

THE RINGING WORLD

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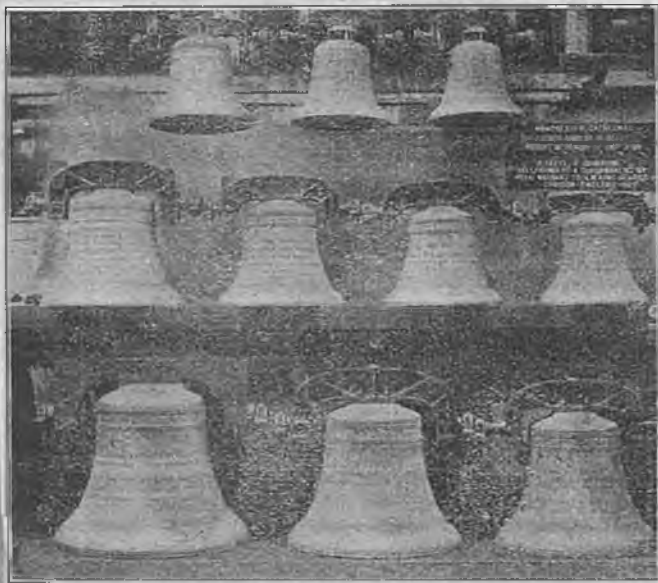
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A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Our first words to-day must be of greeting to all our friends. To ringers everywhere we extend the most cordial good wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year. It is a common course at this period to take stock of the past and contemplate the future. So far as ringing is concerned we feel it can be said that the year which closed yesterday has seen a steady maintenance of the standard of the art, and, without being markedly noteworthy, has nevertheless continued the progress made since the war. At the same time it must be admitted that more might have been accomplished, and it is in considering this aspect that the question of the future is pressed upon us.

We can only profit from the past to the extent that we learn the lessons which it offers us, and one of these lessons is that, among ringers, there is a spirit of self-complacency which is far too prevalent, a lack of ambition and enterprise which leaves a large part of the Exercise in a semi-dormant condition. There are conspicuous exceptions, but what do we find among individuals, among bands and among associations? Everywhere there are those content to do nothing better than they have been doing for years past—the man who is content to ring tenor or treble, and not bother his head to further probe the mysteries and the interests of the science; the band which is satisfied to ring Grandsire Doubles and never aspire to Stedman; the band which will ring Treble Bob and never dream of going on to the Surprise methods; the association which offers to its members no attraction better than, perhaps, an allowance towards an occasional tea, which shows no initiative and neglects its opportunities.

Is it too much to suggest that at the opening of the new year, individually and collectively, ringers should make more serious efforts to overcome that apathy which seems so ingrained in the Exercise, and which comparatively few members seem to throw off. What we want is a spirit of greater enthusiasm, which will give a man a fresh and wider interest in what is, after all, one of the most fascinating pursuits that any person can follow; a new energy and enterprise in companies that will increase their numbers, drag them out of the rut and lead to a more general advance in the art; and among the associations a keener desire to educate and encourage their members and stiffen their interest in all affairs relating to ringing, whether it concerns merely their own belfry or those wider subjects which affect the whole Exercise. There is scope for all in such an effort, but it is to the young men that we must look for the 'drive' which must be put into it. The men of the older genera-

(Continued on page 2.)

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tion have done their part in raising the standard of ringing and the status of the ringer; it is for the youth of the Exercise not only to carry on the work which has been begun, but to expand and accelerate it, and it offers great opportunities for those who desire to see the development of the art. This is a thought which we offer to every ringer, with our greetings, at the opening of the New Year.

TWELVE BELL PEAL.

CANTERBURY, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Forty-Seven Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 30 cwt.

EDWIN BARNETT, SEN. Treble	* EDWIN G. BUESDEN 7
EDWIN BARNETT, JUN. 2	* CECIL C. MAYNE 8
ISAAC G. SHADE 3	HERBERT E. AUDSLEY 9
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 4	GEORGE H. DAYNES 10
EDWIN F. PIKE 5	C.S.M. JAMES BENNETT 11
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL 6	JAMES GEORGE Tenor

Composed by JOHN REEVES. Conducted by E. BARNETT, SEN.

First peal of Treble Bob Maximus on the bells. * First peal of Maximus. W. H. Fussell's 600th peal.

TEN BELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours & Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT DANES, STRAND, W.C.,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 24 cwt.

* JOHN WATKINS Treble	† LEONARD H. BAYBUT 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER 2	‡ JAMES W. CHAPMAN 7
ARTHUR J. NEALE 3	RICHARD F. DEAL 8
† GEORGE A. CARD 4	‡ EDWARD D. SMITH 9
† MRS. R. F. DEAL 5	§ ARTHUR H. KEIGHLEY ... Tenor

Composed by W. T. ELSON. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER.

* First peal. † First peal of Grandsire Caters. ‡ First peal in the method. § First peal on ten.

BRISTOL.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, December 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JAMES,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5007 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt.

ALFRED E. REEVES Treble	WILLIAM A. CAVE 6
WILLIAM H. THOMAS 2	HENRY J. WAY 7
HENRY PRING 3	WILLIAM STOWELL 8
ALBERT STOWELL 4	JOSEPH T. DYKE 9
WILLIAM KNIGHT 5	E. GEORGE TREW Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by ALFRED E. REEVES.

A commemoration peal, rung as a mark of respect to the late Mr. H. Porch, for many years conductor of the St. James' Society.

BEDFORD.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANGES;

Tenor 28 cwt. 3 qr. 6 lb.

HARRY TYSOE Treble	EDWARD J. HOBBS 6
CLIFFORD ROLLINGS 2	* HERBERT J. HARLOW 7
EDGAR H. TINGEY 3	HERBERT L. HARLOW 8
MISS EVELYN STEEL 4	ARTHUR E. SHARMAN 9
JOSEPH CURCHUR 5	† WILLIAM STAPLETON ... Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by A. E. SHARMAN.

* First peal 'inside' on ten bells. † First peal of Caters.

CARDIFF.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 24, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5021 CHANGES;

Tenor 27 cwt. in D.

SIDNEY DAWE Treble	FRED CHAMBERLAIN 6
GEORGE LARGE 2	WILLIAM HEATH 7
FRANK J. BAILEY 3	ERNEST STITCH 8
*JOHN W. JONES 4	ERNEST COOMBS... .. 9
WILLIAM RICHARDS 5	SEYMOUR R. BARKER Tenor

Composed by HENRY JOHNSON. Conducted by FRED CHAMBERLAIN.

Rung half-muffled as a last tribute of respect to Isaac Fricker, who has just passed away. He was 83 years of age, and had been connected with the above church the whole of his life, and was for a number of years sidesman. * 250th peal.

STROUD, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Sixteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5147 CHANGES;

THOMAS BALDWIN Treble	GEORGE ORCHARD 6
JESSE GILLETT 2	JOHN AUSTIN... .. 7
HUBERT SCRIVENS 3	ERNEST DAVIES 8
ALBERT WRIGHT 4	HARRY BARRETT 9
CHARLES GARDINER 5	LESLIE BARRY Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by ALBERT WRIGHT.

HILLINGDON, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty-Eight Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB ROYAL, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 22 cwt.

ROBERT THOMPSON Treble	† WILLIAM WELLING 6
† FREDERICK W. GOODFELLOW 2	WILLIAM H. HOLLIER 7
† JOHN J. PRATT 3	† ARTHUR HARDING 8
† MISS PHYLLIS M. MOSS 4	† HENRY A. FOLKARD 9
* A. MARK STACY 5	JAMES R. MACKMAN Tenor

Composed by EDWARD FRANCIS. Conducted by F. W. GOODFELLOW

C.C.C. No. 9. * First peal on ten bells. † First peal of Royal. ‡ First peal of Plain Bob Royal. First peal as conductor on ten bells. First peal of Bob Royal on the bells. Rung in honour of the engagement of Miss Grace Baker, one of the local ringers, to the conductor.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WHALLEY, LANCASHIRE.
THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

* FRED HINDLE Treble	JOHN WATSON 5
LAURENCE WILLIAMS 2	WILLIAM E. WILSON 6
THOMAS WALLWORK 3	ARTHUR TOMLINSON 7
JAMES H. BANKS 4	ARTHUR RIDYARD... .. Tenor

Composed by A. B. CARPENTER. Conducted by A. TOMLINSON.

Rung in honour of the 60th birthday of Mr. John Watson, the esteemed secretary of the Blackburn branch, who afterwards entertained the ringers to tea. * First peal in the method. First peal in the method on the bells.

HAGLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(NORTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr.

THOMAS J. SALTER Treble	JOHN SMITH 5
JOSEPH FIGOTT 2	SAMUEL GROVE 6
JOHN BASS 3	ALFRED HACKETT... .. 7
ERNEST J. BROOKS 4	ROBERT MATTHEWS Tenor

Composed by F. BENNETT. Conducted by R. MATTHEWS.

This was the quarterly peal for the Northern Branch.

MIDDLETON.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5072 CHANGES;

FRANK BERRY Treble	SAMUEL HOLT 5
WILLIAM BERRY 2	JAMES H. BASTOW 6
THOS. K. DRIVER 3	FRED HODGSON 7
JOHN SMITH 4	GEORGE HILL Tenor

Composed by GEORGE HILL. Conducted by WILLIAM BERRY.

This peal was arranged for the 7th and tenor ringers, who hail from Liversedge and Penistone respectively; the rest belong to the local company.

FRODSHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 21, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAWRENCE,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5152 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt. in F.

CYRIL VALENTINE Treble	* FREDERICK LAMBETH 5
EDWARD JENKINS... .. 2	JOHN E. BIBBY 6
HENRY C. COLLYER 3	FRANCIS BIBBY 7
WILLIAM BIBBY 4	CECIL RADDON Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE (No. 4). Conducted by E. JENKINS.

First attempt for Surprise. Rung as a thanksgiving for the Vicar's recovery from a long and serious illness, and as a 21st birthday compliment to his son.

BOLTON, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(BOLTON BRANCH.)

On Tuesday, December 22, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

PARKER'S.		Tenor 17¾ cwt. in E.
FRED ABBOTT Treble	THOMAS B. WORSLEY... .. 5	
EDWARD WEBSTER 2	TITUS BARLOW 6	
ERNEST CUTSFORTH 3	PETER CROOK 7	
GEORGE PINCOFF... .. 4	THOMAS SMITH Tenor	

Conducted by THOMAS B. WORSLEY.

Rung on the 48th anniversary of the first peal by the Association, which was rung at the above church, where the chief ringer, Mr. H. W. Jackson, is the sole survivor. It was also a birthday compliment to the wife of the 7th ringer. E. Cutsforth has now rung every bell in the tower to a peal.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, December 24, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER, WALWORTH,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.		Tenor 14 cwt. (approx.)
WILLIAM H. HEWETT Treble	* CYRIL PEASE 5	
CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD 2	EDWIN F. PIKE 6	
FRANK BENNETT 3	J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE 7	
ISAAC EMERY 4	JAMES E. DAVIS... .. Tenor	

Conducted by W. H. HEWETT.

* 50th peal. First peal on these bells for twenty years. It is also just 100 years since the church and bells were dedicated.

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BRISTOL.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Thursday, December 24, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM H. THOMAS Treble	WILLIAM KNIGHT 5
HENRY PRING 2	JOSEPH T. DYKE 6
ALFRED E. REEVES 3	JOHN A. BURFORD 7
WILLIAM A. CAVE 4	E. GEORGE TREW... .. Tenor

Composed by the REV. H. LAW JAMES. Conducted by J. A. BURFORD
J. T. Dyke's 250th peal.

TUNSTALL, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, December 24, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HEYWOOD'S VARIATION.

Tenor 9½ cwt.

JOHN H. CHEESMAN Treble	EDWARD H. SPICE 5
C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... 2	WILLIAM SPICE 6
SAMUEL E. TAYLOR 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
ERNEST J. DOBBIE 4	JOHN EXCELL Tenor

Conducted by J. H. CHEESMAN.

SITTINGBOURNE, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Christmas Day, December 25, 1925, in Two Hours & Fifty-Nine Minutes

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt.

SAMUEL E. TAYLOR Treble	THOMAS JULL 5
WILLIAM SPICE 2	ERNEST J. DOBBIE 6
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 3	JAMES GEORGE 7
LEONARD MANNERING... .. 4	C.S.M. J. BENNETT, R.M. ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS. Conducted by J. H. CHEESMAN.

ERITH, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

FREDK. J. CULLUM, SEN. ... Treble	JOHN S. MORTON... .. 5
*LIONEL J. CULLUM 2	FREDERICK A. COLEY 6
GEORGE CULLUM 3	FREDK. J. CULLUM, JUN. ... 7
ALFRED G. HILL 4	EDWARD J. LLOTT... .. Tenor

Composed by J. J. PARKER. Conducted by FREDK. J. CULLUM, JUN.

* First peal with a bob bell. Peal No. 18, C.C. Collection.

PRESTWICH, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

SAM GREENHALGH Treble	ROBERT WALLWORK 5
WILLIAM BIBBY 2	JOHN E. BIBBY 6
JOSEPH LOWE 3	HARRY CHAPMAN... .. 7
THOMAS WALLWORK 4	EDWARD JENKINS... .. Tenor

Composed by W. WIGHTMAN. Conducted by E. JENKINS.

First peal of Superlative on the bells.

PULFORD, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND
THE NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Two Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-THE-VIRGIN.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

H. W. WILDE'S TRANSPPOSITION. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 10 lb.

THOMAS BUTLER Treble	GEORGE R. JONES 5
THOMAS R. BUTLER 2	JAMES H. RIDING... .. 6
ALBERT J. HUGHES 3	ARTHUR E. PEGLER 7
ROBERT SPERRING 4	WALTER THOMAS... .. Tenor

Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

WEST MALLING, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Four Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

LEWIS NEWMAN Treble	FREDERICK J. LAMBERT, JUN. 5
WILLIAM E. PITMAN 2	THOMAS E. SONE... .. 6
TOM SAUNDERS 3	WILLIAM J. LEONARD... .. 7
REGINALD E. LAMBERT ... 4	CHARLES H. SONE Tenor

Composed by ISAAC G. SHADE. Conducted by C. H. SONE.

Rung to commemorate the golden wedding of Mr. Robert H. Noakes, of Barming, a life member of the association. The conductor has now rung a peal on every bell in this tower.

BANSTEAD, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. 27 lb. in E flat.

ALFRED J. TRAPPITT... .. Treble	FRANK E. DARBY 5
*ALFRED J. BULL 2	†THOMAS G. BANNISTER ... 6
JOHN F. GALYER 3	DANIEL COOPER... .. 7
CHARLES W. ROBERTS ... 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

Rung as a 16th birthday compliment to the ringer of the 3rd. First peal on the bells since the recasting of the 5th, and the renewal of all the stays and sliders. * First peal in the method away from the treble. † First peal of Double Norwich. 50th peal as conductor.

EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. SIMON AND JUDE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

H. WHITTLE'S VARIATION OF J. CARTER'S TWELVE-PART.

Tenor 11 cwt. 3 qr. 13 lb. in G.

C. HARRY WEBB Treble	FRED COITON 5
THOMAS K. DEACON 2	PERCIVAL A. ALDBAM 6
CHARLES R. BELTON 3	GEORGE A. NEWTON... .. 7
WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 4	*LEONARD BONSIOR Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES R. BELTON.

* First peal. First peal as conductor, and first attempt. Also his first peal in the method. Rung as a birthday compliment to the wife of the conductor. Also on the second anniversary of the wedding of Mr. A. Cattell, of St. Margaret's, Leicester.

GRESFORD, DENBIGHSHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD AND NORTH WALES
ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 25 cwt.

WALTER THOMAS... .. Treble	GEORGE R. JONES 5
ROBERT SPERRING 2	JAMES SWINDLEY... .. 6
THOMAS R. BUTLER 3	JAMES H. RIDING... .. 7
ALBERT J. HUGHES 4	ARTHUR E. PEGLER Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by ROBERT SPERRING.

The band wish to thank Mr. G. Williams for his kind hospitality.

FRAMSDEN, SUFFOLK.

THE SUFFOLK GUILD.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 16 cwt.

WILLIAM J. GROOM Treble	LESLIE G. BRETT... .. 5
LESLIE C. WIGHTMAN 2	JOHN J. CREASEY... .. 6
GEORGE PRYKE 3	THOMAS W. LAST... .. 7
ERNEST E. GRIMES 4	WILLIAM C. RUMSEY Tenor

Composed by GEORGE H. CROSS. Conducted by W. C. RUMSEY.

The ringer of the 6th was proposed a member of the Guild prior to starting for the peal, and the thanks of the band are due to him for filling a gap at the last moment.

COLCHESTER, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF LONDON SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

WILLIAM J. NEVARD Treble	FRANK CLAYDON 5
GEORGE WIFFEN 2	WALTER ARNOLD 6
GEORGE W. MOSS 3	WILLIAM KERBLE 7
JAMES FLETTY 4	ARTHUR SAUNDERS Tenor

Composed by GABRIEL LINDOFF. Conducted by WILLIAM KERBLE.
First peal in the method on the bells.

BARTON-ON-HUMBER, LINGS.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 6040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION. Tenor 10 cwt. 1 qr. 2 lb.

*MISS NORA GRASSBY Treble	CHARLES H. BIRD 5
WALTER AYRE 2	*GEORGE HOBBS 6
ARTHUR W. HOODLESS 3	†JACK BRAY 7
HAROLD EASTOE 4	ERNEST HOODLESS Tenor

Conducted by WALTER AYRE.

* First peal on eight. † First peal of Grandsire Triples.

HASLEMERE, SURREY.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5058 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt. 6 lb.

FRED BOWDEN Treble	JAMES BURDFIELD 5
RICHARD HAYES 2	WILLIAM R. MELVILLE 6
MAURICE SMITHER 3	*FRED M. WHITE 7
MAJOR J. H. B. HESSE 4	ARTHUR J. BARTLETT Tenor

Composed by J. R. PRITCHARD. Conducted by A. J. BARTLETT.

* First peal. Major Hesse has now rung a peal on each bell in this tower.

LONDON.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW, HOLBORN.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART. Tenor 28 cwt.

WILLIAM T. COCKERILL Treble	WILLIAM H. PASMORE 5
LOUIS ATTWATER 2	HERBERT LINDON 6
JOHN W. GOLDING 3	JAMES BULLOCK 7
HARRY R. PASMORE 4	JOSEPH S. HAWKINS Tenor

Conducted by HARRY R. PASMORE.

Rung in honour of the golden wedding of the parents of the brothers Pasmore, who were married at this church on Christmas Day, 1875. Also as a birthday compliment to Mr. J. W. Golding.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.

THE LLANDAFF AND MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. TYDFIL,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

J. HALLETT Treble	J. T. DARCH 5
W. FISHER 2	S. RIDGEWAY 6
*F. W. SHARPE 3	†J. E. COLES 7
A. E. GRAY 4	*F. STIRK Tenor

Conducted by J. HALLETT.

Rung on the occasion of the wedding of Miss E. Thomas and Mr. Ivor Jones at the Parish Church. * First peal of Triples. † First peal on an inside bell.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Dec. 17th, a quarter-peal of Kent Treble Bob Major (1,280 changes), in 50 mins., at the Parish Church: S. Wood 1, *J. Carter 2, Miss Cissie Thorp 3, G. Gorrings 4, *S. Marshall 5, *F. Althrop 6, J. Mellor 7, B. Thorp (composer and conductor) 8. * First quarter-peal. † Longest length on an inside bell.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LONGNEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION

On Tuesday, December 8, 1925, in Two Hours and Thirty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LAURENCE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE & ST. DUNSTAN'S DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, each called differently.

ALFRED EDWIN ELLIS Treble	THOMAS LEACH 4
PHILIP J. POCKETT 2	THOMAS BALDWIN 5
HAROLD LYES 3	CECIL R. HEWER Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS BALDWIN.

BROMHAM, BEDFORDSHIRE.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Seventeen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. OWEN.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 each of Kingston, London Scholars', College Exercise, Woodbine, Oxford, Kent and Cambridge Surprise. Tenor 23 cwt.

HENRY STAPLETON Treble	HARRY GAYTON 4
EDMUND J. HOBBS 2	HORACE H. SMITH 5
WILLIAM STOCK 3	PEARL INSKIP Tenor

Conducted by PEARL INSKIP.

CHELMARSH, SHROPSHIRE

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being seven 720's.

*HENRY O. BAKER Treble	GEORGE OLIVER 4
†JAMES HOUSEMAN 2	WALTER HAYWARD 5
GEORGE E. JONES 3	GEORGE CASE Tenor

Conducted by GEORGE CASE.

* First peal and first attempt. † First peal with a bob bell.

MERSTHAM, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. KATHERINE,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt. in F sharp.

*RAYMOND BALL Treble	CHARLES KILICK 4
*H. BERNARD WELLS 2	HERBERT WOOD 5
*JAMES BATTERS 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Conducted by CHAS. H. KIPPIN.

All are Sunday Service ringers at the above church, except the conductor. * First peal of Minor. Quickest peal of Minor on the bells.

SKIRBECK, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. NICHOLAS,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Canterbury Pleasure, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, three 720's of Kent Treble Bob and two of Plain Bob, each called differently. Tenor 18 cwt.

FRANK DEWEY Treble	JOHN G. AMES 4
WILLIAM E. CLARKE 2	GEORGE COLEMAN 5
JOHN PHILLIPS 3	ARTHUR H. PALMER Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR H. PALMER.

BROMFIELD, SHROPSHIRE.

THE HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Sunday, December 27, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 42 six-scores, ten different callings. Tenor 9 cwt.

THOMAS W. NASH Treble	JOHN G. NASH 4
WILLIAM J. BENIAMS 2	WILLIAM R. NASH 5
JAMES P. HYATT 3	ARTHUR C. NASON Tenor

Conducted by J. P. HYATT.

The band wish to take this opportunity of thanking the Vicar for granting the use of the bells.

WOODSTON, NORTHANTS.
THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.
(PETERBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Saturday, December 26, 1925, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. AUGUSTINE,

A PEAL OF DOUBLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Consisting of 14 six-scores each of St. Simon's Doubles, Grandsire Doubles, and Plain Bob Doubles.

ERIC K. HOARE Treble	F. ROWLINSON 4
S. H. HOARE 2	H. HOARE, JUN. 5
W. WALDRON 3	P. BANYARD Tenor

Conducted by H. HOARE.

First peal of Doubles rung on these bells, which were put in by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston in 1914, and rung at first attempt. Also first peal of Doubles by all the band. A birthday compliment to Mr. P. Banyard, and rung on the 20th anniversary of Mr. W. Waldron's wedding day. The Rector congratulated the band at the conclusion of the peal on the good striking, also E. K. Hoare on ringing his first peal before he was 15 years old. E. K. Hoare was proposed a member of the Guild before starting for the peal.

WISTASTON, CHESHIRE.
THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, December 28, 1925, in Two Hours and Thirty-Five Minutes.

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 8040 CHANGES;

Being two 720's of Oxford, two of Kent Treble Bob and three of Plain Bob. Tenor 6 cwt. 7 lb.

† HORACE J. SMITH Treble	† WALTER LONGMAN 4
GEORGE N. CRAWLEY 2	† GEORGE BIDDULPE 5
* FREDERICK N. CRAWLEY 3	ALBERT CRAWLEY Tenor

Conducted by A. CRAWLEY.

* First peal inside in three methods. † First peal in three methods. First peal in three methods as conductor.

HANDBELL PEAL.

BIRMINGHAM.

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

On Saturday, December 19, 1925, in Three Hours and Ten Minutes.

AT 81, BAKER STREET, SPARKHILL.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CINQUES, 5007 CHANGES;

FRANK E. PERVIN 1-2	ALBERT WALKER 7-8
FRANK W. PERRENS 3-4	JOSEPH H. W. WHITE 9-10
GEORGE F. SWANN 5-6	MORRIS J. MORRIS 11-12

Composed by J. CARTER.

Conducted by F. W. PERRENS.

Umpire: H. C. SPOONER.

A birthday compliment to G. F. SWANN.

THE INSTRUCTION OF RINGERS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—In reply to Mr. Bibby, it will be necessary to illustrate my view by first of all dealing with an outside subject, viz., instrumental music. What is the embryo musician's first act? No matter the instrument, he places himself in the hands of a capable tutor, and obtains an instruction book. He has then to master the rudiments of music, and to practise scales and exercises, simple at first, gradually becoming more difficult, until in time he is able to execute difficult passages with ease. Even when he can play the works of the masters, he does not fail to continue the practise of scales. He has a big advantage over ringers, I admit, being in no way dependent upon others before he can practise, and, moreover, is able to practise passages which call for expert fingering without having to run through the piece, whereas we are dependent upon others for practice, and if a method does contain tricky places, a full course has to be rung to enable each ringer to go through them.

Some will say it can be studied at home. I agree, but home study will not give rope sight, which I consider is the equivalent of fingering on an instrument.

I am not an old hand at ringing, but a feature which has struck me very forcibly is the haphazard manner in which students in campanology are trained. Systematic instruction being the exception rather than the rule in this matter, our craft, like 'The Handbell Expert,' is old fashioned.

Appearing on the same page as Mr. Bibby's letter is an article on 'The Literature of Ringing,' by Mr. J. A. Trollope, in which he states: 'The authors of all these books had the same object in view, and that was to deal comprehensively with the whole of ringing. They tried to give a text-book which would assist ringers from changes on three bells up to London Surprise, or whatever was the most difficult method at the time,' and 'It is safe to say that no other similar book will again be published. Ringing has got too complex,

and has expanded too much to be dealt with in a book that one can slip into one's pocket.' If this is so, then it is time the Central Council got to work and arranged a suitable syllabus of training. This would cut out that groping in the dark which entails at many towers where systematic instruction is not the order, and I firmly believe it is the absence of a proper system of learning which accounts for many bands being backward. They are so from circumstances and not from choice. Therefore, I contend that to a competent Kent Treble Bob Major band, desiring to make progress, Minor is the best stepping-stone, because many Kent ringers rely on coursing. If their course bell goes wrong, so do they, nine times out of ten; the order of passing treble is not thought of. How many Kent ringers can carry on with tenors parted? Not many, I think. I have seen many stumble in Oxford for this reason. Often with mixed bands at meetings, part the tenors and the ringing gets broken up. Why? There is too much reliance on the coursing system, and it is this which prevents many from mastering difficult methods. They cannot course the bell they turned from behind straight down to lead, and we are all at sea. To permit of tricky work being accomplished, good rope sight is essential; it is only acquired by constant practice and by easy stages; the easy stages being found in Minor. All Major methods have certain characteristics, which will be found in Minor, and not always in a method bearing the same name. On six bells there are not so many ropes to watch, a circumstance which enables the student to acquire the necessary rope sight to permit of tricky dodging or place making to be successfully accomplished. The work upon which special stress would be laid will, perhaps, appear in a different place in the extensions to the higher numbers, but, nevertheless, it is there.

Anyone who has gone carefully through the series dealt with by me will see that from a simple beginning I have gone by easy stages to more difficult methods, and, amongst them, Major method ringers will recognise work which is found in eight-bell methods. Does it not then stand to reason, once a certain piece of work has been mastered on six, no matter where it appears on eight, there is a much better chance of its successful accomplishment in a shorter time than would otherwise have been the case?

How often does a plain course break down, just because one man cannot do a certain piece of work, and frequently many attempts have to be made before a touch can be brought round. Attendant with this is the loss of valuable time and often temper, which timely advice would have saved. Again, an eight-bell band meets one short; rather than ring six the practice is declared off, whereas, if they attempted something out of the ordinary on six, some benefit would be derived. Somehow or other the mere mention of Minor to some ringers on the higher numbers is like showing a red rag to a bull. In fairness, I ask them to give a little thought to the question, study the methods, and look upon the Minor variations as the musician looks upon scales and exercises; the result, I feel sure, will be beneficial.

Space will not allow me showing the similarity between a number of methods; but, in conclusion, I should like to ask Mr. Bibby a question.

Of two Kent Treble Bob Minor ringers, one has rung nothing more difficult, the other is conversant with Cambridge and London Surprise Minor. Which of the two would be the quicker to ring the Major extensions of these methods, and why? Yours, JOHN P. FIDLER.

PRESTBURY'S OLDEST RINGER.

SUDDEN DEATH OF MR. THOMAS COMPTON.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Thomas Compton, of Prestbury, Glos., who passed away suddenly on Monday, Dec. 21st. Deceased left home at 7.30 a.m., apparently in his usual health, to go to his work at the Cheltenham Cemetery, where he was employed as a gardener. At 8.45 a.m., while sitting in the messroom, he suddenly fell forward, and expired immediately. He was picked up by a fellow ringer (Mr. J. Harrison), who was in the room at the time.

Deceased was 73 years of age, but carried his years well. He was a member of the Parochial Church Council, and a sidesman at the parish church. He had been a ringer for about 50 years, and was rarely absent from chiming or ringing. On the evening before his death he rang the treble through 840 Grandsire Triples for evensong.

The funeral took place at Prestbury Church on Christmas Eve, and the number of people present and many floral tributes testified to the respect and esteem in which deceased was held.

After the funeral, a touch of 504 Grandsire Triples was rung with the bells muffled: T. Pendry 1, W. Rose 2, H. Newman 3, G. Walters 4, R. Court 5, W. Dyer 6, J. Causon (conductor) 7, J. Harrison 8. Afterwards, the whole pull and stand was rung 73 times, W. Hale replacing W. Dyer.

A HALF-PEAL.

At Stokesay, Shropshire, on December 26th, at St. John's Church, a half-peal of Grandsire Doubles (2,520 changes) was rung in 1 hour 25 mins. by T. W. Nash 1, J. G. Nash 2, W. R. Nash 3, W. Wainwright 4, J. P. Hyett (conductor) 5, A. C. Nason 6.

'NOISY BELLS AND FAST RINGING.'*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—In reply to Mr. Bibby's query, I would like to explain that my remarks on the subject of 'fast ringing and noisy bells' were made for the purpose of creating a discussion at our local branch meeting on this subject, which I think is one that ought to obtain more consideration from ringers than it generally does.

I stated that, along with 'good striking,' these were the things that concerned the outside public, and that we ringers ought to give them our earnest consideration if we wish to reduce complaints to a minimum.

I believe that the public as a whole greatly appreciate the ringing of church bells when they are rung well, and that the majority of complaints are made either when the bells are noisy or when strict attention is not being paid to the striking. I think one of the greatest causes of bad striking is by ringing too fast, especially on bells which are tuned and hung on modern principles. The tones of modern bells require a longer period in which to get away than do the bells which are tuned on the old system, and I find that they are much more pleasant to the ear if they are given plenty of time.

It is impossible to give a stated time in which to ring a peal, as requested by Mr. Bibby. There is a 'right speed' for every ring of bells, and most ringers of experience can soon tell, when they are ringing together, if they have found it or not.

One ring of bells may take ten to fifteen minutes longer to ring a peal at the 'right speed' than another ring of the same weight, though they may both be running well. To give an example of what I mean: We, at Hyde, have a modern peal of eight by Taylor (1920), with a tenor just over 18 cwt. To ring a peal of Major at what I consider the right speed—that is, when the striking is at its best, and we can strike them—on these bells, requires three hours and twelve to fourteen minutes. Our old bells had a tenor of 15½ cwt., and we used to ring our best Major peals in 2 hrs. 58 mins. to 3 hrs. Now the additional 2½-cwt. in the tenor has not made all that difference.

The bell founders have realised that these modern tuned bells require to be rung slower than the old ones, and they have helped the ringers by putting larger wheels on them. I do not say that this is the only reason for fitting larger wheels, but it compels the ringers to take more time if they wish to ring them to the best advantage. Now all ringers do not seem to have realised this, and still think they ought to be able to push them along at the speed of the old ones.

To me there is no special credit in ringing the 'quickest' peal on

the bells. What we ought to strive for is to ring the 'best' peal on the bells.

My experience has been that the quickest peals in which I have rung have certainly not been the best. Nor is this the case with peal ringing only, but it applies equally to service ringing, or any other ringing for that matter.

The question of 'noisy bells' is one that has been discussed many times before, and we ringers ought to do our best to get church authorities to tackle the problem where it is necessary. It is not a big or costly job to brick or board up the louvres, and the cost is not to be compared with the improvement achieved.

I advise ringers to discuss these matters at their meetings, as it is really surprising the amount of interest that is shown when once the subject is opened.

Perhaps others will express their views through 'The Ringing World' for the benefit of us all.—Yours faithfully,

T. WILDE.

STONY STRATFORD RINGER'S DEATH.

The Christmas Eve ringing at St. Giles', Stony Stratford, has been touched with sadness by the unexpected death of Mr. Alfred Clarke, one of the oldest ringers, who died on the 21st, after a few days' illness. At the funeral, on Saturday last, four of the ringers acted as bearers, and afterwards muffled touches were rung on the bells. Deceased had been a member of the North Bucks branch of the Oxford Guild since it started.

A DATE TOUCH.

At Ellesmere, Shropshire, on Monday evening, December 14th, a date touch of Stedman Triples (1,925 changes), composed by Louis Head, in 1 hour and 17 mins.: R. Biggs 1, G. H. Edwards 2, A. Allen 3, A. Haynes 4, T. Butler, sen., 5, W. S. Higginson 6, T. R. Butler (conductor) 7, W. Higginson, sen., 8. The above band rang a date touch on March 24th last, which was afterwards found to be false.

FARNHAM, SURREY.—On Christmas Day, for morning service, at St. Andrew's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 49 mins.: H. Prior 1, J. Read 2, H. Kemp 3, S. Meadows 4, R. Hasted, jun. (Havant), 5, T. Upshall 6, R. Hasted, sen. (conductor), 7, A. E. King 8.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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HANDBELLS

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BELL ROPES, MUFFLES, &

BELFRY GOSSIP.

Two popular association secretaries, each of whom has done remarkable work in the encouragement of change ringing, last week reached a memorable milestone in their peal records: Mr. Joseph T. Dyke, at Bristol; and Mr. John W. Jones, at Cardiff, each rang their 250th peal.

The long peal of Cambridge Surprise Maximus at Bow was rung on Saturday, December 19th, and not on December 12th, as published in record of the performance in our last issue.

At Kington Magna Church, on Christmas Day, a handbell part was introduced in the musical accompaniment of the Magnificat, and later in the service three carols were played on handbells by a group of boys at the chancel steps.

The following extract from Pepys' diary, describing a visit to Philip Norton, may be of interest to members of the Bath and Wells Association: 'Here is a very fine ring of six bells, and they mightly tuneable.'

We should be glad to receive from ringers who rang 40 peals and upwards during 1925, the number of peals both rung and conducted in the year, and the number of towers in which the peals were rung.

Exactly a hundred and fifty years ago to-day William Doubleday Crofts, the Nottingham lawyer, and one of the greatest ringers of his day, conducted a peal of 8,046 Grandsire Caters at St. Mary's, Nottingham, the peal occupying 5 hours 48 minutes.

James Barham, that famous old ringer, of Leeds Kent, rang his one hundredth peal on New Year's Day, 1793. At that time a hundred peals was a remarkable record, and Barham takes an honoured place among the ringers of the past. It was noteworthy that the total ages of the band who took part in Barham's 'century' peal was 582.

A board in the belfry of St. George's Church, Gravesend, records a peal of Grandsire Triples rung there on January 1st, 1786—140 years ago—by members of the Society of Union Youths of Gravesend. St. George's had been burnt down in 1727, and was rebuilt and eight bells installed in the tower in 1738. The bells were by 'Pheips and Applebee,' of the Whitechapel Foundry, but Applebee was probably only the bell hanger.

The first peal of Halifax Treble Bob was rung on January 1st, 1666, at Huddersfield, Sottanstill being the composer.

A peal of 5,200 changes of Treble Bob Royal, 'being the full extent of nine courses and the first peal in that method rung by ten men only,' was accomplished in 4 hours 7 mins. at St. Mary-le-Bow Church by the Cumberland Youths on January 3rd, 1803. James Matton was the name of the tenor ringer.

On January 4th, 1784, a peal of 14,480 Bob Major was rung in 8 hours 24 mins. at St. Paul's, Oldham. As far as we are aware there have only been three longer lengths rung in this method, viz., 15,120 at West Ham in 1737, and at Oldham in 1807, and 15,369 at Aston in 1793.

Gloucester was the second church in England to have a peal of twelve bells, and the first peal on them was rung by the College Youths on January 7th, 1767. This was a peal of Grandsire Cinques.

DEATH OF MR. GEORGE BOLLAND.

At the moment of going to press, we learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. George B. Bolland, the veteran Yorkshire ringer, of Tong. The interment will take place on Friday at Tong Church, at 2.30 p.m.

BRIGHTENING UP THE RINGERS.

A LANCASHIRE LAD'S SUGGESTIONS FOR GAYER APPAREL.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Ah were greatly interested in that leading article o' thine yester week about brighter ringing. Now ah thinks ma'sel tha knows that it's ringers that ought to be breetened oop a bit. Ah reckon that they ought to wear livelier costumes when on a ringing 'do.' Now there's Henry the Eighth; ah think he should wear a frog shooting suit, well forard in front and back beheend in the Tit-tum position, permanent turnups. And then there's the Knight, he should ride a charger with the famous gingham beheend on a trailer. 'O' lor, wave the flag,' our old friend, the Duke of Grinarch, would look o'reet in a kilt, and the Squire of De Bent could do a gallop in Oxford bags. And now us cooms to professor. Tha knows Professor, doesn't tha? Imagine him out Box wearing a Shepherd's smock and spurs. 'What's the dia?' Ye goode docter would parade in gown and mortar board with leggings, he 'Is a membah.' Think on Bill a short skirt! Ah were nearly forgetting Samel, he looks after a swan thou knows. Ah thinks that tha could fill a jazz bathing costume o'reet with collar and t'e to match. Eh, lad, tha would push 9th along then, wouldn't thou? And now us cooms to Uncle Tom, of Seat-de-Monkston. Ah thinks tha'd shape o'reet in a crinoline skirt with a high-heeled radiator. Ah quite think ah shall get a lot of glory! For these suggestions anyway ah shanna exologieze for 'em.—Thine much,

THE SIXTH BEHIND THE NINTH.

ORIGINS OF CHANGE RINGING. OUR FUTURE HISTORIAN.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—Our future historian, who has been the subject of some speculation with us of late, will scan your recent columns with much interest. The Exercise is indeed much indebted to Mr. Trollope, and now to the Rev. H. Drake for again directing our attention to this fascinating but neglected side of our art. It is all to the good for us to know that our obscure but early days go back into mediæval times. These have been called the 'Dark Ages,' partly because so little was known of them. They have left us, however, a legacy from the active religious life of times which were remarkable for the Crusades, architecture and religious literature. Had this latter been devoted to the great facts of everyday life, how much happier the lot of our historians.

The written word, whether full or scanty, has, however, three useful handmaidens, viz.: Tradition, legend and shards. Research has, during the past 50 years, proved them to be remarkably true, and their equivalents may help us in the present case also. Our historian, therefore, must have a wide angle of view, a nice and careful sense of selection, and a spirit of detachment. These attributes will depend upon his imagination, training and temperament. Thus, no two historians are quite the same, and a work by Mr. Trollope would differ greatly from one by the Rev. H. Drake, though both were of equal value. Some of us would be drawn to the one, some the other. We have others from whom such a work might worthily come, as, for instance, the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. There is, however, much to be done in sectional parts, which are of the greatest value, ere the Master comes to weld all into one comprehensive work. It may be a secret, but a Midland ringer informs me that he is already engaged upon this very history. I observe that he has a flowing pen, but whether he has the leisure, material and funds, I know not.

I take up my pen, away on holiday and far from my books, to ask our future historian, whoever he may be, to lend a kindly ear to the possibility of a remoter antiquity for our art, Stedman (with all his glamour) to the contrary notwithstanding. I would suggest firstly (and with due humility) that it is difficult to accept Stedman as being the first to devote himself to our literature. He may have thrown aside his forerunners, even as he himself was so soon after pushed aside. Also he springs like Minerva, full, finished and complete, as Mr. Trollope justly remarks. He succeeded that brilliant, self-confident Elizabethan period; a new age, and one replete with writings upon all subjects of interest, and why not ringing? Probably two-thirds of their books and nearly the whole of their MSS. have disappeared since Stedman's period, though he, especially as a printer, knew of many such works. Whatever facilities he may have on the one side enjoyed, he was handicapped by the fact that news travelled very slowly, and each part of the country was isolated; thus, whilst say East Anglia had developed change ringing, Wessex might be placidly pursuing the old way.

Secondly, wherever located, our early change ringers were probably so enthusiastic that, having climbed the Achievement, they promptly kicked away the ladder by which it was reached. The lower rungs were 'call changes,' but the upper were a mixed period or transition, which would have produced such hybrids as 'Christmas, '25,' etc. These, of course, would be duly held in scorn, and we can hear the men of Cromwell's time saying, 'We belong to the Modern, yea! the Scientific School, Away with the "Stoney," Give us To-day, and "the 50 or 60 years last past," and the rest may go hang.' After all, to them the earlier Tudor times were misty, remote and irreligious. They were indeed sadly separated from the time of Morris dances and Maypoles, and from that 'Merrie England,' which in Stedman's time had come through a Scottish wedding, followed by rebellion, puritanism, two plagues, and other ills, its very capital only escaping Van Tromp's guns, to be itself laid in ashes in the Great Fire a year or two later. Small wonder if they forgot!

Thirdly (and more tangibly) our historian will find that 'Funeral Peals' were rung in early Tudor times (vide Ellacombe). Unfortunately we do not know what they meant by 'peal,' there being no Dr. Johnson then to define it for us. But I observe that in the 18th century the word was used for a '720,' and these 'peals' may quite well have been a fixed number of incipient changes, commencing and returning to 'rounds,' especially if we remember that 'call changes' or certainly ringing had then been in existence for some two hundred years (for so our old oak heavily braced and framed cages tell us). More definite, of course, is the reference to Gooch, which the Rev. Drake published on his descriptive cards, and produced to the Central Council at the last London meeting. It is not stated whether the figures are in 'black-letter,' but simple changes in these characters are to be found elsewhere in old towers and belfries, as at Moulton, and go back into the 16th century.

Returning to the 'handmaidens,' our historian will puzzle over our tradition that in 1603 the 'Scholars were founded to practice and promote, not to invent, change ringing,' the Exercise being then itself so

far advanced. The word 'Exercise' itself, like 'bob' and 'dodge,' may have come down from Maypole and Morris dances, but further back and more particularly puzzling are such words as 'Doubles, Triples, Caters, Cinques,' and their pronunciation, too, will give him cause for thought. It would almost appear that in Norman French times, and by those old semi-clerical Guilds, something was done to make 'call changes' more scientific and orderly. Did they also invent a something which they named after a noble patron 'Grande-Sieur'? Is our art older, very much older than we think?

I have asked the above questions, but it is unfortunately impossible to answer them, and they remain quaint and arresting. It is a big jump, however, back to Stedman's time, and much must have happened, and his '50 or 60 years last past' sounds a trifle vague when we use it again.

But returning to Tudor times, we may yet have the luck to dig up some MSS. in a gentleman's park, or find them folded away in an old library, which when examined would throw a light on this very subject. The period is not so remote that we must abandon hope. I have often felt that in London at the end of the 15th century, say, in the time of the famous Whittington, a time of keen citizenship, a settling into peace after a war, an awakening of the English School of Music, a dying but brilliant native art just being confronted with the Renaissance—that at such a time might we find the foundations of 'change ringing,' I mean apart from 'call changes'; and that thus laid they slowly permeated the rest of England.

I will conclude with the testimony of two visitors to London, probably about the time of Henry VIII., viz., the Scottish poet Dunbar and a German traveller. The former sings of the 'sweete belles of London,' and the latter tells something about our foregoers' habit of shutting themselves up in a tower and ringing great bells 'for hours together.' I note that we their descendants still shut ourselves up in a tower for hours at a time to ring something very interesting. What was it which they found so very interesting? Was it 'Pre-Stedman-Major' or 'Proto-Grandseur-Bobbe'?—Yours faithfully,

E. ALEX. YOUNG.

'METHOD SPLICING.'

Published to-day, the new book on 'Method Splicing' will be a valuable addition to every ringer's library, for it deals in the fullest manner with the newest phase of the ringers' art. It is not confined in its treatment to the difficult Treble Bob methods, but those who can ring only plain methods will find that they will be able, after a study of the pages of 'Method Splicing,' to join up a variety of methods into true 720's. But to the man with the ability to ring Treble Bob, an entirely new field is opened up, and he will find fully explained the means by which he can include anything from two to ten methods in a single 720, and he will have before him the figures which will enable him to go into the tower and put it into practice. The 48 pages which the book contains are packed with instructive matter and useful compositions by Mr. Joseph Parker, Mr. E. H. Lewis and Mr. H. W. Wilde.

The price is only 1s. 3d., post free, and orders, with remittance, should be sent to 'The Ringing World' Office, Woking.

CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

CREWE BRANCH AT ALSAGER.

INTEREST OF MR. ERNEST CRAIG, M.P.

The Crewe and District Branch of the Chester Diocesan Guild held a most enjoyable meeting at Alsager on Saturday, when towers represented were Crewe, Nantwich, Lawton, Barthomley, Ightfield, Norton-in-Hales, Sandbach, Davenham, and the local tower. During the day the company rang touches of Plain Bob, Stedman Triples, Grand-sire Triples and Kent Treble Bob Major. An interested visitor was Mr. Ernest Craig, the popular Member of Parliament for the Crewe Division.

Tea was kindly provided by the church authorities, and the Vicar (the Rev. A. L. Moir) extended a hearty welcome to the ringers, and invited them to service.

Mr. R. D. Langford, branch secretary, referred to the excellent attendance, over 40 members being present, and said it was always a pleasure for them to visit Alsager.

Mr. Ernest Craig, M.P., who had a hearty reception, expressed his pleasure at the invitation extended to him to attend, and said he hoped to come to many more meetings. He invited the members to visit Alsager in the summer time, so that he would have the opportunity of entertaining them at Milton House. With regard to bell ringing, Mr. Craig said he had never pulled a rope in England in his life. The only bell he had pulled was one in Mexico, which was brought across the plains and deserts by mules and donkeys from Spain.

Mr. Craig was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Guild.

Votes of thanks were accorded the church authorities for providing tea, to the ladies for their services, and to the Vicar for the use of the bells.

THE CRITICISMS OF 'CRITICUS.'

GREETINGS AND GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

The first of January, Anno Domini, One thousand nine hundred and twenty-six. My salutations to the members of the Exercise! Health and good fortune attend you, merry gentlemen—and ladies! May your shadows never grow less, and your pockets never emptier—in my case it would be impossible, for I am already worn to a 'rasher' in the endless endeavour to 'save my bacon.' What with the Christmas bills and all those other little reminders of the presence of quarter day, which just now take the edge off the romance of Yuletide, I can see a more than usually busy time ahead in dodging the local tradesmen, and eluding the broker's man. But away with dull care—this is not the occasion or the place (as politicians and leader writers are wont to say when faced with a poser which they are not able to answer) to discuss my empty pockets with my readers: As a matter of fact, it was only a passing thought, which would persist in intruding itself, when I settled down to pen these lines of greeting. What I really intended to add was: More power to your elbows, and more peals in your books. I may as well pass on to you the greeting which I received from a humorous (?) friend—humorous because he knows I am a teetotaler, or, well, nearly so:

Beer by the bushel; peals by the peck;
May you be in 'em, up to the neck.

Now, I do know some people who would have no greater desire than this, even if they only went in head first, but I am a moderate man, and a little at a time is enough for me. However, I appreciate the spirit.

No doubt, like me, you will all have made a host of good resolutions for the new year. For instance, you will never, never again (for have you not resolved it?) be late for ringing—service, practice or peals; you will never be the 'one short,' so that the other seven, or however many it may be, will have to waste their time, or start for something less than was intended. What a sermon one could preach on this subject alone! But the worst of it is, habitual offenders do not seem to think any the worse of themselves for such delinquencies, and, therefore, a sermon would leave them unmoved, so the 'appropriate address' is 'off,' as far as I am concerned. But we all know of regular late-comers, who delay the start for five or ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour, and the pity is they cannot sometimes be paid out in their own coin. Then again, it being January 1st, we will all determine to pay our association subscriptions promptly, and so save our secretaries lots of trouble and our associations the prospect of a deficit in the next balance sheet. What a lot of ringers put off paying these subs. to the last minute—or altogether! It ought to be just as easy to pay in January as in the following December, and doubtless the good resolutions of to-day will include the determination to reform among all the conscience-smitten. The only thing I would advise is that those who are inclined to indulge in deferred payments should strike while the iron's hot, and pop round to the post office to-day, get a postal order, and send it along to their secretary.

And while there, why not send the one and threepence that will ensure a copy of this new book on 'Method Splicing?' It is not often a new book makes its appearance in the ringing Exercise, but in this new publication we are promised something which has never been dealt with in print before. When Jasper Snowden published his 'Rope Sight'—the best book a beginner in ringing ever had—he dealt with something which other writers had for a couple of centuries, more or less, included in their works, although he dealt with it in a better manner. But my fingers are itching to get at the pages of 'Method Splicing,' because here is a subject whose ramifications have never before been gathered up into a volume. Everybody who read that part of the work which Mr. Fidler wrote in 'The Ringing World' must have had his mind illumined by the lucid explanations of how these involved extents of Minor can be rung—not by supermen, but by common or garden ringers like you and me. Now we are to have in addition something further to elucidate the subject from the Wizard of the North. The mere fact that Mr. Joseph Parker is explaining the theory of splicing will make the book at once a work of authority and value. But there is another reason why I shall appreciate having all this information in the form of a book. In our domestic establishment is a lady with a mania for 'clearing up,' and, when my back is turned, she usually clears up so thoroughly that I can never find anything afterwards. And that is what happens to my copies of 'The Ringing World.' I have no doubt, too, that it happens in many another household, and the result is that when one wants to find anything in particular, 'The Ringing World' has disappeared. Now those articles by Mr. Fidler, spread over several weeks, were beginning to worry me. I had kept them for future reference, but I never knew the moment they might disappear, never to return. Therefore, I welcomed the announcement that they were to be reprinted, for I am privileged to enjoy the use of one shelf in my own bookcase for ringing 'books'—loose papers dare not make their appearance there. Now, I'll warrant there are many other ringers in like case—I don't mean that they are in a bookcase—

and they will be glad to see those 'Hints' tucked away in a handy little volume where they know they will be safe for all time—or until the next move, or fire. Yes, it was a good idea to reprint those 'Hints,' and I should imagine ringers will be falling over themselves to get a copy—with an instructive explanation thrown in on the theory side of the subject by Mr. Parker.

Is it a fact that the old-fashioned practice of parties of handbell ringers going out to play at the 'big houses' at Christmas is dying out in our villages? There was a time when, almost everywhere, the handbell ringers were as much a feature of Christmas as the carol singers, but of late years they seem almost to have disappeared—and the waits seem to be following them. I am glad to say, however, that old customs die hard down our way, and some of the 'old 'uns' from our tower still pay a round of Christmas visits with the handbells—and they seem to be welcome wherever they go. I couldn't join them this year, being unable to get my boots on for chilblains—my wife calls it gout—but old Charlie took my place—with the collecting book. They started out on Christmas Eve, when it was real old-fashioned Christmassy weather, with snow, and mince-pies, and mulled ale, and such like. But old Charlie isn't the man he was. Whether it was the snow, or the mince-pies, or the mulled ale, or all of them combined, I don't know, but late in the evening, when making their way from one house to another, his mates missed him. They went back over their tracks and searched, and found Charlie nice and comfy in a snow drift. They might not have troubled so much if Charlie had not been the cashier.

There seems to have been a capital race going on to see who could ring most peals in 1925, and it will be interesting to know who finished first. I like to see the old 'uns setting the pace for the youngsters, even if they are out-stayed in the end. It looks as if there were a good many in the running for honours, and by honours I mean those who can average one a week for the year. James, of England, ought to be well to the fore, and the evergreen Isaac G. is another of the youngsters who keep up the pace. There are some men of Kent, and others in the Midlands and North, who have made some very good going, but if you want really to go in for ringing, take my tip and join the Marines. Judging by the Sergeant-Major's record this year, ringing must form one of the methods of training in that branch of the services. There used to be a slogan, 'Join the Flying Corps and see the world.' It might, perhaps, be adapted for the R.M.'s, and read as follows: 'Join the Royal Marines and see the ringing world.'

CRITICUS.

LLANDAFF & MONMOUTH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

A SUCCESSFUL YEAR.

The annual meeting of the Llandaff and Monmouth Diocesan Association was held at the Pro-Cathedral, Newport, on Saturday, and was very well attended. The bells of both churches, St. Woolos' and All Saints', were kept busy during the day. At 4 o'clock a shortened form of service was conducted by the Vicar of St. Woolos' (the Ven. Archdeacon D. H. Griffiths), who, some thirty years ago, was the hon. secretary of the association. An excellent address was given. Following the service, tea was partaken of in the Waters Lane Mission Room. It had been very generously provided by the Archdeacon, who presided, and also took the chair at the subsequent business meeting.

Mr. A. J. Pitman, of Aberavon, was unanimously elected Master for the ensuing year, and the hon. secretary and both the auditors were re-elected.

Restorations and augmentations done during the year were reported on by the hon. secretary, the two most notable being at Abergavenny, where the old bells have been rehung with new fittings, etc., and at Usk, where the old six have been broken up and replaced with a new ring of eight, which at the moment are awaiting dedication. Progress was reported in regard to change ringing at Newton, Chepstow and Penmark. The year proved a good one, both in the number of peals and the variety of methods rung. The places for the next meetings were selected as follows: The annual to be held at Llandaff, the next quarterly at Merthyr and Blaenavon respectively.

Many new members were elected, including the whole band at Newton Nottage, where good progress is reported, thanks to Mr. A. J. Talbot, who is now living there.

The new Master, Mr. A. J. Pitman, was congratulated on his successful efforts in composition and conducting during the year, including his peals of spliced methods.

The question of a new certificate was discussed, and a committee formed to arrange designs and report at the next meeting.

Mr. Dawe read a statement in regard to the collection made in aid of the widow of the late Mr. W. Biss, which resulted in a sum of twenty pounds being handed over to her.

The meeting proved a most pleasant one, and can truly be described as a huge success. The Archdeacon was in his best form, causing much hilarity with his humorous remarks, and all went home with the recollection of a happy afternoon and evening.

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.**RESTORATION AND AUGMENTATION SCHEME COMPLETED.**

All who know Coalbrookdale and its bells will be very interested to learn that the old eight have now been completely restored and augmented to ten, and are now erected in the tower. The work has been carried out by the founders of the old eight, Messrs. Mears and Stainbank. No effort has been spared on their part to make everything in connection with the scheme of the very best. A new floor has been fixed about a foot below the very massive platform of steel girders, 16 x 6 and 10 x 6. The floor has a special hatchway leading from the clock room direct into the pit of the eighth bell, there being ample room allowed to get about underneath the bells when down. There is also a very accessible way from the tower steps. The steel girders are firmly grouted into the four walls in twelve places, being cross tied and interlaced in every possible place, to make the whole of the foundation work quite rigid. The new cast-iron frame is, to all who have seen it erected in London and in the tower, an engineering feat, being a picture of neatness and strength. The bells, except the fourth, are arranged round the four sides of the tower, the fourth being cleverly housed between the tenor and fifth. The tenor has been specially placed on the north-east side of the tower. All the bells are beautiful in tone, and in harmony with each other. The improved effect of the hum tones, after the bells have struck, is most pronounced.

Locally, everybody has been interested in the scheme, and most anxious to know if the tone of the bells would be less mellow with the steel girders, cast-iron frame and headstocks, than with the old wood frame, etc. Several people living near the church, including two who are ill, have answered this most important question by saying what a delightful improvement there is, with none of the old harsh noise they had got so very tired of, especially when peals were being rung. Thick glass 3ft. high, the top of which is above the tenor, when raised, has been placed in all the windows. This also has made a great improvement in the sound in the immediate vicinity of the church, while it will also safeguard the bells from storms, and yet allow plenty of room for the sound to escape. The 'go' and evenness of clapping is perfect. The tenor was always very troublesome to raise the right way. She is now quite as easy as the treble. The gudgeons and double pulleys have all got ball bearings, and, together with the clapper spindles, are fitted with patent grease cups. The bells have been tuned on the firm's three-toned principle. This is quite distinct and accurate in each bell.

Of the ten bells, four are new. The two new trebles have been added as a memorial to Lieut. Maurice A. A. Darley. The third bell of the old eight was not correct in the hum tone, and the founders very generously recast this bell at their own expense. The former fifth was found to have an old crack in the crown, and this bell Messrs. Mears and Stainbank very kindly offered to recast at half-price rather than return a faulty bell.

The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:—

Treble.—Mears and Stainbank, bell founders, London, 1925. These two treble bells were erected here by public subscription, in grateful remembrance of Lieut. Maurice A. A. Darley, Grenadier Guards, who gave his life for King and Country in the Great War, 1914—1918.

2.—Mears and Stainbank, bell founders, London, 1925.

Who stands if freedom fall?
Who dies if England live?

5.—C. and G. Mears, bell founders, London, 1852. Recast Mears and Stainbank, bell founders, London, 1925.

7.—C. and G. Mears, bell founders, London, 1852. Recast Mears and Stainbank, bell founders, London, 1925. Alfred E. W. Darley, J.P., D.L., Patron, Rev. Preb. C. B. Crowe, M.A., R.D., Vicar. Herbert Hughes, Frederick Johnson, Churchwardens.

3, 4, 6, 8, 9 and tenor.—C. and G. Mears, bell founders, London, 1852.

The four new bells each have cast on them the firm's foundry mark of three small bells, which has descended through the generations from the days of Robert Mot, and which now bears the initials A. A. H. and R. A. H.

From the double rope pulleys down through the clock room the ropes are guided in specially constructed troughs, one side of those fitted to the heavy bells being left open to allow the sound to escape into the clock room. This is most effective in the ringing chamber, in which the ropes are a very nice circle. The clock room floor, which also forms the ceiling of the ringing chamber, has a 10-inch double floor which is tightly packed with sawdust.

Mr. William A. Radclyffe, the firm's bell hanger, very successfully completed his work on Friday evening, December 18th. The Vicar invited him to attend two Parochial Council meetings. At one of these Mr. Radclyffe explained that his firm had given him orders to have the whole of the bells rung and tested by the Coalbrookdale ringers; also to invite members of the various committees and the local engineers and fitters to inspect the work. It should be mentioned here that locally the work has been watched most carefully,

and engineering experts have regularly visited the tower, and all agree that it is an exhibition job.

The trial of the bells took place on Friday evening, December 18th. The Rev. Preb. C. B. Crowe, Vicar, visited the ringing chamber at 7 p.m., and opened the ceremony with the usual Guild prayers, and said how very pleased he was to see all his local ringers back, after nearly a year's vacation with no bells. The back four bells were then raised singly, and the front six next raised in peal. These form a very fine light six, most necessary and handy for teaching, and desirable for six-bell ringers attending meetings. Next some very good rounds were rung on the ten. After settling down to new ropes, etc., they soon began to roll off in very regular 20's, with very distinct handstroke leads. Queen's, Whitlington and Tittums were next tapped off, and these at once proved the grandeur of a correctly tuned peal of ten. Following this, two courses of Grandsire Caters ran nicely into rounds; then Stedman and Grandsire Triples, Plain Bob and Kent Major on the back eight were rung, and afterwards the front six and back six were separately brought into action. A pretty run down of the ten brought to a close a happy gathering.

Before leaving, the Vicar thanked Mr. Radclyffe for the thoroughness with which he had carried out the whole of his work, and said he intended to write to the firm expressing his committee's thanks and gratitude for the wonderful way he had completed everything, even to the smallest detail. Pointing to the ringing chamber ceiling, he remarked he could not even see where the old rope hoics used to be.

Mr. Radclyffe thanked him for his very kind remarks, also for the hearty welcome given to him by all he had met during his stay in Coalbrookdale. He said he would always look back with pleasure to the restoration and augmentation of Coalbrookdale bells.

A complete chiming apparatus for ten bells of the firm's own special design has been installed. The clock is a very good one, having been made by Messrs. Joyce, Whitechurch, Shropshire, 1852. The whole of the work to this, which includes the fixing of the correct Westminster quarters on the bells, 1, 2, 3, 6, with the hour striking on the tenor, has been placed in the hands of the makers of the clock by the bell founders.

A further £100 is required so that the Bishop of Hereford can be invited to come and dedicate the new Darley memorial bells. To allow the whole scheme to be opened free of debt, two persons have each offered to loan £100 free of interest, so that the bells may be opened at the earliest possible date. The committee are very grateful for these most generous offers, but feel there are many who have happy memories of Coalbrookdale who would much like to contribute to the fund. The back eight were rung on Christmas morning, but they will not be rung again until they can be paid for. One bell will be rung for services, etc. Will readers who have any shilling stamp collecting books, with any 'Odd Bobs' collected on same, kindly send them, with remittance, at once to Mr. William Saunders, Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Shropshire.

SAFETY FIRST.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—On New Year's Eve probably scores of ringers risked their lives by taking the muffles off a few minutes before midnight. They have done it before and can do it again, if they don't stop. Whose turn will it be next to be caught in these death-traps?

Mr. W. T. Beeson's idea looks all right on paper, but I am afraid there is as much risk in lashing the wheel to the frame as doing anything else when the bells are up at 'set'; besides it would be quicker and much safer to 'fall' the bells.

Some twenty years or so ago a ringer at Stoke-on-Trent was killed while working among the bells. I then had a brain wave, and invented a device for securing the bells when up at 'set' by simply pulling down a wire in the ringing chamber and locking it with a padlock, but there was no call for it. Recently Mr. Fullwood, of Sedgely, Wolverhampton, took out a patent for a simpler device, which I believe was advertised in your paper.

It would be interesting to know if these cases are ever brought before the notice of the Board of Trade.—Yours, etc.,

JAS. E. GROVES.

PRESENTATION AT DARTFORD.

An interesting ceremony took place in the Holy Trinity tower, Dartford, on Sunday morning, December 13th, when, after ringing a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. J. H. Cheesman, Mr. J. Whendon, late secretary of and a ringer in the local band for twenty years, who has now left the district, was presented with a silver-mounted walking stick. The quarter-peal was rung in 41 mins.: T. Groombridge, junr., 1. E. Bates 2. J. H. Cheesman 3. E. Brown 4. J. Whendon 5. H. Simmons 6. A. Audsley 7. R. Jenkins (now secretary of the band) 8.

LITTLE BADDOW BELLS DEDICATED. BISHOP OF COLCHESTER'S INTEREST IN RINGING.

The restored bells at Little Baddow Parish Church, Essex, were dedicated on December 19th, and were heard again after a silence of many years. The original peal of four bells were cast at different times, and are inscribed as follows: Treble, 'Miles Graye made Me, 1636'; second, 'Sancta Toma Ora Pro Nobis' (about 1450); third, 'John Dier Made Me' (about 1600); tenor, 'Sancta Maria Ora Pro Nobis' (about the end of the 14th century, and one of the oldest bells in the county). Of these, the tenor bell was found to be the only sound one. The two smallest bells were both cracked, and the clapper of the third came out with its cast-in crown staple. In addition, the mediæval timber frame was long ago found to be so worn and decayed in places as to be unfit to carry the strain of the ringing of the bells when in full swing. The Parochial Church Council decided to make a resolute effort to effect restoration and repair. Mr. Wykeham Chancellor, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., was consulted, and, among other things, he recommended the repairing of the oak frame, recasting the Miles Graye bell, supplying a new bell in the place of the second (the original bell to be taken down and preserved on the ground floor of the tower), repairing the clapper of the third bell, and providing new bearings, wheel fittings, sliders, and ropes. The Chelmsford Diocesan Advisory Board for Church Treasures supported the scheme, which cost about £300, and a special appeal by the Church Council met with an encouraging response. Of the two new bells, one is the gift of his wife, 'in memory of Philip Boldero, who died Sept. 25th, 1919. R.I.P.', while the other is inscribed: 'Et ego Dominum laudabo' (I also will praise the Lord). The work of restoring the bell frame, of recasting the treble bell, and of making the two new bells, was carried out by Mr. Alfred Bowell, of Ipswich.

There was a crowded congregation at the dedication service, the ceremony being performed by the Bishop of Colchester. The surpliced clergy, in addition to the Bishop, were the Rev. Jesse Berridge, Rector of Little Baddow; Canon F. S. Paynter, R.D., Rector of Springfield; the Rev. A. E. Hall, of Boreham; and the Rev. H. M. Laug, of Woodham Walter. The processional hymn, 'All people that on earth do dwell,' was followed by prayers by the Rector. Psalm 47, 'O clap your hands,' was chanted, and the special lesson (Numbers x. 1-11) was read by Mr. A. L. Woodhouse, J.P., one of the wardens. Then followed the hymn, 'Praise, my soul,' and Psalm 150, 'O Praise God.' During the chanting of the Psalm, the clergy and churchwardens (Messrs. A. L. Woodhouse and J. J. Speakman) proceeded to the tower, where the Bishop, taking the bell ropes in his hand, said: 'In the faith of Jesus Christ we do solemnly set apart and separate these bells from all profane and unhallowed uses, and do now dedicate them to the glory of God, and for the benefit of His Holy Church, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.' Then the Bishop offered petitions for those for whom the bells shall ring. A short peal was rung on the bells, during which the clergy proceeded to the chancel. The hymn, 'Unchanging God, Who livest,' was sung.

In the course of an address, based on the text, 'Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord,' the Bishop of Colchester said he was glad to be able to take part in that interesting and moving occasion, and in that service, which had such a great deal to say about praise and thanksgiving. They had a real cause for thanksgiving, as they met together in that glorious and ancient church. As the bells were rung, let Jesus Christ be praised, and let them be glad, as the Lord would have them be. Everyone who heard the church bells ringing would think of those who had lived and worked in that parish in the past, who had given one thing and another to beautify the House of God, and consecrated that place in every succeeding age by their prayers. They praised God's Holy Name for those who had been benefactors of that church. First of all, the church bells were meant to call people to the House of God, to remind them that the time had come when they were to assemble together for worship, to remind them of the promise that 'where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there am I in the midst.' As little children, pious parents brought them to be dedicated to Him at the earliest moment, then when the holy bond of matrimony was sealed they came to that beautiful and sacred service, and the bells rang with joy. Then some day, when they were laid to rest yonder in God's Acre, near God's House, the bells tolled for their passing. The Bishop added that one of the things he regretted most was that as a young man he did not study campanology. But he had taken the greatest possible interest in ringing and the message the bells had, and he was glad that his son became a ringer. Among that congregation he saw one, if not more, of the best ringers in the East of England. Of all the Church work in which they could be engaged, there could be nothing more beautiful than that of ringing in the House of God, calling men and women to worship.

After the Te Deum, the Bishop pronounced the Blessing, and as a recessional hymn, 'Now thank we all our God,' was sung. Miss Paterson was at the organ. A collection was taken for the church bell fund.

During and after the service, the bells were rung, those taking part including Messrs. George Green, of Great Baddow (District Master), R. Thrift, of Boreham; H. Edwards, of Boreham; W. J. Nevard, of Great Bentley; and E. Runter, of Springfield. Dr. P. T. Spencer-Phillips, of Great Baddow, also joined the ringers during the evening.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

LONDON.—On Sunday, Dec. 27th, at the Church of St. Leonard, Streatham, for evensong, 1,230 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: J. Lee 1, Miss E. E. Chapman 2, Miss F. E. Orr 3, J. W. Chapman 4, C. F. Winney 5, W. S. Smith 6, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 7, H. Langdon 8.

BROMLEY, KENT.—At SS. Peter and Paul, on Sunday, Dec. 27th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (A. J. Perkins' twin-bob): A. James 1, T. Groombridge, sen., 2, G. F. James 3, G. Durling 4, G. Huxley 5, T. Groombridge, jun., 6, I. Emery (conductor) 7, E. Moulder 8.

CARDIFF.—At St. John's Church, for 11 a.m. service, on Dec. 27th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 48 mins.: W. H. P. Evans 1, F. Smith 2, E. Coombes 3, W. Richards 4, S. Dawe 5, E. Stinch (first quarter as conductor) 6, F. Chamberlain 7, S. R. Barker 8.

WEST HAM.—For evening service, on Sunday, Dec. 20th, 1,260 Grandsire Triples, in 49 mins.: W. Theobald 1, A. Prior (conductor) 2, T. Sparrow (Stowmarket, first quarter), 3, J. Scholes 4, G. Hayden 5, A. Baynes 6, E. D. Smith 7, R. Moulton 8.

BOLTON, LANCS.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, in 47 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): A. Hulme 1, R. Holden 2, J. Guest 3, J. Omerod 4, W. Pennington 5, A. Heywood (conductor) 6, J. E. Markland 7, J. Kay 8.

BRIGG, Lincs.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, for evening service, at the Church of St. John-the-Evangelist, a quarter-peal of 1,296 changes, in two methods, in 41 mins., being 576 Plain Bob and 720 Kent Treble Bob, with 15 bobs: P. Shipworth 1, T. Bell 2, C. Anson 3, G. T. Saxby 4, G. Webb 5, F. W. Atkinson, junr. (conductor), 6. First quarter-peal in two methods by all the band except the conductor, and also first quarter-peal in two methods on the bells by a local company.

LONDON.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, at the Church of St. Mary Abbots, Kensington, for evensong, 1,224 Double Norwich Court Bob Caters: F. V. H. Sinkins 1, W. E. Garrard 2, P. L. Miles 3, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 4, W. E. Judd 5, R. Congreve-Pridgeon 6, H. G. Miles 7, A. V. Selby 8, A. F. Harris 9, G. W. Frayne 10.

TOTTENHAM.—At 'All Hallows', on Sunday, Dec. 20th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: S. W. Crabb 1, H. A. Barnett 2, W. J. Ellis (conductor) 3, G. Thurgood 4, H. Ellis 5, E. A. Hull 6, C. Button 7, W. Patmore 8.

DOVER, KENT.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, for the evening service, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1,260 changes), in 43 mins.: J. Eagles 1, R. H. Stevens 2, H. J. Saunders 3, C. Turner 4, H. Whitehead 5, C. R. Walker 6, C. R. Millway (conductor) 7, L. Sibley 8.

MERTHYR TYDFIL, GLAM.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Dec. 20th, for evening service, in 43 mins., a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes): G. Jones 1, L. Stirk 2, W. Fisher 3, F. Sharp 4, E. Thomas 5, P. C. J. Coles 6, H. J. Taylor (conductor) 7, L. Stirk 8. The above are the regular Sunday Service band.

TWICKENHAM.—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday evening, Dec. 20th, for service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 46 mins.: W. H. Wood 1, J. A. Trollope 2, C. H. Dobbie 3, W. Shepherd 4, J. R. Mackman 5, A. Harding 6, W. H. Hollier (conductor) 7, F. Challen (first attempt to ring a quarter-peal) 8. The bells were re-opened on the 19th, after re-hanging and tuning.

NOTICE.

MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.—Leicester Branch.—The Annual meeting of this branch will be held at St. Margaret's, Leicester (12 bells) on Friday evening, Jan. 15th. Ringing 7.30—8.30. Will all members endeavour to be present? Election of officers, etc.—Harold J. Poole, Local Hon. Sec., 51, New Park Street, Leicester.

NOTICES.

THE CHARGE FOR NOTICES of Meetings inserted under this heading is at the rate of 3d. per line (average 8 words) per insertion, with a minimum charge of 1/6.

The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, **COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.**

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MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—Nottingham District. — The annual meeting of the above will be held at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Tower open 2.30. Meeting 6 p.m. Nominations for officers will greatly oblige. Will members please make an effort to be present? All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Local Sec.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (NOTTINGHAM), Established 1672.—The annual meeting for election of officers will be held on Saturday, Jan. 2nd. Ringing, St. Mary's, Nottingham, 2.30. Meeting 8 p.m. Amendments to Rules 3 and 12 will be proposed at this meeting. It is hoped members will be present. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—The subscription of 1s. 8d., which entitles members who have not made 20 attendances in the past year to vote on matters of finance, is now due. Meetings for practice will be held at Southwark Cathedral on Jan. 5th, St. Magnus' on the 7th and 21st, St. Mary-le-Bow on the 12th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 14th (8 o'clock), St. Paul's Cathedral on the 26th, at 7.30 p.m.; also at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on the 17th, for service at 6 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., Frodingham, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—Loughborough District.—The annual meeting of the district will be held at Loughborough on Saturday, Jan. 9th. The bells (10) of the Parish Church and the Bell Foundry Campanile will be open from 3 o'clock onwards. The foundry will be open from 2 till 4.30 for visiting ringers to see the recast York Minster bells. Will all members try to attend (election of officers)? There will also be a short social evening. Tea will be provided at a moderate charge for those who notify me not later than Jan. 7th.—J. Saddington, Hon. Dis. Sec., 27, Chapman Street, Loughborough.

BRISTOL UNITED RINGING GUILDS.—Fifth annual dinner, Grand Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol, Saturday, Jan. 9th. Tickets 5s. 6d. each. Peals arranged during afternoon. University Buildings and 'Great George Bell' (9½ tons) on view, and will be rung (ticket holders only). Tickets may now be obtained of tower secretaries, officials and stewards, or direct from E. Guise, Hon. Sec., 39, Tankard's Close, St. Michael's Hill, Bristol.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Sonning Deanery Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at All Saints', Wokingham, on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting at the Church House. Those intending to be present at tea must notify me not later than Jan. 3rd. Ringing before service and after meeting at both the churches of All Saints (8) and St. Paul (8).—F. Dentry, Hon. Sec., Church Street, Twyford, Berks.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at All Saints', Hamer, Rochdale, on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Meeting at 6.30 p.m. **SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE. REPORTS TO HAND.** All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Todmorden.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Desborough (8) on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Usual arrangements. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 5th?—R. G. Black, Branch Sec., Geddington.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—A quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9th, at Wrington. Bells available 2.30 p.m. Evensong 4 p.m. Tea and meeting 4.45 p.m. If members know of any errata in the current report, I should be glad to hear of them, that they may be corrected in the report for 1925.—J. T. Dyke, Hon. Sec., Midsomer Norton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Broughton, near Preston, on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Will those who intend to be present please notify Mr. W. Smith, 1, Black Bull Cottages, Broughton, near Preston, not later than Wednesday, Jan. 6th?—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting on Saturday, Jan. 9th, at Eckington (8 bells). Tea provided for those who notify Mr. Ditcher, 15, Station Road, Eckington, by Jan. 7th.—Colin Harrison, Hon. Sec. (pro. tem.), 62, Roach Road, Sheffield.

STOKE ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.—A meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 9th, at Hanley. Bells (10) available from 3 p.m., service 5 p.m., tea 5.30 p.m. Committee meeting after tea. Notices of attendance to be sent to Mr. F. E. Eardley, 8, Harley Street, Hanley, not later than Jan. 5th.—A. Vaughan, 10, High Street, Knutton, Staffs.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Maidstone District.—The next meeting will be held at Aylesford on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Tower open at 3. Service at 5. Tea, 5.30, at the Working Men's Club. Business meeting after tea. Please notify me by Tuesday, Jan. 5th.—C. H. Sone, Hon. Dis. Sec., The Bungalow, Linton, Maidstone.

HEREFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Presteign District.—The annual meeting will be held at Dilwyn on Saturday, Jan. 9th. Bells (6) available at 4 p.m. Service at 5. Tea at 5.30, free to all who notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 5th. Business meeting after.—Jabez Preece, Hon. Dis. Sec., Lea Lodge, Staunton-on-Arrow.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—Annual meeting will be held at St. Martin's Hotel, St. Martin's Lane, City, on Tuesday, Jan. 12th, at 7.45 p.m. Bells of St. Martin's available 6.30.—A. Paddon Smith, Hon. Sec., 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—Quarterly meeting will be held at Wednesday on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells from 3 o'clock. Service in church, with an address by the Vicar (Rev. H. W. Jones), at 4.45. Tea (1s.) at 5.30. Please send word by Tuesday, the 12th inst.—H. Knight, Hon. Sec., 15, Rugby Street, Wolverhampton.

MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.—The third quarterly meeting will be held at Eastwood, Notts, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells (8) open 2 to 8 p.m. Committee meeting at Sun Hotel 3.45 p.m. Meat tea (2s.) at Sun Hotel, 5 o'clock, followed by general meeting. Members requiring tea please notify Mr. J. P. Pollard, 20, Addison Villas, Eastwood, Notts, not later than Jan. 14th. Trams leave Upper Parliament Street, Nottingham, every 15 minutes. Buses leave Hippodrome every few minutes. Will members in arrears please pay up on or before this date, either locally or direct to me, specially noting Rule 4 (a)?—Ernest Morris, Gen. Hon. Sec., 24, Coventry Street, Leicester.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Cheltenham Branch.—The annual meeting of the above branch will be held at Leckhampton on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells open at 3 o'clock. Service 4.30. Tea 5.30, kindly provided by the Vicar (Rev. F. A. Standfast). Business meeting to follow. Will all those intending to be present please notify me by the 12th inst.?—Walter Yeend, Hon. Branch Sec., Millfield, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—South District.—The general meeting will be held at All Saints', Fulham, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Tower open from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. Will those coming to tea let me know before the 13th? Everyone heartily welcomed.—C. F. Mitchell, Hon. Dis. Sec., 4, Phene Street, Chelsea, S.W.3.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE ASSOCIATION.—West Tyne District.—A meeting of the above will be held at Newburn on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells (6) available at 2.30 p.m.—C. Symm, Newton, Stocksfield-on-Tyne.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Northern District.—Annual meeting on Saturday, Jan. 16th, at St. Magnus-the-Martyr, Lower Thames Street. Ringing 3.45 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. and 6.45 p.m. to 8 p.m. Business meeting 6 p.m. It is hoped that all members will endeavour to make this meeting a success.—W. Bottrill, Hon. Dis. Sec., 29, Queen's Mansions, North Road, N.7.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. James', Haslingden, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells ready 3.30. Meeting at 7 o'clock. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Sec., 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral, Manchester, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells from 5.30 p.m. Meeting 7 o'clock. Subscriptions due. Reports to hand. A large attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Acton on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Ringing from 3.15. Tea will be arranged.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at the Holy Trinity Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m. Reports are now ready.—J. Watson, Branch Sec., 48, Shear Bank Terrace, Palmer Street, Blackburn.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Northern Branch.—A meeting of the above branch will be held at Wollaston on Saturday, Jan. 16th. Bells will be available at 3.30. Service in church at 5 o'clock. It is important that all those intending to be present should notify me not later than Tuesday, Jan. 12th.—A. J. Skelding, Branch Sec., 7, Cecil Street, Stourbridge.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Central Division.—Meeting at Burgess Hill on Saturday, Jan. 23rd. Tower open 2 p.m., service 4.15, tea (in Parish Room) 5, by kind invitation of the Vicar. Half rail fare (maximum 1s.). Those intending to be present should notify the undersigned not later than Wednesday, Jan. 20th.—A. D. Stone, Div. Sec., 16, Belgrave Street, Brighton.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (NOTTINGHAM), Established 1672.—Preliminary Notice.—William Doubleday Crofts' Memorial Dinner will take place on Saturday, Jan. 30th, at the Welbeck Hotel, Milton Street. Tickets, 4s. each, can now be obtained from the hon. sec., F. Blood, 91, Dame Agnes Street, Nottingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

MEETING AT MANCHESTER TOWN HALL.

The last meeting of the year of the Manchester Branch was held at Manchester Town Hall, when a large number of ringers, including visitors from outside branches, were present. Ringing commenced at four o'clock, and continued in various methods till 7.30 p.m., when the business meeting was held. Mr. W. Wolstencroft was voted to the chair, and said Lancashire looked upon it as a great privilege to be allowed to come and ring on the city bells.

Two new members were elected to the association, and Manchester Cathedral was selected for the annual meeting, as in former years, to be held on Saturday, January 16th, 1926.

Mr. H. Chapman gave an interesting report on his visit to Oxford, when the new bells, to the memory of the late Mr. J. W. Washbrook, were dedicated, saying how pleased he was with them, and that great credit was due to all who helped to bring the work to a successful issue.—The Chairman made reference to the memory of Mr. Washbrook, remarking that it was two years ago that day that Mr. J. W. Washbrook took the chair at their meeting, full of life and energy, and giving his advice to all present, and then on the following Christmas Day came the great shock of his tragic death.

Votes of condolence and sympathy were passed to the relatives of the late Mr. S. Booth, of Ashton-under-Lyne, and Mr. W. E. Ryder, of Birch-in-Rusholme, two old and esteemed members of the association, who have lately passed away, the members standing in silence for a few moments.

Votes of thanks to the officials of the Town Hall and the local ringers were passed unanimously, and replied to by the leader, Mr. F. Page, who said he would convey the association's thanks to the proper quarter.

During the evening an interesting piece of regalia was on view, consisting of a massive chain and medallion in the shape of a bell of pure 'Sheffield gold,' presented by 'Ireneus' to Mr. H. Chapman to wear when presiding at any meetings. No doubt the donor of it was thinking of the size of the man when he ordered it, but the writer would need some help if he had to wear it.

After the meeting the handbells were brought into use, and touches of Grandsire, Stedman and Boh Royal were rung.

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