

## BELLS AND BELL-RINGING.

### *The Hertford County Association of Change-ringers.*

WE have received the *Annual Report* for the year 1895-96, with a list of the members for the current year, 1896-97. We are glad to notice that Canon Wigram, of Hertford, has accepted the office of President, in place of the late Squire Proctor, of Bennington Lordship. We make a few extracts from the Report of the Secretary, Mr. E. P. Debenham, St. Albans:—"The ringing members now number 130, and the honorary members 19. The financial position is good, the balance in hand being 9*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.* The annual meeting last year was held at St. Albans on Easter Monday, when the bells of the Cathedral and St. Peter's Church were rung during the day. Representatives from Aldenham, Bushey, Hatfield and Little Munden attended, besides several of the local members. In the morning a special service was held in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, at which the Rev. G. H. P. Glossop gave an impressive address. The members subsequently dined together at the Town Hall, and the meeting for business took place. It was decided that the vacancy in the office of President, through the lamented death of Mr. Proctor, should be left unfilled [Canon Wigram has accepted the office], but I trust that in the interests of our Association the members will this year select some one to act in that capacity, and thus relieve the other officers of the whole responsibility of carrying on the work. I have on former occasions expressed the wish that the general body of members could attend the meetings regularly. The preliminary arrangements for a meeting like this take at least a month to make; and, speaking for my brother officers, they do their best to study the convenience of the members, and if, after all, they find that only a few care to attend, it is, to say the least, a bit rough on them. Last year one band chose Easter Monday for attempting a peal, and while I am glad that it was successful, it might have been possible for some other day to have been found. I think that every tower in union with the Association should arrange that at least one representative should be present at the annual meeting. Important business comes on for discussion, and it is absolutely essential that the opinions of the various companies should be obtained. It is gratifying to be able to state that the following resolution was unanimously passed:—"That this meeting desires to place on record its high appreciation of the services rendered to the exercise by the late Leonard Proctor, Esq., of Bennington, than whom no one has done more to encourage practical ringing in its highest branches."

### *The Framland Ringers at Wymondham, Leicestershire.*

THE Society of Framland Ringers held its annual meeting at Wymondham on Monday week, and the proceedings passed off in a pleasant and harmonious manner. The ringers of St. Peter's, Wymondham, have been members of the Society since its formation. On a previous

occasion it was proposed to hold the festival at Wymondham, but the bells were not in a fit condition to bear the strain which would have been imposed upon them, and the idea had to be abandoned. Within the last few years, however, the bells, six in number, have been rehung. The arrangements were carried out by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, the Rev. C. H. Lacon, R.D., who was assisted by the Rev. W. H. Lee, rector. Six of the seven teams announced were present (Barkstone being absent), viz.:—Waltham: Messrs. G. Squires (captain), John Clarke, W. Clarke, R. Marriott, Thos. Musson, T. Roberts, Rd. Mount, assisted by Mr. T. Squires (Cotgrave). Eaton: Messrs. Thos. Pearson (captain), Rd. Harrison, W. Jackson, Jas. Shelton, Rd. Selby, Thos. Pychett, Wm. Smart, and Geo. Jackson. Harby: Messrs. Thos. Hall (captain), Samuel Hall, Wm. Manchester, Chas. Rawlinson, J. J. Pick, C. Martin, Thos. Dickman, Jno. Haywood, Wm. Starbuck, and Geo. Clarke. Buckminster: Messrs. Geo. Howitt (captain), Rd. Howitt, Wm. Grice, Wm. King, Thos. Coaten, and Thos. Rimmington. Wymondham: Messrs. G. H. Huddleston (captain), W. H. Dyke, W. J. Brown, T. Thornycroft, H. Bellamy, J. Tysoe, T. Pickaver, and J. Murray. Melton Mowbray: Messrs. C. Dalby (captain), J. E. Goodacre, W. James, Wm. Burnall, Rd. Young, and A. J. Fitton. Ringing commenced at half-past nine, and was continued until one o'clock. Dinner was partaken of in the schoolroom. At three o'clock service was held in the church. The sermon was preached by the Rev. F. Baggallay from the text, 1 Cor. ix. 24, 'So run that ye may obtain.' The interval between the service and tea was devoted to ringing by some of the teams. At the business meeting, the statement of accounts for the year ending April 30th showed that the receipts, including a balance in hand of 4*l.* 6*s.* 2½*d.*, and the sum of 6*l.* 1*l.*s. received in honorary subscriptions, amounted to 20*l.* 7*s.* 1½*d.*, and the expenditure to 14*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, leaving a balance of 5*l.* 15*s.* 6½*d.* Mr. Lacon observed that he was sorry the Tsar of Russia had not invited the society to ring at Moscow, on the occasion of his Coronation. They, as a diocese, were honoured in having their Bishop summoned to Moscow to attend the Coronation, as the representative of the Church of England, and his presence would do a great deal of good in promoting the union of Christianity, or Christendom, as it was called, for that was the object of the visit. He had rather been hoping that the Framland ringers would be asked to go to represent the ringers of England: but though he had been looking out every post, no letter had arrived, and so he supposed they would not be able to go!

### CHANGE-RINGING.

#### *At St. Paulinus', Crayford, Kent.*

ON Friday, the 8th inst., eight members of the Kent County Association rang Arthur Knight's peal of 5024 KENT TREBLE MAJOR in 2 hrs. 55 mins. A. Peill, 1; W. Taylor, 2; G. Conyard, 3; J. Turner, 4; J. Hack (first peal in the method), 5; H. T. Searle, 6; H. Warnett, 7; W. Bedwell (conductor). S. W. Taylor came from Leiston, Suffolk; J. Hock, from Hayes.

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### At St. Philip's, Birmingham.

On Saturday, the 16th inst., ten members of the Midland Counties' Association rang a peal of 5040 FORWARD ROYAL in 3 hrs. 36 mins. C. Sparkes,\* 1; W. R. Small, 2; J. Jones, 3; T. Collinson,\* 4; G. Walker, 5; J. Carter (composer and conductor), 6; J. Jennings,\* 7; J. E. Groves, 8; G. Hitchman,\* 9; J. George, 10. Tenor, 29 cwt. This composition, in three parts, is now rung for the first time, and has only the 4th, 5th, and 6th in 6th's place at the course-ends. First peal of FORWARD ROYAL ever rung in Birmingham. [\* First peal of FORWARD ROYAL.]

### At St. Giles', Ashted, Surrey.

On Saturday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Taylor's Bob-and-Single Variation peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. D. Anscombe, 1; W. Chantler, 2; H. Corbett (first peal with a bob-bell), 3; F. Grove, 4; H. Wilkinson, 5; J. Wyatt (first peal as conductor), 6; G. Chantler, 7; W. Cook, 8.

### At SS. Peter and Paul's, Mitcham, Surrey.

On Saturday, the 16th inst., eight members of the Surrey Association rang Holt's Six-part peal of 5040 GRANDSIRE TRIPLES in 2 hrs. 50 mins. J. A. Lambert, 1; W. Ginns (first peal), 2; J. D. Drewitt, 3; G. Welling, 4; A. Calver, 5; W. S. Smith, 6; J. Fayers, 7; F. Hendy, 8. Tenor, 16 cwt.

### At the Parish Church, Oswestry, Salop.

On Whit Monday, in honour of the Queen's birthday, Holt's Ten-Part peal of 5040 changes in 3 hrs. 2 mins. G. Davies,\* 1; E. Jones (first peal as conductor), 2; H. Jarman, 3; R. Martin, 4; M. J. Morris, 5; D. Davies, 6; R. Edwards, 7; W. Worton,\* 8. Tenor, 16 cwt. [\* First peal.]

### The Essex Association.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association took place at Chelmsford on Whit Monday. Ringing was commenced early in the morning at several of the surrounding towers; but it was eleven o'clock before there was a sufficient muster at the headquarters to make a start. St. Mary's (Episcopi) has a ring of ten, but to strangers the noise is too much for any very first-class ringing. A special service was held at 11.30, when the new form of service, which we believe was that referred to at the recent meeting of the Central Council, was introduced. The Rev. G. B. Hoare, curate at St. Mary's, said the prayers; the Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, Assistant Secretary, read the lesson; and the Ven. Archdeacon Stevens gave the address from Psalm cl. 1, 5. The business meeting followed in the schoolroom, the Assistant Secretary presiding. The annual report and balance-sheet were submitted. From the former we extract the following:—

'The great shadow of all has been the severe and dangerous illness of our Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. Papillon; beginning with the death of his only son, and culminating in an attack of pneumonia. Many have been the inquiries and sympathies expressed by the members of the Association, who are one and all looking forward to his return to the county. Financially, we stand almost precisely as we were, just paying our way and no more. We still have to deplore the shrinkage of our honorary, and more especially of our non-resident members. Some of the expenses have been unusually heavy, and we hope exceptional. The bill for printing and stationery is heavier, because we have laid in a good stock of stationery, postcards, &c., with the Association's initials; but to balance this, the item for postage has shrunk considerably, chiefly owing to the change in the financial year, whereby we are enabled to issue the greater bulk of the report to the assembled members at Whitsuntide, free of postage. The meeting of the Central Council was fixed for Sheffield. This meant heavy railway expenses for two of our delegates. The item for printing the notice of the Whitsuntide meeting was incurred through a misunderstanding, and will not happen again. The district meetings were all well attended. The bells of St. Peter's, Colchester, after a long silence, have again been allowed to be rung, and we had a fair number of ringers present at the meeting in February. At the Easter Monday meeting at Kelvedon the numbers run up to fifty-seven, one of the largest district meetings in the annals of the Association. A treble has been recently added to the fine and heavy ring of five, and has made a vast improvement. At the neighbouring tower of Feering a like improvement has been made, together with the thorough overhauling and rehangings of the old ring of five, all cast by Miles Grave, and now we have several members belonging to that tower.

'At the annual meeting at Chelmsford, we were glad to welcome the new Rector, the Rev. S. Lake, who preached at the service and was present at the luncheon, and who has evinced then and since a warm interest in the Association.

'The last district meeting was held at Harlow, and was well attended, but a gloom was cast over it by two events; first, the absence of the Secretary on account of the alarming illness of his son; and secondly, by the funeral which was taking place of one of the Harlow ringers—H. Jermy—who had been accidentally killed. We have good hopes that shortly a new company will be formed at Brentwood, one of the most important centres in the county. The pressing question is how to attract and retain non-resident members in the future. We gladly take this opportunity to thank, in the name of the Association, Mr. C. Howard, of Braintree, for his unwearied zeal and efforts, whereby in the neighbourhood of Braintree and Halstead he has raised up a band of ringers in at least three towers, and brought into our net several honorary members.

'We have to regret the untimely death of one of the most distinguished of our non-resident ringing members, Mr. G. Newson, a familiar figure in many Essex belfries and at our annual meetings. His presence was always welcome, and his great abilities as a ringer and conductor were always at the service of his brother-ringers, whether beginners or experts. Men who can at short notice call a peal or touch in any method or any number of bells, and from any bell, are rare indeed; but still rarer among such masters of the art is the ever-ready willingness to take part in the humbler efforts of less-experienced ringers, which was one secret of Mr. Newson's popularity. Many of us have been indebted to his help; many will mourn his loss.'

The balance-sheet showed that the year, which commenced with 37. 16s. 8d. in hand, closed with a balance of 27. 15s. 11d. The officers were re-elected. Mr. B. Keble proposed, and Mr. F. Pitstow seconded, that the Association deeply regretted the cause of absence of the Hon. Secretary, and expressed a hope that he might be speedily restored to health, and enabled to return home and again take an active part in the work of the Association. This was carried unanimously, and in recognition of past services to the Association, it was resolved to elect the rev. gentleman a life member. On the motion of Mr. Howard, it was decided to elect non-resident members upon payment of 5s. life members. The question of a peal of GRANDSIRE CATERS rung at West Ham, composed by John Rogers, about which there has been some correspondence with respect to the composition, was referred to the Peal Committee. Mr. Randall stating that he could furnish the figures. The meeting closed with votes of thanks to the Rector of St. Mary's and the clergy of the surrounding towers. Dinner was afterwards served, at which the Assistant Secretary presided.

AT CAMBRIDGE.—*Handbell-ringing*.—In the rooms of Mr. Woodhouse, Caius College, the following members of the Cambridge University Guild and the Ancient Society of College Youths rang a date touch of 1896 BOB MINOR in 56 mins. R. Whitford\* (Pembroke), 1-2; G. Woodhouse (conductor, Caius), 3-4; J. Rickman\* (Emmanuel), 5-6. [\* Longest length.]

THE bells of St. George's Chapel and Windsor Parish Church were rung on Sunday in celebration of the Queen's seventy-seventh birthday.

At Melksham, Wilts, lately, a service was held in the Parish Church to dedicate the bells, which have been increased to a ring of eight at a cost of about 400l. Canon Warre, of Bemerton, a former vicar, preached the sermon.

A PEAL of ten bells is being cast for Ewerby Church, near Sleaford, Lincolnshire, the tenor of which will weigh 20 cwt. The cost will be borne by the Earl of Winchelsea and members of his family, who have already subscribed large sums for the restoration of the interior of this fine old edifice.

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