

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 47. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. I.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1883.

[ONE PENNY.]



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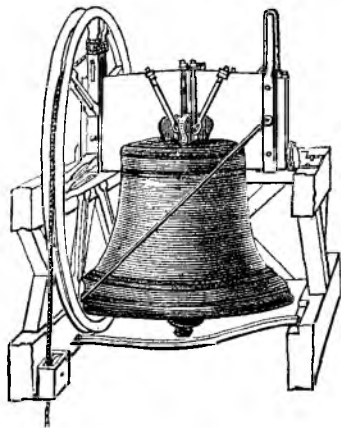
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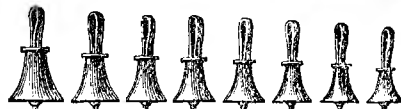
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The last chapter is devoted to a list of the names of Composers of the different peals, with various particulars, and in the cases of deceased Composers with the dates of death, age, etc.

J. W. SNOWDON, Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

THE CHURCH BELLS OF SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

SPALDING has figured largely in the periodicals devoted to change-ringing, it may therefore interest the readers of "THE BELL NEWS" to hear something about the bells of this town. The parish church, SS. Mary and Nicolas, possesses a peal of six bells, tenor 44 in. diameter, 17 cwt., in F. Before 1801 there were only five bells, and they were much out of tune. In 1801 the tenor was recast and a treble added, and the rest tuned. They are now fairly in tune with the exception of the treble, which is rather shary. She is a maiden bell. The inscriptions are as follows:—

- Treble—Thomas Osborn fecit, Downham, Norfolk 1801
(Diameter 29 in.)
Second— + OMNIA FIANT AD GLORIAM DEI 1629. Thomas Morris
cast me W Sneath R Burton Ch. Wa.
(Ornaments between the words. Diameter 30 in.)
Third—Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei Gloria Deo soli Anno Dom 1773
(Diameter 33 in.)
Fourth—Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei Gloria Patri, Filio et Spiritus
Sancta A.D. 1744. (Diameter 35 in.)
Fifth— + JAMES WILESBY IOHN HOMAN CH WA 1648
(Diameter 38½ in.)
Tenor—Maurice Johnson D.D. Minister. Thos Maples Wm Law
churchwardens. Thomas Osborn fecit 1801. (Diameter 44 in.)

There are two peal-boards in the belfry; one recording a 5040, made up of seven 720's of Plain and Treble Bob, rung February 3rd, 1803, and another recording 5040 of Plain Bob and College Single, rung February 3rd, 1870. The bells are rung for morning and evening service every Sunday, and in the early morning on festivals. Change-ringing has been kept up here for many years through the exertions of Mr. J. S. Wright, a ringer of forty years' standing, and a member of the Royal Cumberland Society. Mr. Wright has had many difficulties to contend with; at one time he had to instruct an entirely new company in the art, none of whom knew anything of it but himself. He has persevered so far and overcome every difficulty and we hope that he may long live to occupy the important post which he has filled so admirably for so many years.

The church of St. Peter-at-Abbey has but one bell, weighing about 2 cwt. It was cast by C. and G. Mears, of London, and gained a prize at the Exhibition of 1851.

St. Paul's Church, Fulney End, was erected 1878-80, and has a peal of eight, tenor 15 cwt. in F. All were cast by T. C. Lewis, of Brixton, in 1879. They are thus inscribed:—

- Treble—Richard Guy Ash our Vicar T.C.L. (Weight 3 cwt 3 qrs.)
Second—Canon Moore our Rural Dean T.C.L. (Aams of the Moore
family.) (Weight 4 cwt. 1 qr.)
Third—Charlotte Charinton our benefactor T.C.L.
(Weight 5 cwt 1 qr.)
Fourth—Xtopher our Bishop T.C.L. (Arms of Lincoln Diocese)
(Weight 6 cwt 2 qrs.)
Fifth—(A sword) Saint Paul our Patron Saint T.C.L.
(Weight 7 cwt 3 qrs.)
Sixth—The Holy Ghost our Sanctifier T.C.L. (Weight 9 cwt.)
Seventh— + Jesus Christ our Redeemer T.C.L. (Weight 11 cwt.)
Tenor—God our Father T.C.L. (Weight 15 cwt Diameter 43½ in F.)

These inscriptions are all in Lombardic letters. The bells are hung in two tiers, 1, 2, 6, 8 at the bottom and 3, 4, 5, 7 at the top. The trebles are rather too light for the other bells. A very efficient band of six and seven bell-ringers has been established here by Mr. R. Creasey, member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, one of the best change-ringers in Lincolnshire. Mr. Creasey has contended with and overcome some of the greatest difficulties, having had to work almost single-handed amongst those who when they first joined the company could barely ring rounds. In the month of March 1881, Mr. Creasey and his newly formed company succeeded in accomplishing their first 1260 of Grandsire Triples; most of them had not handled a bell a year previously. They have rang several long lengths since, and we wish them every success.

St. John the Baptist's church has two bells, cast by Warner and Sons, London. They are thus inscribed:—

- First—J. Warner and Sons, London, 1875.
Saint John Baptist. St. Matthew iii., ver. 5. A. D. 1875.
Second—Mary Ann, Daughter of Rev. Walter Maurice Johnson.
St. Luke vii., ver. 5. A.D. 1875. (Diameter 27 in.; weight 4 cwt.)

These bells, though individually good, do not sound well together. At a distance the smaller bell appears to give the lower note. Before concluding this account we may say that the Rev. Canon Moore, Vicar of Spalding, has done much to promote change-ringing in the district. He is President of the South Lincolnshire, Change-Ringers, Association, and has been from its first foundation.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE first MONTHLY MEETING for the Wolstanton district of the above Society was held at that centre on Saturday last. Ringers attended in good numbers from Stone, Keele, Tunstall, Wolstanton, Lawton, Stoke, Burslem, and Norton. A pleasant time of freely mixing with one another was passed till tea, which the company and their friends very kindly provided, and at the after meeting the Rev. O. W. Steele (vicar), spoke a few kindly and manly words to those present, pointing out the importance of their office, and the need of living up to it. He heartily welcomed the Association to his tower and parish.

The Rev W. W. Bolton, Hon. Sec., went through the necessary business, Mr. W. Miller, of Lily Street, being elected District Secretary, but a slight difference of opinion was expressed as to the matter of providing tea to those who should come to future meetings. This meeting felt that each man should pay for his own, and not leave it to the place and tower to provide. A hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar, Churchwardens, and Wolstanton ringers, was passed, and Charles Challinor, Esq., (Basford Hall) replied in suitable terms. After some handbell performances by the local ringers, an adjournment was made to the tower (a nice easy-going peal of six), where a 720 Bob Minor was rung in 26 mins. A. Walker (first 720), 1; L. Miller, 2; W. Miller, 3; H. Page, 4; W. Priestman, 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. Several touches of Grandsire Doubles and Bob Minor were rung during the evening. The belfry of this church is small, but nicely and neatly kept, the ringers have shown no little spirit in raising such a sum of money as has been already so highly commented upon in this paper; they thoroughly deserve a peal of

The next meeting of the Association will be held at Uttoxeter, on Saturday next, at 3 p.m.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING for Ringing purposes only, will be held on Saturday, March 3rd, at All Souls' Church, Bolton. Ringing from 3 p.m. Halliwell Road, and Astley Bridge tram cars pass the Church.

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

"BELLS."—A writer in the *The Detroit Free Press* has attempted to be merry on the subject of bells. He says:—"The word is suggestive of a variety of sounds, some harsh, others sweet, and a few fair (fare), the last named class being confined strictly to car conductors. One rarely hears more exquisite music than a harmonious chime of sweet-toned bells, or one more jarring and disagreeable than the discordant jingling of poor or cracked ones. Bells have their peculiarities, many of which we fail to appreciate from lack of observation. The numerous advantages of a call-bell on the table over the caster or salt-seller, as an article to throw at the servant to hurry her, or at the children to quiet them, cannot be overestimated. It has all the injurious qualities of the others, and the desirable characteristic of always remaining a sound article. Then the door-bell presents itself, a medium, by the way, to inform observing people the number of the house they want is next door. It usually rings in such a manner as to be distinctly heard by everybody in the house, except the girl whose duty is to answer it, and, if by any chance she does hear it, it is the bell's fault, not the girl's, and if it is a well-regulated bell it will ring twice as often when she is out than it does any other time. Bells sometimes exercise a "fare" amount of influence over men. This is especially noticeable on street cars where bells are used to prevent passengers paying their fare twice, and to compel the conductor to keep his eyes "pealed" and thus enable him to make his bell-punch chime with the jingling amount of money turned in. The ragman's bell, which tinkles mournfully in the early morning, and causes the average man, as he passes him in the street, to button his coat tighter and wish he might wear all his clothes at once, and tie them on with a clothes line, to prevent a sacrifice of them to the addition of a new vase on the mantel, or a plaster cast of Venus riding on a lizard. And last, the wedding bells, which usually announce a man has reached the end of his happiness, but neglect to say which end, and it is a subject for debating clubs to decide, whether the bell-e who goes on or stays in the tour (tower) is the most cracked.

WE have received a report (too late for this week) of a half-peal being rung at Heywood, Lancashire. The writer, who does not add his name, mentions no method whatever, and has forwarded his communication to our publisher instead of sending direct to us. We beg that our friends will be more particular in compiling their reports.

REVIEWS.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE
DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

This report, with which is issued a copy of the address presented by the Association to the Lord Bishop of Newcastle, has just been issued. The document is a neat embodiment of the proceedings of the Association during the past twelvemonth, and will well repay a perusal. Only one peal—a 5040 of Grandsire Triples—has been rung by the Association during the year, and while we should have been pleased to have heard of greater successes in this direction, the list of what may be termed minor performances are a tangible indication that the northerners are working well, in spite of attendant obstacles. The addition of such performances as these to an Association Report is certainly an innovation, but as to the wisdom of such a course there can be but one opinion. As all ringers take a pardonable pride in seeing their names in print, and would prefer to viewing them in connection with a peal rather than a touch, so the publication of both kinds of performances side by side, as it were, will no doubt act as a strong incentive to the members to obtain a place upon the record of the more honourable achievement. The balance-sheet—one of the best indices for arriving at a conclusion, satisfactory or otherwise—shows a healthy financial state of affairs, and the continued progress of the Association reflects great credit on the Management in general, and upon the Hon. Sec. in particular. It is a well-known fact that many rings of bells in the counties of Durham and Northumberland are, if not positively unringable, at least in a most wretched condition. Against the continuance of such deplorable neglect the Hon. Sec., G. J. Clarkson, Esq., the President, W. Reed, Esq., and other members of the Association have waged an unrelenting crusade, not always successfully, it is true, as indifference to the condition of church bells prevails to a great extent in the north, as in many other parts of England. A correspondence relative to the bells of All Saints' church, has recently appeared in a local paper, and before we conclude our brief notice of the Report, we should like to give our readers a sample of a few of the arguments employed in answer to the strictures of ringers who are qualified to form an opinion. A statement having been made in a local paper, emanating from the Association, that the fittings of these bells had become worn out, an ex-churchwarden lodges a demurrer by saying the bells were put in perfect order during the previous year. Thereupon Mr. Clarkson suggests that one of the bells should be lifted up and examined by a competent bellhanger. Now the "competent" bellhanger appears upon the scene. The ex-churchwarden, who by this time appears to have waxed angry, writes thus:—"In October last year, at the request of the Churchwardens, Mr. Glencross made a careful survey and report as to their (the bells') condition. On his report Messrs. Donkin and Nichol were instructed to make needful repairs. It was then found the wood rope wheels were very much shattered, and these were put in good working order. One of the bells was also lifted to ascertain what condition the journals were in, but the wear upon them was not sufficient to justify Messrs. Donkin and Nichol in leading the churchwardens to the expense of renewing them, as they considered the bells to be in fair working order for some years to come." The "competent" bellhanger, then, is one of the trio—Donkin, Nichol, Glencross. Then two more letters appear from really competent ringers, and dealing with the selection of such as the three above-named persons, Mr. Clarkson again writes: "I should like to ask 'ex-churchwarden' whether, if the organists of Newcastle and district unanimously asserted that a certain organ was not in working order, he would prefer to take the contrary written statement of a local firm of plumbers and gasfitters? The statement in the Association report is the unanimous assertion of the Newcastle and other well-known ringers, and he prefers the contrary statement of a firm, which whatever may be its reputation at its own trade, is unknown as doing the work of hanging bells. Many members of the Association are ringers of 20 or 30 years' standing, and if they cannot judge the condition of a set of bells on which they have frequently practised, who can? And what object can we have in describing a set of bells in bad condition if such were not the case? By rushing into print to confute a statement which a little consideration should have led him to suppose would only have been made on information of a

most reliable character, 'ex-churchwarden' has only been holding up to public view a wasteful expenditure of money on All Saints' bells for injudicious repairs." The publication of this letter brings up Donkin and Co. again, who after saying that they do not profess to be gas-fitters or plumbers, state "for the special information of Mr. Clarkson that a very great deal of bellhanging is done by that trade. Our firm has been engaged in it for upwards of forty years, and until recently, formed part of our staple trade. So far as our opinion goes about the condition of an organ, we should say an organ-builder was the proper person to report upon its requirements, and not an organist, nor yet a plumber or gas-fitter. The same applies to bellhanging, the bellhanger being much more qualified to give an opinion on the hanging of bells than the ringers themselves, notwithstanding the very definite opinion passed by Mr. Clarkson and the Association in their report." This correspondence appears to have been closed by Mr. Clarkson, who in his concluding letter says:—"Although hanging bells has formed part of the staple trade of Messrs. Donkin and Nichol for the last forty years, where is there a single peal in Durham or Northumberland, or anywhere else, that has been hung or re-hung by them? Plumbers and gasfitters do hang small bells which are fitted up in the rooms of private establishments; and perhaps Messrs. Donkin and Nichol do this kind of bell-hanging also. I will not waste the valuable space of your paper in replying further to a letter which is sufficiently absurd to reply to itself, but will simply state that I have already made application to the authorities of All Saints' church for permission to send at my own expense a competent and well-known bell-hanger, whose name I have, as to their condition. The result of this will perhaps prove that the members of our association know something more about bells than the 'Ex-Churchwarden' or Messrs. Donkin and Nichol are willing to give us credit for."

In giving extracts from this correspondence, it may be considered that we have strayed from the legitimate task of criticising the report, but it must be remembered that such difficulties and obstacles as these letters establish, have existed throughout the Association's history, and therefore, when considering the progress it has made, these drawbacks should be taken into account. The pretensions of Messrs. Donkin and Co. to be ranked as church bell hangers seem to us irresistibly comical, and though they may be, and no doubt are, most respectable tradesmen, we take the liberty to apprise them, the ex-churchwarden, and the ex-churchwarden's manager (Mr. Glencross) of the following facts:—That the work of fitting-up bells on board-ship bears not the least analogy to the experience and knowledge requisite to enable any one to hang a church bell properly; a bellhanger who is practically acquainted with the duties required has received a special training for the work; and that those who have not received such training are not church bellhangers, and their attempts to officiate as such will inevitably result in failure, and give not the slightest satisfaction to the parties immediately concerned. We should rejoice to learn from the next year's report that the Church folk of the two northern dioceses had firmly resolved to abolish the long-standing reproach of having their bells in a state of dilapidation and decay.

BELLS AND BELLRINGERS, by Benjamin Lomax.—(H. J. Infield, Fleet Street.)—This is a well-written epitome, touching very faintly the principles of the art, but nevertheless a welcome addition to the library of every bellringer. The author pens his remarks in a strain which will commend his work to all who stand up for the quality of English bells; he contends there is not to be found in any spire in Europe bells more melodious than those of St. Saviour's, Southwark, St. Dunstan's, Stepney, and many others which he mentions, and in support of this view he quotes the opinion of Mr. Gatty, who says "that our own church bells, both in size and general quality, are superior to those of other times and countries, for all the best purposes to which ringing can be applied." We should be glad to hear of Mr. Lomax's book meeting with an extensive sale. To the proficient in the art it will prove interesting; the efforts of the tyro will be encouraged by a perusal of its pages.

THE two peals of Treble Bob Royal in our last number were the composition of Mr. N. J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden. We hope that gentleman will accept our apology for the omission.

"THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD" will be forwarded post free, on the following terms:—

One copy, 12 months	6s. 6d.
" 6 "	3s. 3d.
" 3 "	1s. 8d.

All Subscriptions and Orders for papers must be sent direct to the Publisher, W. E. ALLEN, Ave Maria Lane, London.

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.

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.

F. G. NEWMAN.—Let us know your first available Saturday.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1883.

In our last number there appeared from a correspondent who wrote in a facetious vein somewhat—an account of a visit to a ten-bell steeple within the Metropolitan area. No doubt this particular tower has, ere now, been "spotted" by those of the London Exercise whose wanderings lead them to visit some belfry or other on every evening throughout the year, though we confess to a total ignorance as regards the indentical one in question. Our being unacquainted with the place availeth nothing, and perhaps it is as well for our personal benefit that it is so. "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise," we are told, and it would not be a profitable occupation, to judge by the reception accorded to others, to make acquaintance with the steeple alluded to by our correspondent; or to attempt to fraternise with the august but terrible personage who holds, or appears to hold, despotic sway therein.

The fact of this singularly unwelcome reception of a half-pull band by the steeple-keeper of a London church affords good material for a variety of comment. We have previously alluded to the official position of steeple-keeper in this part of our journal, and it cannot be denied that the unpleasant episode we are now dealing with, affirms the appropriateness of the remarks which we then wrote on the subject. That there should be an individual in existence allowed to perform such vagaries, and display such pranks in a church steeple because the ringing-chamber was for the nonce occupied by his betters, seems most deplorable; that he should, for the exhibition of such airs, escape censure from the Church authorities seems a great pity, both for his own sake and that of others who at a future time may again wish to ring on the bells. It is to be hoped that some one connected with the party who visited the steeple that evening may have the courage to bring the whole matter before the Vicar, with a view to prevent such interference at any future period.

The office of steeple-keeper, especially in country places, is one which should not be thought lightly of by those who are empowered with the election of candidates for such a post. We think that in many cases the duties should be simply that of keeping the tower and bells in order, getting everything ready for the ringers, and such-like. In many instances the Clergy and Churchwardens are apt to regard the steeple-keeper as a kind of foreman or conductor of the ringing company, and in consequence, invest them with power to do as they please—a sort of absolute monarch, from whose profound and sagacious decrees there is no appeal. In many instances this power is used in a very arbitrary manner. But in such cases, the blame must not always be laid to the door of those who, placed in such a position of authority, yet remain unskilled ringers. We are glad to add our testimony to the fact that may call-change ringers, occupants of the office we are dealing with, have with the greatest alacrity and pleasure made every preparation for the visit of a half-pull party to their steeple. The grievance exists sometimes among companies which are closely connected together by stringent rules and regulations. The "jack-in-office" is apt to imagine himself "the" man of the place. Things go on very well as long as he can "rule the roast" but if he happens to be opposed on any point he has set his heart upon, then he is exhibited in his true colors. And, unfortunately, he has many ways of rendering himself obnoxious, and throwing impediments in the progress of a society. One thing after the other which is proposed to be carried into effect is objected to by him; applications for peals are refused to some, while he solicits others to attempt them; and this conduct is persisted in till those who held him in the wrong are compelled to give way for the sake of peace. While ringers gladly submit to any restrictions imposed on their practice by the Clergy or Churchwardens, they object to be controlled by any one whose only qualification is that of being a paid official. If a company are anxious to attempt a peal, the members not in the band offering no objection, the veto should not rest with the steeple-keeper, but with the incumbent of the church. When the attention of the clergy to matters appertaining to the belfry is become more frequent, perhaps a better state of affairs may become universal. In the well-known steeples of London, the bells being looked after by popular, and talented ringers, no change is needed; but in many places throughout England, a hint to the steeple-keeper that he is not the lord paramount he fondly imagines himself to be would be very salutary. Where there is but one company in a town or village, and that company, skilled in the art, meeting for periodical practice, it is certainly reasonable to imagine that the voice of the majority should be supreme, and not the whims and caprice of the steeple-keeper, whoever he may be. And it is not out of place to suggest to the clergy that where a steeple-keeper is at continual variance with the rest of his ringing brethren, it is high time for them to interfere, and consider the reasonable necessities of the ringing company themselves.

The Provinces.

LANCASTER.

On Monday, February 13, 1883, in Two Hours and Fifty-six Minutes,

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor about 25 cwt.

GEORGE WINNTreble.	ROBERT JOHNSON5.
WILLIAM WEARING.. .. .2.	JOHN LENNON6.
WILLIAM CROOKE3.	PATRICK MULLIGAN.. .. .7.
JAMES HARTLEY.. .. .4.	DAVID MAGOWENTenor.

Conducted by GEORGE WINN.

First peal for Messrs. Wearing, Crooke, Hartley, Lennon, and Mulligan; and the first peal on the bells.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—TONG.

On Saturday, February 17, 1883, in Three Hours and Thirty-two Minutes,

AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH,

6000 CHANGES; IN 25 DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS:

Being 240 changes of each, and rung in the following order:

GRAVEN DELIGHT	MORNING DELIGHT	ARNOLD'S VICTORY
OXFORD DELIGHT	MORNING EXERCISE	CITY DELIGHT
COLLEGE EXERCISE	CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE	COLLEGE PLEASURE
ROYAL BOB	SYMPHONY	KENT TREBLE BOB
TONG DELIGHT	PRIMROSE	NEW LONDON PLEASURE
EVENING PLEASURE	TULIP	DUKE OF YORK
MORNING PLEASURE	COLLEGE TREBLES	VIOLET
EBOR	LONDON SCHOLARS'	OXFORD
EVENING EXERCISE	PLEASURE	

Tenor 12 cwt.

GEORGE CARTER.. .. .Treble.	WILLIAM BOLLAND4.
HENRY ODDY2.	GEORGE BOLLAND5.
EDWARD WEBSTER3.	JOHN HALEYTenor.

The whole was ably conducted by GEORGE BOLLAND.

This feat was accomplished to celebrate the 72nd birthday of the veteran ringer, Mr. George Carter, who has been a ringer at Tong church for more than fifty years. It was listened to by a goodly number of ringers from Birstal, Liversedge, Bradford, Pudsey, Gwaiseley, &c., who all acknowledged it to be a masterly performance.

Mr. John Ross, of Pudsey, was present in the tower as witness during the whole period of ringing.

DRIGHLINGTON, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, February 17th, 1883, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5280 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

J. GARFORTHTreble.	I. IDLE5.
A. GOODALL.. .. .2.	C. A. FOX6.
S. SENIOR3.	J. BUCKLEY.. .. .7.
G. TAYLOR4.	*J. RUDDLESDENTenor.

Composed and conducted by JOHN BUCKLEY.

[* First peal.]

Date Touches.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Monday, February 19th, at St. John's church, a date touch of 1883 changes in 1 hr. 12 mins., being 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, and 443 of Plain Bob Minor. George Herdman, 1; C. L. Routledge, 2; W. Egglestone, 3; W. G. Routledge (conductor), 4; W. Story, 5; F. Lees, 6. Tenor 14½ cwt. The 443 of Plain Bob Minor is composed by Mr. C. L. Routledge. Should any of our readers desire to have the composition, they can do so by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Mr. C. L. Routledge, 8, Westmorland Road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SHIPLEY (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, February 17th, at St. Paul's church, eight members of the above association rang a date touch of 1883 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 10 mins. B. F.

Lamb (Bolton), 1; B. T. Copley (Bolton), 2; W. Wilks, jun. (Shipley), 3; J. Broadley (Bolton), 4; J. Wilks, 5; W. Wilks, sen. (conductor), 6; G. O. Nettleton, 7; J. S. Clark (Shipley), 8. Also on Tuesday, February 28th, eight members of the same association rang another date touch of 1883 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 1 hr. 10 mins. A. Anderson (Bingley), 1; W. Wilks, jun., 2; T. Lawson (Bingley), 3; J. Wilks, 4; J. S. Clark, 5; W. Wilks, sen. (conductor), 6; J. Mountain (Bingley), 7; W. E. London (Bradford), 8. Tenor 15 cwt.

Miscellaneous.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

JARROW.—On Friday, January 29th, six members of the North Shields branch rang at Christ church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. S. Nott, 1; A. Sawyer, 2; R. Smith, 3; H. Ross, 4; W. Reed, Esq., 5; R. Willins (conductor), 6.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—On Thursday evening, February 15th, at All Saints' church, 1008 of Grandsire Triples, in 40 mins. Jas. Weddle, 1; W. G. Routledge, 2; F. Lees, 3; C. L. Routledge, 4; John Simm, 5; S. Power (conductor), 6; R. S. Story, 7; J. Dyboll, 8. Tenor 19 cwt.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Sunday, February 4th, at Christ Church, a touch of 1120 changes of Treble Bob Major, 45 mins. S. Nott, 1; R. Smith, 2; A. Sawyer, 3; R. Willins, 4; W. Waugh, 5; H. Ross, 6; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 7; J. Hern, 8. And on Sunday, February 18th, at the same church, for Divine Service, a touch of 704 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 26 mins. S. Nott, 1; W. Reed, Esq., 2; J. Rossiter, 3; W. Waugh, 4; R. Willins, 5; H. Ross, 6; R. Smith (conductor), 7; J. Hern, 8. Tenor 19 cwt. in E.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—On Monday, February 19th, three of the North and three of the South Shields members rang, at St. Hilda's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. R. Smith, 1; John Moffatt, 2; R. Scrafton, 3; James Moffatt, 4; H. Ross, 5; R. Willins (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in the method by R. Scrafton, and James Moffatt. Tenor 10 cwt. in C.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

WOLSTANTON (Staffordshire).—On Tuesday evening, February 20th, at St. Margaret's church, a 720 of Bob Minor in 27 mins. S. Walker, 1; L. Miller, 2; W. Priestman, 3; W. Miller, 4; A. Walker (first 720 with a bob bell), 5; S. Spencer (conductor), 6. The above are also members of the Stoke-upon-Trent Archidiaconal Association.

BALDERSTON (near Rochdale, Lancashire).—On Tuesday, February 13th, at St. Mary's church, Reeves's variation peal of Grandsire Triples was attempted, but owing to one of the ringers being taken ill it was brought to an abrupt termination, after ringing 45 mins. C. J. Silverwood, 1; H. Dearnley, 2; A. Fitton, 3; J. E. Howarth, 4; J. H. Prescott, 5; J. Fitton (conductor), 6; W. Howarth, 7; T. Fitton, 8. Tenor 16 cwt. in F.

BEXLEY (Kent).—On Saturday, February 17th, at All Saints, a 720 of Grandsire Minor was rung by six of the Maidstone ringers in 25 mins. G. Moorcraft, 1; G. Pawley, 2; A. Moorcraft, 3; R. Simmonds, 4; A. Woolley, 5; C. Payne (conductor), 6.

CAMBRIDGE.—On Monday, February 19th, at Great St Mary's, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples was rung on the back eight. W. W. C. Baker, Esq., 1; M. C. Potter, Esq., 2; G. Taylor, 3; J. Holliday, 4; J. Rockett, 5; J. Jackson, 6; E. Andrews (conductor), 7; W. Kempster, 8. Tenor 30 cwt.

HIGHER WALTON (Lancashire).—On Sunday, February 18th, for afternoon service at All Saints' church, five of the parish ringers assisted by Mr. Joshua Walker, rung a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. Geo. Thornley (conductor), 1; Jas. Walmsley, 2; Henry Hunt, 3; Henry Brewer, 4; Joshua Walker, 5; John Eccles, 6. Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lbs.

OLDSWINFORD (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, February 18th, six members from the Wordsley and Wollaston companies paid a visit to the Old Church at the above town, and rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. The first attempt they made came to grief by the 5th rope breaking after ringing 610 changes. T. Darby, 1; J. Guest (conductor), 2; G. Howells, 3; E. S. Chapman, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; R. Bidmead, 6.

MONEWDEN (Suffolk).—*Handbell Ringing*.—On Monday, February 19, three members of the Monewden Handbell society rang upon handbells (retained in hand) 360 changes of Bob Minor. R. H. Hayward (conductor), 1-2; Joseph Tarrant, 3-4; Thomas Tarrant, 5-6.

PONTEFRAC (Yorkshire).—On Thursday evening, February 15th, at All Saints' church, the local company rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 27 mins. W. Pearson, 1; J. Pollard, 2; J. P. Heckingbottom, 3; J. Heckingbottom, 4; R. Brook (conductor), 5; J. Carter, 6. Tenor II cwt. in F.

WORDSLEY (Staffordshire).—On Thursday, February 7th, six members of the Holy Trinity Society, rang four 6-scores of Bob Doubles, being the first time the method has been rung on these bells. T. Darby, 1; John Guest, 2; E. G. Husselbee, 3; W. H. Hughes, 4; E. S. Chapman, 5; J. Husselbee, 6. On February 15th, upon the same bells, a mixed band rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. Alfred Whatmore (of Brierley Hill; first 720), 1; John Guest (conductor), 2; W. H. Hughes, 3; R. Bidmead, 4; W. Lawrence, 5; E. S. Chapman, 6.

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

5939.

By CHARLES HENRY HATTERSLEY, *Sheffield*.

First Part.					Third Part.				
2	3	4	5	6	5	3	2	4	6
4	5	2	6	3*	3	4	2	5	6
2	4	5	6	3	4	5	2	3	6
3	2	4	6	5	2	4	5	3	6
5	3	2	6	4	5	2	4	3	6
2	5	3	6	4	2	3	4	5	6
3	2	5	6	4	3	5	4	2	6
4	3	2	6	5	4	3	5	2	6
5	4	3	6	2	5	4	3	2	6
3	5	4	6	2	4	2	3	5	6
4	3	5	6	2	3	5	2	4	6
2	4	3	6	5	2	3	5	4	6
5	2	4	6	3	5	2	3	4	6
3	5	2	6	4	2	4	3	5	6
2	3	5	6	4	4	5	3	2	6
4	2	3	6	5	3	4	5	2	6
5	4	2	6	3	5	3	4	2	6
2	5	4	6	3	3	2	4	5	6
4	2	5	6	3	2	5	4	3	6
3	4	2	6	5	4	2	5	3	6
5	3	4	6	2	4	3	2	5	6
4	5	3	6	2	2	5	3	4	6
3	4	5	6	2					
2	3	4	6	5					
5	2	3	6	4					

Second Part.

4	6	2	5	3	8th in two.
5	6	3	4	2	8th in two and 7 8.
2	4	6	5	3	8th in two.
4	5	6	2	3	8th in three.
3	2	5	4	6	8th in two.

9th in and out at two, then in with two, bring the bells round.

*7th in and out at two twice, last time out with a single.

First rung at Rotherham, on May 18th, 1874, conducted by its composer. It was again rung on handbells (retained in hand) at York, on March 5th, 1877, conducted by Thomas Dixon.

THORNS IN AN EDITOR'S CHAIR.—Among the things, writes the *Tablet*, which a puzzled editor has often to ponder upon, is the best means of pacifying the fiery gentleman whose letters from time to time appear in his columns. His editorial heart is pained by the tendency he observes to wander from the point at issue, and sooner or latter to drift into idle irrelevances or poor personalities. Nothing seems so well calculated to arouse the combative instinct as public letter-writing; once a man is engaged in a newspaper controversy charity is cast to the winds; the meekest of men will set down to pen venomous innuendos about the character of the critic who has ventured to differ from him about the authorship of a prayer-book or the reading of a text. Amiable old gentlemen, admirable in all the relations of life, will sit for hours together with elaborate vindictiveness, hugging and nursing the prospect of impaling an antagonist, or perhaps subjecting him to a sort of literary scalping. To make an opponent cut a pitiable figure, so that his friends may think of him as a good sort of creature who has made the mistake of appearing in print, soon becomes the object of desire, and the truth of the matter in dispute is lightly forgotten; and so epithet is piled upon epithet until the editor in his perplexity announces that the controversy must end.

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."

A DOUBTFUL PERFORMANCE.

SIR,—On looking through your valuable paper, I see there is a peal inserted which I doubt very much whether it has been rung, especially after what I am bound to hear from one or two that took part in it.

The peal in question is the one published as an Essex Association peal, rung at Walthamstow, on Saturday, the 3rd instant, conducted by A. H. Gardom. I am told that the 2nd and 3rd bells shifted, and the band knew nothing about it until the treble came to lead, when "quick as lightning"—to use the expression of my informant—the conductor shifted them back again. That, though it may be very clever, is not the way to ring a "true and complete" peal. Perhaps this may account for the very quick time it is said to be rung in.

The quickest peal ever rung on these bells was rung in two hours and fifty-six minutes; whereas this one is said to have been rung in two hours and forty-seven minutes, making it a quicker peal by nine minutes. The first of these peals was considered to have been rung very quick, but I don't think I shall be contradicted if I say that, upon the whole, the company who rang this peal was a better band than that which rung this very quick one.

The company who go about for peals with Mr. Gardom rung a peal at Loughton in, I think, three hours and nine minutes. These bells are about the same weight as those upon which this quick peal is said to have been rung, but are in better order. Mr. Gardom also called a peal at Edmonton, a lighter peal, in good order, but not in such quick time as the said Walthamstow peal. I should like to ask A. H. Gardom to explain this great difference in the time. There was great doubt thrown upon the Edmonton peal by some one in the *Edmonton* newspaper.

It is a well-known fact that one of those who generally stand in Mr. Gardom's peals, admitted missing to make third's place on one of these occasions, and when asked if the peal was got all the same, he said—"Do you think we were coming away without getting a peal, after ringing two hours?" I was outside the tower for some considerable time when this quick peal was being rung, and on two occasions it was nothing but firing for a whole lead, you could not distinguish one bell from another. I hope you will insert this, and perhaps I shall get an explanation.

T. A. ESTALL.

BOB MINOR.

SIR,—Allow me to make a few remarks in reply to Mr. Penning's last letter, from the tone of which one would think I had not got a leg to stand upon. Now I omitted to tell him in my last that two of my 720's has appeared in our paper, each with forty-three calls; so his statement is not correct. He appears to be unable to make his remarks sufficiently effective without dragging Mr. Nunn into it, and sneers about the bunches of fives, but it is gratifying to find that my remarks has had some effect on that gentleman. I should not have made the remark (which Mr. P. crows about) concerning Mr. Nunn's 720, only I had got mine long before Mr. Nunn's appeared, besides, if we take the quantities of each into consideration, it will clearly be seen that mine is the original, and why I took the matter up was because I knew that the appearance of such shapeless productions was an eye-sore to many. I may be pardoned for using the expression "shapeless," when I say that I see no difficulty in putting them into two parts, with forty, and in a few cases with forty-two singles, but I can afford to allow Mr. Penning to differ with me on this point. With regard to my being envious of other composers I beg to say that I should dearly like to see some 720's from both those gentlemen that I have not got in my collection, and that they are arranged and transposed into their best possible form, and are such as will command a position by the side of those old favorites.

J. J. PARKER.

NOT PIRACY AT ALL.

SIR,—In your issue of the 17th inst., I notice a little comment on the peal we, the Bradford Old Society of Change-Ringers, rung at St. Paul's, Drighlington, on the 30th December, 1882, which Mr. H. Dains claims to be his peal, but we can assure him it is not. Now previous to ringing this peal we wrote to Mr. Sottanstill to compose us one to be rung on the above occasion, and he sent us the peal here referred to, which he said was his own composition, and as such we rung it, and most certainly believe it was his, and are of the same opinion yet. If Mr. D. happens to have one like it, which is very likely, so may other composers, if they will take the same trouble as Mr. Dains has in this peal, but surely that does not make the composer any the worse. I have not the least doubt that if Mr. D. was to compare his with Mr. Sottanstill, he would find some other peals alike, which were composed by Mr. Sottanstill a long time before his. Now, Mr. Editor, as we happen to be a company that prefers to ring Mr. Sottanstill's peals, and have invariably found that they get pretty well dissected and put to the test by some of his friends, and I may say, that to save Mr. D. any unnecessary correspondence and uneasiness, we have decided to ring another of Mr. S.'s peals in a week or two, composed on the 28th of October last, which he brought us when he was over at the Annual Meeting of the Sowerby Centenary, held at Bradford on October 29th, and we shall have much pleasure in publishing it in full in this paper, for the benefit of all concerned, and if some one should happen to have one like it, why they must excuse our ignorance in the matter, as it is our honest intention to ring only the peal here referred to.

J. NAYLOR.

In answer to "A Treble Bob Ringer" Mr. John Thackray, of Ellis Square, Theaker Lane, Armley, Leeds, writes:—In your issue of the 17th instant "A Treble Bob Ringer" fails to see how to get 83 changes of Kent Treble Bob Minor for a date touch, John Thackray thinking there ought to be as little repeating of changes as possible, got his thus to go off at back stroke.—[We give our correspondent's epistle verbatim; the composition shall be sent to "A Treble Bob Ringer" if he will send us a stamped addressed envelope.—Ed.]

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS.

5076.

By J. WRIGHT, Kingston-on-Thames.

7 5 2 9 3 8 4 6 ¹
 6 8 7 4 9 3 5 2 ²
 7 9 6 8 5 4 2 3 ³
 3 4 7 2 8 5 9 6 ⁴
 2 4 3 5 7 6 8 9
 5 4 2 6 3 9 7 8
 4 2 5 6 3 9 7 8
 5 3 4 2 7 6 8 9
 3 4 5 2 7 6 8 9
 2 4 3 6 5 9 7 8
 4 3 2 6 5 9 7 8
 2 5 4 3 7 6 8 9
 5 4 2 3 7 6 8 9
 3 4 5 6 2 9 7 8
 S 5 4 3 5 2 9 7 8

3 2 5 4 7 6 8 9
 2 5 3 4 7 6 8 9
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 5 2 4 6 3 9 7 8
 4 3 5 2 7 6 8 9
 3 5 4 2 7 6 8 9
 2 5 3 6 4 9 7 8
 5 3 2 6 4 9 7 8
 2 4 5 3 7 6 8 9
 4 5 2 3 7 6 8 9
 3 5 4 6 2 9 7 8

6 5 3 9 4 8 2 7
 4 2 6 3 7 5 8 9
 3 2 4 5 6 9 7 8
 2 4 3 5 6 9 7 8
 3 6 2 4 7 5 8 9
 6 2 3 4 7 5 8 9
 4 2 6 5 3 9 7 8
 2 6 4 5 3 9 7 8
 4 3 2 6 7 5 8 9
 3 2 4 6 7 5 8 9
 6 2 3 5 4 9 7 8
 S 3 2 6 5 4 9 7 8

2 6 3 5 4 9 7 8
 3 4 2 6 7 5 8 9
 4 2 3 6 7 5 8 9
 6 2 4 5 3 9 7 8
 2 4 6 5 3 9 7 8
 6 3 2 4 7 5 8 9
 3 2 6 4 7 5 8 9
 4 2 3 5 6 9 7 8
 2 3 4 5 6 9 7 8
 7 8 2 6 9 4 5 3
 2 9 7 8 5 6 3 4

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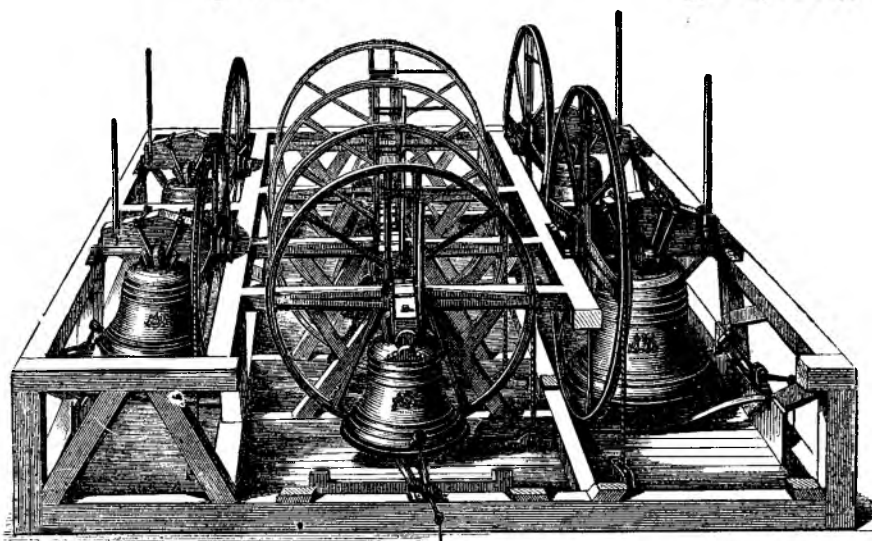
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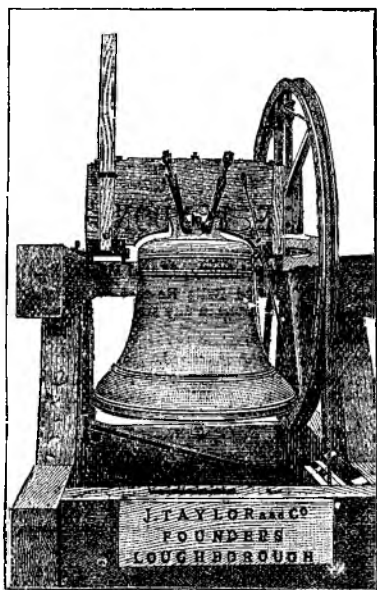
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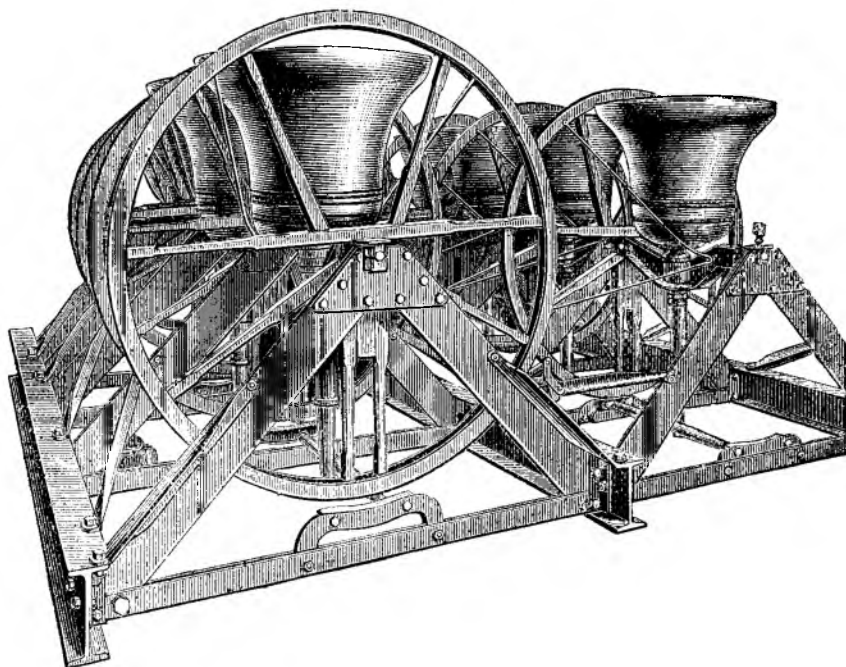
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