

THE RINGING WORLD

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FRIDAY, APRIL 5th, 1918.

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

Price 2d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

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

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLETT and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1918
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 gives general satisfaction.

I am authorized 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

MODERN WORK

RINGING BOOKS IN LIBRARIES.

The announcement made at the Johnson Dinner by Alderman J. S. Pritchett that he intended, as chairman of the Birmingham Public Library Committee, to obtain for that library as complete a set of ringing books and periodicals as he can get together, was naturally received with enthusiasm at such a gathering of ringers. The statement will, however, have been noted with interest far beyond the limits of Birmingham, for there is nowhere that we know of, with the possible exception of the British Museum itself, where anything like a collection of books relating to ringing exists in a public library. For the most part, ringers have to depend upon their own personal collections of such volumes, and, naturally, the limits of opportunity to add to such collections, as well as restrictions of purse, make it impossible for any but a very few to get together even a moderate number of volumes dealing with bells and bell ringing.

The absence of such books from our public libraries is due in the main to the fact that the subject is so little known outside the ringing fraternity, and consequently they would interest only a comparatively small circle, and yet it seems only right that the literature connected with such an essentially English art should find a place on the shelves of some of the principal libraries in the land. In the district of Birmingham there happen to be a large number of ringers who would doubtless take advantage of the opportunity from time to time to utilise such volumes for the purposes of reference if they are at hand, and it is fortunate that they have at their head a gentleman who is in a position to carry out the suggestion that he has made. Alderman Pritchett's connection with ringing places him in a unique position to enable him to make the best choice.

Later on some other large towns may perhaps be induced to take the same step with regard to putting ringing literature into their public libraries, but there is already open to ringers in most districts a means of setting up a useful and comprehensive library of books on bells and bell ringers. We have referred to this matter before, and pointed out what has been done in this direction by the Hertford County Association. Individual county or diocesan societies have the means of setting up most useful and instructive collections of this kind, which can be made available for the use of any of their members. The Hertford Association has a very considerable library, of which in normal times a great deal of use is made, and what Hertfordshire has done other associations can do. It may not be quite so convenient as being able to go to a public library and take a book from the shelves, but an association library does get over a great many obstacles which otherwise exist in bringing the books and the readers together.

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.

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and Worcester Cathedrals etc. etc.

FIVE BELL PEAL.

ESCRICK, NEAR YORK.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Good Friday, March 29, 1918, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF S. HELEN,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 Six-Scores each called differently. Tenor 12½ cwt.

SERG. E. MORRIS, A.S.C....Trebble	FREDRICK CRYER 3
HENRY FAIRLAM... .. 2	WILLIAM HINTON 4
THOS. WM. ROBBINS ... Tenor	

Conducted by SERGEANT ERNEST MORRIS, A.S.C.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the memory of all those who have fallen in the great war.

This peal is the first ever rung on these bells, and in this method by all except the conductor, who belongs to Leicester.

WRITTLE RINGERS' LOSS.

It is with regret we have to report the death, at the age of 54, of Mr. Fredk. Edwards for 26 years tenor ringer at Writtle. Deceased was taken ill about six weeks ago, and passed away on March 22nd. He was buried on the 27th inst., the coffin being conveyed from his home by six of his fellow ringers, who acted as bearers. The bells were rung at each service on Palm Sunday, half-muffled, to his memory: 504 Stedman Triples, for morning service; 420 for evening service in the same method, by: R. Wood 1, F. W. Edwards 2, G. W. Sorrell 3, F. G. Radley 4, T. Lincoln 5, A. Head 6, W. Lincoln (conductor) 7, W. E. Emory 8.

Deceased had rung eight peals all on the tenor, one each of Darlaston, Oxford and Court Bob and Union Triples, and four of Stedman Triples.

Among the wreaths was one from the ringers in the form of a bell, with sincere sympathy from the Writtle company of change ringers, for 26 years a comrade in the tower.

The whole pull and stand was rung shortly after the funeral. This is the second ringer lost to the band within a year by death. John Poole, for many years treble man, was torpedoed in the Transylvania in the Mediterranean last May. These two were the most regular attendants. The former always 'toll'd in' after ringing, and the latter was organ blower.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

Owing to the recent events in France, it was felt that it would be far from appropriate for the bells to be rung on Easter Monday, and, therefore, the President, after consultation with the hon. secretary, decided to postpone the meeting of the Midland Counties Association meeting at Burton-on-Trent. It is hoped it may not be long before arrangements can be made to hold the meeting, and that the members may have the pleasure of visiting Burton-on-Trent.

THE SPITTLE MEMORIAL.

There is likely to be a large gathering of Midland ringers at Dudley to-morrow, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Dudley and district, when the memorial erected to the memory of the late Mr. Samuel Spittle will be unveiled. The service and dedication will take place at 4 o'clock, the bells being available at 3 p.m. The Ringing Master (Harry Mason, Esq.) is kindly providing tea.

HELP FOR MRS. A. W. GRIMES.

Five bound volumes of 'The Ringing World' for the years, 1911-12-13 are to be disposed of on behalf of Mrs. A. W. Grimes, the volumes having been the property of the late Mr. Alf. Grimes. Tickets will be 6d. each, and may be obtained of Messrs. A. A. Hughes, W. Pyc, C. E. Winney, W. Hewett, A. S. Pettett, T. Walker, R. Sanders, T. H. Taffender, and W. T. Cockerill. The closing date is May 30th.

DALTON-IN-FURNESS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Feb. 3rd, for morning service, 720 Bob Major: T. R. Jackson 1, Miss E. M. Stuart 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, J. Huddleston 4, W. H. Dennison 5, T. Stuart 6, W. S. Forshaw 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. For evening service, 1008 Bob Major: T. R. Jackson 1, Miss E. M. Stuart 2, Miss Gilchrist 3, T. Watson 4, J. Huddleston 5, T. Stuart 6, W. H. Dennison 7, J. Burrows (conductor) 8. This is the longest touch of Major for the two ladies.

TODMORDEN.—At the Unitarian Church, on Saturday, March 9th, a date touch of Grandsire Triples (1918 changes), in 1 hr. 14 min: B. Midgley 1, Corpl. H. Whitehead, R.A.M.C., 2, H. Greenwood 3, H. Sutcliffe 4, F. Fielden 5, H. Davenport 6, J. Richards (conductor) 7, S. Hartley 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to B. Midgley on his attaining 69 years; also to the ringer of the second, who was home on leave from France.

OLD LONDON BELL FOUNDERS.

We come now to a couple of bell founders whose dates are only approximately ascertainable. They are connected with one another by cross and lettering. The first of these is William Rofforde, known to us only by the 4th at West Mill, Herts, inscribed:—

WILLELMVS ROFFORDE ME FECIT.

The cross used is a well-known one, but as it passed through more than one owner's hands it is difficult to apportion the founding of the many extant bells which bear it. The other founder is Derby. Four bells exist bearing his name, two of them being in Norfolk, one at New Houghton, inscribed:—

SANCTE PETRE ORA PRO NOBIS DERBY
FECIT ISTA.

One at Burnham Deepdale, bearing:—

AVE MARIA GRACIA PLENA DNS NIMVS
TECV M DERBY.

Then there is the third at Ampton, Suffolk, inscribed:—

SANCTE ANDREA ORA PRO NOBIS DERBY
and the 4th at Chippenham, Cambs, which has—

SANCTA MARGARETA ORA PRO NOBIS
DERBY.

The lettering and cross are those used by Rofforde, the stop, however, is different. This last fact probably goes to prove that Derby is later in date than Rofforde. He also makes use of a certain 'Royal leads' on his bells.

The documentary evidence as to these two men is scanty. First as to Rofforde. There was a Philip de Ufford, a 'potter' in the early years of the 14th century, and in an MS. volume belonging to Sir George Webbe Dasent, relating to the Fraternity and Guild of St. Peter-upon-Cornhill, he is mentioned as a benefactor, and his will dated 1321, is given. He is called in one place Philip de Ufford, and in another Philip de Rafford. One can understand how the R came to be inserted colloquially, and it might have stuck, and the worthy potter's descendants' surname been permanently altered. In the will of William Burford, he bequeaths £100 to endow two chantry priests at St. Botolph's, Aldgate, to say masses for the souls of himself, his parents, his first wife—of 'John Rufford'—and all the faithful departed.

Now as to Derby. William Cosyn, by his will, appointed his friend Henry Derby his executor. William Burford, just named, in his will leaves a legacy of forty shillings to Mary, the wife of Henry Derby.

Putting these detailed scraps of evidence together it may probably be assumed that William Rofforde, possibly a son of Philip de Ufford, flourished about the middle of the fourteenth century, that his stamps passed into the possession of Henry Derby (who as a member of one of the twelve great companies, would certainly describe himself as such rather than by the trade he actually followed); and that this Henry Derby was a bell founder, and the maker of the bells just described. It is, however, only right to add that Dr. Sharpe formerly record keeper at Guildhall—one of the very highest authorities in such matters—did not agree with this surmise as to Henry Derby.

He was of opinion that at the date of these two men a man was obliged to belong to the Guild that governed the trade to which he belonged. This, of course, was so in theory, but the obligation was one which the smaller guilds were powerless to enforce against 'the twelve,' although they often tried to. Again, there was no special Guild for bell founders: they were apparently usually either 'founders' or 'braziers'; and some might well have belonged to so kindred a Guild as that of the 'ironmongers.'

We next come to two undoubted bell founders—father and son—William and Robert Burford. The father, William, already mentioned, is the first (leaving the somewhat doubtful Benedictus of 1216 on one side) to call himself a bell founder *pur et simple*. 'Civis and Botzeter' his will styles him. There are, however, as yet no bells discovered bearing his name, and consequently we are unable to identify the particular stamps and lettering used by him and his son. With respect to their family connections, the Burfords would seem to have been scions of a well-to-do city family. John de Burford, Sheriff in 1304 was one of the eminent citizens to whom Edward II. in 1312 sent letters, personally, touching the safe keeping of the city. He was 'one of the good folks of Soper Lane, of the trade of pepperers' (the precursors of the present Grocers' Company), who applied for and obtained ordinances for the government of that trade in 1316. He married Rosiam daughter and one of the two co-heiresses of a prominent citizen of the day—Thomas Romain or Romayne, Sheriff 1291 Mayor, 1309. The other co-heiress, Margaret, married William de Weston, of Albury, Surrey, a family to which Peter de Weston before mentioned, may have belonged.

John de Burford died in 1329, leaving his widow surviving, and four children, Thomas, James, Margaret and Katherine. He gave by his will large pious and charitable bequests; among the rest, lands and money to endow a chantry in the parish of St. Thomas Apostle, in the City of London.

William Burford's will, dated and proved in 1390, leaves his trade utensils to his son Robert, who continued the business for eight and twenty years, dying in 1418. As with the father so with the son—so far as is at present known no bells exist bearing his name—and thus

the identification of his stamps and lettering is impossible, and we are obliged to leave the story half untold, which is a matter of regret.

His bequests show him to have been a wealthy man. It would further appear from the will that he died childless, and so the bell foundry came to an end, or passed into other hands.

(To be continued.)

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD. YORKTOWN DISTRICT MEETING.

Favoured by fine weather, a successful meeting of the Yorktown District of the Winchester Guild was held at Bagshot on Saturday week, ringers attending from Aldershot, Cramleigh, Hershams, Yorktown, Guildford, Sandhurst, and Farborough, in addition to the local band. The bells were set going at 3 p.m. in the various methods, a noteworthy feature being the confidence with which the ladies rang their bells, due, no doubt, to the fact that they were all ringers' wives, as they included Mrs. Whittington, Mrs. Hazelden and Mrs. W. Shepherd. Service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. A. J. Ford, M.A.), the Guild form being used.

Tea looked as though, for the first time in the history of the Yorktown District, it would be conspicuous by its absence, and, as a safeguard, rations were brought by the ringers to ward off the pangs of thirst and hunger, but thanks to the kindness of Mr. F. Nye and Mrs. Nye, tea was provided at their house. It was voted a welcome surprise, and was done full justice to. Appreciation was expressed at the fact that the Food Controller did not pay a surprise visit, but some little concern was caused by the announcement that one of the ringers present was on the Bagshot Food Control Committee, but any fears on this point were allayed when it was realised he was 'in the swim.'

The Vicar took the chair at the business meeting which followed, and was supported by Messrs. G. Miles (secretary), F. J. Shepherd (acting secretary), T. W. Fahey (peal recorder), W. Shepherd (Ringing Master), and others. The accounts for 1917, showing a balance in hand of £2 11s. as against £2 9s. for 1916, were adopted, and, after the official agenda had been disposed of, Mr. Whittington voiced the appreciation of those present for the welcome extended to the Guild that day, to the Vicar, and to Mr. and Mrs. Nye in particular for their trouble and kindness, which had done much to make the meeting such a success.—This was seconded by 'Father' Shepherd, and carried unanimously, after which tune ringing took place by the Hershams handbell ringers, followed by a course of Grandsire Triples by Mrs. Hazelden and the three male Shepherds. A further move was made to the tower, more ringing taking place up to 9 p.m.

The numerous friends of Mr. George Miles will be pleased to hear that, in all probability, he will shortly obtain his army discharge, in which event he will be welcomed back to harness. Sympathy was expressed with him in his recent sad loss.

PORTSMOUTH DISTRICT.

A meeting of Portsmouth District was held at West Meon on Saturday last, but could scarce be called successful. By kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev. Beardall), the bells were available from 2.30 p.m., but owing to the change of date from Monday to Saturday, and the delay which arose in consequence, public notice of the meeting could not be advertised, and out of the eleven towers notified by post, only three were represented. One ringer turned up from Wickham, and all credit was due to him for cycling in such weather, and there were also present four ringers and three probationers from Portsmouth. These were assisted by Mr. Gregory, of the local band, and for the most part the visitors had to be content with ringing rounds and call changes. One pleasing feature, however, was that one of the probationers rang his first 120 of Grandsire Doubles, on the treble, thus being the last touch of the day.

At the subsequent meeting which was attended by three of the ringers and two probationers (the others having gone to find tea), it was decided to hold no more quarterly meetings until such time as those who propose and support their being held, do at least something towards making them a success by their attendance.

Three probationers were elected from Wickham, and Mr. Gregory was asked to thank the Vicar, on behalf of the ringers for the use of the bells.

DEATH OF A YORKSHIRE SECRETARY.

After a long and painful illness, borne with Christian fortitude and patience, Mr. Leonard Brightman, of 45, St. Stephen's Road, Rotherham, has passed away from tuberculosis, at the age of 24 years. Deceased was a member of the Rotherham Parish Church company, and was greatly esteemed by all who knew him. At the outbreak of the war, when the secretary of the Southern Division of the Yorkshire Association was called to the colours, the deceased most willingly took up the duties of secretary (pro tem), and faithfully discharged his duties. His genial manner and forbearance won him the goodwill and admiration of all with whom he came in contact, and his death is greatly regretted by a large circle of friends.

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At the Handbell Contest held annually in Manchester the First Prize for the last 16 years has been awarded to bands using our bells, and on fourteen of those occasions they have gained the Second Prize also

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH RIDYARD.

A VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

We much regret to record the death of Mr. Joseph Ridyard, of West Lodge, Worsley, the sad event taking place on Tuesday March 26th, after a short illness, death resulting from pneumonia. The deceased had been a gardener to the Earl of Ellesmere for about 20 years. He always took a lively interest in matters appertaining to Church life, and had been a member of St. Mark's choir from a boy, rising to leading choirman.

His interest in bell ringing was of the highest order. He recognised that it was the duty of all ringers to join in the praise of Almighty God, and seldom during his life's connection with his church, did he miss being in his place in the choir after leaving the belfry. Of a genial and warm-hearted disposition, he won the esteem of the members of the Lancashire Association, of which he had been a member since 1886, and he was honoured by election, to the vice-chair in 1915, in succession to the late James Barrett.

The funeral took place at St. Mark's Church on Easter Saturday, March 30th, and previous to the service the bells were rung half-muffled, the whole pull and stand being very effectively performed. The cortege left the lodge, preceded by ringers from various parts of the county, the ringers of St. Mark's acting as bearers. The coffin was followed by the family mourners, including the widow, as the procession passed through the grounds of the hall, was joined by Lady Ellesmere. The gardeners of Worsley Hall also joined in at the head of the cortege, which was met at the church by the choir and clergy, the Rev. C. B. Hulton, M.A., assisted by the Rev. H. J. Elsee, M.A. (President of the Lancashire Association). The hymn, 'On the Resurrection Morn,' was sung, and the service conducted by the Vicar. 'Abide with me,' the deceased's favourite hymn, was effectively sung by all. The committal service was performed by the Rev. H. J. Elsee, after which a course of Grandsire Triples was rung by Mr. Percy Derbyshire (of the Worsley company, and the only active ringing member left of the old band), assisted by Messrs. S. Wood, J. Shaw and B. Thorp. The tower bells were rung at intervals afterwards by various companies.

The Rev. H. J. Elsee, in a few kindly remarks, referred to the loss sustained not only by the local company, but by the Association, and extended sympathy to Mr. Derbyshire in the loss that had befallen them at Worsley in these latter years.

Wreaths, etc. in token of love and affection, were sent by the following: His wife and family; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ridyard and family; Mr. James H. Ridyard and family; Mr. Charles Ridyard and Bessie; Lady Ellesmere; the choir and clergy; Roe Green Co-operative Society; the gardeners at the Hall; Miss A. Williams; St. Thomas' Pendleton, Ringers; E. Vobley and C. Bridge; Mr. and Mrs. Trippier.

The number of peals rung by the deceased was about 180 in the following methods: Grandsire Plain Bob, Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, Erin Triples, Stedman Triples, Superlative and Double Norwich including the records of 14,000 Kent Royal, and 12,240 Kent Maxims at Ashton-under-Lyne.

RINGING ON HIS 81st BIRTHDAY.

AN IPSWICH CELEBRATION.

On Saturday week, the members of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich, visited St. Margaret's Church, and rang to celebrate the 81st birthday of an honoured and respected member of their society, Mr. Edward Reeve, who took part by ringing the fourth bell to a touch of between 400 and 500 changes of Grandsire Triples, and a short touch of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. Stedman Triples were also rung. Mr. Hawkins English cycled from Coddanham to Ipswich to take part in this celebration. It is worthy of note that Mr. English, during the year 1917, travelled or cycled no less than 800 miles (taking the minimum mileage each Sunday at seven miles from Coddanham to Ipswich and the return journey) to ring for Divine service at the Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich.

Mr. Edward Reeve, whose unassuming and gentlemanly manner has endeared him to all who know him, came in for many congratulations, and, all being well, he anticipated taking part in a day's ringing at St. Mary-le-Towered on Easter Monday.

YOUNG BELL RINGERS.

A recent issue of 'Home Words' contained the photograph of three youthful bell ringers belonging to the Parish Church of Sutton-on-Sea, Lincolnshire. The boys are Aubrey Richardson, aged 15, and Charles and Ernest Brittain, aged 15 and 12 respectively. The two first named are also in the choir. There are apparently only three bells in the church, and 'Home Words' asks whether this is a record for youthful ringers. We don't think it anything approaches a record, but these very young ringers seem to perform their task very well.

It is interesting to note that two of the bells date back to 1628 and 1629 respectively and the other is a pre-Reformation bell, probably four hundred years old.

THE JOHNSON COMMEMORATION DINNER.

(Continued from page 101.)

In responding to the toast of Prosperity to St. Martin's Guild, Mr. A. Paddon Smith said: A gentleman asked me why so many ladies came to the dinner now and I ventured to suggest that they came because they enjoyed themselves (hear, hear). But he would have none of it. He said they came out of mere curiosity (No, no), but I don't believe it.

In conclusion, Mr. Smith read the following letter which he had received from Mr. F. E. Dawe: I have purposely delayed writing to you until the last moment, for although it has been my intention to be present at the 'Johnson Celebration Dinner' to-morrow, I now find it will be quite impossible for me to do so. This is doubly disappointing to me as it happens to be my birthday! Of course, on the first 'Crash of Arms,' 3½ years ago, most bell ringing and its attendant meetings and banquets seemed to cease automatically, but I certainly think it has been a splendid move on the part of St. Martin's Guild, to adhere to such a time-honoured and beneficial event and thus keep the 'game alive' for the benefit of those, who like myself, are too old to be packed off to all parts of the globe! My opinion is, that the 'Johnson Celebration Dinner' has always been the most representative gathering of change ringers held each successive year, in any part of the country! Therefore, you have my every good wish for a most enjoyable and successful gathering, and, as its chairman of six years ago, will you please convey my kindest regards to all my old friends present, and regrets at being deprived of the pleasure of once more being amongst them? As you well know, I was very personally acquainted with dear old Henry Johnson, and only wish that my knowledge of all the good points connected, with the long career of that truly wonderful man, were as well known to such an able elocutionist as your present chairman, Canon Willink, for in his hands I am sure the meeting would greatly benefit by all the pleasing reminiscences so well remembered and appreciated.

At this point the Rector returned, bringing his friend with him, whom he introduced to the company.

KINDRED SOCIETIES.

Mr. A. E. Parsons, in proposing the toast of 'Kindred Ringing Societies,' said this list of toasts had been presented with little variation for 30 years in succession by distinguished ringers and visitors, who had dwelt at considerable length on them, and some of whom are no longer in the flesh, yet although the toasts appear again and again, they gave them unbounded pleasure. "We have heard very much, he said, of the effect the war has had on different spheres of life. We see great changes, but I am proud to say it needed no war to close the ranks of the various ringing societies who are represented here to-night (hear, hear). There was no serious difference between them. There certainly has been competition but it has been rivalry in an absolutely pure spirit, and without a tittle of animosity. The cleverly chosen quotation which is given with this toast—'May'st thou prove prosperous—practically expresses all I wish to say. We and all those who represent the ringing societies thank the St. Martin's Guild for inviting us as usual, and I hope we shall be spared many more years to meet again, but in peace' (hear, hear).

Coupled with the toast was the name of Mr. Herbert Knight, secretary of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford, who, in reply, said it was the greatest pleasure to be among that company, and it would no doubt be better if they could all intermingle more frequently than they did at present. Unfortunately, present circumstances did not permit, but they hoped a happier time would come and bring happier results.

Mr. A. P. Smith proposed 'The Ringing World,' and recalled the quotation on the toast list 'Stick to your journal.' He said they understood the difficulties of paper and labour, and even if the price goes up again, it was their duty to buy this paper. It would be impossible to conduct their activities without it, and he was sure it would take not half, but quite seven-eighths, of the pleasure out of their Exercise if they had no paper at all. He had there a 10s. note sent by one of their members in the trenches, and it was a direct result of a recent article in 'The Ringing World' about the spire of St. Martin's Church. Mr. Smith then read a letter he had received from Mr. J. Frank Smallwood, expressing concern at the news that St. Martin's bells could not be rung again until the spire had been repaired, and enclosing 10s. as a subscription towards the cost of the necessary repairs (loud cheers greeted the reading of the letter). That, added Mr. Smith, was one of the advantages they obtain from publicity. It was a very minor point, but it showed the importance of keeping their journal going.

THE RECTOR OF BIRMINGHAM.

Alderman Pritchett next submitted 'The Health of the Chairman. In the wonderful collection of mottoes and quotations on the programme there was none more appropriate than this one:—

Of very reverend reputation, Sir,
Of credit infinite, highly beloved,
Second to none that lives here in the cit'

and he proposed to make that his text for a few moments: 'Very reverend,' Our Chairman, he said, is a canon, so he is not very

reverend (laughter), because he is not a Dean, but that he will become one we have no doubt (cheers). With regard to 'reputation,' We don't trouble about that, we know him personally. 'Credit infinite'—As to that I should like to refer to his banker before I express my opinion (loud laughter). 'Highly beloved'—Undoubtedly, 'Second to none'—Quite true. The Rector of Birmingham is first of the citizens, his office is most ancient. There has been a rector in Birmingham from time immemorial. Compared with his office, (that of mayor, alderman or councillor, is a thing of yesterday. I believe there was a time when Birmingham was governed by a bailiff and an ale taster (loud laughter). They are comparatively modern institutions in comparison with that of rector. He is the person of the place, or its Latin 'persona,' which means 'person.' He is the person in the place second to none. I was going to say, long may he live here, but he may think I am standing in his way, if I do, at any rate I hope his thoughts will always live in this city (cheers). I need add nothing more except to thank him for his presence here to-night and for the great measure in which he adds to the pleasure of (his gathering).

The toast was received with musical honours.

Canon Willink, who was enthusiastically received, said: I rise with a very great deal of real pleasure to acknowledge the more than kind words that Alderman Pritchett has used, and the warm and kindly way in which you have received them. It is a real pleasure to be here among you on this annual gathering (cheers). I feel much sympathy with our brothers standing along the wall and it reminds me of wallflowers, but the very fact that you are here, willing to stand, is a tribute to the interest you feel in the evening. It has been a capital gathering. We have had a good warm time, and a dinner which in these times is perfectly satisfactory, and the arrangements have been admirably carried out. We welcome the great body of ladies as ringers, it is a symptom of the days in which we live, what they will be in the full development of time no mere man will venture to prophesy, but I know they will adorn the Exercise (hear, hear). My wife and daughters are very sorry they are unable to be present this evening, as they have been in the past. It is with no mere assumption of goodwill, but very real and genuine pleasure that I tell you this is the pleasantest evening I have spent for a whole year, and I thank you very much. I hope in the years to come not 30 or 31, even, but up to 40 years, memorial dinners, coupled with the name of Henry Johnson, will be held.

The enjoyable proceedings then concluded with the National Anthem.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting, held at Feltham on Saturday week, Superlative Surprise was rung; and in addition there was a 'pleasant surprise,' for it was quite like old times to see and to ring with, Major J. H. B. Hesse, who bears traces of his 2½ years arduous duties on the Continent. A London friend, Mr. H. Passmore, spent a long time with the party, and conducted a fine touch of Double Norwich. Among those also present were H. C. Chandler (hon. secretary) F. W. Richardson, and C. Dean. The ladies who rang were: Mrs. Frank Hairs (Superlative and Stedman) Miss Gladys Bateman (Stedman and Kent Treble Bob), and the Misses E. Fuller, F. Gudgin, and N. Williams (Grandsire).

The breaking of a rope was taken as a signal for the interval for tea, and each one had to forage on their own. By all accounts, some were not very successful; but one merry party of eleven, including the ladies and T. S. Smith (of Slough), managed to 'strike oil,' 'Nibs' and a plucky lady cyclist from Hillingdon rendered great help, and a jolly time was spent.

On the return to the belfry a brief meeting was held the District Master, Mr. T. Beadle, presiding. Heston was suggested for the next visit, and approved.—A vote of thanks was passed to the Vicar (the Rev. F. J. Browell, M.A.), for the use of the bells. A touch of 252 Stedman proved a fitting termination, rung on handbells, by: G. M. Kilby 1—2 Mrs. F. Hairs 3—4, W. Hewett 5—6, H. Passmore (conductor) 7—8.

DEATH OF A BOTTESFORD (LEICESTERSHIRE) RINGER.

There passed away last week, after nearly a year's suffering, from lung trouble and pleurisy, Reuben Bend, who for many years past had been a member of the Parish Church company of change ringers at Bottesford, Leicestershire. The deceased, who was of a kindly and unassuming disposition, will be greatly missed by his fellow ringers in the Bottesford belfry, as he was one who could always be relied upon to be present both at practice and service ringing, and was a safe ringer in the Plain Bob and Grandsire methods. He had taken part in a few peals, including Bob Minor and Grandsire Triples for the Framland Society.

After the funeral, the bells of the Parish Church were rung, muffled, in two touches of Grandsire Triples by the following old friends of deceased: T. Rawdin 1, Rev. C. J. Sturton 2, D. Gildea 3, F. Turner 4, M. Bend 5, J. W. Kirton 6, A. Mackears 7, H. Thorby 8.

This is the second ringer that the Bottesford company have lost within a year, their captain, Mr. Sam Baker, having been killed last spring in an accident on the railway. Both of the above ringers were esteemed servants of the G.N. Railway Company.

NOTICES.

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

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Paul's, Walkden, on Saturday, April 6th, 1918. Bells ready at 4. Meeting at 7.—Thomas B. Worsley, Branch Secretary, 507, Wigan Road, Bolton.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting and dedication and unveiling of the Spittle Memorial will be held at Dudley on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. Service and dedication in church at 4 o'clock, which will be conducted by the Rev. Canon Gray Maitland (President). Tea will be provided by the Ringing Master (Harry Mason, Esq.). Business meeting afterwards. All outstanding contributions should be paid at this meeting, and it is to be hoped that all members will make an effort to attend.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—The committee meeting usually held in April will not be 'called' this year, but if possible it will be arranged to meet before the annual general meeting on the same date, notice of which will be duly given.—Richard T. Hibbert, Hon. Sec.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Penn on Saturday, April 6th. Bells available at 3. Service in church, with address by Rev. R. N. Lawson, at 5.15. Tea (if possible) 1/-, in Parish Room at 6.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—The 21st annual general meeting will be held at St. John's, Hillingdon, on Saturday, April 6th, 1918. The service will be held at 6 p.m., conducted by the Rev. H. Carrick (Vicar of St. John's). Tea will be arranged if the necessary commodities can be procured. At the business meeting the President will take the chair. The following towers will be open for ringing:—St. John's, Hillingdon, from 3 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Hillingdon, 4 to 5.30 p.m.—W. H. Oram, 25, Crown Street, Harrow, H. C. Chandler, Church Road, Heston, Hon. Secs.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of this Society will be held at St. Matthew's, Holbeck, on Saturday, April 6th. Bells will be available from 2.30 p.m. until dusk. The business meeting will be held in the Parochial Hall at 7 p.m., when the nomination and election of officers will take place. A good attendance is desired.—Wm. Gage, Hon. Sec. *pro tem.*, 7, Burley Terrace, Burley Road, Leeds.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Elizabeth's, Reddish, on Saturday, April 13th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Sec., 103, Victoria Street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held on Saturday, April 13th, at Rochdale Parish Church. Bells ready from 3 o'clock till dusk; meeting at 6. Subscriptions are due.—T. K. Driver, Hon. Sec., 99, Hunter Street, Middleton.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held at Sawbridgeworth on Saturday, April 13th. Bells will be available for ringing from 3 p.m. till dark. Business meeting will be held in the Church House at 5.30 p.m. Subscriptions for 1918 were due January 1st.—William Watts, District Secretary, Mont House Cottage, Stansted, Essex.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A branch meeting will be held at Colne on Saturday, April 13th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Time of meeting as usual.—J. Watson, Branch Sec.

LLANDAFF DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Peterston-super-Ely on Saturday, April 13th, at 4.30. Bells (6) available all the afternoon and evening. Tea will be provided.—Rev. Connop L. Price, M.A., John W. Jones, Hon. Secs., 29, Barrack Hill, Newport, Mon.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The annual meeting of the above district will take place at Leeds on Saturday, April 13th. Bells available at 3 o'clock. A short service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.45, business meeting after. The Secretary would be glad to know not later than Monday, April 8th, of any ringers intending to be present.—Stephen Hayzelden, Dist. Secretary, Lower Street, East Farleigh.

WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guildford District.—A district meeting will be held at Haslemere on Saturday, April 13th, 1918. Bells (8) available from 3.30 till 9 p.m. Service at 5.30 p.m. Tea 9d. each, will be provided at 6, but members must bring their own sugar. Subscriptions should be paid at the meeting. A cycle tour round Farnham and neighbourhood is being arranged for Whit Monday. Full particulars later on.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., 3, Bridge Street, Guildford.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Estab. 1637).—Meetings will be held at the "Coffee Pot," Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on April 18th, and for general business on the 9th and 23rd, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Estab. 1755).—Quarterly meeting at Aston on Saturday, April 20th. Bells (10) available from 4 o'clock. Business meeting in belfry at 6 o'clock.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Southern Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Offenham on Saturday, April 20th, 1918. Service in church at 5 p.m. Tea will be arranged if possible, names to be sent me by the Wednesday previous at latest. The bells (6) will be available afternoon and evening.—J. Hemming, Branch Sec., 29, Church Bank, Hampton, Evesham.

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.

SITUATIONS VACANT.

COACHBUILDERS, WHEELWRIGHTS AND WOODWORKERS wanted on Government work.—Apply Wilton Carriage Co., 107, Waddon New Road, Croydon.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

HORBURY, YORKS.—At SS. Peter and Leonard's Church, for evening service, on Sunday, March 3rd, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes): G. Hunt 1, E. Brooke 2, G. F. Pickles 3, J. Smith 4, G. Barstow 5, H. Rowley (conductor) 6, R. Thickett 7, J. Woffenden 8.—On Sunday, March 17th, for evening service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): J. Woffenden 1, E. Brooke 2, G. F. Pickles 3, G. Hunt 4, G. Barstow 5, H. Rowley (conductor) 6, J. Smith 7, R. Thickett 8.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday evening March 10th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: C. Brown 1, W. Lawrence 2, Miss Jones 3, C. Edwards 4, J. W. Fruin 5, Robt. Holloway 6, A. W. Davis (conductor) 7, A. E. Smith 8.

BOSTON, LINCS.—On Sunday, March 10th, at the Church of St. Nicholas, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: J. Coleman 1, Harold Palmer (conductor) 2, A. Swain 3, Harry Palmer 4, Gnr. W. Welling 5, J. Kirk 6.—On Sunday, March 17th, 720 Canterbury Pleasure Minor: J. Coleman 1, Harold Palmer 2, A. Swain 3, Gnr. W. Welling 4, Harry Palmer (conductor) 5, J. Kirk 6.

GREENWICH.—On Sunday, 10th March, on the occasion of the unveiling by the Bishop of Woolwich of a memorial tablet to the late Vicar (the Rev. S. M. Bardsley), 1007 Grandsire Triples: C. T. Clark 1, H. A. Hawking 2, J. J. Lamb 3, A. S. Beer 4, I. G. Shade (conductor) 5, C. V. Ebberson, A.S.C. (Blackheath) 6, T. Jakeman 7, D. Hodgson 8. The ringer of 1, 2 and 8 belong to Cubitt Town.

CREWE.—Chester Diocesan Guild.—On Sunday, March 10th, at Christ Church, for evening service, 540 Bob Royal: W. Edge 1, W. T. Holding 2, H. Overton 3, R. Langford 4, A. Crawley 5, R. D. Langford 6, G. Crawley 7, J. Dentith 8, G. Harding 9, R. T. Holding (conductor) 10.—On Sunday, March 17th, for evening service, 828 Grandsire Caters: T. Moore (longest length) 1, G. Crawley 2, R. Langford 3, G. Harding 4, W. T. Holding 5, A. Crawley 6, R. D. Langford 7, J. Dentith 8, R. T. Holding (conductor) 9, H. Overton 10.

NORTON, STAFFS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, March 10th, for evensong, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob Minor: H. Wibberley (first 720) 1, W. B. Lawrence 2, G. E. Lawrence 3, E. E. Johnson 4, F. T. Dawson (conductor) 5, J. F. Ryles 6.—On Monday, March 18th, for practice, 720 Oxford Treble Bob: H. Wibberley 1, G. E. Lawrence 2, J. E. Wheelton 3, E. E. Johnson 4, F. T. Dawson (conductor) 5, W. P. Deane 6.

WHITEFIELD, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, March 10th, for evensong, 180 Bob Minor: F. Bradshaw 1, Joe Broadley 2, S. Morris 3, Ben Thorp (conductor) 4, W. Chambers 5, Joe E. Sykes 6. 630 Grandsire Triples: Pte. W. Siddal 1, S. Morris 2, Joe Broadley 3, Ben Thorp (conductor) 4, M. Morris 5, W. Chambers 6, F. Bradshaw 7, Joe E. Sykes 8. Rung for W. Siddal, home on leave, after nearly three years in France.

ERITH, KENT.—At the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), with the bells, half-muffled, in 43 mins., by the following: F. J. Cullum, junr., 1, H. Holden 2, F. J. Cullum, senr., 3, A. E. Newick 4, P. J. Spice 5, I. Emery 6, T. Groombridge, senr., 7, A. J. Morton 8. It had been previously arranged to start for a farewell peal to F. J. Cullum junr., who is entering the navy, but had to be suspended owing to a memorial service for the churchwarden's son Mr. B. Whiting, who was killed.

BRISTOL.—The following touches were rung during a week-end leave to Bristol of C.-Q.M.S. W. A. Cave, who was very pleased to be with his old friends of the St. Stephen's Guild once more. On handbells, 1395 Stedman Caters: R. J. Wilkins 1—2, Miss Edith K. Parker 3—4, G. Condict junr., 5—6, J. A. Burford 7—8, W. A. Cave (conductor) 9—10. 1044 Stedman Cinquses: A. E. Reeves 1—2, Miss Edith R. Parker 3—4, R. J. Wilkins 5—6, G. Condict, junr., 7—8, J. A. Burford 9—10, W. A. Cave (conductor) 11—12. Also a course of Plain Bob Maximus with the same hand. On tower bells, for service, a course each of London Surprise Major, Stedman Triples and Grandsire Triples (for a visitor from Cranleigh, Surrey), and three courses of Cambridge Surprise Royal.

SLOUGH, BUCKS.—On Friday evening, March 15th, for a Confirmation service a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: Miss W. M. Cooper 1, G. H. Gutteridge 2, A. Lender 3, F. Smith (Messrs. J. Warner and Son) 4, G. T. Leader 5, W. Henley (conductor) 6, F. T. Hooper 7, F. Purdue 8.

BARNES, SURREY.—On March 17th, at St. Mary's Church, for Confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 43 mins.: M. Jacobs 1, A. Outmore 2, W. H. Stevens 3, Pte. R. Mackrill 4, H. Cook 5, E. A. Reeve 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, H. Dyas 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, March 17th, for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples: A. Crane 1, W. Mead 2, J. Mead 3, F. Whitehead (first touch of Stedman) 4, F. Hedgea 5, E. Marks 6, H. Sear (conductor) 7, T. Best 8.

DENTON, MANCHESTER.—At St. Anne's Church, on March 17th, for evensong, 720 Plain Bob Minor: A. E. Marshall 1, F. Overton (Grimsby), first on an inside bell, 2, J. Pollitt 3, D. Wilks 4, S. Bloomfield (Grimsby) 5, J. E. Hackingbottom (conductor) 6.

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