conductor), 6.

PEVENSEY (Sussex).—On Thursday, December 22nd, for practice, 720 Grandsire Minor in 24 mins. S. Costick, 1; E. Beal, 2; J. Bray, jun, 3; G. Penfold, 4; H. Colbran, 5; E. Brant (conductor), 6. On Monday, January 2nd, 720 Grandsire Doubles, each 6-score called different in 24 mins. S. Costick, 1; G. Penfold (conductor), 2; E. Beal, 3; E. Brant, 4; J. Bray, jun., 5; J. Bray, sen., 6.

SHIFNAL (Salop).—On Sunday morning, January 15th, for Divine Service at St. Andrew's church, 504 Bob Triples. E. Bingham, 1; W. Harris, 2; J. E. Meredith, 3; W. Taylor, 4; A. Shuker, 5; T. Whatmore, 6; J. Bradney (conductor), 7; T. Gwilliam, 8. For evening service 504 Bob Triples. E. Bingham, 1; R. Hollinshead, 2; J. E. Meredith, 3; W. Taylor, 4; A. Shuker, 5; W. Harris, 6; J. Bradney (conductor), 7; T. Gwilliam, 8.

Situations Vacant.

CARMAN FOR THE COAL TRADE.—At once. Good Wages and regular work. Change-Ringer. Apply, J. J. PRATT, Hillingdon, near Uxbridge.

TWO METHOD RINGERS.—Eight and Ten Bells. Wanted a good Ledger Clerk. One used to wholesale grocery preferred. State wages and experience. Apply, B. CHORLEY, 51, North Place, Guildford.

TWYFORD, HANTS.—THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday evening, January 5th, the Vicar (Rev. M. E. Hoets) and Mr. Hoets entertained the ringers and the adult members of the choir to dinner at the vicarage. The Rev. C. T. Wickham, of Twyford School, and Colonel W. G. Lowther (Vicar's churchwarden) were also present. After a sumptuous repast had been partaken of, the Vicar expressed the pleasure it gave Mrs. Hoets and himself to meet the ringers and the choir again at the vicarage, and hoped that they would spend an enjoyable evening and that they would meet annually for many years to come. The toast of the choir was proposed by the Rev. C. T. Wickham, and responded to by Mr. E. Gilbert, the organist and choirmaster; and that of the ringers by Colonel Lowther, and acknowledged by Mr. G. Brown, the captain. The Vicar informed the ringers that the fund for the additional two bells to complete the octave amounted to a little over £50, towards the total cost of £100, and expressed his willingness to give the order for the bells as soon as the fund amounted to £75, which he hoped would do so shortly. Mr. Brown said that if the ringers were supplied with collecting cards he thought that £25 in subscriptions would be forthcoming within a week, and that the order could then be given and the bells completed by Easter. The evening was devoted to harmony and handbell ringing, and after a vote of thanks had been given to the Vicar and Mrs. Hoets for their kindness a very enjoyable evening was brought to a close by singing "Auld Lang Syne." We are informed that subscriptions have been promised to enable the Vicar to give the order, and that Messrs. John Taylor and Co., of Loughborough, to whom the order has been entrusted, have promised to complete the peal by Ladyday next. Any subscriptions towards the remaining £25, by ringers and others, will be gratefully acknowledged by Mr. G. Brown, or by Mr. G. Smith, the conductor of the band.

BARNWOOD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

On Saturday, December 31st, before the evening service, which took place at 7.30, 360 of Bob Minor, with four bobs and two singles. I. Waite, 1; A. A. Waite, 2; G. Smith, 3; G. Miles, 4; H. Mitchell (conductor), 5; C. Browett, 6. As the bells ran home and "stand" was announced, the Vicar stepped into the ringing-chamber and invited the company to attend the service (which every one did), and as usual to attend supper at the vicarage. Service being over, six 6-scores of Grandsire and St. Dunstan's Doubles were rung, E. Davies and L. Robinson taking part. The time then had arrived to depart to the vicarage to partake of the good things provided, which consisted of the old English fare—roast beef and plum pudding, mince pies, pickles, brown ale, perry, &c., all of which was done justice to. Grace being said and the cloth removed, the Vicar entered the room bringing several illustrated books with him, and a pot full of the old weed. He hoped they would enjoy themselves for the rest of the evening, which wish was heartily realised. The first thing was to retire to the front hall to ring the handbells, where the guests surrounded the ringers, who rang 210 of Grandsire Triples and played several tunes, which were much appreciated. The rest of the evening was spent in songs and handbell ringing, Mr. G. Miles entertaining the company by playing several selections on his clarinet. As a finish, "God save the Queen" was sung, accompanied by Mr. Miles. After thanking the Vicar for his generosity, the company wended their way back to the tower to ring out the Old Year, and just as the last hour arrived "stand five" was called, while the tenor man had six whole pulls to denote the last hours of the Old Year, and then the bells were fired to welcome in the New Year. Then 280 of Grandsire Doubles and the bells were lowered, and wishing one another good morning and a happy New Year each one wended his way to his own destination.

THE BOW SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Thursday, the 19th instant, this society held its Annual Dinner at The Blue Anchor inn, High Street, Bromley, when

host and hostess Drake laid covers and amply provided for some twenty-five members and friends in first-class style.

After dinner a good programme was prepared, consisting of good toasts and speeches, interspersed with some good old English songs, duets, and madrigals, largely contributed to by Messrs. Sutton, Turner, Deards, Bradley, Hayes, and the Brothers Fenn, with Mr. Ernest Richards, R.A.M., presiding at the piano.

The Master, Mr. Samuel Hayes, who occupied the chair, in reviewing the present position of the Society, said that they were now one of the best societies in London. The work achieved last year was a great credit to them all, and he had no hesitation in saying that by their combined efforts this year would show not only what can be done, but deeds in the science and art of ringing which would greatly help to improve its condition.

The vice-Chairman (Mr. T. Faulkner) said he quite endorsed the remarks of the Master, and as the attendance in the past year had been good, the financial resources never in a better condition, he could not see why this coming year should not be better than last; and again, with the combined effort of all the members, with strong unity, they may even accomplish almost anything placed before them.

Several other toasts were amply responded to, including one to "The Press."

Mr. Richards, in reply, said that he maintained the press was the ringer's best friend, for by the columns of this journal all lovers of the Exercise had an opportunity of knowing what every one else was doing. At the same time he thought some local secretaries were remiss in their duties in not giving to the district papers some report of what was going on in their respective branches. If this matter was attended to he had reason to believe that a vast improvement in the cause of change-ringing would soon be developed.

Several touches were rung on the handbells, and at midnight the company dispersed, after having spent a most enjoyable evening.

THE GREATEST NOVELTY IN CLOCKS OF THE CENTURY.

Messrs. Wm. Potts and Sons, Clock Manufacturers of Leeds and Newcastle-on-Tyne, have just completed in the Grand Arcade at Leeds, something really worth seeing in the shape of a clock with automaton figures, crowing cock, bells, etc.

The dial is of polished copper, while the hands are symbolic of the sun and moon, on each side stands an armour-clad knight bearing a battle-axe, with which he strikes the quarter hours upon a bell hung before him.

These are the only two figures in view until the hour arrives, when, after the quarters and the hour have been struck, a door opens, and from it emerges a procession of five figures representative of the British Empire. First comes a British soldier, who on reaching the centre of the platform faces to the front and makes a military salute. He is followed by a kilted Highlander, an Irishman carrying a threatening-looking shillelagh, a Canadian boatman, and a turbaned Hindoo, each of whom in turn faces to the front, bows and marches off. This is not all, however, as soon as the last of the figures has retreated a life-size rooster perches above the dial, flaps his wings and crows three times, when the performance is over for another hour.

Messrs. Potts and Sons have designed the clock specially, and have done all the work in connection with its construction; The Grand Arcade, New Briggate, Leeds, where the clock is fixed, being visited by crowds every hour.

The above firm are also fixing a large illuminated clock at Leeds parish church for the Vicar and wardens, which is now nearing completion.

The death is announced of Matthew Lakin, of Tetney, near Grimsby, in his 98th year. He is said to have been the oldest ringer in England. The church authorities of Tetney are very anxious to erect a memorial over his grave. Ringers kindly help.

NORTH'S ENGLISH BELLS AND BELL LORE.

Illustrated. Price 12s., Postage 6d. Should be in the hands of all Bell lovers.—W. H. EATON, Publisher, Leek, Staffs.

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

The Worcestershire and Districts Association.—A quarterly and committee meeting of this Association will take place to-day, Saturday, January 28th, 1899, at Hagley. A short service will be held in the church at 5 p.m., business meeting to follow, at which the Rev. W. C. Gibbs, Rector, will preside. He has kindly placed the tower and bells at the members' disposal. The Secretary will be pleased to receive all subscriptions which are now due for the present year, according to rule 8, also the names and addresses of each local Secretary.

JOHN SMITH, *Hon. Sec.*

36, Simms Lane, Netherton near Dudley.

Middlesex County Association.—South and West District.—The next meeting of the above will be held to-day, Saturday, January 28th, at the Church of All Saints, Isleworth. Ringing to commence at 4 o'clock. Members and friends are cordially invited.

C. EDWARDS, *Hon. District Sec.*

Essex Association.—There will be a district meeting of the Association to-day, Saturday, January 28th, at Rayleigh. Tea and business meeting at 5 p.m. All peals rung last year and intended for entry must be sent in at once.

H. T. W. EYRE, *Assistant Sec.*

Great Totham, Witham.

The Ashton-under-Lyne Society.—The next quarterly meeting of the above Society will be held at the Oldham Parish Church, to-day, Saturday, January 28th, 1899. Bells ready at 4 p.m.; meeting at 7 p.m.

SAMUEL BOOTH, *Hon. Sec.*

Midland Counties Association.—Through an unforeseen occurrence the bells at Stanford will not be available for ringing to-day, Saturday, January 28th, so tea will be held at All Saints Schoolroom, Loughborough, at 4.30 p.m. Committee meeting half an hour earlier. The tea will be free as advertised, to those who sent in their names by Wednesday last.

J. O. LANCASHIRE, *Hon. Sec.*

22, St. Peter's Road, Leicester.

Sussex County Association.—Central.—Next quarterly meeting at Lindfield (Hayward's Heath station), to-day, Saturday, January 28th. Tower open from 3 p.m.

GEORGE WILLIAMS, *Hon. Sec.*

2, Grove Street, Brighton.

Kent County Association.—Tonbridge District.—The annual meeting of this district will be held at St. Peter's, Tunbridge Wells, to-day, Saturday, January 28th, 1899. Tower open from 2.30 till 8. Committee meeting at 3.45. Tea in the parish room, North Street, at 4.30, followed by business meeting. Half travelling expenses will be paid to members attending.

W. LATTER, *Hon. District Sec.*

The Leeds and District Amalgamated Society.—The next monthly ringing meeting of this society will be held at Pudsey (eight bells), to-day, Saturday, January 28th. A peal will be attempted at 2.30 prompt. Meeting-house—The Park hotel. Handbells provided. All ringers or other friends are welcome.

R. BINNS, *Hon. Sec.*

18, Irwin Street, Hogg's Field, Holbeck.

Kent County Association.—Lewisham District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Crayford to-day, Saturday, January 28. Tower open from 3 p.m. Committee meeting at 6 p.m.

W. J. JEFFRIES, *Hon. Dis. Sec.*

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—East Berks. and South Bucks. Branch.—The winter meeting will be held at Burnham to-day, Saturday, January 28th. Ringing from 2 to 4, and from 7 till 9. Evensong and sermon, 4.30; tea at 5.15. All members of the Guild are invited to attend.

A. SIMMONS.

Boyne Hill, Maidenhead.

The Ely Diocesan Association.—Sudbury Archdeaconry.—A meeting will be held at Lavenham on Saturday, January 28th. Meat tea provided at 4 p.m.

W. M. K. WARREN, *Dis. Sec.*

The Oxford Diocesan Guild.—Reading Branch.—The annual meeting will be held on Monday, January 30th. Short service at St. Laurence's church at 7 p.m. Tower open for ringing at 6.30 p.m. Tea at British Workman 7.30 p.m. at 1s., to include refreshment at smoker. Members please send word quite by 25th inst. to

A. W. PIKE.

St. Bartholomew's Road, Reading.

West Ham, Essex.—The practice will will take place on and after Monday next the 30th ult., and every alternate Monday instead of Tuesday as previous.

W. DORAN.

The Lancashire Association.—Liverpool Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at St. John's, Tue Brook, on Saturday, Feb. 4th. The tower will be open for ringing at 3 o'clock until 7.30. Meeting in the tower at 6 o'clock.

G. WOODHALL, *Branch Sec.*

Stoke Archidiaconal Association.—The next monthly meeting of the above will be held at Kidsgrove on Saturday, February 4th. Members intending to be present are requested to give notice to Mr. J. Mason, 8, Cooper Street, Kidsgrove, not later than Wednesday, February 1st.

REV. G. T. BIRCH, } *Hon. Secs.*

W. TWIGG,

The Lancashire Association.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at The Saviour's church, Bolton, on Saturday, February 4th. Bells ready at 5.30 p.m. Bbsiness at 7.

HY. MOSS, *Branch Sec.*

Kent County Association.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting of the District will be held at Lenham, on Saturday next, February 4th. Tower open for ringing from 2.30 p.m. Usual allowances. Tea at The Dog and Bear, at 5 p.m. Business after tea. Members' subscriptions are now due and may be paid to me at or before the meeting.

FRED. J. O. HELMORE, *Hon. Sec.*

Midland Counties Association.—Derby Branch.—The annual meeting for the election of district officers will be held in All Saints' belfry, Derby, on February 6th, Ringing from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. Meeting to follow.

T. ANTHONY, *Local Hon. Sec.*

The Norwich Diocesan Association.—A Quarterly General Meeting will be held at Southwold on Tuesday, February 7th. Dinner at The King's Head at 1.30 p.m., at 2s. 3d. for Honorary, and 1s. 3d. for Company Members. Notice should be sent to the Hon. Secretary before Thursday, February 2nd.

H. EARLE BULWER, *Hon. Sec.*

Stanhoe Rectory, King's Lynn.

The Waterloo Society, London.—The thirty-first annual dinner of the above society will be held at The York hotel, Waterloo Road, on Saturday, February 11th. Tickets 3s. 6d. each, may be obtained of the following committee: Messrs. Barton, Symonds, Pasmore, H. Davis, Webber, and Golding, or of the Secretary,

VICTOR W. WEST.

71, Langton Road, Brixton, S.W.

Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford. The quarterly meeting in connection with this

society will be held on Saturday, February 11th, at the parish church, Tamworth. Tower open from 3 o'clock. Service in church at 5 p.m., to be followed by Committee Meeting at 5.30. Tea at 6 p.m., one shilling to all sending in not later than the 6th inst. to

S. REEVES, *Hon. Sec.*

10, Bull Street, West Bromwich.

The Sheffield and District Amalgamated Society.—The next meeting will be held at Doncaster parish church on February 4th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting-house—The Market inn, Market Place. All ringers invited.

R. HARRISON, *Hon. Sec.*

The Lancashire Association.—Rochdale Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Thomas' church, Leesfield, on Saturday, Feb. 11th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 6.30. All ringers invited, whether members or not.

E. B. SHAW, *Branch Sec.*

The Hertfordshire Association.—District Meeting at Baldock on Saturday, February 11th. Further particulars next week.

E. P. DEBENHAM, *Hon. Sec.*

Durham and Newcastle Association.—A General Meeting will be held at Winlaton on Saturday, February 11th. The bells of St. Paul's (6), Winlaton and of St. Cuthbert's (6), Blaydon will be open after 1 p.m. for ringing. Committee meeting at Smith's Arms at four o'clock. Tea at same hotel at 5 o'clock, members, 1s., non-members, 1s. 6d. Intending visitors kindly send names before February 6th to

CHAS. L. ROUTLEDGE, *Hon. Sec.*

9, Waverley Terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Midland Counties Association.—Preparation of Annual Report.—Members whose addresses are incorrect in last annual report, or who have changed their addresses since election are requested to notify their local Secretaries or the hon. Secretary, without delay.

J. O. LANCASHIRE, *Hon. Sec.*

22, St. Peter's Road, Leicester.

Tonbridge, Kent.—All applications for the tower to be made to the Secretary, Mr. J. Smith, 9, Bank Street, Tonbridge.

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A S COACHMAN or Groom-Coachman. No objection to house work or help in garden. Married, ride and drive well. Change-ringer. Two-and-half years' good character, and four years' previous address.—W., 7a, Gloster Road, Brighton, Sussex.

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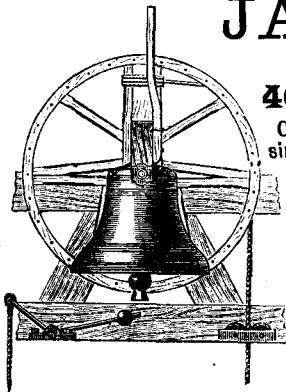
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