

THE

BELL NEWS

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

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1882.

[ONE PENNY.]

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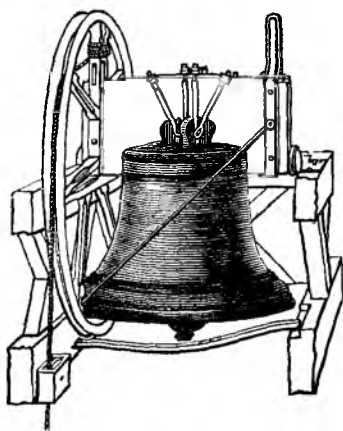
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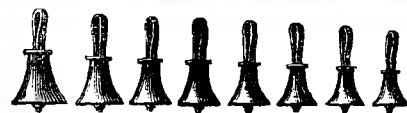


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WILLIAM SHIPWAY,

Ringer, Composer, and Author of a very excellent work, "The Universal Instructor in the Art of Ringing;"

Upwards of Fifty years a Member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths;

By HENRY DAINS.

In giving a list of Shipway's performances in the steeple, it has seemed to me that a few selections from the pithy remarks of the author of the "Universal Instructor in the Art of Ringing," would be of interest to the readers of "THE BELL NEWS," the work by him being now rather scarce, and thus not easily attainable.

By this it appears he was born in Bath in the year 1760, which city he left for London at the age of twenty-five, principally because the ringers there did not keep pace with the young man's fancy. Probably he experienced a difficulty such as many of his followers in the art have done. Instances are known of living men who could ring Stedman Cinques double-handed before being allowed to touch a rope's-end in the steeple; such were the conservative notions of many ringers of a by-gone age. The art of ringing flourished to some extent in Shipway's locality—Bath, and the neighbouring city of Bristol—as early as 1620, and the society of that date may perhaps be connected with that of the present day at the last-named place. However, by their inactivity or whatnot, the Bath ringers lost a very promising young man, and one who soon became a most attentive student, and devoted servant to the science he espoused; a person possessed of rare intellect and genius, and of extraordinary will and perseverance, but who never would, perhaps, have accomplished such results, had he not freely breathed the air of the metropolis. While in London Shipway seems to have experienced few difficulties. The author of the future was not long in town before he dashed into peal-ringing, for during his first five months' residence he took part in a peal of Treble Bob Major at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and a peal of Grandsire Cinques at St. Saviour's, Southwark. These peals were rung with the Junior Cumberlands' Society, with whom he also states he rang John Reeves's celebrated 8448 of Treble Bob Major, but I may say that no record of this performance appears in the documents of that society. In 1788 he joined the Royal Cumberland Youths (formerly the London Scholars), and in the same year he rang his first peal with them—a peal of Stedman Caters—which was the first peal of Caters in that method this society had performed. He at once appears to have taken part in most of the leading peals rung by this society, until, in 1791, in a peal of Oxford Treble Bob at St. Mary, Islington, in which he rang the seventh, he first appears as a conductor. In 1801 he took part in a peal of Court Bob Royal, which he says "is the only peal rung in this method by any society."

During the years 1812 to 1816, Shipway produced the work well known by the above title, which he introduced to the ringing world in the following terms—

"After four years of the most diligent application, I am at length enabled to present to the world my new 'CAMPANALOGIA; OR INSTRUCTOR IN THE ART OF RINGING;' which, I presume to add, is the most complete Treatise ever published on the subject."

I think there can be little doubt of the truth of this statement, as although there were, previous to this date, a few instances of peals being rung in both single and double, and even reverse methods, no such a thorough classification of different methods as our author's had yet appeared—in which he properly divided the Court systems, and produced a composition which is the nearest approach to a peal of Grandsire Triples without a single. To more fully complete his work, he says, he formed a new method, upon a new principle, that of place-making. In regard to withholding their peals for private use, the author's advice to composers is most excellent, and holds as good in the present day as when first written. In the preface, p. 8, it runs thus:—

"I must here notice the inutility of gentlemen reserving the results of their labours under the idea of possessing peals superior to those of any other person, for as two gentlemen may compose similar peals, he who publishes his productions will obtain all the honour, while the other will either be discredited, or consigned to oblivion."

I am perhaps a favoured individual in one respect, being in possession of two copies of Shipway's work, one an original, the other an edition published in 1830, in which he ably combats the various insinuations and objections against his favourite amusement, as follows, in a preface to part i., written from Kingsland Green in May, 1813. After speaking of "brute force entertainments, furious and otherwise," and also of those requiring—in order to gain the usual reward of excellence—such severe muscular strain, he says:—

"The exercise of ringing, however, is not productive of any such effects; and I shall here request the reader to divest himself of all prejudice, whilst I briefly endeavour to refute some objections that have been inconsiderately raised against the eminently beneficial art of which we are now treating."

"The amusement under consideration has been objected to as mean and mechanical, followed and practised by persons whose subsistence is derived from manual labour; and has therefore unjustly been deemed an unfit recreation for those whose circumstances and education are somewhat superior. I answer, that the exercise is admirably suited to persons of this description, and that only an impartial consideration of its merits is necessary to lead them to this conclusion;

for as the exercise is gentle, a gradual circulation of the fluids is produced, at the same time the most abundant opportunity is afforded of strengthening even the best memory. The practice of the art has still further been objected to from its tendency to alienate the minds of men from their business, by leading them into idleness, and as being too frequently productive of habitual drunkenness. In reply, I observe, that there is no exercise or diversion which, if unduly followed, will not reduce a man to poverty; and alas! if a man be addicted to drink, he will obtain it, let his amusements be what they may. But far from inducing a practice so ruinous and detestable, ringing can afford no entertainment to individuals of this character; it is generally performed in a place where liquor cannot be readily procured, and the intellects of the performer must be perfectly unclouded to enable him to practise with any degree of credit. As to the neglect of business, it may be sufficient to observe that, except when paid for it, the time usually appointed is the evening, when all men retire into the bosoms of their families, or participate in some diversion or amusement, in order to alleviate and soften the cares and fatigues of the day."

Mr. Shipway was undoubtedly greatly infatuated with ringing. In one place he alludes to it as "The Sublime Art," and that he felt equal to any work or task that might present itself in connection with it, may be gathered from the following remarks, engendered by the receipt of the 14,016 of Treble Bob, which appear in the appendix to his work.

"Mr. Eversfield has obtained a greater length of Treble Bob Major, true, than any other person, and just in time for insertion in this work; but its extent is not yet ascertained. This method has produced considerable emulation in the art, it having been asserted that 10,000 could not be had. The author, in his attempt, only endeavoured for a 12,000, or as near that number as he could obtain."

Although a great ringer and composer, our author was never an expert conductor, and for his own assistance he selected the (simplest possible) following changes for part-ends of his five-part peals of most of the methods he composed, and although other persons before and since his day have used the same changes for a similar purpose, yet to the present day they are known as "Shipway's part-ends."

2 3 4 5 6	
3 4 5 6 2	first.
4 5 6 2 3	second.
5 6 2 3 4	third.
6 2 3 4 5	fourth.
2 3 4 5 6	fifth.

Shipway, in his work, after describing the towns and cities of Somersetshire, in his list of the principal peals of bells in England, relates the following of himself when referring to the city of Bath:—

"The author of the present work was born in this city, September 29th, 1760. The circumstances which introduced him to a knowledge of the Art of Ringing was his being apprenticed to a Mr. Handcock, cabinet maker, of that city, who having been appointed sexton of the Abbey, the author gained access to the steeple; he then formed an acquaintance with the ringers, and soon became much attached to the art itself, in which he made such proficiency as to have rang as far as Treble Bob Royal before he left that city for London; the principal motive for which step was, that although Bath had a respectable band of ringers, yet the art did not improve so rapidly as he wished. He arrived in the metropolis on July 29, 1785, where he joined the Junior Society of Cumberlands, his chief performance with whom was in 1787, when he assisted in a peal of 8448 Treble Bob Major, in the Kent variation, being the extent with the tenors together. In 1787 he joined the Ancient Society of Cumberlands, with whom he has had the honour to assist in many capital performances, among which are six of Oxford Treble Bob Royal; one of Double Norwich Court Bob Royal; four of Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, viz., 7104 at St. Saviour's, Southwark; 7104 at Christ Church, Spitalfields; 6000 exact at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch; 5376 at St. Martin-in-the-Fields; and four peals on Stedman's principle, viz., three of Caters and one of Cinques; concluding his labours in the art with the publication of the present work."

(To be continued.)

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting of this Association will take place this year at Bristol, on Monday, August 28th. All members and friends are particularly requested to be in attendance at the church of St. Mary Redcliffe, where Divine Service will be held at 10.25; and immediately afterwards to proceed to the Colston Room, at the south-east corner of the churchyard, for the business meeting. Dinner will be at the Ship Inn, Redcliffe Hill, at One o'clock, at 2s. 6d. per head. Performing members will be allowed the usual 1s. 6d. towards this, provided they have given notice through their committee-man, or if belonging to no company, direct to the Hon. Secretary, before the 21st instant.

The business to be transacted at the meeting to be held immediately after the conclusion of Divine Service, is, according to the agenda paper, the following:—Reading the minutes of the last meeting; election of officers; election of new members; discussion of any subject likely to promote the welfare of the Association; the plate of membership. The belfries at the disposal of the members on the above date will be:—Rings of six: S. John's; S. Luke's, Bedminster; S. Mark's (Mayor's Chapel); S. Michael's; S. Werburgh's. Rings of eight: All Saints; S. Mary's parish church, Clifton; S. Mary-le-port; S. Matthew's, Kingsdown; S. Philip and Jacob's; S. Peter's; S. Thomas's. Rings of ten: Christchurch; S. James's; S. Nicholas. Ring of twelve: S. Mary Redcliffe.

The Hon. Secretary of the Association is the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, France Lynch, Chalford Hill, Stroud, who will give any further information.

PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

COMPILED BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

The following peal, which is in thirteen courses, has the sixth the extent each way in 5-6.

5024.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
5 2 3 6 4	2	2	2		
2 5 4 6 3	2		2		
6 3 5 4 2	I	2			
4 6 3 2 5	2	2	2		
2 4 6 5 3	2	2	2		
3 2 5 4 6	2	I	2		
4 5 2 3 6	2	2			
2 6 3 5 4	2	-	2	2	
3 4 5 6 2	2	-	2	2	
4 3 2 6 5	2		2		
4 2 6 3 5	I	-	2		
5 4 3 2 6	2	I	2		
2 3 4 5 6	2	2			

W. HARRISON.

The reverse was first rung on August 5th, 1882, at St. Oswald's, Guiseley, by the Yorkshire Association, conducted by Jasper W. Snowdon.

The following peal, in fifteen courses, has the sixth the extent in 5-6, at four and five course-ends.

5056.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
3 5 2 6 4	2	2			
5 4 2 6 3	I	2			
4 3 2 6 5	I	2			
5 2 3 6 4	I	I			
5 3 6 2 4	I	-	2	2	
2 6 3 5 4	2	2	2		
3 4 5 6 2	2	-	2	2	
6 3 4 2 5	-	2			
6 4 2 3 5	I	-	2	2	
4 6 5 3 2	2	2			
3 5 6 4 2	I	-	2		
5 3 2 4 6	-	I	2		
5 2 4 3 6	I	2			
5 4 3 2 6	I	2			
2 3 4 5 6	I	-	2		

L. CAWOOD.

First rung on December 27th, 1880, at St. Oswald's, Guiseley, by the Yorkshire Association, conducted by its composer.

MISCELLANEOUS PEALS.

5024.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
3 5 2 6 4	-				
4 5 3 6 2	-	I			
2 5 4 6 3	-	I			
5 6 2 3 4	-				
6 3 5 4 2	-				
4 6 3 2 5	-	2			
2 4 3 6 5	I	-	2		
4 6 5 3 2	2	-	2		
3 2 4 6 5	-	2			
2 6 5 4 3	2	-	2		
4 3 2 6 5	-	2			
4 3 6 5 2	2	2	I		
5 4 3 2 6	-	2			
4 2 3 5 6	I	-	2		
5 3 2 4 6	I	-	2		
3 4 2 5 6	I	-	2		
5 2 4 3 6	I	-	2		
2 3 4 5 6	I	-	2		

H. DAINS.

First rung on December 5th, 1881, at St. Mary's, Diss, by the Norwich Association, conducted by Jeremiah Morley.

In this collection of peals I am not admitting ordinary one-part peals, unless they have, at least, the sixth the extent each way in 5-6, or some other interesting feature.

Although the foregoing peal, which is in eighteen courses, has not the sixth the extent each way, it has the sixth the extent home; all the 867s and all the 6-5 and 5-6 course-ends possible; the sixth is also placed six course-ends each way. The two following peals, which contain the same qualities as the previous one, are composed in seventeen courses.

5088.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
4 6 5 3 2	I	I	2		
3 2 4 6 5	-	2	I		
3 5 2 6 4	2		I		
5 6 3 4 2	-				
4 3 2 6 5	2	-	2		
4 5 3 6 2	2		I		
5 6 4 2 3	-				
2 4 3 6 5	2	-	2		
2 5 4 6 3	2		I		
6 2 5 3 4	-				
6 5 3 2 4	I	2			
5 4 3 2 6	I	2			
4 2 3 5 6	I	-	2		
5 3 2 4 6	I	-	2		
5 4 3 2 6	I	-	2		
4 2 3 5 6	I	-	2		
5 3 2 4 6	I	-	2		
3 4 2 5 6	I	-	2		
5 2 4 3 6	I	-	2		
2 3 4 5 6	I	-	2		

H. DAINS.

5056.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
6 3 5 4 2	I	2	I		
3 6 2 4 5	-	I	2		
4 3 2 6 5	I	-	2		
3 6 5 2 4	2	-	2		
2 4 3 6 5	-	2			
4 6 5 3 2	2	-	2		
3 2 4 6 5	-	2			
2 5 4 6 3	2	-	I	2	
3 5 2 6 4	-	I			
4 5 3 6 2	-	I			
4 5 6 2 3	-	I			
5 4 3 2 6	2		2		
4 2 3 5 6	I	-	2		
5 3 2 4 6	I	-	2		
3 4 2 5 6	I	-	2		
5 2 4 3 6	I	-	2		
2 3 4 5 6	I	-	2		

H. DAINS.

The original of the following peal has the fifth and sixth the extent in sixth's place; the reverse has the fourth and sixth the extent in this place.

5088.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
5 6 2 3 4	2	I			
4 5 3 6 2	-	2	2		
5 4 2 6 3	-	I	2		
6 2 4 5 3	2	2			
6 2 5 3 4	2	2	I		
6 4 2 3 5	-	I	I		
3 2 4 6 5	I	-	2		
2 6 4 3 5	I	-	I		
2 3 6 4 5	I	-	2		
3 4 6 2 5	I	-			
4 3 5 2 6	2	2			
2 5 3 4 6	I	-	2		
3 4 2 5 6	I	I			
5 2 4 3 6	2	2			
2 3 4 5 6	I	-			

H. DAINS.

The following peals, which are respectfully in fourteen and fifteen courses, do not quite contain the fifth and sixth the extent in 5-6.

5120.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
5 2 3 6 4	2	2	2		
5 3 6 2 4		I	2		
3 4 6 2 5	I		2		
2 6 4 3 5	2	2			
4 5 3 6 2	2	-	2	2	
5 4 2 6 3	2		2		
4 3 2 6 5	I		2		
6 4 3 5 2	2	2	2		
6 3 5 4 2	I	-	2	2	
3 2 5 4 6	2	-	I	2	
4 5 2 3 6	2	-	2	2	
2 6 3 5 4	2	-	2	2	
6 2 4 5 3	2	2			
2 3 4 5 6	I	2			

S. WOOD.

Rung at Mottram, Cheshire, on March 3rd, 1879, conducted by Robert Wright.

5088.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
3 6 4 5 2	I		2		
6 3 2 5 4	-	I	2		
5 2 3 6 4	-	2	2		
2 5 4 6 3	-	I	2		
5 3 4 6 2	2	-	I	2	
3 2 4 6 5	I		2		
3 4 6 2 5	I	2			
3 6 2 4 5	I	-	2	2	
4 2 6 3 5	I	-	2		
2 4 5 3 6	-	I	2		
2 5 3 4 6	I	2			
6 2 4 5 3	-	2	2		
3 6 5 2 4	2	I	2		
2 5 6 3 4	I	-	2		
2 3 4 5 6	2	I	I		

S. WOOD.

The following peals are each contained in twenty-one courses, and are on the plan of lengthening a part in a five-part touch so as to make the composition run over 5000 changes.

5024.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
3 5 2 6 4	-				
3 5 6 4 2	-		I		
5 4 2 6 3	2	-			
4 6 5 3 2	-				
6 4 2 3 5	-	I	2		
4 3 6 5 2	-				
3 5 4 2 6	-				
5 2 3 6 4	-				
5 2 6 4 3	-		I		
2 4 5 3 6	-				
4 3 2 6 5	-				
3 6 4 5 2	-				
3 6 5 2 4	-		I		
6 2 3 4 5	-				
2 4 6 5 3	-				
4 5 2 3 6	-				
4 5 3 6 2	-		I		
5 6 4 2 3	-				
6 2 5 3 4	-				
2 3 6 4 5	-				
2 3 4 5 6	-				

T. LOCKWOOD.

5056.					
2 3 4 5 6	M	B	W	H	
2 3 5 6 4	-			I	
2 3 6 4 5	-			I	
3 4 2 5 6	-				
4 5 3 6 2	2		2		
4 5 6 2 3	-			I	
4 5 2 3 6	-			I	
5 3 4 2 6	-				
3 6 5 2 4	-				
6 2 3 4 5	-				
6 2 3 4 5	-				
5 3 2 4 6	-				
3 4 5 6 2	-				
3 4 6 2 5	-			I	
4 2 3 5 6	-				
4 2 5 3 6	-				
2 5 4 6 3	-				
2 3 4 5 6	-				

J. COX.

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" " 3 "	1s. 8d.

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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.

WOODBINE.—As soon as we find, from the increased circulation of this paper, that ringers support "THE BELL NEWS" as we think they ought, established as it is for their convenience, you will find that your wishes will be carried out to the fullest extent.

W. PAWSON and R. BRUNDLE.—Next week.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1882.

WE have before remarked that the ambition on the part of young ringers to attain to a place among the ranks of composers is legitimate, praiseworthy, and commendable. Not only to know something of the construction of a peal in which one is employed in ringing, but a sufficient acquaintance with the art of composition in many instances to decide, upon seeing a copy of the peal, what the probabilities are that it will run true, is a knowledge the value of which can hardly be over-estimated. If it is not imperative that the general body of ringers should possess such attainments, it will not for one moment be questioned that a practical acquaintance with the art of composition gives a degree of power and influence which ringers, *par et simple*, do not possess. But to become an adept in this important branch of the science, special qualifications are desired. We believe it is a great mistake for every ringer to imagine that he possesses the talent necessary for the thorough acquirement of the principles of composition. It is a special feature, fully developed only in those persons who are fitted with a special aptitude for the work. It is well known that there are many clever ringers who in their lives never composed a touch, and could not tell how to begin if they were to make the attempt; it is also a fact that there are clever composers who are but indifferent ringers, while the number of talented performers and composers combined in one individual is but a fraction of the whole ringing community. We mention these facts for the sake of illustrating the argument that efficiency in the art of composition must not be expected by all who enter into such a study. And it therefore would be wise for any one before attempting composition to become acquainted, as far as possible, with the difficulties and disappointments which, to ensure the smallest measure of success, will have to be overcome.

It is very gratifying to find that many of our readers take advantage of the facilities we offer for the examination and publishing of productions when forwarded to us. Some of these essays possess a deal of merit, and show the interest taken by their authors in producing something which a talented conductor would not hesitate to call. Others, we must admit, are of a slipshod character, and lead to the belief that their authors could not be acquainted with the rudiments of the art. These latter may be instances of the want of those special qualifica-

tions we have referred to. At any rate they certainly go far to substantiate a conviction that with some it is only held necessary to prick the number of leads requisite for the first part of a peal, and after discovering the remaining part-ends, hazard the truth or falsehood of the composition. We are afraid this has been carried to a much greater length than it ought to have been. It is not assuming too much to say that compositions have been rung, and recorded as true peals, which would not successfully encounter the ordeal of proof. We are not alluding to the plan of making the best of a "shift" which has taken place during the performance of a peal, though that is a proceeding to be strongly condemned, but are pointing out that though a peal or touch may at first sight appear to possess all the necessary requirements for correctness, its truth should not be assumed till it has been proved. We hope we shall not be giving offence to any of our readers if we say that it is the duty of every one who imagines he has composed a peal or touch to find out for himself as far as in him lies, its value. Having arrived at a favorable decision he may, for his own satisfaction, submit his production to some one more experienced. But we recommend all who embark in this practice to become acquainted with the mode of proof in the particular method of which they are dealing. We shall always be glad as hitherto to give what assistance we are able, but it should be understood that the proving of peals makes rather a serious inroad on the time at any one's disposal.

The celebrated SHIPWAY uttered an observation to the effect that the want of knowledge on the part of many persons in this particular branch of the science has led them to attempt many experiments in composition which could not possibly lead to successful results. This clenches our argument, that whoever is anxious for fame as a composer should become acquainted first of all with the simple elements of the science.

KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

THE second day meeting of the above—held August 3rd last—is generally devoted chiefly to the investigation of smaller churches, among other objects. The villages visited this year were Leeds and Lenham. A few numbers back we described the condition of towers, etc., in one Kentish rural-deanery—we find, however, that generally speaking, things in the Sutton and other divisions in this part of the county are much better; change-ringing has been to a greater extent both kept up and revived in the last few years. The ten bells in the large but low tower at Leeds are so well known as not to need much comment, suffice it to say, that no fault in any quarter is to be found, although one of the larger ones is singularly encircled in a hoop of iron, being cracked in the crown. A touch on the day of meeting was not found practical, but the members of the society were enabled to hear the unusual sound of "all ten," in a small village, by the assistance of Messrs. Ford-Kelcey and Dr. F. Grayling. Change-ringing is, however, fairly well kept up here.

At Lenham, which is a large church, there is a ring of eight, but during the process of opening up the tower arch, the belfry was inevitably destroyed, and, as usual, no rope-stays of iron or other substance have been provided. Considering the immense height, and as far as could be judged, these bells seemed in ringing order, a local muster having been sent out for. The tenor here is unusually good in tone; time was not sufficient to obtain measurements. Nothing but churchyard bob is in the present day possible.

THE ROCHDALE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

THIS Association held their Quarterly Meeting at New Hey on Saturday, August 5th. The number of members present was about thirty, the following districts being represented: New Hey, Milnrow, Moorside, Balderstone, Hamer, and Rochdale. The ringing commenced about four o'clock. Several touches of Grandsire Triples were rung, after which the company adjourned to the school-room to hold the Quarterly Meeting. The business being got over, ringing was persevered in until late, and a very agreeable evening was afterwards spent by the ringers.

The Provinces.

**THE WEST MIDDLESEX ASSOCIATION.
EALING, MIDDLESEX.**

On Saturday, August 5, 1882, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,

AT CHRIST CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES,

HOLT'S ORIGINAL. Tenor 14 cwt.

WILLIAM BARON Treble.	*JOHN BASDEN 5.
JOSEPH J. PARKER 2.	*FREDERICK G. GODDARD .. 6.
WILLIAM H. FUSSELL* .. 3.	REUBEN FLAXMAN 7.
WILLIAM WILDER 4.	GEORGE ELSBY Tenor.

Conducted by WILLIAM BARON.

[* First Peal.]

This is the first peal rung by the West Middlesex Association.

GUISELEY.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 5, 1882, in Two Hours and Fifty-seven Minutes,

AT ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES,

IN THE OXFORD VARIATION. Tenor 10½ cwt.

MATTHEW TOMLINSON .. Treble.	THOMAS WEST 5.
DAVID E. RHODES 2.	JOSEPH YEADON 6.
JAMES BARRACLOUGH .. 3.	JAMES BALDWIN 7.
SAMUEL BROWN 4.	JASPER W. SNOWDON, Esq. Tenor.

The peal was composed by WM. HARRISON, and conducted by JASPER W. SNOWDON.

The first peal in this method on the bells.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

FRITTENDEN, KENT.

On Monday, August 7, 1882, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES

THE ORIGINAL BOB-AND-SINGLE. Tenor 14 cwt. in Gb.

ALFRED H. WOOLLEY .. Treble.	JOHN LAKER 5.
JAMES HARRISON 2.	CALEB PAYNE 6.
EDWARD BALDOCK 3.	FREDERICK G. NEWMAN .. 7.
SAMUEL BARKER 4.	DAVID HALL Tenor.

Conducted by CALEB PAYNE.

The above was the first peal in this method rung on the bells.

After the peal, the ringers, thirteen in number, were invited to an excellent tea, which they partook on the lawn at the rectory with the Rev. Mr. Hallward, rector.

**THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.
SAFFRON WALDEN, ESSEX.**

On Monday, August 7, 1882, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES,

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 24 cwt.

HENRY HOPKINS Treble.	JOHN F. PENNING 5.
CHARLES HOPKINS 2.	NATHAN J. PITSTOW 6.
GEORGE MARTIN 3.	HENRY DAINS 7.
CHARLES FREEMAN 4.	FREDERICK PITSTOW .. Tenor.

The peal was composed by HENRY DAINS, and conducted by FREDERICK PITSTOW.

The composition will be given by Mr. Snowdon in due course.

Miscellaneous.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

WANSTEAD.—On Tuesday, July 25th, the following members of the above Association rang a 720 of Bob Minor (Hubbard), in 20 mins. J. King, 1; A. H. Gardom, Esq. (conductor), 2; G. Allen, 3; G. Cornell, 4; J. Priest, 5; G. Akers, 6. This is the first 720 rung on the bells by a local band. Tenor 9 cwt.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Wednesday, August 2nd, at S. Michael's, a 720 of Double Court Bob Minor. C. Huckson, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; *H. E. Hammond, 3; S. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; A. Huckson (conductor), 6. And a 720 of Bob Minor. T. Watson, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; *C. Huckson, 3; H. E. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; A. Huckson, 6. And on Saturday, August 5th, a 720 of Woodbine Treble Bob. C. Huckson, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; *H. E. Hammond, 3; S. Hammond (conductor), 4; F. Rudkin, 5; A. Huckson, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. [* First 720 inside.]

DARESBURY (Cheshire).—On Sunday evening, August 6th, four members of the Daresbury Society, assisted by Messrs. J. Webb and T. Critchley, of Warrington, rang for Divine Service, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 25½ mins. J. Webb (conductor), 1; T. Critchley, 2; T. Ellison, 3; P. Hamblett, 4; J. Ellison, 5; T. Houghton, jun. 6. And after service, a 720 of College Single, in 26 mins. J. Webb, 1; P. Johnson, 2; T. Ellison, 3; P. Hamblett (conductor), 4; J. Ellison, 5; T. Houghton, jun., 6. Tenor 12 cwt. in G. The above 720s are the first rung since Easter Sunday by any of the Daresbury ringers, owing to an accident which occurred to one of the company in Easter week.

GREAT YARMOUTH (Norfolk).—On Sunday, August 6th, 1882, at St. Nicholas, before Morning and Afternoon Service, touches of Grand-sire Caters were rung by the following persons:—H. Wright, 1; W. Blyth, 2; *H. Cutter, 3; W. Lee (conductor), 4; R. Christian, 5; W. Secret, 6; F. Fletcher, 7; *D. Hayward, 8; M. Long, 9; *W. H. George, 10. Tenor 30 cwt in D. [* Members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.]

KING'S NORTON (Worcestershire).—On Sunday morning, August 6th, six members of the King's Norton branch of the Birmingham and District Association rang upon the bells of the parish church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 25 mins., the composition of Mr. J. Carter, of Birmingham, and is in twelve parts. Frank Palmer, 1; W. H. Sumner, 2; J. Cooks, 3; F. Scrivens, 4; J. Wright, 5; W. Palmer, 6. This 720 is now rung for the first time out of Birmingham. In the afternoon, two Birmingham members of the above Association paid a friendly visit to King's Norton, when a quarter-peal of Triples was attempted, but unfortunately, when within about six changes of coming round, a slip was made, bringing the whole to grief. G. Russam (Birmingham), 1; W. H. Sumner, 2; T. Russam (Birmingham), 3; J. Wright, 4; J. Cooks, 5; F. Scrivens, 6; W. Palmer (conductor), 7; Frank Palmer, 8. Tenor 18 cwt. Time 46 mins.

MAIDENHEAD (Berks).—On Sunday afternoon, for Divine Service at All Saints' church, Boyne Hill, by the local company, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 25 mins. Geo. Wilkins, jun., 1; W. A. Garraway, 2; H. Rogers, 3; R. Smith, 4; E. Rogers, 5; J. W. Wilkins, 6. Tenor 17½ cwt.

WARNHAM (Sussex).—On Sunday evening, August 6th, five members of the Warnham Society, assisted by Mr. H. Burstow, of Horsham, rang two 720's of Oxford Bob Minor, in 25 mins. each. The first was called with sixteen bobs and two singles, the second, which is given below, with thirty-six bobs and twenty-two singles. William Wood, 1; William Chantler, 2; Joseph Dale, 3; Edward Turner, 4; Thomas Andrews, 5; Henry Burstow (composer and conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in F.

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

Five times repeated; the single being omitted at the third and sixth part-ends.

BELL FOUNDING OPERATIONS.

MESSRS. MEARS AND STAINBANK.—Binfield, Berks, treble to make a peal of six; tenor 10 cwt. Ladybank Church, Fifeshire, one bell, 6 cwt. Quebec, Canada, eight bells, tenor 14 cwt. Bidston, Cheshire, treble to make a peal of six, tenor 5 cwt. Christ Church, Barlow Moor, Lancashire, peal of eight, tenor 18 cwt. Madras, one bell, 14 cwt. With reference to the new peal at Barlow Moor we have received valuable testimony to the tone of the bells, and also the manner in which the whole work has been carried out by the founders.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—Our attention has been called to the omission of the word "annual" in our report which appeared in our last issue, in the resolution moved at the late district meeting of the above Association, respecting the erection of the Galleywood and Writtle peal-boards. We understand that it should have read as follows—"That the resolution proposed at the last annual meeting by Mr. Gardom as to the erection of peal boards at Galleywood and Writtle should not be carried out, but left for discussion at the next annual meeting" and not, as is in some places understood, at the next district meeting.

ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE RINGERS FOR THE DIOCESE AND ADJOINING DISTRICTS OF WORCESTER.

THE first annual meeting of the above association was held on Monday, August 7th in All Saints' Schoolroom, Worcester, under the distinguished patronage of the Hon. and Very Rev. Lord Alwyne Compton, M.A., Dean of Worcester, the Rev. R. Cattley, M.A., Honorary Canon, and other influential clergy, churchwardens, citizens, and upwards of fifty Change Ringers from all parts of the Diocese.

The committee have much pleasure in stating that the rules (being read by the Dean, chairman), were all passed unanimously, with but few amendments, and that the above fifty ringers all became members of the Association by paying their first year's subscription to the secretary, Mr. H. Wilkes, of Worcester. This was followed by election of officers: The Dean, president; the Rev. R. Cattley, vice-president; Mr. Perks, Malvern, master; Mr. Wm. Duffield, Bromsgrove, treasurer; Mr. H. Wilkes, Worcester; secretary, and a committee of one member from each district.

The meeting terminated with votes of thanks passed to the president, the vice-president, and the rector of All Saints'. The members afterwards adjourned to the several churches in the city and did their best to prove the art and music of Change Ringing. Bromsgrove company ascended the tower of St. Helen's and rang a short touch of Bob Major, conducted by Mr. Wm. Duffield, of Bromsgrove, and afterwards with the assistance of Mr. Perks, of Malvern, a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major containing 1120 changes, conducted by Mr. E. Crump, of Bromsgrove. Again a mixed company of Bromsgrove and Worcester men rang at All Saints, a touch of Grandsire Caters, conducted by Mr. G. Haywood, of Bromsgrove. In the evening Mr. Wilkes conducted various and mixed companies on the fine bells of the cathedral tower. Later on the Bromsgrove men enlivened the night at the Bridge Inn, by ringing a series of tunes upon their fine carrillon of hand bells.

Any ringer or other gentleman wishing to become a member of the above association will kindly forward his name and address for information to Mr. H. Wilkes, Hon. Sec., Ombersley Road, Worcester.

THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.—TRIP TO SAFFRON WALDEN.

On Saturday, August 5th, Messrs. H. Hopkins, C. Hopkins, and H. Dains, of the above society, paid a visit to their friends and brother members in this delightfully situated and ancient town. A picture of Early English domestic architecture—the parish church of St. Mary—a fine specimen of the Perpendicular style, stands out in bold relief from almost every point of view in the surrounding landscape. The town itself offers almost a mine of wealth to the antiquarian, the house occupied by Mr. Pitstow the elder dating as far back as the year 1514, and it is an excellent example of that period.

On the evening of their arrival, the visitors, accompanied by several members of the local society, rang touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Treble Bob Major, upon the fine-toned ring of bells. On descending the tower, the party were met by the Rev. Canon Jelf, who congratulated them on the fine regular striking just performed, and expressed his gratification upon hearing that the visit of the London gentlemen would be extended over a day or two, and that a peal was being contemplated. Adjourning to the club-house, the party rung upon handbells, retained in hand, Stedman Caters, Grandsire Cinques, Treble Bob Royal, and Double Norwich, conducted by Mr. H. Hopkins.

On Sunday, touches of Major and Triples, in the above methods, were rung for Divine Service at St. Mary's church, in the morning, afternoon, and evening.

On the following day (Monday), a successful attempt was made, and a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major was accomplished in three hours and seven minutes, being seven minutes quicker than any peal ever rang on the bells. The peal, by H. Dains, is a one-part composition, arranged for the occasion in accordance with the wishes of Mr. N. J. Pitstow; contains the fourth and sixth bells the extent in 5-6, in fifteen courses, all the "homes" being full, was handed to the able conductor at the breakfast-table, only two hours before the ringing thereof. Messrs. G. Martin and J. F. Penning (the latter celebrated for his Minor compositions), having become Royal Cumberlands just previous to starting for the peal, the performance will be recorded in the grand peal-book belonging to that company. Mr. George Taylor, steeple-keeper of Great St. Mary's, Cambridge, who unfortunately arrived too late to take part in the peal, but who subsequently rang touches of Stedman Triples with his friends, was also elected (in the belfry) a member of this society. A tablet will be erected in the steeple to record the performance of this peal, and it will also be found among our records in another column.

The visitors, bidding adieu to their friends, left for town the same evening, well pleased with their short but agreeable sojourn.

ANNUAL EXCURSION OF THE HIGHER WALTON COMPANY OF RINGERS.

THE parish ringers of Higher Walton had their second annual picnic on Thursday, August 3rd. Leaving the village about 8.30 a.m., they drove to Penwortham, about five miles distant, and on the bells of St. Mary's church—tenor about 12 cwt.—rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. This is a very old ring of bells, originally five, cast by Abraham Rudhall, in 1712, and have upon them the following inscriptions:—

- 1st bell.—"God save Queen Anne, A.R. 1712."
2nd do.—"Prosperity to the Church of England. 1712."
3rd do.—"Abr. Rudhall cast us all. 1712."
4th do.—"Ralph Loxam, Minister. 1712."
5th do.—"Wm. Slater, Ewan Maudsley, Wm. Farrington, Wm. Bickerstaffe, Wardens, 1712."

They were augmented to a peal of six by the addition of a new treble, cast by Taylor, of Loughborough. After thus examining the bells and noting down the foregoing particulars, they drove to Kirkham, a distance of about nine miles, and on the back six bells of St. Michael's church, rang another 720 of Plain Bob Minor. This church contains a ring of eight, cast by C. and G. Mears, London, 1841; tenor about 22 cwt. From thence the party proceeded to Singleton (six miles distant), and rang another 720 of Plain Bob Minor on the bells of St. Ann's church. These bells were cast by T. Mears, London, in 1811; tenor 8½ cwt. After doing full justice to an excellent dinner provided by Mr. John Livesey, of the "Miller's Arms," they walked on to Poulton-le-Fylde, about three miles distant, where, on the bells of St. Chad's church they attempted another 720 in the same method as before, but after ringing about three-quarters of it, were forced to stand through one of the bells becoming unringable. These bells were cast by Mears, London, 1741; tenor 9 cwt. The company returned home just before 11 o'clock, all being well pleased with their day's enjoyment. The ringers were:—George Thornley (conductor), James Walmsley, 2; Henry Hunt, 3; Henry Brewer, 4; John Eccles, 5; James Mather, 6.

REOPENING OF BELLS AT SANDBACH, CHESHIRE.

A fire having occurred last March in the bell-chamber of this church, doing damage to the beams framework, bell-fittings, etc., it became necessary to have the bells thoroughly overhauled. This has been done, new framework and fittings have been supplied, and the peal rehung by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, under the superintendence of their foreman, Mr. H. Boswell. The reopening took place on Monday, July 31st, when a touch of 1008 Grandsire Triples was rung. The work of restoration has given every satisfaction to the ringers and churchwardens. After the ringing the churchwardens invited the ringers to a capital supper, which was provided for them at the Old Hall, where a very pleasant evening was spent, and a few touches rung on musical handbells. The tenor at Sandbach is 16 cwt. in F.

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."

JOHN HOLT'S FIRST PEAL.

SIR,—The letter of one of your correspondents and your article of last week relating to the present condition of the tablet which records the first performance of Holt's one-part peal, have I hope, been read with interest by many ringers. With regard to the records of the earliest known peals I have, in many instances, been surprised to find that little, if anything more has been handed down to us beyond the information contained on these tablets. What little, for instance, is known of this one of John Holt's or of the early Norwich peals beyond the statements on their respective tablets? In collecting information concerning the earliest peals I have been sorry to find that many of the tablets known to have recorded them have been so neglected that they have become illegible, or, in some cases, fallen to pieces. Only the other day I came across the following account of the end of the peal board recording the first peal of Treble Bob, rung in 1718, by the Union Scholars. Writing to Mr. Ella-combe, in 1863, the late S. Austin says:—"That peal was recorded in the belfry, and in my younger days I saw it many times. The church (St. Dunstan's) was taken down (not the tower) and rebuilt about 1820, the bells were repaired, the belfry painted and whitewashed, and in taking down the board on which the peal was recorded it fell to pieces with old age, and was not replaced." It will certainly be a disgrace to the present generation if the few remaining tablets of interest are allowed to pass out of existence. In your article you propose that the old tablet should be replaced by one of modern construction and design. In my opinion this would take all interest away from the tablet; if the old one is too much decayed to be repaired and replaced it should be replaced by an exact reproduction of the old tablet.

I am not very sanguine as to the interest the greater part of the exercise will take in this matter, but I am sure that if such a committee as you suggest were to take the matter in hand, there are sufficient admirers of John Holt's compositions to subscribe the necessary funds. I would, however, propose a way of providing the funds which would, I think, be extremely satisfactory. My idea is, that after the work is so far completed, the tablet should be photographed in two sizes, and that the photographs should be sold at, say sixpence and one shilling each respectively, postage extra. At these prices I think a sufficient number could be sold to defray all expenses, and the possession of such a copy would be a source of pleasure to many who might never have a chance of seeing the original tablet.

Whilst the repairs are in progress at St. Peter's, Norwich, I wish our Norwich friends would have the three old tablets there repainted and photographed, and thus give us all a chance of obtaining copies and also indirectly contributing to the preservation of those interesting relics.

JASPER W. SNOWDON.

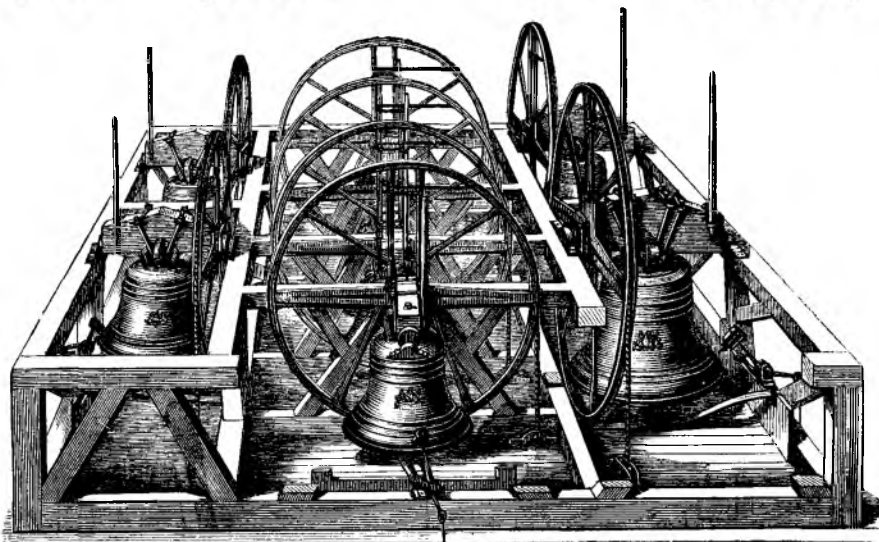
CARILLONS AT THE NEW TOWN HALL, HOVE.

Great interest has been manifested in Hove for some time past says a Brighton paper, anent the introduction of carillons at the new Town Hall, and much speculation is rife concerning them in certain quarters. The heartiness with which the matter was taken up, and subscriptions were promised, proved, however, beyond a doubt, that the inhabitants of the town were determined to make the public structure that has been reared in Church road not only useful and ornamental, but entertaining too, and to that end Messrs. Gillett and Bland, of Croydon, were instructed to provide the necessary chimes and carillons, and the evidence they gave of the excellent manner in which they have performed the task devolving upon them must have been eminently satisfactory to the subscribers and the town generally. The quality of the tone is exceedingly sweet and musical, and the compositions performed are well chosen and distinctly played. The work has evidently been thoroughly well done by Messrs. Gillett and Bland, and those who have heard the bells have been struck with their many good qualities. Several of the Commissioners for Hove were present during the opening of them and expressed their pleasure at the performance. We have been furnished with the following particulars concerning the clock and carillons.

The clock strikes the hours upon a bell of over 36 cwt. and chimes the celebrated St. Mary's of Cambridge quarters on four smaller bells. The main frame of the clock is on an improved horizontal plan, made of solid cast iron, all in one piece, planed top and bottom by machinery, and is over all 6ft. long, 3ft. wide, and 2ft. 9in. high. The time is shown upon four 8t. Mosaic dials. The motive power is given to the clock by weights weighing 16 cwt. suspended from the iron barrels by steel wire lines 450ft. in length. It has what is technically called a "gravity" escapement, which is entirely different to all others, to which it is infinitely superior for perfect time-keeping. The pendulum is a Compensation, one made of zinc and iron tubes, a great improvement upon the ordinary wood rods, since it is not affected by the variations of temperature. All the wheels are of gun metal, beautifully polished and cut by machinery. All the pinions and spindles are of the best cast steel, polished. There are engraved and silvered dials on the clock, showing minutes and seconds for adjusting the outer hands and taking observations. All Messrs. Gillett, Bland, and Co.'s improvements and inventions have been introduced in the clock, one of the most important being the newly invented maintaining power and winding gear which is acknowledged to be the best in use. It produces perfect equality of force, and does not require to be put into action before winding as others do. No carelessness on the part of the winder can cause any disturbance or do any harm to the train, and if the handle of the winder is turned backwards it simply lowers the weight, without, in any way, affecting the uniformity of force on the train and escapement. This is very important for timekeeping, as most maintaining powers, even with careful management, cause such disturbance to the pendulum that it takes hours to recover its regularity. There being nothing to put into action, the winding can be done through small holes in the clock case, so that the clock can be kept locked up for months till it requires oil, &c., and the winding can be done at any time by anyone, and the arrangement is free from all mechanical objections. The clock is guaranteed not to vary more than five seconds per week. The carillon machine is made on Gillett and Bland's further improved patented principle, and will play fourteen tunes on twelve bells, weighing about nine tons.

A fresh tune is played every day for fourteen days. Each tune is played twice over day and night every three hours, at six, nine, twelve, and three o'clock, the change of tune taking place at midnight, by an automatic shifting apparatus. Attached to the machine is an ivory key board, the same as a pianoforte, so that any musician can play tunes upon the bells by the fingers as easily as upon an organ. The key board is made upon an entirely new principle. The novel features and advantages of Gillett and Bland's patent carillon machine over that generally adopted throughout Europe are that, instead of the barrel upon which the music is arranged having also to lift the hammers, the two actions are entirely separated. The bells are the largest peal of 12 bells that has ever been put up in the south of England, and is altogether the largest work of the kind in this part of the country. Every part of the work was manufactured at the makers' (Gillett, Bland, and Co.) establishment even to casting and tuning the bells in their own foundry, and making and fixing the oak framing in the tower, and hanging the bells. The same firm have recently put up a large illuminated clock at St. James's Palace, to the order of Her Majesty's Government.

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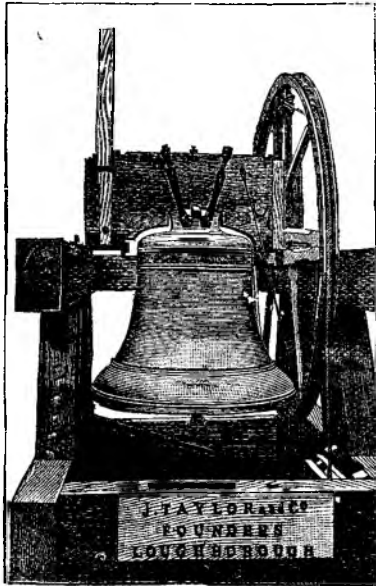
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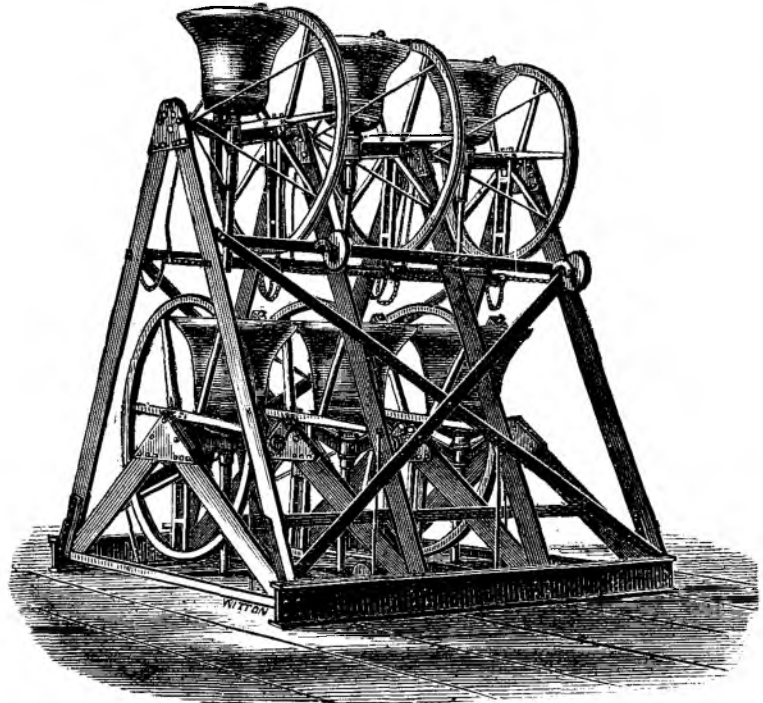
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