

BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No 1728 VOL. XXXIII.]

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1915.

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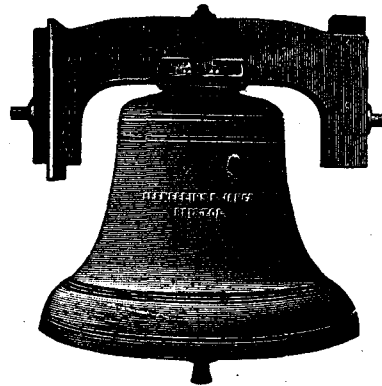
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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

No. 1728.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1915

[Vol. XXXIII

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A quarterly meeting was held at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, May 1st, when 39 members were present representing 12 towers. The bells were set swinging soon after 2.30, and touches of Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob Major, Stedman and Grandsire Triples were rung before tea, which was partaken of at Glass's Restaurant at 4.15. The business meeting was held after tea, the Rev. C. C. Parker (Master of the Association) presiding, being supported by the Rev. E. B. Williams, curate of Weston. The minutes were read and confirmed. Several new members were duly elected. The Master announced that the next meeting would be the annual and would be held at Minehead, probably on the first Saturday in July.

The Master, on behalf of the Association and himself, congratulated the ladies of Portishead (some of whom were present) on ringing a peal of Grandsire Triples in January. This being the first peal ever rang by a local band of lady ringers, makes another record for the tower and the Association. Miss Gillingham thanked the members for their congratulations. Mr. W. Gillingham also thanked the members for the kind words said of the Portishead tower. He also asked what was expected of a full member of the Association.

The Master read rule 6, in which it is stated that a full member must be able to ring the treble or tenor through 120 Grandsire Doubles.

A discussion arose over this, and notice was given of an alteration to rule 6, to be brought forward at the next meeting.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded Preb. Thompson for arranging the service and for the use of the bells, and to the Rev. — Williams for officiating at the service and giving the address. This was carried unanimously. Service was then held in the Parish Church. Afterwards the tower was again visited and several touches rung until 8 p.m.

THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The First Session of the Ninth Council (25th Annual Meeting) will be held on Whitsun Tuesday, May 25th, 1915, in the Small Hall of the Church House, Westminster, at 11 a.m. punctually.

The morning sitting will be adjourned from 1 p.m. till 2.30 p.m., from which hour the Council will sit, if necessary, until 5.30 p.m.

The Standing Committee will meet previously at 9.45 a.m. in the same room.

N.B.—The entrance to the Small Hall is from Great Smith Street.

AGENDA 1915.

1. Election of President and of Hon. Secretary and Treasurer.
2. Minutes of the last Meeting.
3. Statement of Accounts and of Sales of Publications.
4. Election of Honorary Members.
5. Introduction of new Members to the President.
6. Election of Standing Committee.

7. To receive and discuss the Reports of the following Committees; and to re-appoint or alter the constitution of the Committees, as may be thought desirable, viz. :—

- (a.) Peal Collection.
- (b.) Literature.
- (c.) Legitimate Methods.
- (d.) Peals' Analysis.
- (e.) Towers and Belfries.

To discuss the following :—

8. That the Central Council approve and issue a National Badge for Ringers.

9. That it is desirable to reconsider some of the conditions laid down for the Legitimacy of Methods, as stated on page 18 of "Rules and Decisions," 1904.

10. That this Council recognises with emphatic approval the good judgment and consideration shown by ringers throughout the United Kingdom in their spontaneous abstinence from peal ringing since the outbreak of war; but that at the same time (the Council) regards it as the Privilege and sacred duty of Ringers, wherever circumstances permit, to continue, alike in time of war and of peace, to honour with the music of the bells the Lord's Day and other Feasts of the Church, as also on Royal and National Anniversaries, to give expression to the thankfulness of the British people to Almighty God for the many blessings vouchsafed to this Empire and for the preservation of His Most Gracious Majesty to preside over its momentous destinies.

11. That the Council desires to draw the attention of the Exercise to the increasing abandonment of raising and falling the bells in peal, as a result of which a large proportion of Ringers do not acquire the necessary skill to enable them to take part in this ancient and musical practice.

12. To fix the place of Meeting for next year.

13. Other business, if any.

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES, *Hon. Secretary.*

Fretherne,
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire.

LEGITIMACY OF METHODS.

BY REV. C. D. P. DAVIES, C.C. SECRETARY.

(Concluded).

Before proceeding to define Plain and Bob we must define Section and Block.

A Section of a treble-dominated method consists of the rows commencing with the handstroke following the back stroke blow of the treble's whole pull lead, and ending with the next succeeding backstroke blow of the treble's whole pull lead, the working bells being so moved in the course of the section that the rows will not repeat until as many sections have been rung as there are working bells.

A Block of a treble-dominated method is the unit of that method, consisting of as many rows as there are blows in the hunting course of the treble, and is such that no alteration in its actual rows can by any regular means be made within it. All blocks of the same method on the same number of bells are similar to each other.

NOTE.—The number of rows in a block is equal to that

in a section of the same method on the same number of bells.

There are two modes of passage from the end of one block to the beginning of the next, i.e. either by "Plain-link" or by "Bob-link," of which one or other, but not both, must always be used. Each consists in the making of a place.

Plain-link is the making of the special place designated by the usual rule of the method. (The essential feature of this rule is that it must link into a ring as many blocks as there are working bells.)

Bob-link is the making of another place in lieu of the place made at a plain-link.

There are two modifications of bob, viz., Bob proper, or perfect bob, and mixed or confused bob.

In Bob proper the place made is two places distant, either above or below, from that made in plain-link. In mixed bob the bob place is four, or some greater even number of places distant from plain-link place.

The essential feature of a Bob is that the subsequent paths of three working bells are, compared with what they otherwise would have been, interchanged with each other. In the case of perfect bob this is the sole and only feature, but in that of mixed bob there are further complications consisting usually in either the elimination or in the duplication of a portion of the paths of some or all of the other working bells).

With the help of the foregoing definitions it will be seen that, while such terms as plain block or bob block would be meaningless, since a block is always and only a block and always inviolable, the same cannot be said of a section; and so we can reasonably speak of a plain section or bob section; the former being that in which (between its last row, or last but one, and the row preceding it) there occurs a plain link; and similarly of a bob section.

There remains the case of the Single to be considered. I have purposely kept this until now for the reason that, strictly speaking, a Single is not a scientific concern at all. There is all the difference in the world between Plain-links and Bob-links on the one hand, and Singles on the other. The former are integral parts of the method, preserving the proper and natural succession of rows, and providing for the orderly production of the touch or peal. The Single is a *violation* of the method, an act of violence. To put it in the mildest possible way it is a reversal of the engines. Of course we all know that for some purposes it is an absolute necessity, such, for instance, as the production of all the rows on five bells, or for that of the twenty-four course-ends with some special bell behind the 9th in a peal of Caters. But this is only another way of saying that these effects cannot be produced naturally, and must therefore be produced forcibly.

However, there it is. There is only one known means of making an egg stand on its small end, and if we *must* have the egg in that position *we must*, and that is the end of it. And so we must put up with Singles. This being the case we take our definition of bob-link and in that definition we put single for bob and two for three bells, and there we leave it.

I conclude with a few general observations.

First, with regard to my use of the words coursing order in the "Report on Calls, 1894." I said above that those words would never have come from my pen had I for a moment imagined the ghastly superstructure to be subsequently reared, or attempted to be reared, on them.

With the definition of bob now propounded, the reader will see for himself that the words coursing order were, in my mind, synonymous with the path or duty of the bells in general. They were certainly not intended to denote any succession or order in which the bells follow each other either within the body of a block or section, or in any particular portions of their duty or path. When the purpose of a bob was described as being the introduction of a fresh coursing order, all that was meant was that it causes an interchange of work between certain bells.

My next observation takes the form of trying earnestly to impress once more on my readers that the changes which I advocate do not in any way render the Plain Bob lead-ends illegitimate. Method builders and others would be just as free to use them as ever they were. All that I do is to challenge their claim to be the only ones fit for the purpose. I claim a place in the sun for others, some of which in my opinion are as good, if not better, than those hitherto exclusively, and, as I think, unduly favoured.

Next as to music. Somehow I fancy that the favouritism shewn to Plain-bob lead-ends is mixed up in the minds of the Committee with the musical qualities supposed to be inherent in the methods marked by the possession of these lead-ends. I think that I have above shewn the fallacy of this notion. If the lead-ends in question were capable of ensuring the occurrence of certain pre-arranged or generally admitted musical positions of the bells, and the avoidance of unmusical positions within the block, then there would be something to be said for them. But in this, the moment that a method of any approach to complexity is in question, they notoriously fail.

But music or no music I have always maintained that the question of legitimacy or illegitimacy has nothing to do with music. A method may be perfectly legitimate and utterly unmusical or most musical and utterly illegitimate. Legitimacy is not concerned with the manner in which the bells come together behind, or with the question as to whether the second may be behind with the tenor, or with what bells it may or may not be behind, or with any other such question. It is concerned with, and only with, the production of rows of figures considered as cyphers according to certain pre-arranged rules. The rules which I advocate have already been sufficiently explained and for that reason I say no more about them here.

Next let me say a word or two on the subject of what I may call the "Stedman Group" of methods, i.e., those in which all the bells work alike. Of these I can only claim real acquaintance with two, Stedman and Duffield, and it will be simplest to take Stedman as the representative of them all. In the sense in which I have employed the term "block" there is no block in Stedman, for, although the same six rows are always contained in one six, they may occur in six different orders; and as the section consists of a pair of sixes (a slow one and a quick), i.e. consists of two semi-sections, and as the contents of the second semi-section depend not only on the form assumed by the first semi-section, but also on the question as to whether the link between them is plain or bob, it is abundantly evident that the term block does not apply. In fact keeping always the same batch of six rows in the first semi-section, the section as a whole may take on itself any one of six possible forms—in this we take it for granted, as throughout these papers where not otherwise expressly mentioned, that the rows are running direct (i.e. in-course)

Taking normal section, i.e. a slow and quick six connected by a plain link, and starting from round, i.e.

having rounds as the last row of a quick six, we get for the last row of the section 2467153, which gives us the coursing order of the plain course 1-2-4-7-3-6-5. But this will not squeeze through the Committee's magical trap door. In other words it declines to dance to the tune of Plain Bob lead-ends. It is this fact which, so far as I have been able to discover, lies at the root of all the wild talk that there has been about this method. "It is not Stedman! Stedman, real Stedman, is something quite different. We have never rung true Stedman. Not even the late Mr. Robinson ever rang a peal of Stedman." And so on. Among other things I believe that the quick six in Stedman is held up to ridicule as a bob! What I cannot make out is whether it is one bob, or three bobs, or six bobs rolled into one.

Next I should like to say a few words on the subject of the long series of articles that Mr. Trollope has for many months past been contributing to the columns of "The Bell News." With the view of finding any remarks that he might have made on the subject of these papers of mine, I carefully studied some dozens of his opening chapters, and had a pile of back numbers over three inches thick on the table beside me, without discovering any specially definite statement on the question at issue, the fact being that Mr. Trollope seems to regard any questioning of the all-sufficiency of the Plain Bob Lead-ends as unthinkable, and never seems to allude to it. Evidently he thinks them as safe as the everlasting hills. I was therefore merely intending to have said that, though I am sure we all admire Mr. Trollope's thoroughness and appreciate the immense industry which he has bestowed on the subject, yet I could see nothing in his articles which really touches my essential point, and therefore I should offer no remarks on them. But within the last week or two Mr. Trollope has fortunately given us his view of the question. In the issue of April 17th in his last paragraph on p. 571, he plainly allows that there is a law of the succession of rows. That is all I want. A law is a law. Therefore a method which sets law at defiance is, I assert, *ipso facto* illegitimate, *i.e.* it does not obey law. Mr. Trollope adopts the wholly illogical and untenable position that a law is a law and yet can be disobeyed. This, in realm of change-ringing I emphatically deny. There is a general law that people should wear hats. Some people defy this law with apparent impunity. But a law of mathematics, of logic, or of physics cannot be defied. If this can be done, it is not and never was a law. I maintain that the law of succession is a law of ringing such as we know it, and I further assert that "Kent, London, Cambridge and Bristol are illegitimate, and are so obviously illegitimate that there is no possibility of questioning the fact."

In the next issue the poverty of Mr. Trollope's argument becomes woefully apparent. Taking Cambridge Surprise as an example he attempts to justify its violation of the law of succession by the fact that the method is characterised by some wholly fanciful feature of fifth-rate importance, or rather of no importance at all, to the effect that while the treble is dodging the working bells are hunting, and *vice versa*. This may be a piece of interesting amusement to the method builder, but it is certainly nothing more. Arranged against the sure, solid and scientific fact of legitimacy it is simply unpardonable. What would be thought of an architect or builder who attempted to justify a building erected in defiance of all mechanical principles on the plea that it had got some special form of weather-cock? The general impression left on my mind by Mr.

Trollope's arguments is that they are a gasping effort to support a cause devoid of any real foundation. Put into one sentence they amount to this: "Cambridge, etc. are wrong, but we and a good many others like them, and so we must paint them up well to pass muster somehow." In other words the arguments are sheer opportunism.

In a letter to the columns of this paper I have replied to the charge brought against me by Mr. James that I am seeking to re-introduce chaos into that which he and the rest of the Committee had reduced to some measure of order. Nothing could have been more unfortunate, I contend, from his point of view than this charge. Before the Committee made their pronouncement there may have been a certain amount of occasional wonderment among rustic beginners as to what was wrong in Grandsire Minor and Plain Bob Doubles. Most of us welcomed the appointment of the Legitimate Methods Committee largely because one of the first and chief things that we expected to come from them was a short and simple explanation of the law of succession of rows, with examples of the contravention of the law in the cases just instanced, and in others such as Cambridge Surprise, etc. We should then have been standing on clear ground, able to appeal to a single, explicit, simple law, and to have been able to decide, each for himself, whether any given method is legitimate or illegitimate. There would have been a state of order in the matter. But as things are, where are we? Well may the question be asked. It takes about three columns of "The Bell News" for Mr. Trollope to try and bolster up Cambridge and one or two other methods. And even suppose that he succeeds, —and to my mind he fails, and fails lamentably—but even supposing that he succeeds, I again ask, where are we? For there are probably scores of other methods, all of them of different degrees of questionability (if I may use such a word) concerning which we are left to grope in the dark. Some will say one thing, some another. Result—we have been thrown into black, hopeless, inextricable, irremediable confusion and chaos. I ask, and I await the answer with no little interest, are Grandsire Major, Bob Triples and Cambridge Surprise Major all legitimate, or are they all illegitimate? They must stand or fall together.

And now, before I conclude, let me try once more to make my position plain, I have attempted to argue on the ground of legitimacy and illegitimacy, and not on any question of "music" whatsoever. Mr. Trollope appears to me, if not to confound the two, at least to be unable to argue on legitimacy without dragging music into the business. The two are, and must be kept, entirely distinct. When I am arguing on legitimacy I decline to allow the red herring of music to be dragged across the track. Legitimacy and illegitimacy are a question of law and not law. Law must be settled first. Then we may possibly consider the question of music, which is one not of law but of "taste,"—I might say, of fad and fancy. For myself I regard all Major as being devoid of Music, for to me it is abominable that any row should ever end with any bell except the tenor, or, at the widest stretch, with any note except one in the common chord. But, nevertheless, I am content to argue about music when the turn of music comes and not before. Legitimacy first if you please. Therefore I say that the present question is that of the proper succession of rows, and that the proper succession of rows is the right test for the legitimacy of a Method, and that the test of the Plain Bob lead-ends, which the Committee have foisted on us in its place, is a false, fictitious, arbitrary, enslaving and pernicious one. When

(Continued on page 602.)

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IMPORTANT NOTICES.

Will correspondents please note that all communications for insertion in "THE BELL NEWS" should be addressed to "The Editor, 'THE BELL NEWS,' 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow. In the past some have been addressed to the Publishers, thus being delayed, and not reaching us till too late for insertion in the current issue.

All business communications should be addressed to "Geo. Carter, 1, Selborne Road, Walthamstow."

Notices of any kind, to ensure insertion in the current issue, should reach us not later than first post on Thursday morning. Unless this is done they will be held over till the following week.

Many correspondents when sending copy write a note asking for insertion. This means that they have to pay 1d. for postage. There is no need for this; if the copy is put in an unsealed envelope, with just the name of the sender, we shall understand, and a ½d. stamp will be sufficient. But the envelope must be endorsed "News copy only."

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The Bell News and Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1915

NOTE.

Owing to the need that the Exercise should have the opportunity of studying the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' articles on "The Legitimacy of Methods" before the Central Council meets, we have concluded it, and have, therefore, been compelled to hold over the Report of the Analysis Committee till next week.

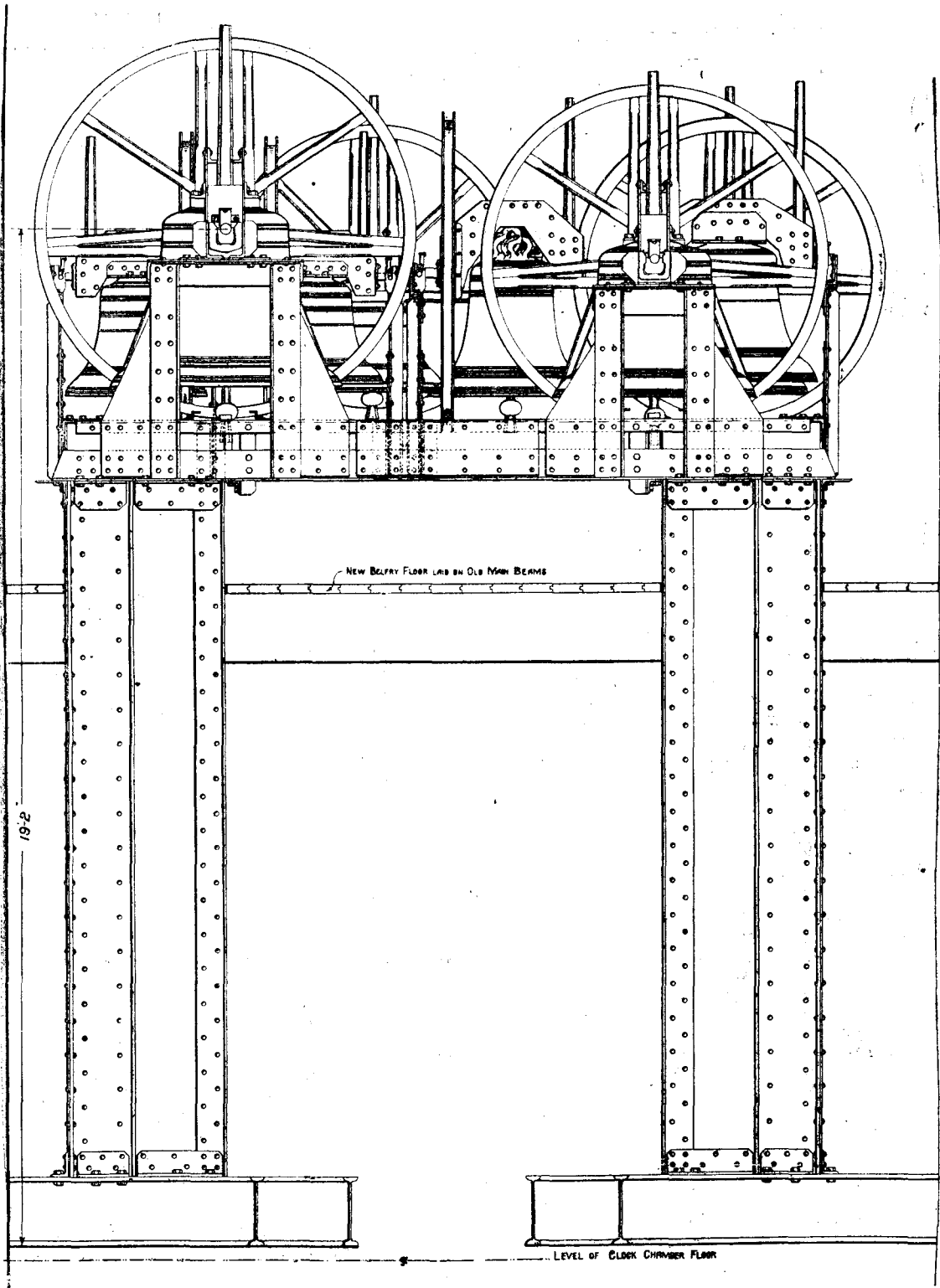
For the same reason we are unable to include an instalment of Mr. Baker's "Proofs of Methods."

OBITUARY.

JOHN B. BRADLEY.

It is our sad duty to announce the sudden death of the above ringer and composer, which occurred at the age of 70, at Barking, Essex, on April 26th. Returning from his customary walk in the afternoon of that day, he sat down to rest in the arms of death and eternal peace. The cause was heart failure. He was a member of the College Youths and the Essex Association, and though he did little ringing of late years, his jovial presence in the belfry on special occasions evinced his love of ringers and the bells. The funeral took place at Ilford Parish Cemetery on Saturday, May 1st, and as the mournful bell "was set a-pealing" there gathered about his remains a few of his most intimate friends of the domestic and belfry circle. At the conclusion of the service a course of Grandsire Triples was rung above his narrow cell as a last tribute of respect by R. Saunders, 1-2; J. Moule, 3-4; A. Neale, 5-6; A. Scambler 7-8. We noticed at the graveside Messrs. A. Linstead (London), W. Doran (Stratford), F. Newman (Barking), Mrs. Moule (Leyton), and G. F. Margetson (Cbigwell Row). On the following Thursday, at West Ham, the usual muffled whole pull and stand, with a touch of Stedman Triples, was rung, conducted by Mr. T. Cranfield, the deceased being a member of this company. Eight years ago Mr. Bradley had retired upon a substantial pension from the General Post Office, where he had fulfilled more than forty years service faithfully and well. Of a genial and open nature, he believed in the enjoyment of this transitory life, and now that its fitful dream has passed, may he rest in peace.

PEAL BOOKS. Price 3s., post free 3s. 6d. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association Books on application.—J. BEAMS West Ewell, Epsom.



Vertical Cantilever Bell Frame for St. Michael's Church, Bray-on-Thames
(Patent No. 14148.) (Tenor 26 cwt., Note D.)

JOHN WARNER & SONS, Ltd.,
THE SPITALFIELDS BELL FOUNDRY, LONDON, E.

(Continued from page 599.)

we have got a Method that obeys the law of places, then, but not till then, we can begin to consider such features as that of keeping the tenors together, the bells that dodge together behind or in 5-6 and so on. My argument is one of law, and I decline to listen to a talk about "music" till the question of law is settled.

Finally I should like to call special attention to the fact that in what I have urged I have carefully abstained from saying a syllable that could lead anyone to suppose that I should wish the Council to say a word in disparagement of the actual ringing of the methods instanced as illegitimate, or of others in the same category. By all means let all bands or individuals ring what they like. If they prefer illegitimate methods let them ring them. All that is meant by the epithet "illegitimate" when applied to a method is that it contravenes one or more of the three fundamental laws of the science of ringing, i.e. the law of pairs, the law of places, or the law of succession. My sole aim has been to reinstate the law of succession in the position which of right belongs to it, and from which the Committee have tried to dethrone it by foisting into its place not a primary law at all but an accidental feature of those methods in which the bells course each other up and down in paths approximately plain. Into the place of a primary law they have attempted to thrust a mere resultant phenomenon of quite second or third rate importance, or rather of no importance at all. Mr. Trollope's attempts to justify Cambridge Surprise and other similarly illegitimate methods, involving, as they do, a disparagement of the law of succession, are indeed pathetic to contemplate, and form a good illustration of the French proverb that in trying to excuse yourself you usually succeed only in accusing yourself, for his attempted apology for them in the issue of April 24th forms in reality their impeachment, written, re-written, and written again.

I only ask the Exercise to contrast with the laboured argument of Mr. Trollope my own position and the simple claim that I make. My plea is one for a primary and fundamental principle versus a mere secondary and chance feature, for simplicity versus complexity, for intelligibility and definiteness versus fog and muddledom, for fact versus fancy, and for law and order versus confusion and chaos.

P.S.—Mr. Trollope mentions that others beside myself are of the same opinion as I am with regard to the question of the Plain Bob lead-ends, and he particularly mentions the name of Sir Arthur Heywood. In connection with this I should like to say that though we occasionally write to each other, and more frequently just at this season when the meeting of the Central Council is drawing near, we have never once in private correspondence said a syllable to each other either by letter or by word of mouth on the subject of the questions treated in these articles. Our opinions therefore are entirely those of each of us by himself, and in no way the result of any private correspondence or agreement, and all that I know of Sir Arthur's views on the point has been gathered from his communications to the public press. Naturally it was most welcome to me to find that his view practically coincides with my own, and to know that he is among the number of those who think with me. Since I first brought forward my motion on the subject at the Council I have lost one of these—one of my oldest and dearest friends—by the death of the late Dr. Carpenter, who showed his sympathy with my view in the most effective of all ways, namely by seconding the proposal. Second to none in his knowledge of the theoretical and scientific aspect of change-ringing, I felt that he was a tower of strength to me, and I hold that it speaks strongly for the force and reasonable grounds of my contention that such men as Dr. Carpenter and Sir Arthur should, at least in the main, be on my side—both of them men of scientific training and habits of thought, and both of them of the keenest intellect.

H. D. SURPRISE MAJOR.

A MUSICAL DODGING HUNT METHOD.

First lead of plain course.

| | 5088. | | | |
|----------|-------|---|---|---|
| 12345678 | | | | |
| 21436587 | | | | |
| 12463857 | 23456 | W | B | H |
| 21648375 | | | | |
| | 35264 | | X | |
| 26143857 | 63254 | - | | |
| 62418375 | 25634 | - | | |
| 26148735 | 62534 | - | | |
| 62417853 | 53624 | - | | |
| | 65324 | - | | |
| 64271835 | 36524 | - | | |
| 46728153 | 23564 | - | | |
| 46271835 | | | | |
| 64728153 | 36245 | | X | |
| | 43265 | - | | |
| 46782513 | 26435 | - | | |
| 64875231 | 42635 | - | | |
| 68472513 | 63425 | - | | |
| 86745231 | 46325 | - | | |
| | 34625 | - | | |
| 68472531 | 23645 | - | | |
| 86745213 | | | | |
| 87642531 | 34256 | | X | |
| 78465213 | 53246 | - | | |
| | 24536 | - | | |
| 87456123 | 52436 | - | | |
| 78541632 | 43526 | - | | |
| 78456123 | 54326 | - | | |
| 87541632 | 35426 | - | | |
| | 23456 | - | | |

It will be noticed this peal has three pairs of bells reversed in 5-6 at course-ends, with 4-5-6 exclusively in the latter position.

Plain 15738264 Lead

Bob 13578264 Lead

The succession of the changes in this method is Triple and Quadtriple alternate throughout, constructed by means of Bob Major lead-ends, and back changes also. It contains twenty-four 5-7s and 7-5s, 6-8s, and 8-6s, 8-7s and 7-8s. When the tenor is in front she never works with the 2nd or 3rd bells; when behind she works only with the treble, 7th and the sixth-place bell throughout a peal of 5000 changes. The method gives almost a new class of composition, and the three-peals, given in full, is a fair example.

THE LEGITIMACY OF METHODS.

SIR,—Mr. James' letter to your issue of 8th May is interesting. From first to last, however, it seems to me to admit of very effective reply, for which I have no time now. But I will bring "The Bell News" with me to the Council, where I hope to expose the fallacies that underlies it. Your etc.,

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

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WHAT IS A LEGITIMATE METHOD?

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

THE LAW OF THE PROPER SUCCESSION OF THE NATURE OF THE ROWS.—(Continued).

We are now able to gauge pretty accurately the value of this law in Method Construction. So far as it helps music, so far as it helps truth, so far as it helps movement, so far as it helps symmetry, so far as it is a great advantage. But all these things can exist in a full degree without it, even if (which is undoubtedly the case), they exist in their fullest degree when it is kept. Therefore, unless it can be shewn that there is some inherent quality in the law that makes it a necessity in Change-Ringing, we cannot say that it is a fundamental law, and that no Method which breaks it is legitimate. And no one has shown, or I think attempted to show any such thing. But this must be said. It is always, in anything, a good thing to produce your results by the simplest means. Economy of material should always be aimed at. The material for making Methods may be said to be the Places, and if you can obtain your result by using the fewest Places, you are obeying a law which is universal in all human activities. Therefore other things being equal, the Method which keeps this Law of Succession will be a better Method than the one that breaks it.

But now we come to a further consideration which I commend to the careful consideration of those gentlemen who think the law a necessity.

The value of any Method depends ultimately neither on its music nor on the correctness of its construction, but on exactly how far it is interesting to ring. It is of no avail to produce a Method which keeps every law of construction and music that you can lay down, unless when you come to ring it it proves itself to be a good Method from the standpoint of the ordinary practical ringer*. In Method construction no less than in other things, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Now when you carefully analyse the different qualities which make an interesting Method you will find that there are several secondary qualities, but only one that really counts. Music is of great importance; unless we had the music of the bells as a background so to speak, I do not think we should care to ring peals. And the more satisfying the music to the ear the greater the enjoyment of ringing. But music is not the chief thing nor the chief thing by a very long way. The thing that really counts is, as I have already said, the demand that a Method makes on a ringer's skill. You set yourself to do a difficult thing and the interest lies in being able to do it. That Method which taxes your powers to the uttermost, that calls for the best that is in you, that Method is the one that gives the greatest amount of pleasure to ring. One has to speak of these things generally and to admit exceptions, but I am quite sure

* In all my investigations, the results of which are in these articles. I have proceeded on purely scientific lines, rejecting every argument that is based merely on practical experience, and it is significant that every Method which has proved itself to be a good and a useful Method, is constructed according to those laws which I found were a logical consequence of the two fundamental laws on which Change-Ringing is based. Which helps to prove my contention that Change-Ringing developed as it did because of its own natural inherent qualities, and that what we must do is to understand the laws that ringing itself makes, not try and impose others which we for some reason or other think should be. (In this case, and in all similar, I make a reservation about Stedman. I have many opinions about that Method, but I am not yet able to say anything definite).

that the experience of ringers will bear out my contention. No doubt there are few Methods more interesting than Double Norwich, and no doubt there are few much easier to ring; but Double Norwich is, as Hubbard says, "full of work," and it is this as much as the excellence of the music that makes the Method the fine thing it is. But (and this is the point), those Methods which make the greatest demand on a ringer's ability, and therefore give the greatest pleasure in ringing are the Methods which have "odd blow" work and backward hunting as well as forward hunting. Methods in which a bell hunting one way retraces its steps without making a Place, or that have whole pulls in front or behind at back and hand as well as hand and back. Methods like Bristol and London, Cumberland Exercise, Dublin Complex, or Waterloo Bob, and such Methods cannot be had unless you break this Law of Proper Succession. It does not answer the case, nor begin to answer it, by saying that London Surprise may be interesting to ring for some reasons, but scientifically is badly constructed. The value of construction depends entirely on how far it produces Methods suitable for ringing, and how can that construction be bad which produces London? For London Surprise is the one Method that stands head and shoulders over all others, up to now without a rival. Far more than Stedman or Superlative it deserves the name of the Queen of Methods. There is no Method which makes such demands on a man's abilities as a ringer, that puts his skill to so great a test as this does. And therefore there is no Method which gives such satisfaction to the performer. Hard things have been said of its music as well of its construction, but in this instance as in the other, I do not think this criticism is based on much knowledge. No one would say that London has much claim to be called a musical Method, but it is quite certain that the chief reason why people criticise it is because it is unfamiliar, and so unlike the music of other Methods. One musical position does not lead up to another in the same way that it does in other Methods, and you do not hear the combinations that your ear naturally expects. This is of course due to the fact that the bells hunt backwards for the greater part of the Course. Nevertheless the tenors are very well kept together, and to an ear sufficiently accustomed to it the music is satisfactory.

We have, then, to answer the question—Can you say that any law is necessary in a legitimate Method which condemns those Methods which the experience of two centuries has shewn to be the highest form of the actual practical ringer? And if your answer is the affirmative, what is the good of those laws, what do they serve?

We must recognise that the Law of Succession is a fact, and a very important fact; that it has its basis in Method Construction. But that it is fundamental or vital is certainly not proved by any evidence up to now.

NOTE. Of course I fully accept Sir Arthur Heywood's explanation of his use of the word axiom as applied to the Law of Proper Succession, but I cannot see that it helps us very much. If it is true that "in process of time it has come to be recognised that the highest form of Change-Ringing is that every bell that can, should change its place at every stroke" (which statement in face of Bristol Surprise is to say the very least, extremely debatable). We have still no answer to the question, why has it come to be recognised? Should I be doing anything about it, or is it just as it is? Should I say that this is not an axiom, but a suggestion?

BELBROUGHTON (Worcestershire), W. Short, M. S.
720 Bob Minor H. Martin, jun., H. Martin, sen., J. Patton, A. Pardoe, G. Popnell (conductor), W. Short.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

BRADING (Isle of Wight).—Recently at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples; also 476 and 409 in the same method. On Tuesday, April 27th, Kent Treble Bob Major was practised for about 45 mins. The members taking part were—P. Pain, F. Chaffey, G. Wilkins, E. Squibb, E. Simmonds, J. W. Pain, C. Price, H. Jennings (conductor), A. Pain.

NEWPORT (Isle of Wight).—On Thursday, May 6th, at the church of St. Thomas, for practice, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples. J. Simmonds, W. Chambers, C. Blake, W. Scott, A. Callaway, W. Upton, H. Jennings (conductor), J. Leal. Rung to commemorate the 6th anniversary of His Majesty's Accession to the Throne; also as a birthday compliment to J. Leal. This is the first quarter peal by the band, who have been receiving instruction from Mr. H. Jennings, of Ryde.

COLCHESTER.—On Friday, April 23rd, in celebration of St. George's Day, the bells of St. Peter's were rung during the morning and afternoon, touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples. Double Norwich, including a 960, also 1008 Bob Major and 1088 Kent Treble Bob Major being brought round by the local company. G. Burch, W. Button, F. L. Bumpstead, W. Cbalk, H. Evers, S. Hull, G. M. Rashbrook, W. J. Schofield.

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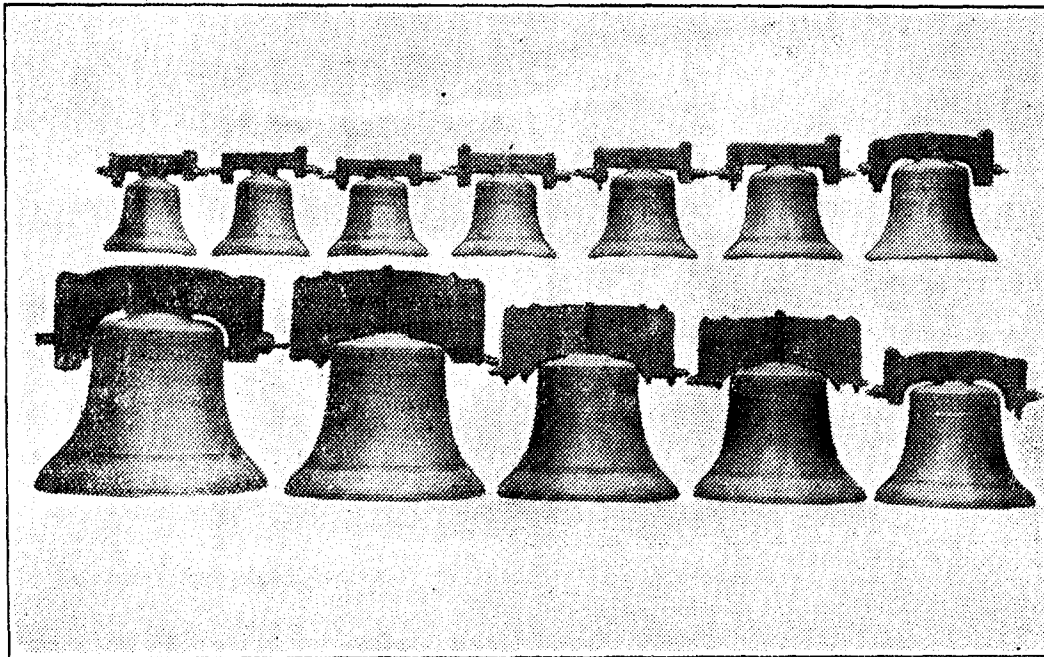
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Notices.

The charge for the insertion of Notices under this heading Sixpence for 35 words, for the first insertion; repetitions at half that price. Notices should come to hand not later than Wednesday morning.

The Ancient Society of College Youths.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Parlour, Warwick Lane, E.C. for handbell practice on May 20th; and for business on May 25th, all at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, for practice, on Saturdays, at 7.30 p.m.

William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec.

32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths.—Ringing for Divine Service at St. Martin-in-the-Fields the first Sunday in the month, and at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, both at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every third Monday at 8 p.m.

H. J. Bradley, Sec.

Parish Church, Shoreditch.

Royal Cumberland Youths.—By kind permission of the Rev B. S. Batty a meeting will be held at St. John of Jerusalem, South Hackney, on May 22nd. Tower open at 3 o'clock. Service at 5.30. Tea free to those who notify me by May 18th.

H. J. Bradley, Hon. Sec.

Parish Church, Shoreditch.

The London County Association (late the St. James Society)—Established 1824.—Northern District.—The next meeting will be held at the Church of St. John-at Jerusalem, South Hackney, on Saturday May 15th. There will be ringing from 4.30 p.m. to 8.0 p.m. after which a business meeting will be held at 8.30 p.m. at the "Earl of Derby." All ringers welcome.

L. B. Porter, Hon. Sec.

1 Canonbury Mansions, Canonbury, N.

The Lancashire Association.—Half-yearly meeting at Middleton, Saturday, May 15th. By kind permission of the authorities the bells of St. Leonard's will be available from 3.30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the schools at 5.30 p.m.

W. H. Shaker } Hon. Secs.
J. H. Banks, }

The Kent County Association.—Canterbury District.—The annual meeting will be held at Canterbury on Saturday, May 15th. The bells of the Cathedral (10), will be available from 2 till 2.40 p.m., and after the tea, St. Stephen's (8) St. Alphege (6), and St. Dunstan (6) from 2 till 8 p.m. Divine Service in St. Alphege Church at 4.30 p.m. Tea at Gaywood's Restaurant, High Street, at 5 p.m., for which a charge of 6d. per head will be made. Business meeting after the tea. All subscriptions should be paid before this meeting.

E. Trendell Hon. Dist. Sec.

The Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild.—North and East District.—A Meeting will be held at St. Ann's, Stamford Hill, on Saturday, May 15th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock, 6d. each. Meeting to follow. Members and friends cordially invited.

C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec.

49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

The Bedfordshire Association.—A Meeting will be held at Luton, on Saturday, May 15th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.

A. King, Hon. Sec.

6, Tavistock Crescent, Luton.

The London County Association (late the St. James Society) Established 1824.—A special General Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17th, at St. Botolph's Bishopsgate, E.C. The tower will be open for ringing from 7.15 p.m. to 8.45 p.m. The business meeting will take place at the "Citizen," Houndsditch, at 8.50 p.m. sharp.

T. H. Taffender, Gen. Master,

10, Northland Street, Camberwell, S.E.

The Essex Association.—The Annual Meeting will be held on Whit Monday at Chelmsford. Divine Service at the Cathedral with address by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese at 11.30. Business Meeting in the Vestry Hall at 12.30. Lunch in the

Boys' Schoolroom at 1.30. Members intending to be present MUST WITHOUT FAIL notify to me before Wednesday, May 19th. The following towers will be open for ringing: The Cathedral, Broomfield Springfield, Widford, Boreham Writtle, all day. Great Totnam. Henry T. W. Eyre, Hon. Sec.

The Winchester Diocesan Guild—Guildford District.—A meeting will be held at Farnham on West Monday, May 24th. Bells (8) available from 4 to 5.30, and 7 to 8 o'clock. Service at 5.30, when an address will be given by the Rector. Tea at the Assembly Rooms at 6 o'clock. Tickets 1s. each to members, 1s. 6d. to visitors. By kind permission of the Lord Bishop of Winchester, Farnham Castle and grounds will be open to members and friends from 3 to 5. John J. Jones, Hon. Sec. North Street, Guildford.

The Dudley and District Guild.—A quarterly meeting of the above Guild will be held at All Saints West Bromwich, on Saturday, May 29th. Bells available at 4 o'clock. Service in Church at 5 o'clock to be conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. M. M. Connor. A free tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than May 26th. Business meeting afterwards. Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec.

113, Himley Road, Dudley.

The Lancashire Association.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. Michael's Church, Blackburn on Saturday, Jun 5th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. J. Watson, Branch Sec. 33 Lancham Road Blackburn.

LEGITIMACY OF METHODS.

To the Editor

SIR—I am glad that Mr. Davies expresses sorrow for making a personal attack upon me, but why does he proceed this week to expand that attack.

My personal likes and dislikes are nothing to do with the matter at all. My idea of an arbitrary rule is a rule which has been made and can be abrogated quite apart from the question of whether I like it or not, and my use of the word chaos was certainly not intended to be offensive. I go back to the Campanalogia and I find absolute chaos. Shipway begins to classify, and things get better. His bard made a big step forward again and Bob Major leads predominate. The first edition of Standard Methods was in this respect a step back. The Report put the whole thing on a really scientific basis, and now Mr. Davies wishes us to go back once more into chaos.

I turn now to Mr. Davies' article this week, and I am very much surprised to find out that Mr. Davies has not yet grasped the meaning of the three definitions in the Report.

In the Report a Treble Lead consists of a succession of rows beginning with a Lead Head and ending with a Lead-End, eg

| | | | |
|------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 1234 | Lead Head | 21354 | Lead Head |
| 2143 | | 23145 | |
| 2413 | | 32415 | |
| 4231 | | 34251 | |
| 4321 | | 43521 | |
| 3412 | | 45312 | |
| 3142 | | 54132 | |
| 1324 | Lead End | 51423 | |
| | | 15243 | |
| | | 12534 | Lead End |

On an even number of bells the natural division falls between the two blows of the natural lead of the treble, as Mr. Davies says; but on an odd number it falls not one row earlier, but one row later, i.e. when the bell in the hunt runs the treble from the lead; and what Mr. Davies calls the characteristic is on even bells the Lead Head, and on odd bells the Lead End.

The rest of Mr. Davies' article is ultra vires. He is dealing with bobs, and the report has nothing whatever to do with bobs. A Bob Lead is not a Bob, but it does do the work of a bob, and therefore cannot be a Plain Lead.

Yours etc.,

H. LAW JAMES.

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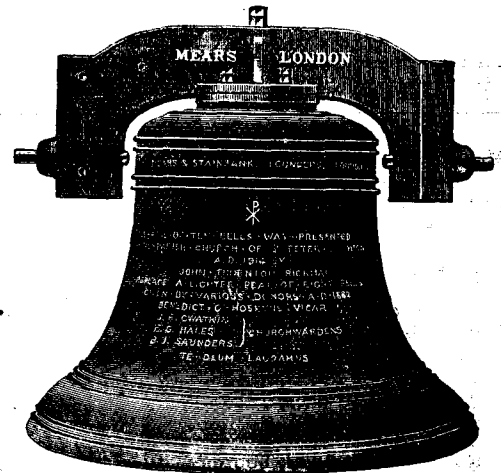
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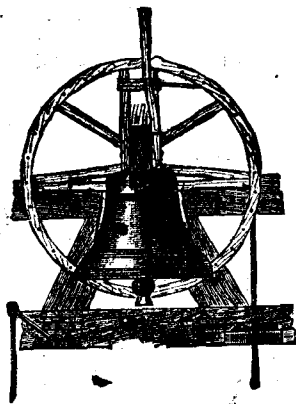
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