

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 15. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. I.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1882.

[ONE PENNY.]

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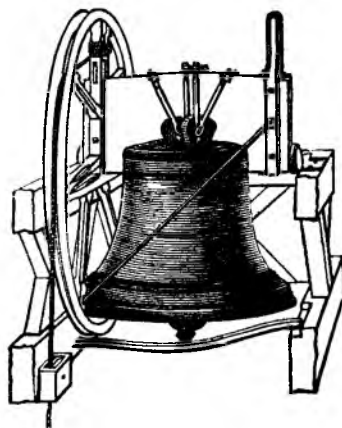
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ON TOWERS.

At a recent meeting of the Lincolnshire Diocesan Architectural Society, a paper was read by Sir Charles Anderson on "Towers." Sir Charles said: To build a good tower is a very difficult thing; he might say the main conditions for a good tower are proportion, and how to arrange the belfry windows and the upper part of the tower, which has always been a difficult matter, even with the old architects. Every tower has, he believed, a physiognomy, of which the belfry windows may be called the eyes, and the hoodmoulding the eyebrows. When the tower is narrow, a single belfry window of two lights is preferable to one of three lights. He had seen some of three lights, generally in Early English towers, and he thought as a rule they are not good-looking. He thought double windows are infinitely more effective when the tower is sufficiently wide to admit of them, and the bolder the hoodmoulding the better. They had seen all those that day with regard to the mouldings even in those churches which have only single belfry windows; for instance, such churches as Moulton and several more. He was not speaking of spires, but of the tower only, whether it has pinnacles, or whether it has not; and they had seen several beautiful single belfry windows that day. Sir Charles asked his hearers to compare all the three towers of Lincoln, the great tower of York, the towers of Canterbury and of Gloucester, and the west towers of Wells; and he thought they would consider they are superior to any of the towers that have only a single window, such as the other towers of York and some others. Especially contrasting in that respect the tower of Boston, their neighbour, the upper window—the large window at the top—is inferior in beauty to the double windows below; but of that he would speak hereafter, for he conjectured there was a reason for it. He would confine himself to the towers of Lincoln, which most of them would probably be acquainted with. With regard to proportion, he believed that all towers ought to diminish as they rise, either by buttresses, such as they had seen in some of the towers that day, or by other treatment. Let them take Pinchbeck, Boston, the west towers of York and Beverley, and compare them with other towers which have no buttresses—he was not speaking of buttresses like the towers of Lincoln, which have no step buttresses, but diminish gradually as they go upwards. The towers of Lincoln were not built at the same time; the upper parts, both of the great tower and the western towers, have been added; but it will be found that the upper portion is not so wide as the lower portion. For instance, in the western they find the Norman work is of a wider square than the upper part—the later part; and it is that stepping in which gives them that beautiful taper and makes them so pleasing to the eye. And especially with regard to the great tower they would find the upper part, which was built all at once—the very ornamental Decorated part—is raised upon an earlier portion of Lancet work; but the Lancet work below has a larger square than the upper part. In speaking of the great tower of Lincoln, he would contrast it with the largest of modern towers, one which he did not specially admire, and that was the great Victoria tower at Westminster. His reason for not admiring it is that it appears rather top-heavy—a larger square at the top than at the bottom. Sir Edmund Beckett says it has the appearance of splitting at the top, and for this he gives an optical reason. But it has another objection, which is that the windows which stand in the place of what would be belfry windows are three in number, and he did not

think the position of these is good, for a great deal depends on the position of belfry windows. After he had read Sir E. Beckett's book he asked Mr. Higg as to the great tower at Lincoln, and the latter replied that it was gathered in about twenty-five feet above the pinnacles, and that it was that which gave it its beautiful appearance. Donington is gathered in. Boston is gathered in, and this (Sir Charles thinks) is the finest tower we have in England. It has only one defect, and that is the very large—what he would call coarse—window which is open underneath the lantern. He believed there was a reason for that, and he thought if they had not had the intention of making it a lighthouse that feature would have been differently treated. He had no doubt that it was intended there should be a light there, and he believed there was a light years ago to guide mariners over the Boston Deeps as well as to serve as a beacon over the Fens. He thought the first intention was to put a light in that great window, and that that was the reason it was made so large and open and free from ornament, for it has no cusps about it. If a light were put in a square, when the angles were turned to us, we should see no light at all. When they went up to try it, they found the light could not be seen at the angles of the square, and having found out that, they decided not to pull down what they had built, but to alter the plan and raise an octagon lantern, which would obviously be better for the light. Sir Charles thought that was the reason of that bald window over what he otherwise thought is one of the finest towers in existence. There was always a reason for what the old builders did, and with regard to the towers of Lincoln that was perfectly true; the architects had managed to make there one of the most beautiful buildings in England. On the question of pinnacles, Sir Charles said there was always great difficulty in finishing a tower. The mistake we make now is in building the pinnacles too large. There are many towers that look better without pinnacles—Gedney, for instance. The great tower at York could not be improved by pinnacles. He believed York intended to beat both Durham and Howden by adding another story above the present; and the reason it was not done so was because they found the piers were not solid; they are mere casings of Norman work below, and Norman work is mostly very weak. They bored them some years ago, and they found the interior was mere dry rubble, which is often the case in Norman piers. He understood that one of the finest towers in the South of England (Pershore Abbey) has had pinnacles put to it, and that they are much too high, and have quite altered the character of the building.

 VISIT OF THE WALTHAM ABBEY SOCIETY TO ST. SAVIOUR'S, SOUTHWARK.

On Tuesday, 11th inst., several members of the above society paid a visit to the headquarters of the Ancient Society of College Youths. Upon their arrival at Winchester Street they were met by two other country friends, viz., Mr. Rochester, of Sawbridgeworth, and Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham. The officers of the society very kindly came forward at a much earlier hour than usual on purpose to place the peal books, album, and other regalia of this company at the disposal of visitors. The examination of these historical emblems, which occupied a considerable time, were found to be very interesting. This completed, the members then repaired to the fine old tower of St. Saviour's, where a touch of three courses of Stedman Cinques was rung, Messrs. T. Powell and W. A. Alps taking part in the same. After returning to headquarters and during the ordinary business, Mr. W. C. Dymock was unanimously elected a member of the society that making the number eight out of the nine visitors which are members. After spending a short time, the visitors took their departure, greatly pleased with their visit.

THE CONDITION OF CHURCH TOWERS AND BELLS
IN THE

SITTINGBOURNE RURAL DEANERY OF EAST KENT.

The condition of affairs is, to begin with, to say the least—a sorry sight! We have Towers of every size, and bells of great weight; but except in the case of the mother church, no practical ringing for the benefit of the Church, and exercise of the art, is now done. A few remarks in the *BELL NEWS* may be attended with some improvement.

SITTINGBOURNE.—Here is a ring of 6 bells, all cast in 1687 by James Bartlett: Tenor 49½ in diameter. This ring is, without any exception, the most musical in the county, and has preparatory to the addition of 2 trebles and rehung, received every attention during the last 3 years. Change-ringing is practical Plain Bob and Grandsire, and the old ringing loft made up, and fitted with every convenience. The lead thus taken by men of all ranks here has not been acted upon in the other parishes. To begin with, Newington, whose lofty tower is so well seen on the railway to the coast, here clocking is the order of the day, on a ring of six, tenor about 16 cwt, while every rain finds its way into the heart of the tower, and this in a church with an earnest Vicar, and well ordered inside. No ringing at all attempted on the score of old standing abuses.

MILTON-NEXT-SITTINGBOURNE.—This tower is perhaps the largest church tower in the kingdom. Here is a ring of five. The tenor, by some mischief, became cracked but a few years ago. No attempt at recasting is made; indeed, so great is the apathy that the Sittingbourne men have, by way of joke, threatened to steal away this bell, and send it off by water. If this was done, the custodians would probably not miss it for years, so great is the neglect here, that it must be seen to be believed.

BORDEN.—Here is a ring of eight, by Mears, about a century old—occasional ringing is done here—never more than a mere rule of thumb plain hunt of 16 changes.

RAINHAM has, it is stated, no ropes at all!

MINSTER-IN-SHEPPY.—Here is a grand church, five bells, treble cracked for years, ringing has quite been neglected, although formerly the recreation of many good hands, clocking being here in vogue. A whole catalogue of neglect, consequent dirty cracked bells, mischief might be produced, and all in a radius of 12 miles. Suffice it to say, that in all these Kentish villages, little or no recreation is thought of by those who should consider the industrial class, and that this ringing exercise is largely practiced by men in cities.

One night a week would be looked forward to by some 12 or 20 young men, with the greatest pleasure to themselves and the clergy, with the least possible trouble; and organization would always, by this means, be able to secure the members of the ringing band for any other good purpose. Therefore, the condition of this portion of the Kentish church, is a matter of reproach, now that attention, both locally and indirectly, has been directed by the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral, to the science and art of campanology.

On Thursday week as the Midland express was nearing Birmingham two boys were observed drowning in the canal. The train was at once stopped, and Mr. Martin, an architect from Northampton, climbed the fence and plunged in. He was followed by Dando, the guard. Mr. Martin, having rescued one of the lads, returned to the aid of Dando, who had the other, but who was sinking in the mud. The boys were unconscious when rescued, but animation was speedily restored. A handsome subscription was raised for the guard, who was almost exhausted, and who was sent home to Derby by the next train. Mr. Martin was too prostrated to continue his journey to Warrington, and remained in Birmingham.

Captain Babbitt, having purchased a fishing schooner of sixty tons at Sydney, Cape Breton, and, being unable to find a crew, sailed in her by himself for Newfoundland. On the 6th day out he lashed down the helm and went below to prepare his breakfast; but after he had been below a little time the vessel struck something very heavily. Rushing on deck he found that the schooner was on a rock, on to which he immediately jumped. Almost instantly afterwards the schooner floated off, and was carried away by a strong current. Captain Babbitt remained on the rock for two days and two nights without anything to eat or drink, but was then rescued by a passing vessel.

RE-OPENING OF FOXTON CHURCH BELLS, CAMBS.

On Wednesday last the peal of bells in this parish was rung for the first time since their restoration.

The bells, 5 in number, have been rehung on a new oak frame, Two of them have been recast, and all have new fittings complete. There is also a new chiming apparatus. On the day fixed for the re-opening, the bells were handed over to some invited ringers from Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, who showed what change-ringing can be in the hands of experienced ringers, and they expressed their greatest satisfaction at the excellent manner in which the bells had been rehung. After occupying the ropes for 2 hours, and delighting the villagers with the sweet harmony which bells "ever the same, yet ever new" can produce, the ringers sat down to a bountiful repast provided by J. Roads, Esq., the churchwarden. When this had been done justice to they wended their way back to the belfry, and rang for service. At this a large congregation was present, and the sermon was preached by the Rev. Kenelon Smith, of Ely, himself a ringer, and a worthy occupier of the pupil on the occasion.

On the day following, the ringers paid another visit to the parish (through the kind invitation of Mrs. Selwyn, widow of the late Professor Selwyn) and were most hospitably entertained in the beautiful grounds belonging to her.

A bazaar was held for the purpose of defraying the expenses, and the hand-bells were rung at intervals during the afternoon, much to the enjoyment of the visitors present.

During the day the ringers rung a date touch on the steeple bells, consisting of 1882 changes in one hour and fifteen minutes, in various methods, viz., Stedman's Principle, Grandsire, and other doubles.

The men stood as follows: J. Jackson, 1; Geo. Day, 2; J. Holloway, 3; W. Kempton, 4; G. Taylor, 5.

The work of rehunging has been ably carried out by Messrs. G. Day and Son, Church Bell Hangers, Eye, Suffolk.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of this society was held at St. Mary's Church, Beddington, on Monday July 10th, Mr. J. Trappitt in the chair. Ringing commenced at 3 o'clock, and was kept up until 9 o'clock—touches of Grandsire triples, and Caters—Stedman and Treble Bob being rung. Five performing members and one honorary member were elected. J. Percival, Esq., of Wimbledon, consented to act as secretary, and the Rev. A. S. Young, of Kingston, retains the office of president and treasurer. The association now seems to be making steady progress, 8 peals having been rung since its formation at Beddington, Kingston, Putney, Carshalton, Horley, Mitcham, and St. Stephen's, Westminster. A peal-book, for the proper entry of peals, has also been ordered, and the ringers of Surrey are earnestly requested to afford all the assistance they can by joining this association. Surrey, by reason of its number of rings and change-ringers, ought to stand among the first associations. A vote of thanks to the Rev. Canon Bridges for the use of the bells, concluded the proceedings.

VISIT OF THE CHELTENHAM RINGERS TO LONDON.

On Saturday the 1st inst., the following members of Cheltenham society visited the metropolis:—G. H. Phillott, Esq., and Messrs. Belcher, Morris, Kurn, Hodges, Hooper, and Acock. After visiting St. Paul's, which included a pull at *Great Paul*, they were met at St. Clement Danes, by J. M. Routh, Esq., and R. French, of the College Youths, and Messrs. Swain, Baron, Mansfield, Albone, Dains, the Brothers Hopkins; and rang various touches in different methods on the bells by kind permission of the Royal Cumberland's steeple-keeper. They afterwards visited and rang various touches on St. Martin's bells. After partaking of refreshment at Friend Burton's, the Royal Cumberland's rendezvous at St. Martin's Lane, they were escorted part of the way to Paddington, on the return journey, expressing themselves deeply gratified by the results of their visit.

An extraordinary accident occurred at Brighton the other evening. A fire escape was being pushed up North Road, on return from drill, by three firemen, when it came in contact with an electric wire crossing the housetops at that point; the fluid ran down the escape wire and gave the men holding the steering rod a shock that compelled them to let go. A fourth, not knowing what was the matter with his comrades, seized the rod, and, getting the full force of the shock, which had been divided between the other three, was lifted from the ground. The pain was intense, and it was some hours before he recovered. The other men, recovering themselves and taking hold of the woodwork, were enabled to extricate the machine.

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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.

O.L.—We don't think it worth while to pursue the matter further. It is certainly inexplicable that there are to be found practical ringers who maintain such a view. In our opinion the quality of the peal has also been over-estimated. A peal erected by Mears at Southgate, a northern suburb of the metropolis, in our judgment is to be preferred, on the whole, before Lavenham.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1882.

[We regret to have to announce that, in consequence of the sudden and serious illness of the Editor, we are compelled to withhold several important communications till our next issue.]

OF England's many Cathedrals, and of her many glorious old Abbeys, each of which may in some sense be regarded as national property, and many of which have witnessed scenes of thrilling interest in the past, none is more intimately bound up with our history—none so reflects the whole tenor of our country's life—as the Abbey of Westminster.

Of all English Cathedrals and Abbeys, Westminster Abbey is the most English. It is English in its form, English in its history—English, above all, in the ashes of those who rest beneath its shade. In these points, and in many more, it may be taken as an example and representative of the other great Churches of the land.

In one respect, however, it is found wanting. It is an acknowledged fact, needing no demonstration—least of all in these columns—that England is pre-eminently the land of Bells—as old books are fond of calling her, "The Ringing Isle." In this it is her boast, not only that she stands before all other countries, but that she stands practically alone. If, then, there is one point wherein an Abbey that claims, and justly claims, the Nation's care, should be all that is desirable, surely it is the possession of a Ring of Bells worthy of the grandeur of the building, and of all its associations and surroundings.

Are these requirements fulfilled by a Ring of Six—in

number more than meagre, and, as to hanging and belfry arrangements, decidedly bad? Though far, indeed, from wishing the fine Ring of Ten of St. Margaret's to be less esteemed than they now deservedly are, ought we to suffer them to throw those of the great Abbey so wholly into the shade? We trust that, ere long, we shall see this matter taken up in the fitting quarter. It has been reported that the Organist of the Abbey, in recently visiting a Bell foundry, expressed himself pleased with a new ring of Bells which he there saw and heard. Let us hope that he will be moved to direct the attention of the Dean and Chapter to the present state of affairs in the Abbey tower, and that they will be induced to take steps towards improvement. Above all, should they ever be disposed to ask advice in matters technical, let us earnestly beseech them to apply, in the first place, to those whose life has been spent among Bells—in ringing them.

GUILD OF DEVONSHIRE RINGERS.

A District Meeting of the Guild of Devonshire Ringers will be held at Tiverton on Saturday, July 22nd. The steeples of Tiverton and the neighbouring parishes will, by kind permission, be open to members of the Guild during the day.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS.

A meeting for ringing purposes only, will take place at St. Luke's Church, Heywood, on Saturday July 22nd. Ringing from 2 p.m. All ringers invited.

W. J. CHATTERTON, } Hon. Secs.
JOEL REDFORD, }

SEDFIELD, DURHAM.

ON Saturday, the 8th inst., six members of the Stockton branch of the Durham Diocesan Association of Ringers drove to Sedgfield, and rang several six-scores of Doubles on the five bells in that tower, comprising Grandsire, Plain Bob, April Day, and St. Simon's. After ceasing the bells, the four and twenty changes were chimed (the bells being swung, not clappered) the effect of which is very pleasing on the minor five. Hutchinson, in his history of Durham, says that Dr. Pickering, who was rector of Sedgfield, A.D. 1905-10, and who gave the organ to the church, "intended another bell to make the number six; it was cast and brought to Sedgfield about the time of his death; but having made himself poor by charitable gifts, he scarce left effects for his funeral, and the bell was sent back to York." Sedgfield can boast of one of the most handsome towers in the county of Durham, and if the present five bells were supplemented with a well-matched tenor, it might also boast of the finest peal of six in the county. The present tenor weighs about 15 cwt Key Ft.

The Provinces.

LIVERSEDGE, YORKSHIRE.

On Sunday, July 9th, 1882, in Three Hours,

(Being the Sunday School Anniversary and the 82nd birthday of Mr William Sottanstill, of Sowerby),

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

J. WHITWORTH	Treble.	S. GOODALL	5.
W. GOODALL	2.	T. GOODALL	6.
J. W. LANG	3.	L. ILLINGWORTH	7.
J. ILLINGWORTH	4.	M. RAMSDEN	Tenor

This peal was composed by WILLIAM SOTTANSTALL, and conducted by WILLIAM GOODALL.

GUISELEY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 8th, 1882, in Two Hours and Fifty-eight Minutes,

AT ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES,

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 10½ cwt.

EDWARD TUFF Treble.	WILLIAM DEMAINE, JUN. .. 5.
JAMES SLATER 2.	JAMES BARRACLOUGH .. 6.
DAVID E. RHODES 3.	JAMES BALDWIN 7.
SAMUEL BROWN 4.	JASPER W. SNOWDON, Esq. Tenor.

Composed by HENRY HUBBARD and conducted by JASPER W. SNOWDON.

This peal was rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Henry Hubbard, a member of the Association, who rang his last peal on these bells, on August 23rd, 1868.

RAWMARSH, YORKSHIRE.

On Tuesday, July 11, 1882, in Two Hours and Fifty-two Minutes,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

A VARIATION OF TAYLOR'S BOB-AND-SINGLE. Tenor 10½ cwt.

FREDERICK COATES Treble.	GEORGE FLINT 5.
CHARLES HY. HATTERSLEY .. 2.	TOM LEE 6.
GEORGE BRIGGS 3.	ALFRED RODGERS 7.
JOHN HALE 4.	WALTER COATES Tenor.

Conducted by FREDERICK COATES.

Date Touch.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULL.—On Thursday, July 6th, eight members rang 1882 changes of Yorkshire Court Major upon the bells of Holy Trinity Church in 1 hr. 13 mins. F. Walker, 1; A. Taylor, 2; J. Dixey, 3; C. Bennett, 4; S. Slingsby, 5; J. W. Stickney, 6; W. Gill, 7; C. Jackson, 8; composed and conducted by C. Jackson. Tenor 25 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

THE DURHAM ASSOCIATION.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Tuesday, June 13th, eight members of the North Shields Branch rang at Christ Church, 864 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 35 mins. S. Nott, 1; H. Ross, 2; J. Rossiter, 3; W. Waugh, 4; R. Wignell, 5; R. Smith, 6; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 7; J. Hern, 8. On Sunday, June 18th, at the above church, for Divine Service, 826 changes Grandsire Triples, in 29 mins. S. Nott, 1; W. Routledge (St. John's, Newcastle), 2; J. Rossiter, 3; W. Waugh, 4; R. Wignell, 5; J. Hern, 6; R. Smith (conductor), 7; W. Sawyer, 8. Tenor 19 cwt., key E.

LANCHESTER.—On Wednesday, June 28th, six members of the North Shields Branch rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 26 mins. S. Nott, 1; J. Rossiter, 2; W. Reed, Esq., 3; R. Wignell, 4; J. Hern, 5; R. Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt., key A. This is the first complete 720 rang on the bells; cast in the year 1810.

MORPETH.—On June 29th, eight members of the North Shields Branch rang at Morpeth Watch Tower some touches of Grandsire Triples, and 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 27 mins. H. Ross, 1; J. Moffat, 2; J. Rossiter, 3; R. Wignell, 4; R. Smith, 5; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 6.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH WEALD.—On Sunday evening, after divine service, by kind permission of Canon Fraser, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 28 mins. W. Keeble, 1; A. Porter, 2; B. Keeble, 3; A. J. Perkins (conductor) 4; G. Roughton, 5; A. Pye, 6; 9 bobs 6 singles. The above are a magnificent ring, and the whole of the appliances in first class order. Tenor 20 cwt.

CHURCH (Lancashire).—On Friday, June 30th, 1882, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with sixteen bobs and two singles, was rung in 23 mins. *H. Hayes (conductor); 1; W. Slater, 2; J. Sotton, 3; *J. Pickles, 4; G. Duerden, 5; R. J. N. Parker, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. (*Members of the Lancashire Association of Change Ringers.)

ELTHAM (Kent).—On Sunday Morning, July 2nd, at St. John the Baptist, for Divine Service, 720 Bob Minor, in 25 mins. C. Mussett, 1; T. Durling, 2; C. English, 3; J. Smith, 4; T. Titchener, 5; G. Sheppard (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, July 9th, for Evening Service, 720 Grandsire Minor, in 24 mins. 34 bobs and 14 singles. C. Mussett, 1; T. Titchener, 2; C. English, 3; J. Smith, 4; G. Sheppard (conductor), 5; F. Fraser, 6. Tenor 9½ in A.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Wednesday, July 5th, at St. Martin's Church, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor in 25 mins. J. Nixon (first 720), 1; E. Chapman, 2; J. Hannington (conductor), 3; N. Alderman, 4; A. Jacob, 5; G. Turl, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

HORNSEY (Middlesex).—On July 9th, for Divine Service, at the Parish Church, a 720 Plain Bob Minor, 20 bobs and 10 singles, in 29 mins. H. Nunn, 1; G. Griffin, 2; J. Nunn, 3; J. Leach, 4; J. Hannington (conductor), 5; J. Nixon, 6. Also after Divine Service, a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. G. Griffin, 1; J. Nunn, 2; J. Leach, 3; T. Gleed, 4; J. Hannington (conductor), 5; A. Jacob, 6. Tenor, 17½ cwt. This is the first 720 of Treble Bob upon these bells.

LANCASTER.—On Tuesday, July 4th, the amateur ringers of St. Peter's Church rang on the tower bells the first part of Holt's Part Peal of Grandsire Triples in 17 mins. M. Lennon (conductor), 1; W. Wearing, 2; W. Crooke, 3; J. Hearty, 4; J. Bailey, 5; J. Lennon, 6; P. Mulligan, 7; P. Finn, 8. Tenor 25 cwt. The above touch is supposed to have been rung in the shortest time ever known in Lancaster.

LONG EATON (Derbyshire).—On Saturday Evening, July 8th, four members of the above society, assisted by Mr. John Howe, of Derby, and Mr. John C. Dicken, of Sandiacre, rang 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, called with 15 bobs, time 27 mins. J. Harrison, 1; J. C. Dicken, 2; J. Ward, 3; J. Howe, 4; A. Widdowson, 5; J. Barrow (conductor), 6. Also 300 of Bob Minor. A. Widdowson, 1; G. Bradley, 2; J. Ward, 3; J. C. Dicken, 4; H. Sheard (of Sandiacre), 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Also a six-score of Stedman and a six-score of Grandsire Doubles was rung during the evening. Tenor 11 cwt. in G.

MONEWDEN (Suffolk).—Hand-bell Ringing.—On Sunday, July 9th, four of the Monewden Hand-bell Society, with the assistance of P. Meadows, from Cretingham, rang (with the bells retained in hand) a course of Bob Royal. S. Martin, 1-2; J. Tarrant, 3-4; P. Meadows, 5-6; T. Tarrant, 7-8; R. H. Hayward, 9-10. There are only three bells in Monewden Church tower, so these youths get no steeple practice.

SAFFRON WALDEN (Essex).—On Tuesday, July 11th, the following 720 of Bob Minor was rung by J. Freeman, 1; G. Martin, 2; C. Freeman, 3; J. Seaman, 4; J. F. Penning (composer and conductor), 5; N. J. Pitstow, 6.

23456

23564	33426	42356	23645	26543
36245	35264	25463	34256	26435
64352	35642	56234	45362	63254
64523	54326	56342	45623	63542
64235	42563	56423	52436	34625
43652	42635	62534	52364	54326

Repeated.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Sunday Morning, July 9th, at St. Paul's, Fulney, 714 Grandsire Triples. G. Keal, 1; R. Creasey, 2; A. Hayes, 3; E. Quinton, 4; A. Walker, 5; J. Croxford, 6; J. W. Creasey, 7; C. Creasey, 8. After Divine Service in the Evening, 868 Grandsire Triples, with the bells deeply muffled as a token of respect for Edwin Wain who was drowned in the Fleet on the 3rd instant. He formerly rang at Spalding, and took part in the first 720 of Minor on these bells after the church was opened. The company was the same as the above, except the third, which was rung by J. S. Wright of the Parish Church, and conducted by R. Creasey.

STEBBING (Essex).—Hand-bell Ringing.—On Wednesday, July 5th, three of the St. Mary's company rang 6 six-scores in the following methods:—Three of Grandsire Doubles, two of Antelope, and 1 of Bob Doubles. J. T. Barker (conductor), 1-2; E. Claydon, 3-4; E. Hynds, 5-6. The above have only practised double-handed ringing about six weeks with one night a week. The first four six-scores were each called differently.

WOODFORD (Essex).—On Monday, July 10th, the Widford ringers visited Woodford, and by the kind permission of the Rector of St. Mary's, the Rev. A. Hughes, M.A., were allowed the use of the tower. The ringing commenced with a 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, called with 9 bobs, in 26 mins. W. Harvey, 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Row-

land, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake (conductor) 5; M. Rolfe, 6.—A 720* Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 9 bobs, the 2nd the observation, in 26½ mins. H. Nunn, Jun., 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake (conductor) 5; M. Rolfe, 6.—A 720* Cambridge Serprise, 9 bobs, 6th the observation, in 26 mins. W. Harvey, 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake (conductor) 5; M. Rolfe, 6.—A course of *Superlative Surprise by M. Ellsmore, 1; J. Dains, 2; W. Rowland, 3; W. Hawkes, 4; T. Drake, 5; M. Rolfe, 6.—Another 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, 9 bobs, 2nd observation, in 25 mins. H. Nunn, Jun. (steeple-keeper) 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; W. Hawkes, 3; J. Nunn, 4; A. H. Gardom, Esq., conductor, 5; H. Scarlett, 6.—A 720 Bob Minor, 30 singles, and 6 bobs, in 26 mins. E. Barnett (composer and conductor) 1; M. Ellsmore, 2; H. Scarlett, 3; J. Nunn, 4; H. Nunn, Jun., 5; A. H. Gardom, Esq., 6.—Various other touches in different methods were rung, in which Messrs. E. Dains, J. Marks, and A. Godsalue took part. Tenor 13 cwt. in G.—The visitors then departed for home, all being pleased at the reception given them by the Woodford men, who are all invited to Woodford at an early date. (*First in this method at Woodford.)

Correspondence.

[While allowing the utmost freedom for the expression of opinion, it must never be considered that we are in any way bound to statements made by correspondents.]

To the Editor of "THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD."

SIR,—In your issue of July 8th, you give a peal of 720 changes Grandsire Minor composed by Mr. Palmer, King's Norton.

In the first place, by the calling given rounds come up at the third part end, but if a bob be substituted for a single at the third and sixth part ends, the peal will be true.

Second: this peal was composed by Mr. Henry Johnson, of Birmingham, and was rung at St. John's chapel, Deritend, Birmingham, in November, 1829.

I think our friend could not have compared his peal with other compositions, or he would not have claimed the peal as his own.

ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT,
St. Benedict Society of Change Ringers, Wombourn.

THE RECENT PRIZE RINGING AT CREDITON.

SIR,—I have only just received a copy of your paper for July 1st, in which you publish the resolution passed at a meeting of the Devonshire Guild, at their meeting of June 24th, which was forwarded to me by their hon. secretary. May I request the favour of your inserting my reply to that resolution, and thanking you for your courtesy in inserting my former letter, I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

C. FELTON SMITH.

"To the Hon. Secretary of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers.

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, enclosing the copy of a resolution passed at the annual meeting of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers, which was held in Exeter on the 24th inst.

"In that resolution the members of the Guild second 'their very great regret that a prize ringing match should lately have been held at Crediton, with the full approval of the vicar.'

"Putting aside the question as to whether the consent of the vicar necessarily implied his 'full approval,' I must be allowed to say that I do not recognise the authority of a self-constituted body like the Devonshire Guild of Ringers, to administer a rebuke which their resolution certainly implies, to me, as to my conduct in matters relating to my own parish, the surrounding circumstances being utterly unknown to them. I think that before such a step was taken, it would have been better or more courteous to me, if one of the officers of the Guild, yourself, for instance, as hon. secretary, had communicated with me privately, when you would have heard what I say now, viz.: that I am using all my influence to induce the Crediton ringers to join the Guild with hope of ultimate success; but that I am quite sure that if I had refused my consent to the ringing match, though it had not my 'full approval,' I should at once have alienated the ringers, and lost whatever hold upon them I may have gained. In a parish like Crediton, a reformation of this kind cannot be carried with a high hand, and perhaps the Devonshire Guild of Ringers may see, on consideration, that their most laudable object, with which I sympathise most heartily, is not so likely to recommend itself to the parochial clergy generally, if they treat all who cannot at once see their way to adopting their rules in the belfries of their churches, as they have treated me.

"I am, my dear Sir, yours faithfully, C. FELTON SMITH."

"Crediton, 28th June, 1882.

SIR,—Kindly pardoning what may seem an intrusion on my part, will you insert the following words in connection with the correspondence in your columns, concerning the recent prize ringing match at Crediton?

In his reply to the strictures of a Devonshire clergyman, the Vicar of Crediton seems to dwell chiefly upon the debasing concomitants of the meeting. If we take "debasing concomitants" to signify drunkenness and misbehaviour in general, surely these are but accidents—accidents which are not inseparably connected with a prize-ringing match, and never to be found elsewhere. It is not against the accidents but against the property of such a meeting that the chief objections of Churchmen lie. That property is contained in the word *prize*, and this point is one which, I cannot help feeling, has escaped the notice of the Vicar of Crediton. Would he, for one moment, dream of giving his sanction to a "recital-match" for prizes of £5, £3, and £2, between various performers, on the organ in his church? And yet, wherein is the difference? Is not the tower a part of the sacred edifice? Are not the bells consecrated equally with the organ? The question to be answered is this, May things solemnly set apart for the service of God be used as instruments of competition, and for prizes in money?

CHARLES D. P. DAVIES.

Whitchurch, Salop.

SIR,—In his recent reply to me, the Vicar of Crediton has failed altogether to see the real point at issue. He makes no allusion whatever to that which has given offence to so many, viz., his permitting a Ringing Match for "MONEY" to take place in his church.

If it be of the very utmost importance, that an increase of reverence should be encouraged towards and in God's House, and every portion of it, it would be difficult to suggest any device so likely to lead men in an opposite direction, as the sanctioning within its walls a contest, which savours very strongly of the "buying and selling" element.

The Crediton and Lavenham meetings differed in *toto*, and exactly on this point—at the latter we look in vain for any mention whatever of "Money Prizes"—it was simply a meeting of amateurs, lay and clerical, with their one object, the promotion of the science of change-ringing.

What we contend for, is that "if sets of orderly and well-conducted ringers have for their one object (as the Vicar of Crediton says they have) the ringing the best peal," where is the necessity of dangleing before them money prizes, with the house of God for their battle-field?

DEVONSHIRE CLERGYMAN.

THE DISPUTE AT WALTHAM ABBEY.

SIR,—Would you kindly insert the following letter in your paper, as you have commented on the difficulty existing among the ringers at Waltham Abbey. I write to ask you if you will kindly give the names of the (one or two) ringers who you say has been the cause of all the disturbance, and also the names of the parties who gave you the information. It is not my intention of going into the matter in dispute at Waltham, only to say you have given a very one-sided account of it, and that what has been stated is not correct, some time I may, with your consent, give the other side. I am, dear Sir, yours respectfully,

J. BARNETT.

31, Eleanor Road, Waltham Cross, London, N.

NEW EDITION OF MR. SNOWDON'S *Rope-Sight*.

SIR,—With the exception of a few copies which are in my own hands, and which I can supply to any one who writes to me directly, the second edition of my book—"Rope Sight; an Introduction to the Art of Change-ringing" is sold out. And in my intention to issue another edition, I shall be much obliged to any one who will take the trouble to correspond with me and suggest any alterations, additions or improvements that should be embodied in the new edition. I shall be especially obliged to any one who has used the book, when learning, who will write to me on any such point.

Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

JASPER W. SNOWDON.

ALGARKIRK (Lincolnshire).—The bells of this parish church, which have been silent for a number of years, are, we hear, about to be put into thorough repair by Messrs. Jerram and Blackburn, of Spalding.

The Bishop of Lichfield has appointed the Rev. J. R. Keble, of Keble College, his private chaplain. Mr. Keble is a ringer, and a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

A curious letter has reached our office which we are unable wholly to decipher, relative to prize handbell-ringing. We must have the name of the writer, and the methods rung in such cases.

HAMMERSMITH, W.—The memorial-stone of the new parish-church of St. Paul's, Hammersmith, was laid on Saturday by the Duke of Albany. It is to be built on the site of the existing unsightly church, from the designs of Mr. J. P. Seddon and Mr. H. R. Gough, of Queen Anne's Gate, Westminster. The first section undertaken will be the western portion of nave; but the complete scheme provides for a nave 103ft. by 30ft., with north and south aisles, each 13ft. 6in. wide; chancel, 42ft. long by 30ft. wide, with choir aisles; and a tower at north-east angle of site, 127ft. in height from ground to edge of parapet, and 153ft. to top of pinnacles. The lower stage forms a clergy vestry, 16ft. square. The choir vestry, 33ft. 9in. by 13ft. 6in., will be placed at east end of chancel, communicating with the clergy vestry and with organ-chamber in south chancel aisle. The new church will accommodate on fixed benches 1,012 adults, and the proposed outlay is from £15,000 to £20,000. We illustrated the church by double-page perspectives of the exterior and interior in our issue for August 27th, 1880.

A meeting of subscribers was held at Warbleton church on Monday week to receive and consider competitive designs for the erection of a Darby memorial stained glass-window in the parish-church, when that of Mr. George Kempe was accepted. The subjects are Old Testament Types of Our Lord.

A memorial-brass has been recently placed in the parish-church, Witchampton, near Wimborne, Dorset. The inscription is arranged within a border of four-fold leaves on a coloured ground, the four corners are elaborated with four quatrefoils, in which are represented the sacred monograms, the emblem of the Holy Trinity, and the Alpha and Omega. The brass is erected to the memory of the late rector, the Rev. John George Francis Henry Knapp, A.K.C. and was executed at Messrs. J. Wippell and Company's art metal and wood works, High-street and Queen-street, Exeter.

The parish-church of Baverstock, Wilts, is about to be restored and refitted at an outlay of £700. Amongst the proposed works are the erection of chancel-screen, replacement of present pulpit by a new one, new altar-table, and stone reredos, with inlaid marble cross, and panelling on either side.

It has been decided to enlarge the beautiful village church of Chipping Ongar, by adding a south aisle, accommodating 80 worshippers. The church will at the same time be restored, the roof retiled, the wooden spire repaired, and the flint work repointed. The estimated outlay is £1,200, and towards raising this amount a fancy bazaar was held last week.

Holy Trinity Church, Burton-on-Trent, was consecrated on Friday. It replaces an older one, seats 900 persons, and has cost about £21,000; a tower and spire have yet to be added. Mr. John Oldrid Scott was the architect.

It is proposed to raise £30,000 for church extension at Portsmouth. The Bishop of Winchester offers to contribute £1,000 a year during his episcopate.

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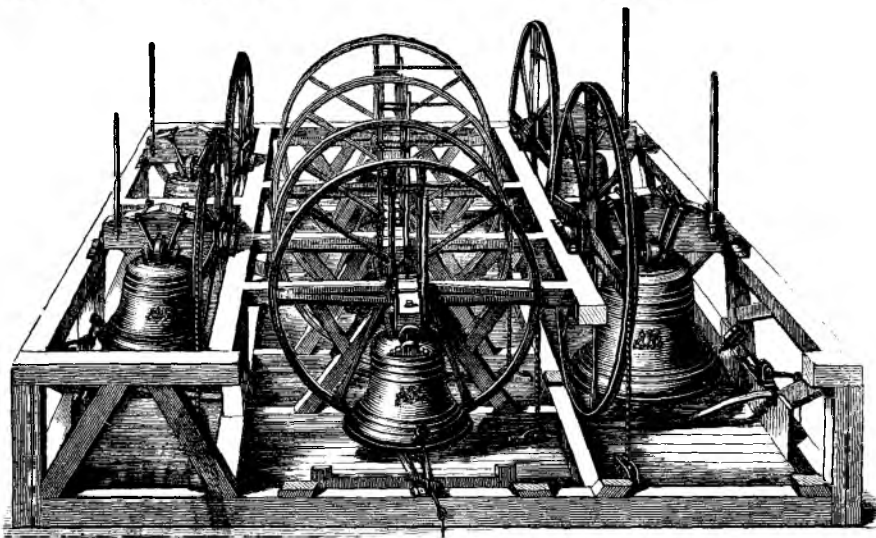
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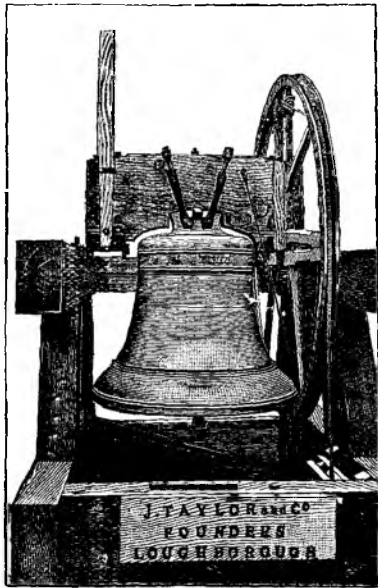
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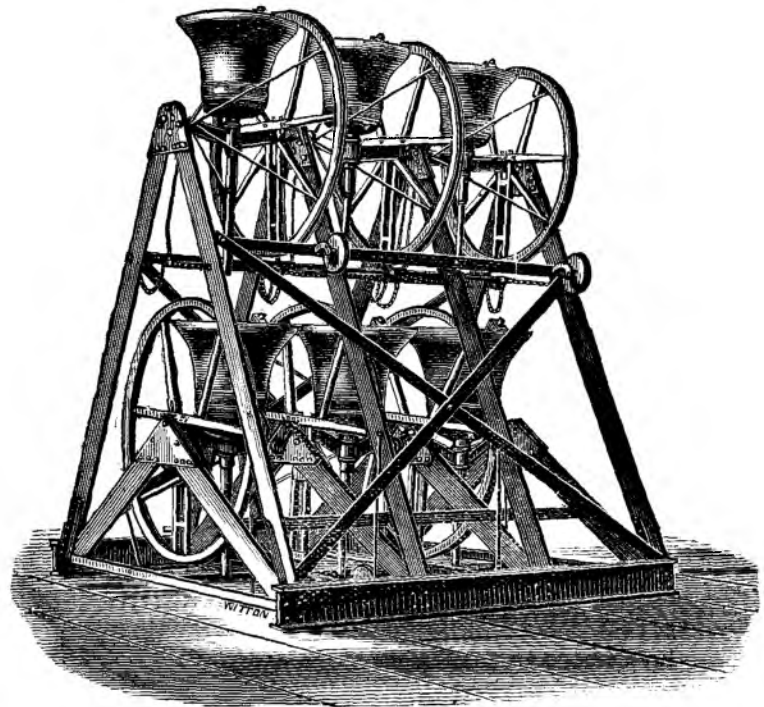
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