

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 12. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. I.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1882.

[ONE PENNY.]

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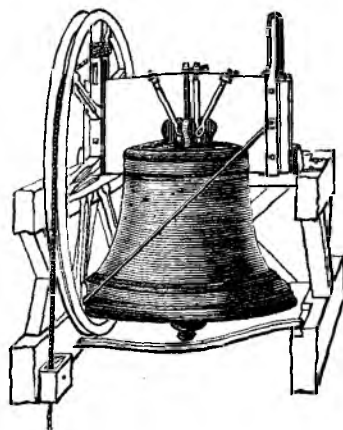
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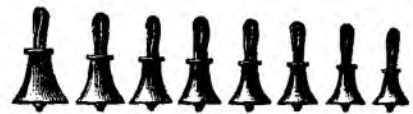
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LAVENHAM, SUFFOLK.—ANNIVERSARY OF THE ERECTION OF THE BELLS.

ON Wednesday the Anniversary in connection with the above celebrated bells was held. As previously foreshadowed in this journal, the event was signalled by a dinner at the "Cock Inn," near the Church, that repast being of a most liberal character, and entirely satisfactory to the visitors, who had previously been working hard at the ropes. And, indeed, to ring Lavenham bells on the day in question was very hard work indeed, a fact sufficiently patent to any casual observer of the scene in the belfry, if the exertion now and then required to get a bell in place, and the appearance of the perspiring visages of some of the performers were any criterion. We, in common with other ringers who had a "handful" at Lavenham last Wednesday, cannot help deploring the wretched state and "go" of these bells. Complaints under this head were rife from all sides, "the Squire" venting his dissatisfaction that the bells "didn't draw a bit," and it certainly required a good band of veterans to ring a touch at all worthy of notice. By accident we heard that there would be no difficulty in getting anything done to the bells that is necessary, if the fact of the deplorable state which they are in were brought under the notice of the Church authorities. It is easy to predict what will be the effect on the fortunes of ringing in Lavenham if they are not soon looked after. The Anniversary will surely become a thing of the past so far as the attendance of good ringers are concerned. Attracted by the repute of the bells, ringers from many miles distant are apt to visit this Suffolk village once a year; if some improvement is not soon effected, the local ringers, whoever they may be, will eventually have to eat their Annual Dinner themselves, as no one who is accustomed to ring bells which are in apple-pie order will go to the trouble and expense of a long journey if they are to become exhausted by ringing a few courses owing to the wretched condition the bells are in. We hope our remarks will be the means of inducing the powers that be to take into consideration, without delay, the advisability of rehangng the whole peal. If, as we heard, the local ringers are not aware of the fact that the bells are in a bad condition, and, in replying to questions from the churchwardens, report that there is nothing wanting but new ropes, with all due deference to such an opinion, we unhesitatingly say that the contrary is the fact. New ropes are not wanted, but new gudgeons, new brasses, new stocks, and such-like arrangements are positively needed, and these repairs should be taken in hand speedily before other and more expensive doctoring is rendered absolutely necessary.

The meeting of ringers at this Anniversary was, in one respect, a most important one. It was known previously that a movement to promote a meeting of the gentlemen ringers of the kingdom had been in operation. The idea intended to be carried out was to meet at Lavenham, Bury St. Edmunds the following day, Redenhall and Ipswich on the Friday—ringing at each place *en route*. From the shortness of the time for carrying the necessary arrangements into effect, it cannot be said that this introductory meeting was altogether a success. No meeting of this kind would appear to be complete if it were devoid of the presence of Jasper W. Snowdon, Esq., and from the great benefits that must eventually accrue to the interests of scientific ringing, it is hoped that on the next occasion that gentleman may see fit to lend to the movement his energy and presence. Others, too,

prominent in the ringing world, might reasonably have been expected to have been present, but there is no doubt that the cause we have just mentioned, viz., the shortness of time previous to the Lavenham meeting militated against the chances of a more numerous attendance. We noticed, however, an influential company, though small in number. The Squire of Bennington was, as usual, to the fore; Gervas Holmes, Esq., Captain Moore, Rev. Prebendary Sutton, Rev. G. H. Harris (Hon. Sec. of the Norwich Association), Rev. H. Earle Bulwer, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. J. B. Seaman, Dr. Meadows, and M. C. Potter, Esq. The majority of these gentlemen carried out the programme resolved upon, so far as their number would allow.

On arriving at the Lavenham railway station we were greeted with an indifferently struck touch of Bob Major, that nor the succeeding touch in the same method being brought home. No band could be obtained for any other method for a time, but eventually a touch of Grandsire Triples was rung by a mixed band of visitors, and before this was concluded the company in the steeple had been augmented by fresh arrivals. Five courses of Stedman Triples were then essayed, but without success, and the dinner hour was thus reached. The "spread" was served in a tent at the back of the above mentioned hostelry, and certainly so far as the quality of the viands and attendance upon the guests were concerned it was indeed satisfactory. One feature struck us as being rather remarkable, and that was the presence of several ladies at one end of the table. It seemed to us a kind of novelty to have the presence of the fair sex at a ringers' dinner, but examining still further we could not help coming to the conclusion that any one who pleased—ringers or not—were perfectly at liberty to join the company in the tent. In fact, after the tables were cleared, and some of the company remained near to the entrance to the tent, we noticed that an individual in very sable attire was occupying a position in close proximity to the Rev. G. H. Harris, evidently waiting for an opportunity to hob-nob with that gentleman, but meeting with no encouragement he soon made a precipitate retreat, evidently to the satisfaction of those who had been but a moment before in close proximity to him. But we confess to a desire that ringers' festivals, whether they partake of a dinner, or excursion, or what not, should be attended by ringers only, and not by a host of people who have no sympathies of any kind with ringing. Nothing tends more to put a damper upon our spirits at a meeting of this nature when we find ourselves shoulder to shoulder with some one whom we never saw before, and probably never shall see again, and have to listen to the commonplace talk, foreign to subjects which should only be discussed on such occasions. Of course the relatives generally of our fellow ringers we may be supposed to know, and our objection does not extend to such. A ringers' meeting should be one in fact, not in name only, and if the composition of these gatherings was guarded from outsiders more than at present, we think, it would be satisfactory to ringers in general.

After dinner five courses of Stedman Triples were rung, called by the Rev. F. E. Robinson. Then another three courses, and these two touches were the best ringing that marked the day's proceedings, very little being done upon the bells after.

The arrangements of the special meeting we have previously referred to included a visit to the town of Bury St. Edmunds, and after they had partaken of tea the following gentlemen proceeded by rail to that town:—Gervas Holmes, Rev. F. E. Robinson, Rev. H. E. Bulwer,

Rev. G. H. Harris, Dr. Meadows, and M. C. Potter, Esq. This historic place boasts of two peals of bells, but here as at Lavenham everything was in dreadfully bad order. A very good peal of ten is in an ancient Norman tower, but scarcely able to be rung at all, being in such defective condition, though six courses of Grandsire Caters was attempted, called by the Rev. F. E. Robinson. The peal of eight is likewise of good quality, but in similar condition to the ring of ten, and under the circumstances no pleasant ringing in Bury was to be had.

We must however defer an account of these later proceedings till our next number.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BRAINTREE.—On Wednesday and Thursday, July 14th and 15th, on the occasion of the Agricultural Show being held at Braintree, the bells of St. Michael's were rung, and the Braintree company succeeded in completing the seven following 720's at intervals during the day, all true and complete: 720 Woodbine Treble Bob, 720 Double Court Bob, 720 Cambridge Surprise, 720 New London Treble Bob, 720 Kent Treble Bob, 720 College Exercise, 720 Oxford Treble Bob. Also on the same day were rung touches in the following methods:—240 New London Treble Bob, 180 Bob Minor, 360 Oxford Treble Bob, 216 Oxford Treble Bob, 240 Kent Treble Bob. The whole of these were conducted by Mr. F. Rudkin, and all were successfully brought home.

On Thursday the same company succeeded in ringing 720 Violet Treble Bob, 720 Court Single, 720 Bob Minor; also the following touches:—300 Bob Minor, 384 Oxford Treble Bob. This day's ringing was conducted by Mr. S. Hammond.

The following are the names of the Braintree company:—T. Watson, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; *W. Dyson, 3; *S. Hammond, 4; *F. Rudkin, 5; *A. Huckson, 6. Those marked thus * are College Youths, and all are members of the above Association.

During the two days the belfry was visited by ringers from the following places:—Ipswich, Boreham, Earl's Colne, Great Waltham, Stebbing, Clacton-on-Sea, Great Tey, Kelvedon, Great Bromley, Bishops Stortford, Romford, Halstead, and Rayne.

A 720 of Minor was rung during the day by a mixed band, including Mr. H. Howell, of Ipswich, who is rehanging a peal of six at Stisted, Essex; tenor about 11 cwt. Many of the visitors succeeded in ringing in one or more of the touches.

RIPON AND STOCKTON.

On Saturday, the 17th inst., the Stockton-on-Tees society of ringers proceeded by excursion to Ripon, which city was reached at 3.25 p.m. Sharrow Church was then visited, and the peal of eight bells was at once put to the test of Bob Major, the tenor here weighing 13 cwt. The true campanological hospitality of Mr. T. Clark was then experienced, and a course of Grandsire Caters was rung by five of the Stockton ringers upon his handbells. Mr. Clark then drove his guests to Ripon, and with the assistance of the Ripon ringers, some very fair Bob Major touches were accomplished at the Cathedral, the tenor of which peal weighs 21 cwt. At nine o'clock the visitors were again on their way home, having acquitted themselves very fairly at eight-bell ringing, and altogether well pleased with their reception and outing.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

The next Anniversary Dinner of the above Society will take place at the "Bell Inn," Walthamstow, Essex, on Saturday, July 1st. Particulars as to Tickets and all other information may be obtained from the Hon Sec., G. A. Muskett, King's Head Inn, Winchester Street, Southwark. There are two peals of eight; one in very good, and the other in fair order.

THE DERBY AND DISTRICT CHANGE-RINGERS' ASSOCIATION.

The first Quarterly Meeting of the above Association will be held at Burton-on-Trent, on Saturday afternoon, July 1st, 1882. Ringing to commence at 2 p.m. All ringers are earnestly invited to attend.

H. C. WOODWARD, Hon. Sec.

THE "ESSEX TIMES" ON THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

Editors of local newspapers, generally speaking, although it can be proved to ocular demonstration that the science of change ringing is an

intellectual pursuit, yet they have considerable hesitation in permitting a single line into their columns beyond the bare fact of a peal having been rung. By the formation of Associations, however, the attention of such individuals is being gradually called to the subject, for like other public institutions, meetings of such have to be duly reported. It is, however, so rare an occasion to find a "leaderette" on the work of an association having for its object belfry reform and the advancement of the art, that we have pleasure in reproducing the following from the columns of the *Essex Times*, June 14th, and trust other local newspapers will follow the example set them by our contemporary:—

"Last week we reported the proceedings at the anniversary meeting of the Essex Association of Change Ringers, which was held at Chelmsford on Whit-Monday. The Association seems to be in a prosperous condition, and to be making progress. It already numbers 145 ringing members, many of whom are evidently possessed of that enthusiasm for their art which is the pre-requisite of excellence in this as in every other pursuit. They have also a respectable balance in hand, and look forward to increasing it. Add to this that through the instrumentality of the Rev. J. B. Seaman and the Rev. H. A. Cockey—especially of the former—the ringers are coming to be recognised as church-workers, and it must be confessed that its career has not been altogether useless. It is very desirable that the ringers should be given a sort of status, which will ensure decorum in the belfry in place of the rather riotous and disorderly conduct that it is understood used to be almost the rule. There is a change now, we believe, and it must be helped and confirmed by the formation of such Associations. In connection with this anniversary meeting, we have received the following communication from one who has a practical knowledge of the subject on which he writes, which entitles him to a hearing:—'Mr. Troyte, the celebrated Devonshire change-ringer, who, by his publications and his telling address at the Plymouth Church Congress has done so much for the advancement of change ringing, once said that Essex was sadly deficient in the science. However true such an assertion may once have been, it is evident that the county is making fair progress to become much more promising and efficient in the art. This is proved by the fact that in connection with the third anniversary of the Essex Association, two peals of Grandsire Triples, each consisting of 5040 changes, were rung in the vicinity of the county town on Saturday and Monday. Formed for the advancement of the art, the Association has thus achieved success, for if the Association had not existed these peals would not have been rung. There is also another point which the county and the Association may be proud of, and that is that the bands included a clergyman, one who has been the means, through his influence and practical knowledge of the art, of causing an interest to be taken in this part of church work. It is to the formation of Associations of this kind, and to the increasing interest taken in the art—which exercises both the mental and physical powers—by men of education and influence that we must look for improvement being made in the use of instruments dedicated to the service of the Church. Fortunately our own county towers had never fallen into so low a condition as those of the western counties, yet there is room and need for enlightenment in some parishes before the occupants of the belfry are recognised, as they should be, as church workers. The suggestion made at the meeting by the hon. secretary that the two bells once removed from the parish church of the county town should be replaced, is once which the Association ought to see carried out, and having accomplished this, it should then use its influence with the Chelmsfordians in getting them to add an additional two bells to the tower, which would thus give Essex one twelvile-be ring.'"

The tower of the parish Church of St. Chad, Stafford, is about to be restored from plans by Mr. Robert Griffith, architect.

The parish church of All Saints, Great Melton, Norfolk, is about to be restored from plans by Mr. J. Bond Pearce, of Norwich.

A stained-glass window, the gift of St. Peter's Guild, will be unveiled on Thursday next, at St. Peter's Church, Battersea. The window is the work of Messrs. Clayton and Bell, of London.

A brass lectern, supplied by Messrs. Cox, Sous, and Buckley, of Southampton Street, Strand, was used for the first time on Sunday at All Saints' Church, Maidstone.

The Church of the Holy Saviour in Canterbury Road, Folkestone, will be opened on Tuesday next. It is an iron structure, built by Messrs. Croggon and Co., of Bow, and will seat 400 persons.

The consecration of the Bishop-Suffragan of Colchester will take place at the cathedral of St. Alban's to day (Saturday) at 11.30 a.m. For the convenience of those attending the service, a special train will run from St. Pancras Station at 10.15.

The aisle roofs of St. Peter's Church, Northampton, have just been restored and repaired. Mr. J. Oldrid Scott was the architect, and Mr. H. Martin, of Northampton, the builder.

The capstone of the new spire to the parish church of Ryde, Isle of Wight, was laid with public ceremony on Friday week.

The organ in Knaresborough church was reopened on Wednesday week after enlargement by Messrs Spencer and Co., of Bradford.

A stained window was placed last week in the chancel of Mildenhall parish church, as a memorial to Colonel Oliphant. The subjects are "The call of the Apostles," "Christ wailing upon the sea," "The marriage at Cana in Galilee," and John the Baptist pointing to the Lamb of God." The work has been executed by Mr. G. Elliott, of George Street, Euston Square, W.C.

On Saturday last the St. Paul's Ecclesiological Society paid a visit to Oxford. The members were met at Christ Church by Canon Bright, who conducted them over the cathedral, giving them a succinct account of its history from the previous foundation of a nunnery by St. Frideswide, about the year 726, down to the placing of a font within its walls last month, the cathedral having never, so far as is known, possessed one before. After luncheon the members reassembled at Merton, where Mr. James Parker explained how that college had given the keynote to all the rest. New College, Magdalen, All Souls, and Keble were also visited.

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All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to the office of "THE BELL NEWS," Walthamstow, London."

Everything for insertion in this Journal to be addressed, "The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London." Letters forwarded for publication must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; the insertion of Performances coming later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning, cannot be guaranteed in that week's number.

Contributions are invited from any of our friends. We shall always be glad to give any information asked for, relative to the subjects this paper deals with.

The Editor would be glad to receive the names of gentlemen who would be willing to act for their respective districts, in the capacity of reporter or correspondent. We shall feel obliged by Association and other Secretaries sending intelligence of events occurring within their jurisdiction.

CHARGES FOR ADVERTISEMENTS.

The charge for Advertisements is 4s. per inch single column, or 8s. per inch double column. Special arrangements for a series of more than four insertions. Displayed advertisements by special contract. All advertisements must reach the Publisher's by 12 o'clock at noon on Thursday.

D. PRENTICE.—We have mislaid the copy of your other peal. Be good enough to send again.

R. WILLIAMS, JUNR.—All right.

D. P. W.—The mode given in Troyte is the most common.

W. WALKER, Leeds.—Kindly send us your address.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1882.

ONE of the principal ingredients in the well-being and success of a ringing company is the decided intention of the members constituting it always regularly to attend practice on the evenings appointed for that purpose. It is manifestly essential to the effectual performance of half-pull ringing that the appearance of each member of every company should not only be regular, but absolutely punctual. In short, punctuality should be an important condition upon which every ringer should be allowed to retain the rights of membership, for a member of any society who meets occasionally, or is absent according to the whims of his own caprice or convenience, is a most undesirable person to be retained on the company's name-book. This is a most important question indeed, affecting as it does the welfare and fortunes of ringing to a great extent. Of course in all well regulated societies a code of rules exists, which inflict a penalty upon absentees on the appointed practice night. But the liquidation of these fines on settling day does not lessen the inconvenience which falls upon those who are regular, nor is such a satisfactory amende by the defaulters. Those worthy of belonging to the exercise of ringing will not allow any fragile reason to prevent them from taking their place in the belfry punctually at the appointed hour for practice; and if that is so, then whoever indulges in a continual late attendance at practice, or only being present just when it suits their capricious inclinations, had better, for their own credit, as well as for the good of ringing, entirely give up the art altogether, or at any rate, till they have learned to study the feelings of others, who suffer by such unstable conduct.

The irregular attendance of ringers in the belfry are, it is to be feared, greater than even our experience extends.

There are, of course, other causes than simple neglect or indifference on the part of many good ringers. There may be private pique or dislike to one or more members of a company on the part of another member, caused perhaps by the successful prosecution of any project which the latter opposed with all his might, and being thus defeated in his aims, an unworthy determination of revenge of some kind or another rankles in his breast, waiting for an opportunity to wreak it on the head of his opponents; and while such a feeling as this lasts he abstains from intercourse in the belfry with his fellow ringers. This is one of the worst causes of non-attendance on the practice night, and we have not the slightest hesitation in saying, emphatically, that the ringer who does not disdain to split up a company because some subject he wished to carry—on a matter of business, perhaps—did not meet with the result at the hands of the other members he expected it would, deserves to be branded as an ill-natured fellow, and to be treated accordingly. Though we could name instances where personal differences and dislikes are carried no further than the moments allowed for the transaction of business at the meeting-house, it is painful to reflect upon the fact that there are instances where such feelings are carried into the steeple. We do not envy the disposition of such persons. Shall any one be entitled to the smallest grain of respect among us who persistently remains away from the society of his fellow ringers through some foolish idea he obstinately entertains? And whoever is guilty of such conduct, cannot be the possessor of a well-balanced mind. Though these observations must be taken in a general sense, there has while writing, come to our minds a notable instance of such conduct as we are alluding to. In this case, some few miles from the metropolis, the offenders cannot know what they really want, but are evidently actuated merely by a wretched feeling of antagonism towards others of the same company, who, without the slightest exaggeration, are better men in point of ringing ability, and indeed in every other respect, than themselves. Let our readers imagine a fair peal of eight in capital order, the appointments of the steeple everything to be wished, bells kept in order by the steeple-keeper, a worthy tradesman of the place, and the best ringer, perhaps, in the county, an affable and obliging gentleman who, from a pure love of the art, desires that it should prosper in his neighbourhood. In which he is and sustained by the majority of the local company. Imagine all this, and then what can be said to one or two of the same company who not only refrain from meeting a body of gentlemen whom to know is a honour, but to refuse to listen to any compromise on the questions at issue between them, unless they can be allowed to become masters of the situation? With what feelings can these persons be regarded, who seem to delight in keeping up this unhealthy irritation. But what, in such cases as this, is the plain duty of the Church authorities? Why to endeavour to rectify, by their counsel and advice, such a state of things, and if such contumacy is persisted in, to relieve these offenders from their duties as ringers of the Church, in short, to expel them from the belfry with the least consideration, and restore peace where, before these men knew what the sound of bells were, a state of affairs existed of a smooth and agreeable character.

The interference of the Incumbent in such a case as the one we have alluded to would certainly be justifiable, but, while eschewing any partisanship, our readers will be at one with us in saying that the experience, character, and standing of the parties should be taken into consideration.

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They who are willing to smoke the calumet are to be preferred before those who constantly flash the war hatchet; and a great service to ringers in general will ensue, if the powers of the Church authorities are brought into requisition to remove these turbulent spirits to a scene more fitted than a belfry for their temperaments, and at the same time a salutary lesson will be imparted to those who have a tendency to create discord on every available opportunity.

The Provinces.

RAWMARSH, NEAR ROTHERHAM, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, June 17, 1882, in Three Hours and Two Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 50;0 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 10 cwt.

JAMES ENSOR Treble.	THOMAS WILD 5.
THOMAS WHITWORTH .. 2.	SAMUEL WHITWORTH .. 6.
VINCENT HAWKINS .. 3.	R. BROCK (Doncaster) .. 7.
JOHN HAWKINS 4.	ROBERT WHITWORTH .. Tenor.

Conducted by THOMAS WHITWORTH.

KEIGHLEY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 17, 1882, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5033 CHANGES,

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED ANDERSON .. . Treble.	WILLIAM WILKS 5.
BENJAMIN LIGHTFOOT .. 2.	WILLIAM C. LONDON .. 6.
JOHN T. MIDDLEBROOK .. 3.	JOHN MOUNTAIN 7.
JOHN MCKELL 4.	WILLIAM MALLINSON .. Tenor.

Composed by S. MARSH and conducted by WILLIAM MALLINSON.

The peal has the sixth the extent in all positions. (*Snowdon*, part II. p. 58). Mr. London's first peal since his return from Australia.

BARKING, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, June 17, 1882, in Three Hours,

AT ST. MARGARET'S ABBEY,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 22½ cwt.

MATTHEW ELLSMORE* .. Treble.	† EDWIN BARNETT 5.
JOHN GOBBETT 2.	HUGH SCARLETT 6.
CHARLES HOLDEN* 3.	ARTHUR H. GARDOM, ESQ. 7.
ROBERT SEWELL 4.	ALFRED WHIGHT Tenor.

Conducted by ARTHUR H. GARDOM.

* First peal. † First peal inside.

Miscellaneous.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

At All Saints, Boyne Hill, Maidenhead, Berks, on Monday, June 19th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins., on the back six bells. G. Wilkins, jun. (first peal), 1; H. Rogers, 2; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 3; R. Smith, 4; E. Rogers, 5; J. W. Wilkins, 6. Tenor 17½ cwt.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

ACCRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.—On Sunday, June 18th, 1882, six ringers from Church rang for evening service at St. James's Church a 720 Bob Minor, with 16 bobs and 2 singles, in 26 minutes. H. Hayes (conductor), 1; T. Doran, 2; J. Bullock, 3; J. Pickles, 4; W. Patten, 5; T. Horrocks, 6. Tenor 9½ cwt. All members of the Lancashire Association of Change-ringers.

BAWTRY (Yorks).—On Thursday, June 1st, the Everton Society of Change-Ringers visited Bawtry, and rung a 720 of Bob Minor, having sixteen bobs and two singles, in 27 mins. T. S. Phillips, 1; C. Lindley, 2; G. Pearson, 3; J. Swindon, 4; R. Lindley, 5; G. Brown (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

CAMPSALL (DONCASTER).—On Sunday evening, June 18th, for Divine Service, eight members of the St. Mary Magdalene's Society rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 46 mins. R. Thompson, 1; J. Senior, 2; J. Senior, 3; R. Pearson, 4; A. Jubb, 5; H. Butcher, 6; W. Pearson (conductor), 7; F. Lorrimer, 8. Also on Tuesday evening, June 20th, being the anniversary of the Queen's accession, a touch of 1008 Grandsire Triples was rung in 36 mins. W. Butcher, 1; J. Senior, 2; J. Senior, 3; R. Pearson, 4; A. Jubb, 5; H. Butcher, 6; W. Pearson (conductor), 7; E. Senior, 8. Tenor 14 cwt., in F. The above quarter-peal was the composition of Mr. W. A. Tyler, of Willesden, given in last week's issue of "THE BELL NEWS."

ELTHAM (Kent).—On Sunday, June 18th, for Divine Service, at St. John the Baptist, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, thirty-four bobs and eight singles, in 23 mins. C. Mussett, 1; F. Fraser, 2; C. English, 3; F. French, 4; T. Titchener, 5; G. Sheppard (conductor), 6. Tenor 9½ cwt.

EVERTON (Notts).—On Whit-Sunday, for Evening Service, the members of the Everton Society, with Mr. F. J. Oram, of Bawtry, rang a 720 of Bob Minor, having eighteen bobs and two singles, in 26½ mins. T. S. Phillips, 1; C. Lindley, 2; G. Pearson, 3; F. J. Oram, 4; R. Lindley, 5; G. Brown (conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

SLINFOLD (Sussex).—On Sunday evening, June 18th, four members of the Slinfold society, with Mr. H. Burstow, of Horsham, and Mr. W. Wadey, of Billinghamurst, rang two 720's of Court Bob Minor, in 24 mins. each. James Mills, 1; William Muggerage, 2; Walter Wadey, 3; Elias Knight, 4; George Jenkins, 5; Henry Burstow, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt. Composed and conducted by H. Burstow; each called with 30 singles.

WANSTEAD (Essex).—On Monday, May 19th, at Christ Church, six members of the Essex Association rang a 720 of Bob Minor, having twenty singles and ten bobs, in 25 mins. E. Barnett (composer and conductor), 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; C. Holden, 3; J. Priest, 4; J. Marks, 5; H. Nunn, jun., 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

3 2 5 6 4 S	6 4 3 2 5 -
2 3 6 4 5 S	4 6 2 5 3 S
3 2 4 5 6 S	6 5 4 3 3
2 5 3 6 4	5 3 6 2 4
5 6 2 4 3	5 3 2 4 6 -
6 4 5 3 2	3 4 5 6 2

Four times repeated.

WARNHAM (Sussex).—On Monday evening, June 19th, the young ringers of Warnham, assisted by H. Burstow, of Horsham, rang their first 720 of Minor in the Oxford Bob method, in 25 mins. William Wood, 1; William Short, 2; Henry Chandler, 3; Henry Wood, 4; Thomas Andrews, 5; Henry Burstow, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. Composed and called by H. Burstow, with 40 bobs and 2 singles.

WINDSOR (Berks).—On Tuesday, June 13th, at the Parish Church, St. John's, a touch of 630 Grandsire Triples was rung. T. Udell, 1; J. Steel, 2; A. Fussell, 3; J. Parker (conductor), 4; W. Fussell, 5; W. Wilder, 6; R. Flaxman, 7; J. Perryman, 8. Tenor, 20 cwt.

FOXTON CHURCH BELLS, CAMBS.

We are happy to state that the belfry of this pretty village, after having been for a long time in a state of shameful neglect, is now being restored, and will contain a peal which, though only consisting of five bells, will rank high in the county for excellence and beauty of tone.

The peal of bells, which are now undergoing extensive repairs, viz., a new oak bell frame, all new stocks, wheels, and fittings, supplied by Messrs. Day and Son, of Eye, will shortly be reopened. Two of the bells have been recast, viz., the third and tenor, and are said to be a fine specimen of modern bell founding, both in the casting and in the quality of the tone. The old bells were cast by that eminent bell founder, Miles Graye, in the year 1654, and the two which have lately been recast were supplied by the contractor, Messrs. Day and Son, above mentioned, and are from the firm of Messrs. Warner and Sons, of London. On Thursday last, the day fixed for raising the bells into the tower, a short Dedication Service was held in the church. The old bells are turned on new stocks, new false crown staples, &c. All lovers of bell-ringing who live near should be present at the reopening, which will be in the course of a few days.

THE RECENT PRIZE-RINGING AT CREDITON.

We have much pleasure in inserting the following, which has been forwarded to us by a Devonshire clergyman:—

About the year 680, in other words, just 1,200 years ago, Devonshire gave birth to one of her holiest and most saintly sons. Distinguished beyond other counties by her long list of worthies, she claims for her own with especial delight the great Archbishop Boniface, known also by his English name, Winfred, by whose influence, according to the late Dr. Oliver of Exeter, the Holy Scriptures are said to have been read in this country in the English language.

Though trained from his early years at Exeter, Kirton or Crediton, with just pride, claims to be his birth-place, and looks back with the rest of the Christian world to the history of his life and death, and recognizes him not only as a great restorer of discipline, but as a great reformer of all existing abuses within the Church.

Judge, then, of the righteous indignation with which Churchmen and Church Ringers generally, especially in the diocese of Exeter, whose Bishop would be the last to sanction such an abuse, and yet more especially still, Churchmen in and around this very Crediton itself, this actual birth-place of the holy martyr, heard of the recent scandal of a "prize ringing match" with all its debasing concomitants, within that grand old Church.

The scandal itself will for a long time remain; but that it should have been sanctioned, furthered, commended, applauded by a Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral, and the vicar of a parish, which had itself been a See for 140 years, loads the whole proceeding with shame, and creates a feeling of disgust with all Belfry Reformers of the present day.

Crediton, doubtless is and has been remarkable for many things. Amongst the least remarkable, and perhaps the least worthy of credit, is the story handed down through past centuries, that the Nightingale herself indignantly took leave for ever of the neighbourhood of Crediton, being cursed for her interruption of the great Boniface's devotions. Surely a repetition of this bell-ringing scandal, so disappointing to those who are striving to bring others to recognize the highest uses of Church Bells, may not only hinder them in their praiseworthy efforts, but may tend to banish real melody from our Belfries, and to keep change ringing an utterly unknown art at Crediton.

THE FIRST "BIG BEN."

We take the following from the Echo of Thursday last:—"In an article on 'Bells' on the 1st instant, the following statement was made in reference to the original big bell at Westminster cast by Messrs. Warner:—"Upon sounding it one Saturday, with its 12-cwt. clapper it was found to be cracked; and further that there was no actual flaw in the metal, which must under any circumstances have ensured the ultimate fracture of the bell by the blows of the hammer." Mr. Robert Warner repudiates this in a letter of inordinate length, for which it is inconvenient to find room. It must suffice that he affirms that the bell was a sound and homogenous casting; that there was no flaw where it was thought that it existed, as may be proved by inspection of a portion of the bell now in his possession; that the bell was broken, as any bell may be broken, by the sudden stoppage of vibrations, or by striking on one side, which was free to vibrate, while the other was not; and further, that the practical founder of the bell is still alive, and can testify that it was a clean, good, and sound casting."

AN ELDER'S KINDLY MEANT MONITION TO HIS YOUNGER BRETHERN.

(From the *Guardian*.)

The man "foursquare" we sought, but cannot find,
And parish priests will differ much in kind:
One "Broad," another "Low," a third called "High,"
Many for selfish ends, not Christ's, do sigh:
Aye, and they fight, unwise, for puny things,
For the shape of a coat or antique colourings,—
Yet these are naught! 'tis for the heart God cares.
Alas! what do we? Ruined unawares
Our city's into bondage made to go.
Alas, again? Before the gates the foe
Sits threatening siege, and shouts audaciously
His big blaspheming words. Be ours the cry
Of vigil prayers! O men the Lord is nigh!

W. F. N.

THE SALE OF CHURCH LIVINGS.—Mr. Beadel was announced to offer by sale at the Auction Mart, Tokenhouse Yard, London, on Thursday afternoon, "the advowson, with the next and perpetual right of presentation to the perpetual curacy or vicarage of Charminster and Stratton, in the diocese of Salisbury." In anticipation of a sale of this "property," deputations attended to enter a protest against "the contemplated injury to religion"—as they described the proposed sale—on behalf of the Curates' Alliance and the National Committee for the Abolition of Purchase in the Church of England. When, however, "Lot 5," comprising the advowson, was reached, the auctioneer said, "Although it may be a disappointment to some gentlemen whom I see present, I am about to take a course which I know perfectly well will gratify them beyond measure, and that is to withdraw this lot."—The Rev. E. G. Donoughe, secretary of the Curates' Alliance: It is on your word of honour that we understand that is officially stated.—Auctioneer: The lot is withdrawn now, but I do not say that it will be withdrawn five minutes hence.—The Rev. E. G. O'Donoughe: Then we had better wait to the end.—Auctioneer: Really, gentlemen, although I do not admire selling Church property—(hear, hear)—I do not understand you gentlemen who live by tithes. The Rev. R. H. Hadden, president of the Curates' Alliance (interrupting): We don't.—The Auctioneer: Many of you do.—A Voice: You would be very glad to have them, would you not?—The Rev. R. H. Hadden: This is not the selling of tithes.—The Rev. G. Hennessy: It is the selling of souls. (Hear, hear.)—Mr. Beadel advised the clergymen present to seek to make it illegal to sell Church livings. Before interfering as they did on that and like occasions, they should get rid of the sale of advowsons as a legal matter.—The Rev. R. H. Hadden: Do we understand the lot is withdrawn?—The Auctioneer: I wonder you exert yourselves so much in so small a matter.—The Rev. R. H. Hadden: I propose a vote of thanks to you; I think you are a very good fellow. (Hear, hear.)—The Rev. E. G. O'Donoughe: For your honourable conduct in withdrawing this lot, Mr. Beadel modestly denied his title to the vote of thanks; and the proceedings closed without the lot being publicly offered for sale by auction.

BLETSOE, BEDFORDSHIRE.—This church is being improved under the care of the new rector. A new reredos is erected in the style of the chancel, and other architectural features such as the arches and decorative monuments adjoining. The reredos occupies the width of the chancel, the central portion being the width of east window and divided into three compartments by marble columns, carved capitals and moulded and sunk buttresses, finishing with pinnacles, carved finials, &c. The central compartment contains a white alabaster cross with marble background, and on either side in the other two niches are figures of St. John and the Virgin Mary, the church being dedicated to St. Mary. These statues have canopied cusped tracery over, with carved gable crockets, &c., deeply moulded; with rich marble background, and supported by a corbelled super-altar of marble.

The Archbishop of Canterbury was the defendant in an action tried before Mr. Justice Hawkins last week. The claim was to recover compensation for injuries sustained by a child through the alleged negligence of the Archbishop's coachman. The Archbishop denied the negligence, but paid £50 into court, which he said was sufficient to satisfy the plaintiff's claim. On the accident being made known to the Archbishop he behaved in the kindest manner, and at his expense the child was sent to a convalescent home near Broadstairs. The jury said they thought there was negligence, but that the £50 paid into court was enough. Mr. Justice Hawkins said he would enter judgment for the Archbishop, giving costs to neither side. His lordship added that he thought justice would be done in that way, and that no one could have behaved in a more handsome manner than the Archbishop.

The parish church of Brassington, near Ashborne, was re-opened last week after restoration and the addition of an aisle. Mr. Robinson, of Derby, was the architect.

The Gray memorial north transept of St. Michael and All Angels' Church, Ladbroke Grove Road, was formerly opened by the Duke and Duches of Edinburgh on Monday week.

Sir George Elvey, who for nearly half a century has been organist to the chapel Royal of St. George, Windsor Castle, has resigned his post. He received his appointment from William IV.

Considerable improvements in the parochial schools of St. Jude's, Chelsea, have recently been carried out by Mr. William Balcombe, from the plans and under the superintendence of the architect, Mr. E. H. Lingen-Barker.

The Duke of Albany is to preside at the annual dinner of the Newspaper Press Fund on Saturday. The musical programme is expected to be as usual very attractive. Mr. Sims Reeves, the famous English tenor, is amongst the distinguished artistes who have offered their services.

BOB MINOR.

720	720	720
S 3 2 5 6 4	- 2 3 5 6 4	- 2 3 5 6 4
S 2 3 6 4 5	- 2 3 6 4 5	- 2 3 6 4 5
S 3 2 4 5 6	3 4 2 5 6	S 3 2 4 5 6
S 2 3 5 6 4	S 4 3 5 6 2	- 3 2 5 6 4
3 6 2 4 5	S 3 4 6 2 5	2 6 3 4 5
S 6 3 4 5 2	S 4 3 2 5 6	6 4 2 5 3
S 3 6 5 2 4	S 3 4 5 6 2	S 4 6 5 3 2
6 2 3 4 5	4 6 3 2 5	

Each four times repeated.

S 4 2 5 6 3	4 5 2 6 3	4 5 2 6 3
S 2 4 6 3 5	- 4 5 6 3 2	S 5 4 6 3 2
4 3 2 5 6	- 4 5 3 2 6	- 5 4 3 2 6
3 5 4 6 2	5 2 4 6 3	- 5 4 2 6 3
		S 4 5 6 3 2

Each four times repeated.

In the first two 720's call singles (and in the third omit) at the end of the fifth and tenth divisions.

Each 720 contains five pairs of bells (those that come behind at the division ends) six times each one particular way.

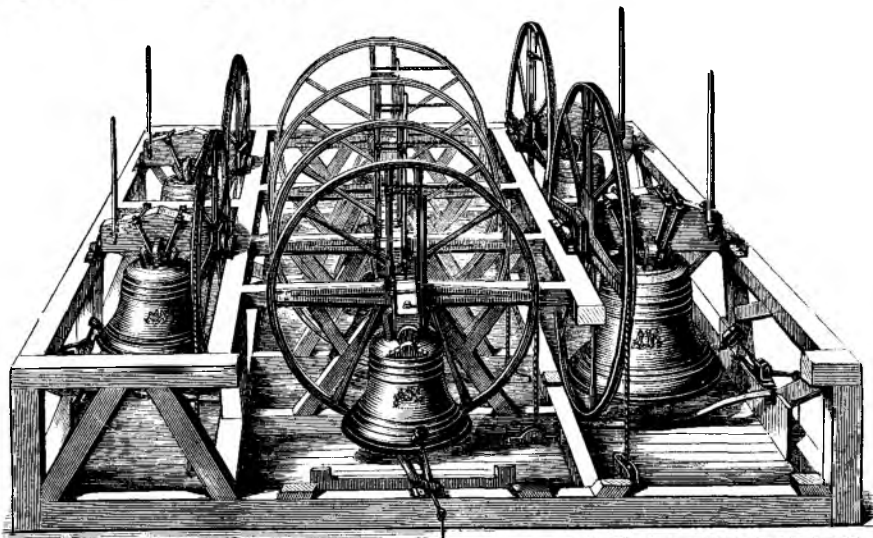
J. J. PARKER.

Foundations for a new church are being laid in Pikes-lane, Bolton. The architects are Messrs. Paley and Austin, of Lancaster.

An appeal has been made for subscriptions to assist in the repair and restoration of Pirton Church, Worcestershire, an edifice containing work of the Norman, Early English, and Decorated periods, but much disfigured by white-wash, plaster and high pews.

On Tuesday night a conference, convened by the Council of the National Church Reform Union, was held at Sion College, to consider the various measures for the amendment of patronage and the abolition of purchase in the Church, which are now before Parliament. About fifty persons were present.—Mr. Albert Grey, M.P., who occupied the chair, said that neither Mr. Leatham's nor Mr. Stanhope's Bill was adequate to meet the evil. There was, however, no hope of legislation on the subject this session. The utmost they could hope for was that there might be a select committee on the subject next session, after which a bill might be brought forward that would deal fully and effectually with the question.—Mr. R. T. Reid moved a resolution declaring that no reform of patronage could be regarded as satisfactory which did not confer upon the parishioners by vote or otherwise, directly or indirectly, a voice in the choice of their clergymen. This was seconded by Mr. Stuart Wortley, M.P., who warned the meeting that patronage could not be abolished without compensation. The Rev. E. A. Donoghue, the secretary of the Curates' Alliance, said Messrs. Stark and Co, had on their June lists for sale 130 advowsons and twenty-one next presentations, and Messrs. Baxter eighty-one advowsons and sixteen next presentations. There could be no compromise with this unholy traffic, which must be utterly abolished. Most of the speakers who followed joined in the condemnation of the sale of livings, Difference of opinion as to how the veto of the parishioners on the choice of a clergyman was to be exercised, and one or two of the speakers maintained that the only change that was necessary was to give the Bishop more power to reject improper persons presented to him for installation. Ultimately the resolution was carried with four dissentients, and a rider moved by Mr. Herford, chairman of the National Committee for Abolishing Purchase in the Church, to the effect that no dealing with the subject of Church patronage would be satisfactory that did not provide for its total abolition as soon as possible, was also carried.

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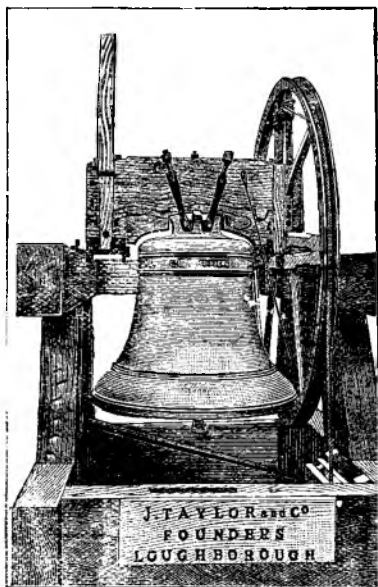
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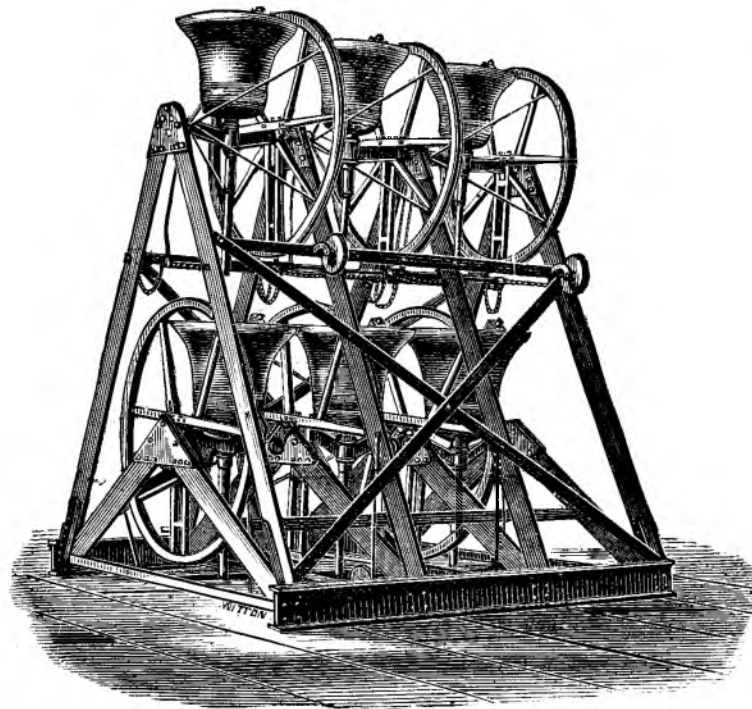
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