

No. 257. Vol. X.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 1916.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON

CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two new ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

THE TRURO DIOCESAN GUILD.

One of the ringing organisations about which we hear very little, but which is quietly doing a very good work, is the Truro Diocesan Guild, which, covering a county where change ringing was late in taking root, has for the past seventeen or eighteen years been exerting its influence for the furtherance of change ringing as well as promoting belfry reform and "a reverent feeling among church bell-ringers for their sacred office." Cornwall was a county where prize ringing once used to flourish, but the efforts of the Guild to extinguish this form of competition has practically put an end to it. On the other hand, to promote genuine effort in acquiring the art of change ringing, the Guild offers the encouragement of certificates of merit and silver medals to those members who reach a certain standard of proficiency, and while there are still many affiliated towers where change ringing is not yet regularly practised, there are a considerable number of members who have qualified for and hold the medal.

There is one thing which the Truro Guild does which few, if any, of the other similar organisations do, and that is to issue certificates to hang up in the belfry of each affiliated tower. This is a matter which might well commend itself to other associations, many of whom, while giving a certificate of membership to an individual, do nothing to give a tower similar official recognition. In some cases, of course, towers are not recognised as units, although the whole of the members may be affiliated, but there are others where the band, as representing the tower, are taken in for a lump sum, and for these, at any rate, there would be no difficulty in bestowing on the tower a recognition something on the lines which Friendly Societies give to their branches.

The annual report of the Truro Guild, which has just been issued, shows that despite the war and the absence of many ringers on war service, the bells, in nearly all the towers, have been kept going for their primary purpose—the calling of the people to worship—the places of those who have joined the colours having been filled by the older boys, and, in one case, ladies. The Guild is a strong one, for it boasts of nearly 600 members, and is steadily improving its position. During the year it has lost its Hon. Secretary (Canon J. A. Kempe) who has been at the helm since the foundation of the Guild, but who has now left the diocese after a 33 years' sojourn there. His place has been taken by another who has displayed the keenest interest in the work, Canon Mills, of St. Stephen-in-Brannell, and, with Dr. J. Symons, of Penzance, still as Master, there is no reason to doubt that the future will see the Guild still more firmly established.

MODERN WORK.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.,
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your contract, — we may be able to assist you.

SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM

BELLS

FOR CHURCHES,
SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

PEALS AUGMENTED,
CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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IN BEST SEASONED OAK,
STEEL OR IRON.

Chiming Machines

Best Workmanship and
Satisfaction Guaranteed.

FITTINGS

OF ALL KINDS.

ARTISTIC WROUGHT IRON
BRACKETS.

MALLEABLE IRON BRACKETS.
BEST BELL ROPES.
REPAIRS AND REHANGING
IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers.

SEND FOR CATALOGUE

EIGHT BELL PEAL.

LOUGHBOROUGH, LEICESTERSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 12, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-seven Minutes.

AT THE BELL FOUNDRY TOWER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

Tenor 6½ cwt.

ERNEST MORRIS	Treble	ERNEST LESLIE	5
HORACE STUBBS	2	FREDERICK H. DEXTER ...	6
JOHN SMITH	3	EDWARD READER	7
JAMES HUTCHBY	4	WILLIAM THORLEY	Tenor

Composed by G. LINDOFF, and
Conducted by E. READER.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to Cpl. R. Lane, who was killed in France. He was the eldest son of Mr. R. Lane, the respected Master of the All Saints' Society, Loughborough, and was employed at the bell foundry before he enlisted in the army at the outbreak of the war.

HANDBELL PEALS.

BIRMINGHAM.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, February 12, 1916, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes.

AT THE TAMWORTH ARMS HOTEL,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5009 CHANCES;

Tenor, 17 size in B flat.

GEORGE F. SWANN	1-2	JAMES E. GROVES	5-6
THOMAS MILLER	3-4	ALBERT WALKER	7-8
		JAMES GEORGE	9-10

Composed and Conducted by JAMES E. GROVES.

Referee: MR. GEORGE GARRISON.

Witness: MR. T. RUSSAM.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Russam and Mrs. A. Walker.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, February 14, 1916, in Two Hours and Thirty-three Minutes.

AT 32, EDGELEY ROAD, CLAPHAM, S.W.,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANCES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

CHALLIS F. WINNEY	1-2	HERBERT LANGDON	5-6
WILLIAM T. COCKERELL ...	3-4	JOHN N. OXBORROW	7-8

Conducted by CHALLIS F. WINNEY.

Umpires: EDWIN HORREX and EDWIN GIBBS.

ESTABLISHED 1760.

JOHN NICOLL,

Church Bell Rope and Clock Rope
Manufacturer,

60, QUEEN'S ROAD, PECKHAM, LONDON, S.E.

Two minutes from Queen's Road Station, L.B. & S.C. Railway).

Late 185, Keeton's Road, Bermondsey.

Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following ringers are serving in H.M. Forces:—

Farrier J. C. Hanson, of Ormesby, A.S.C., now at Clipston Camp, Mansfield.
Pte L. H. Moore, junr., of Easton-in-Gordano, 9th Battalion Somerset Light Infantry, now at Blandford, Dorset.
Pte H. Austin, of Stoke-on-Trent, R.A.M.C., now in London.
Pte Wm. H. Corbett, junr., of St. Giles', Ashtead, Surrey, Royal Marine Artillery, now at Eastney, Portsmouth.

FROM COLDSTREAMS TO FLYING CORPS.

Pte R. N. Runham has been transferred from the Coldstream Guards to the Royal Flying Corps, to work at his trade, as fitter and turner, and has been promoted to be corporal. He is now attached to B Squadron, R.F.C., and his address is Hut 36, Rath Camp, Curragh, Ireland.

Pte C. Austin, son of Mr. J. Austin, of Gloucester, is working in the same capacity at a mobile workshop "somewhere in France." Both these ringers were formerly employed by Messrs. Warner and Sons, at their Spitalfields Bell Foundry.

GREENWICH RINGERS' LOSS. SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. W. FOREMAN.

The ringers of the Parish Church of St. Alfege, Greenwich, have sustained a severe loss by the death, on Monday of last week, of Mr. William Foreman, which occurred at his residence, 92, Royal Hill, Greenwich. He had been in poor health for some time, but was nevertheless fairly regular in belfry attendance, and his demise came somewhat unexpectedly. Only a few hours before the end he was engaged in counting the number of peals in which he had taken part (and which he had carefully recorded), and after perusing the late Rev. F. E. Robinson's work, "Among the Bells," seated himself at the piano and commenced singing the beautiful hymn, "There is a blessed home beyond this vale of woe." With those words upon his lips, God called him.

William Foreman was born in Greenwich in 1847, and made his first appearance in St. Alfege's belfry in 1868. With the exception of an annual visit by members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, for a peal, change ringing was not permitted at Greenwich. Indeed, long after the writer's entry into the ringing chamber in 1878, it was a veritable "stoney" stronghold, and the mere suggestion of "half-pull" practice always met with angry rebuke. The brothers Isaac G. and Henry J. Shade, with their father, were always in a hopeless minority. Consequently the opportunities of William Foreman, and other younger aspirants, were marvellously few. How times have changed, even at Greenwich! However, in 1880 the deceased rang the tenor to a peal of Grandsire Triples, at Bromley, Kent, conducted by Isaac Shade. It was not until Christmas, 1893, that he obtained a chance to prove his ability, and he then successfully piloted the treble through Holt's Ten-part, at Greenwich, conducted by the writer, who well remembers the remark made by Mr. Foreman at the conclusion of the peal. "At last! After sawing away at the tenor all these years, you are the first to give me the chance I longed for." This performance stimulated him to further effort, and the writer has had the pleasure of assisting in many of the 88 peals which stand to William Foreman's credit. He was steady and reliable, quiet and unobtrusive. His presence and help will be greatly missed by the St. Alfege company. He was a member of the Kent, Middlesex and Essex Associations, the Ancient Society of College Youths and St. James' Society.

The interment took place on Saturday last, at Greenwich Cemetery, Shooter's Hill, Kent, the first portion of the burial service being read at St. Alfege's Church by the Rev. G. M. Youngman, M.A. A large number of sympathisers assembled within and without the church. A profusion of beautiful floral tributes from the family and friends included one in the shape of a bell from the Greenwich band, who were represented at the graveside by their secretary, Mr. H. Hoskins. Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung before and after the service at St. Alfege's, by Isaac G. Shade, John J. Lamb, Arthur S. Beer, William Rawlings, George Rawlings, William Berry, Joseph Law (St. John's, Deptford), Fredrick H. Gooch and Frederick W. Thornton.

The late Mr. Foreman's 88 peals were made up as follows: Grandsire Triples, 18; Grandsire Caters, 1; Stedman Triples, 21; Stedman Caters, 16; Oxford Bob Triples, 1; Darlaston Bob Triples, 1; Kent Treble Bob Major, 15; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 2; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 1; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 1; Double Norwich Major, 4; Superlative Surprise Major, 3; New Cambridge Surprise Major, 2; Bristol Surprise Major, 1; London Surprise Major, 1; total, 88. The Surprise peals were all rung on the treble. F. W. T.

ST. STEPHEN'S-IN-BRAUNELL, CORNWALL.—On Oct. 15th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), from Holts' Original, in 47 mins.: F. Cawse 1, Dr. J. Symons (Penzance) 2, H. M. Smeath 3, B. Knight 4, E. Freund 5, W. Trestrain 6, A. W. Brighton (London), conductor, 7, J. T. Gulley 8. The ringers of 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 from Kenwyn, Truro. The band wish to express their thanks to the Rector (the Rev. H. Mills) for kindly entertaining them to tea. Miss Eileen Symons took part in an attempt for a quarter-peal, conducted by her father, Dr. J. Symons, but unfortunately two bells changed course towards the end.

LONDON.—On November 28th, for evening service, at St. George-the-Martyr's Church, Southwark, 1092 Stedman Triples: T. Walker 1, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 2, C. H. Hughes 3, H. T. Gowlett 4, W. G. Matthews 5, W. H. Taffender 6, H. T. Hibbert 7, W. T. Walden 8. Rang with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to Sergt. Arthur Hines, of the Essex Regiment, and a member of the local company, who was killed in Flanders on October 28th. At the commencement of the war he joined the Royal West Surrey Regiment, and on promotion was transferred to the Essex Regiment.

WRITTLE.—Essex Association.—On Christmas Eve, 168 Grandsire and 408 Stedman Triples: R. Wood 1, F. W. Edwards 2, G. W. Sorrell 3, F. G. Radley 4, T. Lincoln 5, A. Head 6, W. Lincoln 7, F. Edwards 8.—On New Year's Eve, half-muffled, 168 Stedman as above; 336 Grandsire Triples, Sergt. Head ringing the 6th, and J. Poole treble, at midnight, with the bells open; 144 Stedman Triples, and a short touch of Grandsire. Sergt. Head was home from France for a few days' leave. The ringers were afterwards invited to the officers' mess for refreshments by officers of the Warwick Artillery, stationed in the village.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

By kind permission of the Rev. F. R. A. Harpley, Vicar, a quarterly meeting of the Kettering Branch of the Central Northants Association was held at Desborough on Saturday week, when 36 members were present from Burton Latimer, Barton, Cransley, Isham, Geddington, Northampton, Orlingbury, Stoke Albany, Kettering, Wellingborough, and the local tower. A short service was held in the church, conducted by the Rev. F. R. A. Harpley, and tea was served in the schools.

At the meeting which followed, the Rev. F. R. A. Harpley presided, there being also present the Rev. R. Copeman, vice-president (Stoke Albany), Rev. J. A. Morley (Rothwell), Mr. F. Wilford, Northampton (gen. secretary of the Association), and Mr. J. C. Shatford (late branch secretary).—Gretton was chosen for the next meeting.—The Rev. A. C. Brickstock was elected an hon. member, and Messrs. C. Willis and S. Roe (Rothwell), H. Liner (Desborough), S. Johnson (Orlingbury), D. Mallet (Isham) and F. Capps (Burton), ringing members.—The General Secretary drew the members' attention to rules 12 and 21, and hoped that they would be strictly enforced.

The next business was of a pleasing nature, the Vice-President, in a few well-chosen words, presenting Mr. J. C. Shatford with a barometer on his retirement from the post of district secretary, an office which he had held from 1905 to 1915.—Mr. Shatford, in acknowledging the gift, said what he had done for the branch had given him the greatest pleasure, and he wished it every success.

The General Secretary read a letter from Lieut. E. M. Atkins, who is wounded and in hospital at Boulogne, wishing the meeting every success, and one from Pte F. Kilborn, of Desborough, of the 7th Northants Regiment, in France, who was looking forward to the time when he would be with his ringing friends again. He expected all the "old school" would be at that meeting. The letters were received with applause.—The Secretary reported that Pte. Inns, of Kettering, who belonged to the 6th Northants Regiment, was a prisoner of war, and wished him a speedy return.

The Rev. J. A. Morley, on behalf of the meeting, proposed a vote of sympathy with the vice-president on the sad loss of his son, who was killed in action.

Mr. F. Wilford proposed a vote of thanks to the Rev. F. R. A. Harpley for the use of the bells, and to the local ringers and ladies for providing tea.—Mr. M. Hobbs seconded, and the Vicar, in replying, said he was pleased to welcome the Association to Desborough.

The bells were kept going all the afternoon and evening in the following methods: Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Double Court, Double Oxford, and Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles.

MARRIAGE OF MR. A. B. PECK.

Many ringers in London and the Provinces will be interested in the announcement of the wedding of Mr. Alfred B. Peck, who was married on Sunday, January 30th, to Miss Emma Frances Willment, at the Church of St. Gabriel, Pimlico. The bridegroom derived considerable benefit from his stay at the seaside, during the period of convalescence, and few would have known that he had just recovered from a very serious illness. Unfortunately the bells were not available for the wedding, which was rather disappointing, as there were a good number of ringers present. The bride, who was charmingly attired, was given away by her uncle, Mr. Francis Willment, and attended by Miss Donegan, the bridegroom being supported by Mr. H. Langdon as best man.

Many relations and friends of the happy couple witnessed the ceremony, at which the Rev. W. Norman officiated. Among the guests were the following: Mrs. Willment, Mr. and Mrs. Peck (Bedford), Mr. and Mrs. Longland (Bedford), Mr. and Mrs. F. Willment, Mr. W. Willment, Mr. E. Willment, Mr. and Mrs. Cosford, Miss Cosford, Miss Donegan (bridesmaid), Miss Donegan, Miss Alexander, Miss Butler, Miss Waller, Mr. H. Langdon (best man), Mr. H. R. Newton, Mr. J. N. Oxborrow, Mr. W. H. Pasmore, Mr. H. R. Pasmore, Mr. E. Ewer, Mr. Young.

The wedding breakfast was preceded by a touch of Stedman Caters on the handbells, and the principal toast, that of "The Bride and Bridegroom," was proposed by Mr. H. R. Newton, who referred in sympathetic terms to the long and serious illness of Mr. Peck, reminding the company of the many anxious moments experienced last summer and autumn. He congratulated the bridegroom on his recovery, and expressed sincere wishes for a happy and prosperous future for the happy couple.—This was acknowledged by the bridegroom, who thanked the company for their presence.

A very pleasant time was spent after the breakfast, the company including some talented musicians, and the ringers, not to be outdone, rang a touch of Stedman Cinques, the bridegroom taking part. One or two well-known ringers, not famous hitherto as pianists, took advantage of a mechanical contrivance, to render quite classical music, and during the interlude the company had an opportunity of admiring the large number of presents.

The bridal couple left by the evening train for Brighton, amidst expressions from all present for a happy future.

Mr. Peck's many ringing friends will be glad to hear that he has almost completely recovered his health, but naturally he is still weak from such a long and severe illness. His brother ringers at St. Paul's Cathedral will be glad to see him in his accustomed place once more.

In addition to those mentioned above Messrs. Winney, Ellis and Elphick were at the church.

STEDMAN TRIPLES.

VARIATION OF LATES' FOUR-PART PEAL.
By GEORGE T. CLAYTON.

123456	2	S	H	L	Q
146253		x		x	
421563		x	x		x
241536			x		
256431		x		x	
542361		x	x		x
452316			x		
436512		x		x	
354162		x	x		x
534126			x		
516324		x		x	
135264		x	x		x
145326	S		x		
136425		x		x	
341265		x	x		x
431256			x		

Repeat three times.

The single is made by the bells in first's, fourth's, and seventh's places lying still at the parting of the sixes, thus:—1234567

1324657

In this variation the number of four-bob sets is reduced to a minimum. Considered as a twenty-part peal, 6-7 are brought home at every part end, and as a four-part, 5-6-7 are similarly brought home. If these qualities are obtainable on any other plan, they have never, so far as I know, been obtained. My object in sending the variation to the Press is to direct attention to a man whose worth the Exercise has never been able to appreciate.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SINGLES.

The whole thing hinges upon the single. In Triples it is not necessary to turn the course of the bells, but no one has ever succeeded in obtaining a peal of Stedman without singles. Now, singles are for ringers, not ringers for singles, and so long as a single serving a useful purpose does not break the hunting cycle, interfere with the dodging, or degrade Triples to Singles, no reasonable objection can be laid against it, but singles which do these things are abominations. In the matter of singles, the Central Council had signally failed to discriminate between the good and the bad. Two singles are allowed in Grandsire, one of which, the Holt, is a thoroughly bad call, and the other cannot be said to be a good one, while Mr. Thompson's single, which is undoubtedly a good one, has never to my knowledge been recognised. I may point out here that Shipway's fifth's-place bob, which, not degrading Triples at all, is incomparably the best second call, has never received any commendation commensurate with its merits. In Stedman, the Holt single is very properly disallowed, as, in fact, is every other single good and bad alike saving only the ordinary single, which, while fulfilling the essential conditions and serving the purpose in Doubles, Major, and the higher numbers, is by no means the most serviceable single in Triples. But I am not quite correct. Another single is allowed, or, at all events, not condemned, in Doubles which, interfering with the dodging, is an execrable call; and after rightly rejecting Union Triples as an approved method because it does not produce the Grandsire, i.e., the hunting-cycle lead ends, four pages of reading matter out of a total of 12 (vide Report on Calls) and words which are not usually to be found in learned treatises, are devoted to the consideration of the single proper to that method.

Singles, like other things for which there can be no standard measure, must be judged by comparing them with one another. In order to compare the ordinary single with the Lates' single a comparison will be made between Lates' peal and Thurstans' masterpiece, which by general consent is the finest peal of Stedman Triples. In Thurstans' peal, as in all approved twin-bob peals, singles necessarily disturb the observation bell. By analogy as well as in equity this is a most serious fault, and without more ado it may be taken as conclusive evidence; firstly, that the ordinary single is not the proper single for Stedman Triples; and, secondly, that Thurstan and his successors followed the wrong track. Furthermore, the two singles require to be supplemented by "extras and omits" which are virtually a third kind of call, and it is not a four-part peal in the most proper of all senses—that all the parts are called exactly alike—but very much otherwise. It is also much the more difficult peal to call of the two, unless the conductor has thoroughly mastered the "Investigations" in Snowdon's "Stedman," which is about the stiffest bit of reading that any ordinary man is likely to come across in the course of his natural life. I think the comparison is a fair one, and I have no hesitation in saying that Lates' peal ought to supplant Thurstans' masterpiece as the finest peal of Stedman Triples hitherto obtained.

A COMPARISON.

It is now necessary to consider the ordinary single in direct comparison with the Lates' single. The Lates' single moves the four-front bells or the bells unaffected by bobs, and it may, therefore, be said to be the true complement of the bob. This may be thought to be a fanciful recommendation, but I am satisfied that, if not a sufficient recommendation, it is a strong one. On the other hand, the

Lates' single is more difficult to make, which, however, has nothing to do with the scientific question, and it necessitates a bell striking three consecutive blows in one place. This is undoubtedly a blemish, but it is a blemish that the assenters to the Grandsire single, and the Kent bob cannot in equity urge as an objection, and it is a blemish which, as I think I have already shown, cannot be avoided without falling out of the frying-pan into the fire.

Should this reasoning not be deemed conclusive, a further argument remains to be adduced. It is most important to observe, as I pointed out in "The Ringing World" for December 4th, 1914, that the proper single in Doubles and Major entails precisely the same blemish. This is highly suggestive. Now, thinking it strange that Triples should be passed over, and perceiving that what is probably the best peal of Stedman Triples obtainable with the ordinary single is anything but the superb peal it is reputed to be, I came to the conclusion that if an improved peal is to be obtained it must be obtained by a single which causes a bell to strike three consecutive blows in one place. To cut a long story short, I solved the problem only to find that I had been forestalled by Lates', though neither he nor anyone else ever knew that he had done it. Two of the authors of the "Investigations" are still alive, and perhaps they will be good enough to favour the Exercise with their remarks. The Birmingham men also may be able to throw some further light upon Lates' peal, which though given in Snowdon's "Stedman," in the original and transposed forms, is not otherwise noticed. Premising that Stedman only runs to Minor in the form of Double Stedman, in which the imperfection is of a different kind, I will repeat what I said in "The Ringing World" for December 4th, 1914, with only a slight alteration. It is remarkable that Stedman, the only method that attains to the pre-eminence of the triple crown by doubling the length of the divisions, having as many divisions to the course as there are bells, and keeping the hunting cycle intact, should be imperfect in the two lowest numbers both odd and even.

I believe this is the first time that a peal of Stedman Triples has been arranged to go off from rounds. I have previously (vide "The Ringing World" for July 23rd, 1915) called attention to the reprehensible and silly practice of going off from the second row of a quick six. This practice will inevitably be discontinued sooner or later, and the sooner it is made to cease the better.

Although it is a matter quite outside the scope of this communication, having mentioned Holt's name I should like to point out that in the way which seems to be characteristic of ringers, who generally manage, either to boom the wrong man or the right man for the wrong thing, Holt has been appraised beyond his worth. Holt was an able man and a clever composer, but it must be borne in mind that the greatest men have not been the cleverest men. Holt was quite unable to discriminate between the good and the bad, and he never produced anything that will last for all time, though "Holt's Original" may survive a little longer as the blarney stone of the Exercise.

DOUBLE NORWICH MAJOR.

TWO PEALS BY EDGAR WIGHTMAN.

5184				5056					
23456	1	4	5	6	23456	1	4	5	6
42635			---		65324				
26435					54326				
62534					46325				
25463	S	S			23645				
52364					62534				
23564					35264				
32456					34256				
24365					36245				
42563					23564				
25364		S			36524				
52463					25634				
24563					43526				
42365					32546				
23465									
32564									
25634	S								
52436									
24536									
52643									
26543									
62345									
23645									
32546				*					
25346									

Three times repeated singles for bob in 2nd and 4th parts.

This is supposed to be the first 5056 in the method in 4 equal parts with only 4th, 5th, 6th in 6th place.

Four times repeat the last six courses, calling single for bob mark * in 2nd and 5th parts.

This is the first peal ever composed in the method with the 2nd her full extent in 2-3 alternately.

Reduced to 5040 by calling the 3rd course—bobs at 4-5, and omit next course.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

The first quarterly meeting held in the Winchester district for nearly two years, took place at Alresford on Saturday. By the kind permission of the Rectors, the towers of both Old and New Alresford were open during the afternoon and evening, and the bells were kept going in various methods till the time came to catch the last train. Tea was provided in the Parish Room, the Rector of Old Alresford (the Rev. G. H. Preston) presiding. There were also present the Rev. E. Banks James, Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams, Messrs. J. B. Williamson, W. H. George, J. H. Shepherd (Swindon), and members from Bishopstoke, Winchester, North Stoneham, Hursley, Alresford, Upham and Titchfield.—The District Secretary (Mr. J. W. Elkins) apologised for the absence of the Rev. F. G. G. Jellicoe (Rector of New Alresford), Rev. Canon Braithwaite (chairman of the district), and Mr. Wilfred Andrews.

A very hearty welcome was accorded to Mr. James Sait, who is in his 85th year, and who has "rung out the Old and in the New" Year on the New Alresford bells for 58 consecutive years; also to Pte G. Pullinger, of the Upham band, who, we regret to say, has been invalided home from the front, having lost his right arm. Mr. Pullinger is, however, hopefully looking forward to the time when he will be able to take his place in the belfry again.

A framed record of a peal of Grandsire Triples rung on the Alresford bells in 1824, having recently come into the possession of Mr. Wilfred Andrews, it was, on his behalf, offered to the local ringers, and gratefully accepted by them.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Rev. G. H. Preston for the use of Old Alresford bells, and for presiding at the tea, and to the Rev. F. G. G. Jellicoe for the use of the Parish Room and bells. Mr. Preston said he was very pleased to meet so many ringers from different parishes in the diocese, and regretted that just now he was very short of ringers in his own parish, and thought it might be necessary to employ ladies in the belfry. His remark that his daughter was learning to ring a bell was heartily applauded.

After tea there was some handbell ringing, Mrs. Williams ringing 1-2 in some Grandsire Triples. Mr. J. H. Shepherd joined the Guild as a compounding member, and seven new members were admitted as probationers.—The members were sorry to hear that a recent accident was the cause of their old friend, Mr. Edwards, of Farnham, being absent from the meeting, and they trust he will soon be well again.

The next meeting is to be held at Twyford in May.

NORTH NOTTS ASSOCIATION.

The third quarterly meeting of the North Notts Association was held at Worksop on Saturday week, when there was a representative gathering of members from various parts of the county, including Anston, Harthill, Shireoaks, Norton Cuckney, East and West Retford, Ordsall and Worksop. The bells of the Parish Church were placed at the disposal of ringers from 2.30 p.m. to 9 by the Vicar (the Rev. G. J. A. d'Arcy), who, unfortunately was unable to attend the meeting, but sent a suitable apology, and gave the members a hearty welcome to Worksop.

The weather was as pleasant as could be desired, and by 3 p.m. there was quite a good number present, who had come into the town by cycle and rail. During the afternoon and evening several of the ringers were asked what the bells were ringing for. One local wag replied that they were ringing in order to take away feelings of melancholy and raise the spirit of cheerfulness in the hearts of the people of Worksop, as well as to drive away all wicked spirits in the shape of the inhuman monster the Devil, who had been so busy in our midst just recently. Tea was served at the Waverley Hotel, where Hostess Edwards had provided an admirably served repast, to which 35 members and friends sat down.

The business meeting followed, at which the chair was occupied by Mr. Hy. Warburton, of Retford, supported by the hon. secretary (Mr. H. Haigh) and others. Eighteen new members were enrolled, including eight from Shireoaks, four from Tuxford, three from East Retford, two from Harthill, and Mr. J. W. Hawkins, 1st Northumberland Divisional Engineers (of Hull), as non-resident life member.—Mr. Arnold Beck was appointed assistant secretary until the annual meeting, to be held at Retford in May.

A vote of thanks was accorded the chairman, and congratulations expressed to him on his election to the chairmanship of the Retford Tradesmen's Association, to which Mr. Warburton briefly and suitably replied. He expressed his pleasure in seeing so good an attendance at the meeting, and his gladness at being once again amidst old scenes and associations, connected with which were very many old friends of almost 30 years' standing. He remarked that so long as he could he would always do his best to help forward the best interests of the Association.

The ringers next adjourned to the tower, when ringing was kept up until time for separation arrived, and terminated a very pleasant and in every way enjoyable meeting.

During the afternoon and evening a considerable amount of good ringing was done, and no less than nine completed touches and 720's were brought round, in the methods of Plain Bob, Killamarsh Treble Bob, City Delight, Cambridge Surprise, Grandsire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major. Some of the best ringing performed by mixed companies from Anston, Shireoaks, Worksop and Retford, the Shireoaks and Anston companies, combined, ringing a splendidly struck 720 of Killamarsh Treble Bob.

DEATH OF THE REV. CANON ELLACOMBE.**REMARKABLE FAMILY RECORD.**

On Monday, February 7th, at Bitton Vicarage, Gloucestershire, there passed to his rest, Henry Nicholson Ellacombe, within eleven days of his 94th birthday. Though not himself a ringer, like his father, the Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, he took a great interest in bells, both from an antiquarian point of view, and as musical instruments of God's House, and was always ready to give sound, practical advice as to their care or restoration. The Rev. H. T. Ellacombe became curate-in-charge of Bitton, residing at the Vicarage, in July, 1817, and Vicar of the parish in 1835. In September, 1850, he was succeeded by his son, the Rev. H. N. Ellacombe, and went to the family living of Clyst St. George, where he ended his day at the good old age of 95. Thus the parish of Bitton has been in charge of father and son for ninety-eight and a half years. It would be difficult to estimate the number of ringers who, during that period, have visited the tower of St. Mary's Church and enjoyed a pull on its fine-toned ring of six, with a walk round the beautiful Vicarage garden, which, for at any rate the last fifty years has been one of the most wonderful in England.

A RINGER'S DISAPPEARANCE.**RAWTENSTALL MAN MISSING FROM HOME.**

Many ringing friends and acquaintances of Mr. George Edward Rollerson, of 23, Railway Terrace, Rawtenstall, Lancs, will regret to hear that he is missing from home, and that his wife and relatives are anxious as to his whereabouts.

Mr. Rollerson, who is 45 years of age, has been in the employ of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company for about 25 years, and held the position of relief pointsman. He was last seen by his wife about one o'clock noon, on Friday, January 28th, when he left the house. He went home to dinner on that day about 12.30, and was apparently in his usual health and spirits. He was to have returned to duty at four o'clock in the afternoon, but failed to do so, and was last seen going in the direction of the railway station.

His disappearance has been reported to the police, and many inquiries have been made by the family, but so far without result.

When he left home, Mr. Rollerson was dressed in his railway uniform, including a blue serge jacket, sleeved waistcoat and cap. He is about 5ft. 4in. in height, fresh complexion, with dark brown hair, turning slightly grey, and moustache.

He is believed to have wandered away during a period of absent-mindedness, or temporary loss of memory. Any information as to his whereabouts will be thankfully received by his wife and family.

Mr. Rollerson was a ringer at St. Mary's Church, Rawtenstall. It is now thought probable he may have got work in another town, and, in time, may enter some tower to renew his acquaintance with the bells. He can ring Grandsire, Plain Bob, Kent Treble Bob and Stedman Triples. Being the treble ringer, he would probably ring at the light end, but he can ring an inside bell in either method, if required.

The family would esteem it a favour, should a strange ringer answering to the above description, enter any tower, if the secretary or chief ringer of that tower would write and inform the relatives at the earliest opportunity.

THE BEST SIDE OF LIFE.

(With apologies to an old "Cumberland Youth.")

By G. F. MARGETSON.

"You are old, Father William," the young ringer said,
"With the end of life's journey in view,
And yet you regret not the days that are fled,
It seems always fair weather with you."

"Young man," replied William, "the days of my youth
Were not of a radiant glow;
I was born in the 'hungry forties,' forsooth,
When starvation followed the plough."

"I judge by your speech," said the youth in reply,
"Like the mouse, you left country for town;
You have found better fare 'neath a happier sky—
Abandoned the crook and the gown."

"Quite true," answered William, "to London I came,
Heard the grand bells of Bow and Shoreditch;
But never could reach Dick Whittington's fame—
'Twas not my good luck to get rich."

"I rang many peals, and in those early days
Met Haley, John Cox, and Mat. Wood;
They have gone to their rest, long since in their graves,
May we meet in the great Brotherhood."

"If my age you would know, I am just on a year
The best side of three score and ten;
My birth in the old family Bible appears;
We required no certificates then."

"The best side of three score and ten," said the youth,
"Make you still in the Sixties, not Seven";

"Why no!" exclaimed William, "Seventy-one is the truth—
I am just on a year nearer heaven."

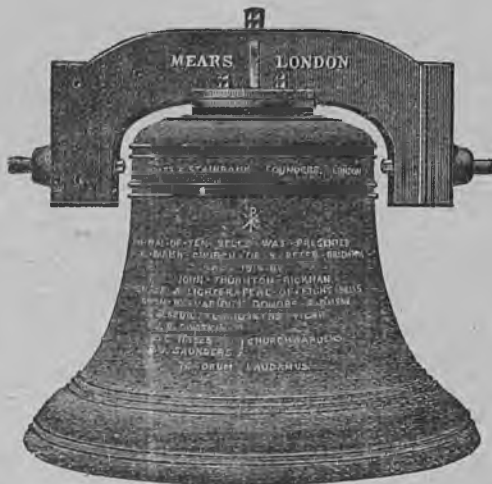
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SEC.-LIEUT. F. J. L. MITCHELL.

Sec.-Lieut. Francis J. L. Mitchell, R.G.A., who was born on April 29, 1896, is the eldest son of Mr. John C. Mitchell, F.C.I.S., of West Norwood. He has been educated at Dulwich College, and at the outbreak of war had entered Clare College, Cambridge. In March, 1915, however, he offered his services to the War Office and was given a commission in the Royal Garrison Artillery. His training took place at Portland, and he has since seen service at Weymouth Harbour, and is now stationed at Valetta Harbour.

He had not much opportunity for ringing, but showed considerable promise, and had rung several quarter peals



SEC.-LIEUT. MITCHELL.

of Stedman and Grandsire, at St. Leonard's, Streatham, where practically all his ringing has been done. On going to Cambridge he got an introduction to the Rev. A. H. Boughey, and took up handbell ringing with him. Mr. Boughey writes of him: "He had only two terms with us before he went off soldiering, but showed that he was a good ringer and very keen about ringing."

Lieut. Mitchell's father was himself a ringer, who "did his bit" in other days. The older generation will remember him as one of the band who rang the "Silent" Holt's Original on handbells on March 11th, 1887, Mr. Mitchell ringing 1-2.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On Jan. 9th, for morning service, 672 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Bailey 1, J. G. Rumsey 2, G. Wilson 3, A. Keeble 4, E. S. Bailey 5, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 6, J. M. Bailey 7, J. Titterton 8.—On Sunday, January 23rd, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): G. Wilson 1, E. S. Bailey 2, E. H. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, J. G. Rumsey 5, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 6, J. M. Bailey 7, J. Titterton 8.—On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 12th, 1008 Double Norwich: W. W. Bailey 1, G. Wilson 2, J. M. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 5, Sergt. F. W. Bailey (9th Batt. Suffolk Regiment) 6, J. G. Rumsey 7, E. S. Bailey 8.—On Sunday, Feb. 13th, 1024 Superlative Surprise Major: A. Keeble 1, J. M. Bailey 2, G. Wilson 3, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 4, Sergt. F. W. Bailey 5, J. G. Rumsey 6, C. Sampson 7, E. S. Bailey 8. The last two touches were rung to oblige Sergt. F. W. Bailey, who was on leave from the trenches in Flanders.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF LANCASHIRE.

A NEW VOLUME.

To the steadily growing list of county histories of Church bells has now to be added another: "The Church Bells of Lancashire." The new book, to be strictly correct, is only the first instalment of what one hopes may be the completed volume, for the author, Mr. F. H. Cheetham, deals with the bells of the hundreds of West Derby and Leyland. But even so, the book is a substantial one of over 160 pages. It is a reprint from the "Transactions" of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society, and we are promised, if all's well, that this publication shall be followed by others covering the hundred of Salford, the hundreds of Blackburn and Amounderness, and the hundred of Lonsdale in successive years.

Bell lovers who take a delight in the historic side of bells, will welcome this new volume, not only because it covers another area that has been made the systematic hunting ground of one of that small, but enthusiastic band of antiquarian bell experts, but because it contains a wealth of information which adds to the interest associated with our art. The volume is splendidly turned out, and has an added value from the various insets, giving facsimiles of the inscriptions and decorations on some of the oldest of the bells. The notes upon the two "hundreds" which have been dealt with, should be taken, says the author, as an "annotated scheme," rather than an exhaustive treatise, for, as he points out, until the whole county has been covered, it would obviously be unwise to attempt to give anything like a summary of results. What should have been under ordinary circumstances an introductory chapter, is, therefore, held over to the end, for, later on, the author hopes to analyse the results of his researches, when the list of bells in each hundred has been completed, and to give a short account of the founders whose work occurs in the county.

ARRESTED AS A SPY.

An extract from the author's "Foreword" is worth reproducing, as showing the unexpected surprises that await the antiquarian in prosecuting his researches. "It is," he remarks, "scarcely necessary to say that work of this nature (examining the bells to note their sizes and inscriptions) demands time and patience, a fairly good constitution, old clothes, good humour, and sometimes muscular agility. It is, however, full of interest and excitement of a certain kind. Discoveries are sometimes made which more than compensate for numberless disappointments, and surprises, pleasant and unpleasant, often await the bell hunter in other directions Where so many have made the way pleasant and smooth it would be invidious to single out anyone, but the recollection of much kindly hospitality and interest in my work will long be a pleasant memory. Only in one instance has the uniform courtesy extended to me been broken and access to the belfry been refused. Visiting Lowton (St. Luke's) on August 24th, 1914, three weeks after the outbreak of war, the Rector, despite a letter asking for permission to see the bells and stating the reason of my request, summarily refused to allow me to ascend the tower, and, not satisfied with my bona fides, caused me to be arrested as a spy, and to be marched off in charge of two plain-clothes police sergeants to the county police station at Leigh, about three miles away. Afterwards, when I had established my identity and presumably had satisfied the Rector as to the pacific nature of my business, I proffered a second request, but was again refused. Subsequently, however, one of the churchwardens kindly went to some trouble on my behalf and sent me the information required. The bells at Lowton are, however, the only ones in the lists that follow that I have not personally examined."

A few copies of Mr. Cheetham's volume are for sale (price 3s. 6d.), on application to the author, 53, Walnut Street, Southport.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

A monthly meeting of the Devezes Branch was held on Saturday, at the fine old Church of All Saints', Westbury, Wilts, and the day being beautifully fine, the gathering was well attended. Ringing commenced soon after 3 o'clock, and at 4 p.m. the authorised Guild service was held in the church, conducted by the Rev. W. H. McCann Clarke, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. H. C. Brooks, curate. The service was choral, and the singing was well sustained by the ringers present. The Vicar gave a very practical and excellent address, founded on 1 Cor., xii, 27.

Tea was afterwards partaken of in the Parish Room, and a very pleasant party of 24 thoroughly enjoyed the repast, ringing members from Trowbridge, Holt, Devizes, Westbury, Southbroom, Edmonton, Bromham and Edington being present.

A short business meeting was held, presided over by the new chairman, Mr. Sidney Hillier, of Devizes, who expressed the thanks of the Guild to the Vicar for the use of the bells and parish room, and also for the beautiful service given in the church.

Five new names were proposed and duly elected members of the Guild, four being from Southbroom and one from Devizes. More ringing in the tower was then enjoyed, and a very pleasant and successful meeting was brought to a close.

BRIERLY HILL RINGER KILLED.

Jacob Williams, a ringer at St. Michael's Church, Brierley Hill, has been killed in action, and, as a last token of respect, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples was rung with half-muffled bells on Sunday week by: C. W. Cooper 1, J. Bass 2, V. Allen 3, R. Matthews (conductor) 4, A. W. Whatmore 5, J. W. Newman 6, C. E. Perkins 7, A. W. Dodd 8.

BATH AND WELLS ASSOCIATION.**GLASTONBURY BRANCH.**

The annual meeting of the Glastonbury Deanery Branch was held at Glastonbury on Saturday last, when 35 members attended from St. John's (Glastonbury), Street, Dinder, Baltonsborough, Meare, Castle Cary, Burnham, Ilminster, Bridgwater and Taunton. The bells of St. Benignus' Church were set going at 3 o'clock to Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Miss R. Coles, of Bridgwater, and at 4 o'clock a service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. T. J. Williams), who gave a very able address on the duty of ringers to the Church.

Subsequently, after a substantial tea, a business meeting was held, the Rev. W. M. K. Warren (President of the Branch) being in the chair, supported by the Rev. T. J. Williams and the Rev. H. Davis.—On the proposition of the Rev. H. Davis, seconded by Mr. H. J. Trim, the Rev. W. M. K. Warren was again elected to the chair for another year.—The meeting was then called upon to elect an hon. secretary, in place of Mr. W. Farley, who is serving in the N.S. Yeomanry.—Mr. H. Lee proposed, and the President seconded, that Mr. H. J. Trim be elected hon. secretary and representative on the general committee, and this was agreed to.—One honorary member and 15 performing were elected, including five ladies of St. John's, Glastonbury.—West Pennard was selected for the next meeting in June.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar of St. Benignus for arranging the service and use of his bells, also to the Rev. H. Davis for the use of the bells of St. John's; the organist and choir were also included in the vote.—The Rev. T. J. Williams said it gave him much pleasure to meet such a body of ringers, and he hoped it would not be the last time he would do so.—The Rev. Davis also responded.—A vote of thanks to the visitors was proposed by the Rev. W. M. Warren, and responded to by Mr. Taylor, of Ilminster.

A move was then made to St. John's tower, and some very good touches of Grandsire Triples were brought round, the conducting being shared by Miss R. Coles, Mr. Taylor and Mr. Burgess.

AXBRIDGE DEANERY SECRETARY RETIRES.

The annual meeting of the Axbridge Deanery Branch was held at Burnham on Saturday week, some 36 members being present representing Burnham, Berrow, Badgworth, Bridgwater, Bristol, East Brent, Mark, Huntspill, Weave, Weston-super-Mare, and others. Service was held in the Parish Church, and a splendid address given by the Rev. H. Tritton (curate.) Tea was partaken at the Clarence Hotel, and was followed by the meeting, the President (the Rev. Hayes Robinson) presiding.

Four new members were elected, and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. Harris) presented the balance sheet, which was accepted.

The Rev. R. Hayes Robinson was re-elected President for the ensuing year, and Mr. G. H. Pruen was re-elected Vice-President. The secretary tendered his resignation, and Mr. G. Chamberlain was elected to the vacancy thus caused, and was also re-elected representative for the ensuing year.

The Secretary's report showed that the branch had had a fairly successful year, taking into consideration the number of its members serving with the colours, four hon. and thirty performing members having been elected.

A very hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Vicar for use of the bells and arranging the service, and to the Rev. H. Tritton for his very able address, the latter suitably responding.—A vote of thanks was accorded the organist for his kindness in presiding at the organ, and a similar compliment was accorded to the retiring hon. secretary for past services, to which he suitably responded.

During the afternoon and evening the bells were kept going to Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major.

A PRISONER OF WAR.**KETTERING RINGER WOUNDED AND IN GERMAN HANDS.**

Pto Philip Inns, a well-known Kettering ringer, who joined the 6th Batt. Northants Regiment, is a prisoner of war in Germany. Writing to his mother a few days ago, he stated that a party of his company were taken prisoners on December 29th. Unfortunately he was wounded in the head by a piece of a bomb that struck him over the eye, with the result that he has for the present lost his sight. He was taken to Cologne and placed in hospital. The doctors, he says, are very kind to him, and tell him that he will recover his sight.

DEATH OF MRS. F. PITSTOW.

Ringers the country over will deeply sympathise with Mr. Fred Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, in the loss he has sustained by the death of his wife, the sad event occurring on Saturday. Although Mrs. Pitstow, who was 63 years of age, did not take up the Art, it was always a pleasure to her to welcome and provide for the comfort of her husband's many ringing friends, and a great many members of the Exercise have brought with them from Saffron Walden pleasant recollections of the hospitality extended by the deceased lady, who as the wife and mother of ringers, took a lively interest in their doings. The funeral took place at Saffron Walden Cemetery yesterday (Thursday).

INTERESTING RECORDS FROM THE PAST.**HENRY HALEY'S BIRTHDAY.**

To-morrow is the anniversary of the birth of Henry Haley, one of the greatest of the College Youths, who first saw the light at Bethnal Green on February 19th, 1819. At the age of 23 he composed and conducted his first peal on tower bells—Stedman Cinques—but prior to this, with a band of youths, he "lapped" sixteen peals in a variety of methods, including Stedman Cinques. During a life of 66 years, in which much ringing history was made, Henry Haley in 1850 went with four others on a handbell tune ringing tour in the United States, and while there succeeded in finding three other ringers with whom at Philadelphia they rang the first peal (Hol's ten-part) ever rung outside the British Isles. Altogether Henry Haley rang 182 peals, of which he conducted 155 and composed 105, his long lengths including 8580 Stedman Cinques, at Cornhill in 1861; 15,840 Treble Bob, at Bethnal Green, and 8448 Treble Bob at Christ Church, Spitalfields. He died on January 29th, 1886, and was buried at Ilford.

Among the memorable ringing performances, of which the anniversary falls in this week, may be mentioned a peal of 7018 Grandsire Cinques, rung at Cornhill on February 14th, 1731, and conducted by Benjamin Annable; 9999 Grandsire Major at Oldham on Feb. 15th, 1825; 8448 Stedman Cinques at Painswick on Feb. 16th, 1858, the first peal of Stedman Major, at Birmingham on Feb. 17th, 1856; 10,000 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, at Shoreditch on Feb. 18th, 1777, and 5112 Grandsire Caters at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, on Feb. 19th, 1751.

It was on February 17th, 1836, that Christ Church, Spitalfields, was destroyed by fire, and London lost one of its rings of twelve bells. The old peal, with a tenor reputed to be 44 cwt., was replaced by one of eight with a tenor of 33 cwt.

An interesting record has come to light of a long peal of Minor, rung at Bingley, Yorks, on February 7th, 1826. It was made up of 246 in each of 36 methods. The record is in the hands of one of the present ringers, and reads as follows:—

"Change Ringing at Bingley.—On Shrove Tuesday, Feb. 7th, 1826, the Society of Change Ringers, Bingley, Yorkshire, met in the tower of the Parish Church and rang without a single breakdown or a false change, the extraordinary number of 36 twelve-scores, in all 8640, on the following various methods, viz.: Oxford, Violet, New London Pleasure, Duke of York, Kent, College Pleasure, College Treble, City Delight, Tulip, Primrose, Oxford Reverse, London Scholars Pleasure, Morning Exercise, Cambridge, Morning Star, Evening Star, Coventry, Ely, Rochester, Treble Bob Reverse, Morning Pleasure, Symphony, Cheapside, College Delight, Royal Bob, Worcester, Chichester, Durham, York, Bristol, Lichfield, London, Wells, College Exercise, London Delight, Evening Exercise. The ringers were stationed as follows, viz.: John Briggs treble, David Bailey 2nd, Hезekiah Briggs 3rd, James Lilley 4th, Henry Dickinson 5th, Isaac Rhodes tenor. Weight of tenor, 1 cwt. 3 qrs. Time occupied in ringing, 5 hrs. and 11 minutes.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the South-Western Division was held at Christ Church, Wanstead, on Saturday week. The bells were available from 3 to 6.50 o'clock, and there was an interval for a short service, at which the Rector (the Rev. Canon Corbett) gave an address, in which he welcomed the Association to Wanstead, and said he was glad that the duties of the bell ringers were being carried on, although a large number of their members had joined the colours. He expressed the hope that ere long the bells would be ringing to celebrate the termination of hostilities.

The ringers were entertained to tea in the Infants' School Room by the Rector and Mr Hill (one of the churchwardens), who were most heartily thanked for their hospitality, and votes of thanks were also accorded to Mr. E. A. Lebbon for making arrangements for the meeting, and to the ladies who attended at the tea table.

It was announced that Mr. E. J. Butler (District Master) would take over the duties of the hon. secretary, who will be joining the army under Lord Derby's scheme at the end of the month.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday last a well-attended meeting of the Manchester branch was held at Miles Platting. Members were present from Manchester, Oldham, Ashton, Hyde, Worsley, Didsbury, Pendleton, Pendlebury, Reddish, Prestwick, etc. Mr. Ridyard (vice-president) presided over the business meeting, and gave a hearty welcome to the ladies and gentlemen who had turned up in such good numbers. He especially desired members to be a little earlier at ringing meetings so that each and all could have a pull in the various methods rung; the more so now that ringing was restricted during the evening owing to the air raids.

A vote of condolence was passed to the widow and family of Mr. Grunwell, of St. Mark's, Worsley, who had died of pneumonia in France.

Pendlebury was chosen as the next meeting place. Ringing was indulged in in various methods on the bells of the parish church during the afternoon and evening.

MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT MEETING.

When the members of the Association meet at Isleworth they always have a good time. About forty ringers attended on Saturday last from Acton, Barnes, Ealing, Hammersmith, Hershams, Heston, Hornsey, Isleworth, Norwood Green, Putney, Staines, Walthamstow, Willesden and West Ealing. After ringing at the tower the whole party adjourned to Hartland Road, where they were entertained to tea by the Rev. J. H. C. McGill and Mrs. McGill.

At the business meeting, which followed, the officers were re-elected "en bloc."—Two new members were proposed, Mr. A. Elliott (Acton) and Mr. W. J. Dickens (Isleworth).—The choice fell on Feltham as the next place of meeting, but Mr. W. Parker, in a humorous little speech, thought the Association should go to Staines, as they wanted "bucking up" there.

The President (Mr. A. T. King) sent a kind message, and everyone was pleased to hear that he may be with the members at the annual meeting on April 29th.

Both the Hon. Secretaries pointed out the desirability of an improvement in the payment of subscriptions, for only four new members joined last year, and many were away serving their country, and the state of the finance was not encouraging. There was just a little note of sadness when Mr. H. C. Chandler intimated that owing to a difference between the Heston band and their Vicar, their connection with the Heston tower had been severed; but Mr. C. T. Coles suggested that for the present, at least, the name of the tower should be retained as affiliated to the Association, in the hope that the day might not be far off when differences should give place to mutual respect and goodwill, and he thought that every effort should be made to attain that end.

The Master (Mr. T. Beadle) proposed a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Mrs. McGill for their kind hospitality, and Mr. McGill replied at some length, concluding by saying that he (Mr. Beadle) was always ready and willing at all times to meet his views in every respect, and to get a band together whenever required.

Ringings were afterwards resumed, with many touches in the usual methods to suit everyone. Perhaps one of the best was that of Double Norwich, conducted by Mr. C. T. Coles, in which there was some fine striking.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

GULVAL, PENZANCE.—On Oct. 12th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, from Holts' Original (1260 changes), in 49 mins.: Miss Bileen Symons (first quarter-peal) 1, A. W. Brighton (London) conductor, 2, J. Wood 3, Dr. J. Symons 4, F. Jelbert 5, A. Triggs 6, P. Hichens 7, J. Cockell 8.

SHREWSBURY.—Salop Guild and St. Chad's Society.—On December 3rd, for Confirmation service, at St. Chad's, 360 Kent Treble Bob Minor, with tenor behind: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, W. J. Taylor 4, E. V. Rodenhurst 5, H. Fullick 6, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 7; after service, 144 Bob Major.—On Dec. 5th, 448 Kent Treble Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brooks 3, Pte T. M. Belton 4, W. Stockdale 5, G. Jones 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8; 162 Grandsire Caters: R. F. Turner 2, and H. Jones tenor.—On December 12th, 503 Grandsire Caters: C. R. Lilley (conductor) 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Stockdale 3, W. Brooks 4, G. Scarratt 5, Pte T. M. Belton 6, J. Claybourne 7, G. Jones 8, A. Fullick 9, H. Jones 10 Also 72 Grandsire Caters, 288 Kent Treble Bob Major.—On December 19th, 288 Kent, 160 Bob Major, 84 Stedman, 11 Grandsire Triples.—On Dec. 25th, 360 of Bob Minor on back six: J. Tudor 1, W. Brooks 2, W. Stockdale 3, G. Jones 4, A. Fullick 5, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 6. Tenor 39 cwt. 2 qrs. 7 lbs.—On December 26th, 504 Stedman Triples: W. Brooks 1, J. Tudor 2, G. Scarratt 3, G. Jones 4, W. Stockdale 5, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 6, A. Fullick 7, H. Jones 8.—On Dec. 31st, with bells half-muffled, to ring the old year out, 360 Bob Minor on the back six, and 168 Stedman Triples. To welcome new year, 252 Stedman Triples, with the bells open.

LONDON.—On Sunday, December 12th, at Cubitt Town, E., for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 42 mins.: H. Springall 1, E. Gibbs 2, W. G. Matthews 3, C. Lee 4, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 5, C. H. Pullen 6, R. Sanders 7, C. H. Hughes 8.

BENFIELDSDALE.—On December 12th, for service, 720 Durham Surprise: December 19th, 720 Canterbury Surprise: Jan. 16th, 720 Chester Surprise: J. K. Fisher 1, J. W. Forster 2, Jno. Marshall 3, T. H. Surtees 4, A. Charlton 5, F. Barron (conductor) 6. These are the first in the methods by the ringer of the treble, and first on an inside bell by the ringer of the 2nd.

PORTSEA, HANTS.—At the Parish Church, on Dec. 12th, 545 Grandsire Triples: E. Reynolds 1, G. Groves 2, G. Holloway 3, Pte Hoptrough 4, J. Symonds 5, J. Harris 6, Pte Burrow (conductor) 7, J. Harding 8.—On January 23rd, 336 Grandsire Triples, conducted by J. Harris, and 504 Stedman Triples: Pte Hoptrough 1, C. Groves 2, E. Reynolds 3, J. Symonds 4, J. Harris (conductor) 5, W. Wheeler 6, J. Harding 7, G. Holloway 8.

CREWE.—On Nov. 28th, 468 of Grandsire Caters: Chief Engineer Artificer A. Middleton, R.N., 1, W. T. Holding 2, W. F. Hartshorne 3, Gnr. J. H. Riding, R.G.A., 4, R. D. Langford 5, A. Crawley 6, G. H. Crawley 7, C. J. B. Cooke, M.Inst.C.E., 8, R. T. Holding (conductor) 9, J. Dentith 10. Arranged and rung for the ringer of the treble, who was on a short visit to his home.

DUNSTABLE, BEDS.—At midnight, on Christmas Eve, 336 and 504 Bob Triples: E. Franklin, junr., 1, E. Franklin, senr., 2, J. Baldock 3, C. King, junr. (longest touch in any method) 4, Canon W. W. C. Baker 5, G. Heley 6, A. E. Sharman (conductor) 7, C. King 8.

WORCESTER.—On Christmas Day, at the early morning ringing, at 5 a.m., at St. John's Church, Mrs. Wilkins took the treble in some Grandsire Doubles, and for the 11 a.m. service, at All Saints', Miss C. Page assisted, ringing the treble to Grandsire Doubles. This is believed to be the first time ladies have assisted at service ringing in Worcester.

EARL'S COLNE.—Essex Association.—On Christmas Day, for 7 o'clock service, 144 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, and 336 Bob Major for 8 o'clock service: 336 Woodbine Treble Bob Minor for 11 o'clock service; 336 Double Norwich Major, and 120 Bob Doubles.—On Sunday, December 26th, for 11 o'clock service; 1120 Kent Treble Bob Major for 3 o'clock service: 560 Double Norwich Major; those taking part were: H. Fairhead, F. Claydon, J. Turner, R. Fleuty, J. Fleuty, W. Scillitoe, W. Burst, J. French, W. Arnold and S. Fleuty, W. Scillitoe and J. French being the conductors.

LUTON.—Beds Association.—On Christmas Day, for morning service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins., with tenor covering: C. Wing 1, J. Rookwood 2, B. Wilson 4, A. King (conductor) 5, T. Kendall 6, W. Payne 7, H. Shaw 8.—On Sunday, December 27th, 504 Stedman Triples: J. Rookwood 1, A. King 2, B. Wilson 3, T. Kendall 4, F. Hunt 5, C. Wing 6, W. Payne (conductor) 7, Pte A. Rookwood 8.

TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.—At the Parish Church, on Christmas morning, 840 Grandsire Triples: H. Watts 1, B. Allred 2, Jas. Allred 3, John T. Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, R. Allred (conductor) 6, H. Allred 7, J. Watts 8.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 26th, 720 Bob Major: H. Watts 1, B. Allred 2, James Allred 3, Harry Allred 4, W. Hindley 5, John T. Allred 6, Herbert Allred 7, R. Allred (conductor) 8.

LANGPORT.—Bath and Wells Association.—On Dec. 26th, 720 Bob Minor: G. Locke 1, W. White (first 720) 2, T. J. Lloyd (conductor) 3, W. Tout 4, C. Sandford 5, T. W. Creed 6. Also 240 Kent Treble Bob: F. Locke 1, W. Tout 2, T. J. Lloyd 3, T. W. Creed 4, C. Sandford 5, G. Locke 6.

MILVERTON, SOMERSET.—On December 26th, at St. Michael's Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 44 mins.: C. Norman 1, Wm. Andrews, junr., 2, R. Scott (conductor) 3, Pte. H. Norman 4, Wm. Chapman 5, A. Tout 6, Fred Norman 7, Fred Chapman 8. First quarter by C. Norman on the treble, also first quarter by Fred Chapman.

PETERBOROUGH.—On Sunday, December 26th, at the Parish Church, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: R. Gamble 1, F. Dainty 2, T. Vaughan 3, F. Davis 4, W. T. Cross 5, J. W. Jarvis 6, F. Cooke (conductor) 7, T. Howling 8.

CHELMSFORD, ESSEX.—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, December 26th, for evening service, 630 Grandsire Triples: Pte H. F. Cooper (5th Essex Regt.), conductor, 1, Pte Pipe (Oxford and Bucks) 2, A. Whight 3, A. Speller 4, A. E. Acfield 5, H. Allen 6, H. Richell 7, W. Pease 8.

GUILDFORD.—At St. Nicolas' Church, on Sunday, December 26th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: T. W. Radford 1, E. Etheridge 2, Pte H. Tomsett 3, W. Loader 4, G. Petter 5, G. Tomsett (conductor) 6, S. G. Steer 7, E. G. Heath 8. Arranged for the Brothers Tomsett, who hail from Lindfield, Sussex.

EDGWARE.—On December 28th, at the Parish Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: A. French 1, G. Kilby 2, R. Kilby 3, C. H. Horton (conductor) 4, F. Barratt 5, H. Kilby 6. Also 240 Bob Minor and four six-scores of Stedman Doubles. On handbells, four six-scores of Stedman and one of Grandsire Doubles, and a short touch of Stedman Triples.

HAWKHURST.—Kent County Association.—On New Year's Day, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins., by: T. Ashenden 1, J. H. Durrant 2, A. H. Wellard 3, J. Blake 4, G. J. Kemp 5, C. Tribe 6, G. Billenness 7, G. Maskell 8.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.—On Saturday afternoon, January 1st, for a special service at St. John's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Caters (1239 changes): J. J. Pratt (conductor) 1, G. Guttridge 2, A. W. Davis 3, W. H. Hollier 4, W. Henley 5, P. Jones 6, E. Hancox 7, Wm. Lawrence 8, H. H. Chandler 9, W. Honor 10.

ISHAM.—Central Northants Association.—On Sunday, Jan. 2nd, for Matins, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob; for Intercessional evensong, 720 Cambridge Surprise; afterwards, with the bells muffled, 720 Plain Bob.—On Monday, Jan. 3rd, 720 Primrose Surprise Minor. The above were rung during Mr. E. M. Atkins' leave from the trenches, the other ringers taking part being G. A. Blaxley, W. T. Wilson, W. C. Lewis, D. Mallett, A. E. Fourt, F. H. Talbutt and T. Garley.

NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM. — Established 1755. — The Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at Ye Old Royal Hotel, Temple Row, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 4th, at 6 o'clock. Chair will be taken by Canon J. W. Willink, Rector of Birmingham. Tickets free to all fully qualified members, to other members and friends 2s. 6d. each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) and Bishop Ryder's (8) will be available from 3.30 p.m. — A. Paddon Smith, Honorary Secretary, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS. — Established 1637. — The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members to vote on financial matters, should be paid during the present month. Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on February 24th, and for general business on the 29th; all at 8 p.m. — William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Ashford District. — A meeting of the above will be held at Ashford, by kind permission of the Vicar (Rev. E. H. Sopwith), on Saturday, February 19th. Bells available from 3 till 6. Service in the church at 6 o'clock. As we have not been privileged to hold a meeting at Ashford for several years it is hoped members will turn up in force to show their appreciation of the same.—C. Tribe, British School Villas, Tenterden.

HALIFAX AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION. — The next quarterly meeting and 8-bell contest will be held at St. Matthew's Church, Northowram, on Saturday, Feb. 19, 1916. Draw for order of ringing to take place in the school at 3 p.m. — F. Salmons, Secretary, 8, Salisbury Place, Halifax.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Halstead, Saturday, Feb. 19th. Bells ready at 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. Short service, with address, 4.30. Tea, 10d. each, at White Horse 5.30. Subscriptions for 1916 are now due.—B. Redgwell, District Sec., The Street, Rayne.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.—Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch.—The monthly meeting will be held at Slimbridge (6 bells) on Saturday, February 19th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea, by invitation, at 5.30. Short service 6 p.m. Will those intending to be present please notify not later than Wednesday, February 16th, to W. A. Lewis, Branch Hon. Secretary, Ham, Berkeley, Glos.

CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Quarterly Meetings will be held at Twywell, February 19th; and Kingsthorpe, February 26th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Tea at 5 o'clock. Will members let district secretaries know not later than the Wednesday previous to meetings if they require tea.—Fred Wilford, General Secretary, 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION. — Rochdale Branch. — The next monthly meeting will be held at Balderstone

on Saturday, February 26th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock, meeting at 6.50.—T. K. Driver, The Gardens, Hopwood Hall, Middleton.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Eastern District.—The next meeting of the Eastern District of the above association will be held at York on Saturday, February 26th, 1916. Bells: Minster (12) 1.30 to 4.30 p.m., St. Philip and St. James (6) 1.30 to 6 p.m., St. Mary's (6) 1.30 to 7 p.m. Tea, 1s. each, to all who advise Mr. Horner, 16, Clifton Green, York, on or before Tuesday, February 22nd, 1916.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch. —The next branch meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Bacup, on Saturday, February 19th. Bells ready at 5 o'clock, meeting at 7 p.m. Reports are now ready. Subscriptions are due.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

BARNSELY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting will be held at Barnsley on Saturday, February 26th. Bells available 4 p.m. to 7.30 p.m., and after 8 p.m. Meeting at 7.30.—C. D. Potter, 119, Doncaster Road, Barnsley.

THE DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting of the above Guild will be held at Dudley on Saturday, February 26th. The bells will be available for ringing at 3 o'clock up till time for service only. Service in church at 4.30, to be conducted by the President, the Rev. Dr. Gray Maitland (Vicar). A free tea will be provided for those who notify me not later than Tuesday, February 22nd. Business meeting afterwards. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting.—Herbert Sheppard, Honorary Secretary, 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

WINCHESTER GUILD.—Yorktown District.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hershaw on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Tea and business meeting in the Church House at 5.30.—G. Miles, Hon. Secretary, Owlsmoor, Camberley.

BISHOP RYDER'S CHURCH, BIRMINGHAM. — The bells at this church are rung on Sundays for service at the following times: 10.15 a.m. to 11 a.m., from 5.45 to 6.30 p.m. All ringers will be welcomed. — James George, Ringing Master, 125, Victoria Road, Aston.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION (Canterbury District).—A meeting will be held at Lyminge on Saturday, March 4th. Bells available from 3.30 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at Rectory (by kind invitation of Rev. A. F. Rutty) for those who let me know by March 2nd. Business after tea. Subscriptions are now due and should be paid to me either before or at the meeting.—Fred J. O. Helmore, Hon. Sec.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE LATE WILLIAM SNOWDON.—The Members of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers propose to erect a Memorial to the late William Snowdon in the form of a Brass Tablet in Ilkley Parish Church, near to the Ringers' Window already erected to the memory of his brother, Jasper Whitfield Snowdon. Will any person wishing to be associated with this movement kindly communicate with the Treasurer to the Fund, Mr. H. Williams, New Worthy Cemetery, Leeds, Yorks.,

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

SITUATION VACANT.

CLERK wanted in Government office, starting wage 28s. per week, hours 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Write stating age and previous experience to "Military," "Ringing World" Office, Woking. Only men ineligible for the Army need apply.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

VERSES FROM THE TRENCHES.**OUR SOLDIERS THINK OF CHRISTMAS BELLS.**

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Appended is a copy of some striking verses, written by a Leicester soldier whilst spending Christmas in the trenches. It shows wonderfully how our brave lads missed the sounds of the bells, and of the other signs of this great, festive season, the only reminder they had of Christmas being the pudding they received from the dear Homeland. The bells referred to are those of the fine peal of eight at the Church of the Holy Saviour, Leicester, which he says he used to hear on Christmas morning, but which he missed so much this Yuletide, hearing instead of them, the deep booming of the heavy guns.—Yours truly,

Leicester.

ERNEST MORRIS.

CHRISTMAS BELLS.

Christmas bells once more are ringing
In the land we love so well;
Children's voices gaily singing,
Eagerly their joy to tell.

Log fires burning, turkey cooking,
Presents on the table lay;
Mother, father, sister looking,
For the boy who's far away.

Guns are booming, mines exploding,
Comrades falling in the fray;
Limbs are breaking, hearts are bleeding,
Tumult though 'tis Christmas Day.

Minds are troubled, tears are many,
Loved ones grieved with what may be;
Lads are thinking more if any
Of their homes across the sea.

Why all this tumult and sorrow?
What an insult to our God,
He sent Peace—a grand To-morrow
Through His Son—and not the Rod.

Christmas bells, you seem half-hearted,
This is twice you've rung so slack;
Are you thinking the brave-hearted
In disgust have turned their back?

Ring! oh ring! we are so lonely,
Wasting here on this grand morn;
You can tell us—and you only,
This is Christmas! Christ is born!

GUNNER CHEETHAM.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

MINEHEAD, SOMERSET.—On January 8th, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 45 mins.: C. Strawbridge 1, J. Reed 2, W. Hoyle 3, J. Hunt 4, J. Pugsley 5, G. Atkins (conductor) 6, S. Mason 7, J. R. Passmore 8.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday morning, January 9th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. R. Sims 1, R. H. Boddington 2, W. Garrard 3, W. Phillips 4, J. W. Fruin 5, Robt. Holloway (conductor) 6, J. H. Payne 7, A. Elliott 8.

ASHBOCKING, SUFFOLK.—On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 9th, for divine service, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: W. Burgess 1, G. Bennett 2, G. Pryke 3, Sergt. J. Bennett (R.M.L.I., H.M.S. "Phaeton") 4, A. Fleming 5, G. Farnish (conductor) 6. Rung to oblige the ringer of the 4th.

WORKSOP.—On January 9th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 47 mins.: S. Walker 1, H. H. Cartwright 2, T. Bartholomew 3, H. Haigh (conductor) 4, W. Roberts 5, A. Johnson 6, J. T. Wilson 7, Sapper J. W. Hawkins (Hull) 8.

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