

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 51. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. I.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1883.

[ONE PENNY.]



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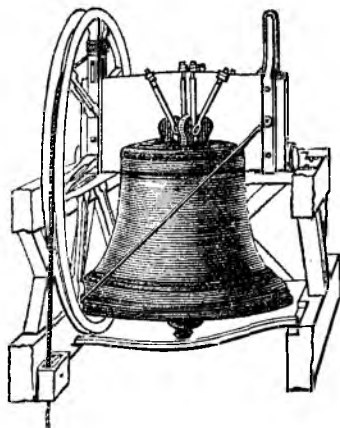
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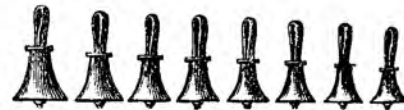
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to the Emperor," with variations; known also as the
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Selection from Weber's "Der Frieschutz," introducing the
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"Through the Woodlands," &c. In the first week of
April, 1883, Handel's splendid chorus from the *Messiah*:
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YORK BELL FOUNDERS.—IV.

(Continued.)

"W. O." Yorke.

Mr. W. C. Boulter, in his list of inscriptions upon East Riding Bells, gives two bells having upon them "w. o. Yorke."

The following may have been cast either by "w. o." or some other York founder; with three exceptions, they contain the inscription:—

"Soli Deo Gloria"

1634—BRANTINGHAM—HORNSEY.—

1635—YORK—St. Michael-le-Belfry.

1637—WEAVERTHORPE.—

also "James Fovster Vicar George Tomson William
Wordy Chvrch Bryan Gray Clarke"
wardens

1638—BIELBY—SLEDMERE—WILLERBY.

1639—LUND.—

also "Esqvier Minister Chvrch
R.R. I.F. I.W. warden"

DUNNINGTON.—

"God save the King 1639
IN. W.H."

1640—YORK—All Saint's, North Street.

—Holme on Spalding Moor.—

also "+ F.B. E.B. N.A. R.M. Chvrch
wardens"

WHELDRAKE.—

" + Exvltabo in Deo 1640
R.R. T.T. Chvrch
wardens"

1641—RILLINGTON.—

also "Vicar Chvrch
IS GA MA IP wardens"

LANGTOFT.—

also "MH RM Chvrch WO
wardens 1641
Yorke"

1642—SHERIFF HUTTON.—

also "MR CW
WL ES. RH. T.C"

the MR refers to William Lucke, Vicar, 1638—1665.—
WL

1645—HESSLE.—

" + All men that heare my mornfvll sovnde
Repent before yov ly in grovnd
W.W. G.O. Chvrch WO
wardens 1641
Yorke"

During the seventeenth century, two families of bell-founders were at work in our city, namely:—Smith and Seller, respectively, the former family being the earlier, I shall treat of their work first.

ABRAHAM SMITH AND WILLIAM CURETON.

Their bells were cast on Toft Green. The following were probably cast by them, and have generally either one, or other of the following inscriptions upon them.

(a) "Jesvs be our speed"

(b) "Deo gloria, pax hominibvs"

1620—BOLTON PERCY.—

Gent gives the following:—

"Non forman spectas Domini, sed supplice flectas, &c., 1620"

TOPCLIFFE (a).

1622 TOPCLIFFE (a).

1626—YORK—Holy Trinity, Goodramgate (a).

WHITBY.—

(a) also "J.J. G.C"

STILLINGFLEET (a) (b).

1627—HESSLE (b).

1628—FANGFOSS (a).—BOLTON PERCY (b).

1633—YORK St. John—(a). ACOMB (a). YORK All Hallows (b).

1637—SUTTON-ON-DERWENT (a). RICCALL (a).

—WHITBY.—

"Gloria Deo in excelsis, et pax hominibvs 1637
RR. WH. CC. JH. SR. DS"

1638—WAWNE (a).

1649—BISHOP WILTON.—

"Soli Deo Gloria, Pax Hominibvs 1640"
M^r. RD. PH."

1653—RASKELF.—

"Soli Deo gloria, pax hominibus A.S. et W.C 1653
I.I. IW"

1656—ALNE.—

"Soli Deo gloria, pax hominibvs 1656"

KIRKBURTON.—

"Jesvs be our speed A.S. 1656"

1657—YORK MINSTER.—This year the largest bell but one was broken, and new cast, the fourth bell being likewise untuneable, was broken and melted down, and to add metal to these, the largest bell of the three belonging to the demolished Church of St. Nicholas, without Walmgate, was given. Towards the cost of this, and to make the chimes go on all the bells, the Lord Mayor and Commonalty gave £130 from the chamber.

"Funera deploro, populum voco, festa decoro
Thomas Dickinson Milite Majore Civit Eboraci, Vice
2 da, sumptus procurante. H. Harwood, E. Calvert,
E. Etcocke " Diameter 5 ft. 2 1/2 ins.
"Beatus est populus qui agnoscunt Clangorem 1657"

Sir Thomas Dickinson, merchant, Knt. was twice Lord Mayor of York, represented the city in parliament, and was Knighted by Oliver Cromwell during his second mayoralty in 1657. In September 1662, he was along with four other Aldermen, all of whom were especially obnoxious to the Royalist party in the city, displaced from office, and others chosen in their room by Commissioners authorised by an Act of Parliament.

1657—ASKRIGG.—The three bells were probably cast by Smith.

1659—YORK.—Christ Church.

"Laudate Iah quie bonvm et amoenvm est psallire
Deo nostro 1659"
(shields—cross with bell on either side.)

"A.D. 1659, September 26th, a new bell being made out of the two lesser, belonging to the church of St. Lawrence, without Walmgate Bar, was hung up the steeple of Christ Church, being the least of four there. It weighs 5 cwt 3 qrs 9 lbs. and was cast on Toft Green, by one Wm. Cureton, at the procurement of Abraham Smith, who had 20s. per cwt. for casting the same the parish finding metal. Thomas Ragg of Gainsborough, Co. Lincoln, made the bell frame, the timber for which was bought at Healaugh. Leonard Thompson, Lord Mayor gave a piece of Timber out of the Minster for bell yokes; the total cost of the bell and frame was £40 8s. 3d." Rev. C. E. Norcliffe, "Holy Trinity, Kings Square."

JAMES SMITH.

He succeeded Abraham Smith, and generally placed his monogram, I.S. interwoven with other stamps on his bells.

1659—SHERBURN.—

"Soli Deo Gloria 1659 York"

WESTOW.—

"Soli Deo Gloria 1659 IS.
T. Wake Clr. R. Cvdex Chvrch
W. Dawson wardens"

1660—ACOMB.—

"Jesvs be ovr speed 1660 IS.

1663—SHERIFF HUTTON.—

"Soli Deo gloria—pax hominibvs 1663
IS + W.V. IT. IA. FR Chvr wds
" + Jesvs be ovr speed 1663 IS"

SHERBURN.—

"Soli Deo Gloria 1663
W.G. I.R."

EASTINGTON.—

"Soli Deo gloria—pax hominibvs 1663"

RIPON CATHEDRAL. 2 bells.

"Gloria in altissimis Deo 1663"
"Jacobvs Smith Eboracensis fecit 1663"

1665—YORK.—St. Maurice.

"Gloria in altissimis Deo 1665"

G. B. (York)

(To be continued.)

The whole of the windows in the south transept of Canterbury Cathedral will, in the course of a few days, have been filled in with stained glass. The Alford Memorial window, erected in 1872, has recently been retoned, and the space next to it filled with a very handsome window, erected by Mr. Loftus Pemberton, as a memorial of the late Mr. W. R. Pemberton, of Torry Hill, Sittingbourne (father of the member for East Kent). The third space is now being fitted with the Conyngham Memorial window, subscribed for by the officers and non-commissioned officers, past and present, of the Royal East Kent Mounted Yeomanry, of which regiment the late Marquis Conyngham was for many years the colonel.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DERBY AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

THE first Annual Report of this Association has just been issued, and its contents are, taking everything into consideration, equally as gratifying as those which have recently been noticed in this paper. The actual report issued by the Committee bristles with some very apposite observations relating to sweeping measures of reform—not the old cry which aimed merely at the reformation of the occupants of the ringing-chamber—which are actually necessary for the carrying into effect the aims and objects of the Association. The report says that “the belfries visited by the Association during the year have been found to be, with hardly an exception, in excellent order, the bells well cared for, the ropes good, and the ringers proficient in one or more methods. It must be remembered, however, that the pick of the towers only have been visited.” Such a statement as this abundantly confirms what we have repeatedly written upon the subject of belfry reform. We use the term “belfry reform” in as broad and as comprehensive a sense as possible. Reform should be initiated in the bell-chamber, but if individuals are to be subjected to its operation, those “jacks-in-office” of whom we have heard a little lately, should be the first patients. The town of Nottingham possesses—so we are informed—a worthy specimen of this class, whose vagaries were the means of preventing, on a recent occasion, the members of this very Association being admitted to the tower which he no doubt thought was his own feudal domain. Such as these are the places where the attention of the Association should be concentrated. The report goes on to say: “As matters now stand the requirements essential to the pursuit of the most elementary stages of change-ringing seem to have been altogether lost sight of. In too many instances, Architects, Bellfounders, or Clockmakers, have had the entire say in the direction of the belfry appointments, so that change-ringing has been rendered an impossibility, and a science which is certainly one of the most intellectual of accomplishments has been degraded into nothing better than rope-hauling. Can it be wondered at if ringers, under these circumstances, have forsaken their high calling, and relapsed into a dull mechanical performance of their interesting duty?” These are words of courage and sober truth. The power wielded by the first-named of these bodies is frequently inimical to the interests of change-ringing. Many belfries testify to this fact. And the remarks we have just quoted show that the Committee of the Derby Association are of one mind with ourselves relative to the selection of properly-qualified persons to adjudicate upon all matters relating to bells and steeples.

Were the time and space at our disposal commensurate with our inclination, we would give this report at length; not being so, we pass on to notice other portions of the pamphlet. The peals recorded are ten in number, and comprise four of Grandsire Triples; four of Kent Treble Bob Major; and two of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, one of the two last comprising 7200 changes, being the greatest length ever performed in this intricate method. We think the style in which these performances are given in this report is not one which will commend itself to universal approbation. We would rather see each peal occupy an entire page, thus giving the performances the prominence they are entitled to, by the employment of type of a more conspicuous character. This, however, is merely a matter of trifling import.

The Association has been fortunate in gaining at each successive Quarterly Meeting a fresh accession of members. We wish them all success, and hope that at their Annual Meeting next Monday, to which we have received a kind invitation, will be the means of promoting, to a greater extent than ever, the interests of the art of change-ringing, and also making known the value of the work the association is engaged upon.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

THE MONTHLY MEETING for the Wolstanton district was held at Keele, on Saturday last (17th March). Ringers attended from Wolstanton, Norton, Tunstall, Lawton, Stoke, and Keele. About forty members sat down to tea, which in this instance was paid for by the several ringers. The Rev. W. W. Bolton proposed a vote of thanks to both the Vicar and Curate of the parish (Rev. F. J. Kelly). The Vicar spoke most straightforwardly, welcoming the Association to his tower, and pointing out the good it was intended to effect. The tower is comparatively new, and the bells are well hung. The belfry itself is small and rather dark, but it is kept tidy and clean. This band possesses a large number of handbells, and it is hoped that they will soon learn to use them.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Saturday, the 31st, at Checkley, it not being the wish of the Association to hold a meeting on Easter-Eve.

It may have appeared out of place to some to have held meetings during Lent, but the result has perfectly justified it. All the members feel the good that it has done them themselves; and the sooner we can get a better standard of ringing in these parts, the sooner we shall be able to give to the glory of God of our best.

ST. VEDAST, FOSTER LANE, LONDON.

It is doubtless still fresh in the recollection of many of our readers that it was in this church that the Rev. Pelham Dale some few years ago persevered in carrying out a ritual which ultimately led to his being deprived of his benefice.

On the installation of the new Rector, the bells were restored and thoroughly put in ringing order by Mr. Banks, of Kennington, and opened by the Cumberland Society (an account of which appeared in this journal some time ago). On the 17th of this month, through the instrumentality of Mr. J. Barry, a select party of the above society met to again testify their “go,” and succeeded in ringing some Treble Bob Minor, and several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Mr. Gobbett, of West Ham. All expressed their entire satisfaction with the fittings and the admirable manner in which Mr. Banks has put them to rights, but it was noticed that the fifth bell had hardly any vibration in her, while all the rest were good specimens of the founder's art. There is a rumour afloat that two new trebles will shortly be added, but we are afraid that even should such come to pass, a peal will not be allowed on them on account of the short distance of the tower from the General Post Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand. After descending the belfry, we spent some time in examining the interior of the church, and especially noticed the magnificent carved oak-work therein contained, which is doubtless many hundred years old, in fact part of the original work was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, the rest remaining intact till the present day.

Several of the Cumberlands were unable to obtain admission in consequence of arriving late, but as a compensation for their disappointment, they were consoled by the assurance of Mr. Barry that he would endeavour on a future occasion to again get the tower open, and thus afford them the opportunity of ringing they desired.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

THE first ANNUAL MEETING of the members of the above Association will be held at Bedford, on Easter Monday next. The fine ring of eight (tenor 28 cwt.) at St. Paul's, will be available for ringing during the day. A luncheon will be provided at the Swan Hotel. CHARLES HERBERT, *Hon. Sec.*

THE VANE OF ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, BATH.—For some time past the weather vane of this church has been out of repair, and would not move except in exceptionally rough weather. Accordingly, the services of Mr. James D. Wright (Edinburgh) and his two sons, who describe themselves as the original “Steeple Jacks,” were secured for the purpose of doing what was requisite to put matters right, and their operations have been watched by crowds of people. The men commenced by flying a huge kite from the High Common, attached to which was a cord something like half-a-mile in length. Having got the kite up to a good height, they proceeded along the Julian Road, and dexterously contrived to bring the string to bear on the ornamental cross just below the vane of the church. The desired result was at once attained—the string broke near the kite in consequence of the strain, and the kite rejoicing to be free, went away in the direction of the Royal Victoria Park, the string dropping over the cross and coming down the other side of the spire, just where it was wanted. This part of a Steeple Jack's work, although possibly the least dangerous, is nevertheless, very uncertain, and unsuccessful attempts are frequently made. By means of a cord a rope was drawn over the cross; and a still thicker rope, with an iron pulley block was raised, the pulley resting beneath the cross, the “stay” rope on the opposite side of the steeple being properly secured to keep the block from slipping over. The first ascent was made, and the dangerous feat was watched by two or three hundred persons. The man went up inside the tower, and got out of the bottom window of the spire. Seating himself in a chair seat which had been affixed to the rope, he pulled himself up hand over hand, guiding himself with his toes. On reaching the summit of the steeple he stood upon the cross just below the weather-cock, and examined the same. The height of the spire is 226 feet, which is the highest in Bath, being several feet higher than the spire of St. John's (R. C.) church. When going up the steeple the man looked almost as though he was crawling, and the attention of the spectators was rivetted by the fearlessness and skill with which the ascent was made, the descent being watched with no less interest. The man turned the weathercock and discovered that the socket had become a little rusty, owing to a leakage of water. We have been informed by one of the climbers that a copper washer will in all probability set matters right. A second ascent was made, and was again witnessed by a large number of people.

The Mercers' Company of London have subscribed two hundred and fifty guineas to the fund for repairing Peterborough Cathedral. The amount subscribed now reaches a total of thirteen thousand pounds.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

On Saturday, April 7th, being the date of commencement of a new volume, this Paper will be

**PERMANENTLY ENLARGED
TO 12 PAGES.**

The increase in the circulation warrants this step being taken. The promoters of this paper hope that those gentlemen for whose need it is established, will continue their exertions in advancing its interest, so that at an early period it may be still further enlarged, and its usefulness increased. Printed circulars will be gladly forwarded to any of our friends who will take the trouble to distribute them.

—♦—

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

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

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.

D. PRENTICE.—Your peal of 5067 of Stedman Caters is false.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1883.

It has often been remarked that the chances against the accomplishment of a peal, even in the most simple method, and by the most skilful company, are many. There is no doubt of the truth of such an observation. The accounts of repeated failure in attempts for peals of moderate length, which from time to time appear among our records of performances, show the multitude of agencies which are constantly militating against success. It must however be admitted that in many cases due provision is not made to neutralise or counteract such unfavourable incidents as are, unfortunately, of too frequent occurrence. We know to our cost, that bell-ropes, which have not shown any signs of old age or decay, have a freak of giving way at some interesting portion of the proceedings; and a noisy interruption made by the entrance into the ringing-room of a loquacious church official during its progress, may operate to mar the attainment of a peal. Such circumstances as these, may in most instances, though not in all, be considered as accidents, over which the ringing company may have no control. But there are many

cases where, had proper provision been made, and efficient arrangements been carried out in order to make success more than probable, peals would have been obtained. We have heard of gas suddenly becoming extinguished just before the half-way single, in a peal of Grandsire Triples, and leaving the ringers in darkness; we have ourselves experienced the premature approach of the "shades of evening," and in consequence, the collapse of a peal of Treble Bob in the last course. An account of of an attempted peal at Painswick is curious. In this case everything was supposed to be in good order, but when the peal was far advanced, a rope on one of the light bells gave way, much to the astonishment of the company, who thought the peal perfectly safe so far as ropes were concerned. Upon examination it was discovered that close to the pulley-block a rough nail or iron pin had been inserted, and the constant friction of the rope against this foreign substance gradually wore away the strands till it could no longer bear the strain put upon it from beneath. Such cases as these may, in most instances, be considered as accidents which cannot be foreseen. But how many attempts for peals would have met with a different fate had all probable contingencies been looked into, and sound arrangements made to neutralise them? We think the peal-books of many companies would show a more extensive record had greater care been taken in this particular. The attainment of a peal, we are quite aware, can never be regarded as a foregone conclusion, even under the most favourable circumstances; the best company of ringers that ever stood, rope in hand, can never consider the safety of the peal as assured till it has actually been rung. It is unnecessary to attempt a definition of the agencies, many of them of a most trifling character, apparently, which are in operation to prevent a peal being achieved. Their name is legion. But we may point out at least one of them where, when proper attention is given, the difficulty, if difficulty there be, can in every instance be overcome.

As long as Grandsire Triples maintains its position in the curriculum of practice, the ten-part composition of JOHN HOLT will always be a favourite. We are not to enquire why this will be so. It is sufficient to say that from various reasons this peal will be selected by many conductors for their maiden essay in bob-calling. And in this peal, as every one knows, are two singles, one half-way, and the other at the close of the peal, having characteristics somewhat out of the common. The accurate striking of these singles is the critical, and in many cases dangerous position. The majority of the company ringing this peal know nothing perhaps, of the singles in question, or at the least are but imperfectly acquainted with them, and depend upon the bob-caller or some "veteran" in the band to coach them over the few changes these singles occupy. It is a common thing, on starting for this peal for many ringers to ask "what am I to do when the single is called?" and such-like questions; and after being informed upon the point there is, in nine cases out of ten, a doubt in their minds as to what is to be done. And when under such circumstances the peal is com

menced, and the bells have gone on till they are half-way into the fifth part, the conductor, and those who have been able to follow him through it, are smitten with a feeling of the most painful anxiety whether the grave crisis which is gradually but surely approaching, change by change, will be surmounted. The bobs are called with the 3rd before, one, two, three times, the excitement increases at each moment, the 5th, 6th, and 7th are at home; the 6th is seen to make thirds; and the lead following the bob-caller, being almost overcome by his feelings, in a different tone of voice to that in which he has hitherto spoken, utters the word—"Single." Then the commotion arises, one of the company "wont be told" perhaps, another does the very thing he should not have done, in the din the front bells get confused, and order appearing impossible in the midst of such chaos, one by one the bells are set, and we are afraid that in some cases the reverse of complimentary language is indulged in by those of the band who are indignant at the disaster. This, or something like it, is not an uncommon occurrence in attempting HOLT's ten-part peal. Even when all the band engaged in its performance are to be depended on, some amount of anxiety is felt as to the fate of the half-way single. This may be known by a comparison of the facial expression of each ringer previous to the single being called with the complacency exhibited when the danger is passed. An appearance of great relief is visible when it is over, and the first bob in the sixth part is called. We may almost apply the same remarks to the half-way single in Stedman Triples, though a peal is now frequently called in that method with the two singles at an early stage.

It is a pertinent question to ask—"Why all this fear, excitement, and anxiety?" The answer is plain enough. The singles are never thought of, never practised, in many instances, till the day arrives on which the peal is to be attempted. Why should this be? why should not this real single be commonly rung, taking the place of the one now in use? HOLT's singles to our mind are more in unison with the method than the long-thirds arrangement which is called a "single," but which is in reality a "double." The latter throws the bells out-of-course, while the singles used by HOLT, in his ten-part production retains them in course. Then why not use the in-course singles more frequently? They certainly are preferable from several points of view. Even should the bells during a touch on practice-night get out of course the bob-caller need not resort to the common single to bring up rounds, for by using the change 1357264 in the same manner as he would use the round, the bells may be brought home at hand. At any rate, we think the idea of this single of HOLT's becoming more thoroughly known than it is at present, is one that will commend itself to our readers, and such knowledge will be the means of obviating in many cases what is held to be a serious difficulty.

A QUESTION.—A correspondent writes:—"Referring to your report in 'THE BELL NEWS,' March 17th, of the reopening of St. Mary's Bells, Prescott, Lancashire, which have just been rehung by Messrs. Taylor, of Loughborough, why did Mr. E. Foster on the 7th cry 'Stand' at the end of 3776 changes.—A RINGER."

The Provinces.

OXFORD.

On Tuesday, March 13, 1883, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART PEAL. Tenor 42 cwt.

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| C. HESTER Treble. | C. C. CHILD, Esq. (Ch. Ch.) 5. |
| JOB HOWES* 2. | C. HOUNSLOW 6. |
| G. LAPWORTH 3. | J. W. WASHBROOK 7. |
| O. THOMAS 4. | S. HOUNSLOW Tenor |

Conducted by J. W. WASHBROOK; his first peal as conductor.

[*First peal.]

CAVENDISH, SUFFOLK.

On Thursday, March 15, 1883, in Three Hours and Thirteen Minutes,

AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH,

5040 CHANGES; IN SEVEN DIFFERENT METHODS UPON SIX BELLS,

DUKE OF YORK; NEW LONDON PLEASURE; DOUBLE OXFORD; DOUBLE COURT; PLAIN BOB; KENT TREBLE BOB; AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB.

A 720 of each method, in the foregoing order.

Tenor 12 cwt. in F#.

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| FREDERIC JOHN THOMPSON Treble. | ALBERT IVES 4. |
| JOSEPH SAMUEL PAGE .. 2. | HARRY THOMPSON 5. |
| CHARLES WILLIAM HURST 3. | *ALEXANDER HURST Tenor |

Conducted by ALEXANDER HURST.

* Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

Messrs. Page, C. Hurst, Ives, and A. Hurst, whose ages are respectively 22, 17, 21, and 20, have been connected with change-ringing only fourteen months.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

On Saturday, March 17, 1883, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes.

AT ST. PETER'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| SAMUEL WOOD Treble. | SAMUEL STOTT 5. |
| JAMES ADAMS 2. | BENJAMIN BROADBENT .. 6. |
| WILLIAM SMITH 3. | GEORGE LONGDEN 7. |
| JAMES WOOD 4. | JOHN THORP Tenor. |

Composed by JOHN THORP, and conducted by GEORGE LONGDEN.

This peal has the sixth her extent at home at nine different course-ends; and the fifth her extent home. The figures will be found on another page.

Mr. Stott hails from Oldham; the rest of the company from Ashton.

LIVERSEDGE, YORKSHIRE.

On Saturday, March 17, 1883, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

IN THE KENT VARIATION. Tenor 15 cwt.

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| JAMES WHITWORTH Treble. | GEORGE ILLINGWORTH .. 5. |
| HENRY BROOK 2. | TOM GOODALL 6. |
| ARTHUR BRIGGS 3. | *JAMES ROBNETT 7. |
| LUKE ILLINGWORTH 4. | SIDNEY GOODALL Tenor. |

Composed by WILLIAM GOODALL, and conducted by SIDNEY GOODALL.

The above peal is in three equal parts. Mr. Robnett hails from Brighouse; the rest from Liversedge.

[*First peal.]

Miscellaneous.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

On Sunday, March 18th, eight members of this society rung at St. George's church, Southwark, for Divine Service in the morning, the first four parts of Holt's ten-part peal, comprising 2016 changes, in 1 hr. 12 mins. Henry Langden, 1; William Jones, 2; Wingfield Meadows, Esq., 3; George McLaughlin, 4; John Basden, 5; Martin Routh, Esq., 6; Henry Tucker (conductor), 7; Frederick Coxhead, 8.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Sunday, March 18th, at Christ Church, for Divine Service in the morning, a 576 of Kent Treble Bob Major. W. Reed, Esq., (conductor), 1; A. Sawyer, 2; J. Rossiter, 3; H. Ross, 4; R. Wignell, 5; *W. Story (St. John's, Newcastle), 6; R. S. Story (St. John's, Newcastle), 7; Joel Hern, 8. *First touch in this method. Tenor 19 cwt.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

APPLETON (Berks).—On Thursday, March 15th, the following members of the Guild rang at St. Lawrence's, a quarter-peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, comprising 1344 changes. F. S. White, 1; E. Hollifield, 2; B. Barrett, 3; W. Bennett, 4; J. Avery, 5; G. Hollifield, 6; F. White, 7; Rev. F. E. Robinson, 8. Composed and conducted by the Rev. F. E. Robinson, Master of the Guild.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Thursday, March 1st, at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Bob Minor with sixteen bobs and two singles, was rung in 27½ mins. William Post, jun., 1; Edward Hyder, 2; Philip Hodgkin, 3; Thomas Hodgkin, 4; William Hyder (conductor), 5; William Post, sen., 6. Also March 15th, a 720 of Bob Minor with three bobs and eighteen singles, in 29 mins. Charles Slingsby, 1; David Hodgkin (first 720), 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. Also 360 of Bob Minor. W. Post, jun., 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; T. Hodgkin, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, sen., 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HULME, MANCHESTER.—On Thursday evening, March 15th, at Holy Trinity Church, the following six members of this Association rang their first 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 28 mins. H. Diggles, 1; W. Diggles, 2; C. Woodward, 3; W. Roberts, 4; W. Hargreaves (conductor), 5; W. Savage, 6. Tenor 15½ cwt.

SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

SPALDING.—On Thursday, March 15th, the following members of this Association rang at St. Paul's, Fulney, several touches of Grandsire Triples, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last token of respect to Mr. Joseph Tye, Ironmonger, of Spalding, who was buried on that day, and was an honorary member of the above Association since its commencement, and took the contract for hanging these bells in iron frames. J. Brown, 1; J. Croxford, 2; E. Quinton, 3; R. Mackman, 4; J. S. Wright, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6; J. W. Creasey, 7; C. Creasey, 8. Also on Sunday, March 18th, after Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Plain Bob, on the back six, in 25 mins. E. Quinton, 1; J. Brown, 2; J. S. Wright, 3; C. Creasey, 4; J. W. Creasey, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6. This was rung to commemorate the forty-third birthday of the conductor, it falling on that day.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

WIMBLEDON.—On Tuesday, March, 20th, at St. Mary's church, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, with thirty-eight bobs and two singles, in 27 mins. This is the first 720 ever rung by a Wimbledon band, and the first for all the performers except the conductor. G. Hyde, 1; H. A. Roots, 2; C. Hyde, 3; S. Frost, 4; A. Garrott, 5; A. W. E. Perceval, Esq. (conductor), 6.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT ARCHDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

KEBLE (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, March 17th, at the District Meeting, a 720 of Bob Minor in 26½ mins. A. Walker, 1; L. Miller, 2; W. Priestman, 3; S. Wooton, 4; S. Spencer, 5; W. Miller (conductor), 6. Also a course of Grandsire Caters, on handbells, retained in hand, by the five last-named ringers.

DONCASTER.—On Sunday, March 18th, for Divine Service at the church of St. George, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, by the Doncaster company, in 49 mins. H. Fevre, 1; H. G. Wilson (conductor), 2; W. White, 3; G. Marwood, 4; T. Fevre, 5; J. White, 6; J. Jeff, 7; W. Howard, 8. Tenor 31 cwt. in Eb.

HIGHER WALTON (Lancashire).—On Sunday, March 18th, being the eleventh anniversary of the opening of the bells, five of the parish ringers, assisted by Mr. Joshua Walker, rang for morning service at All Saints' church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 26 mins. George Thornley (conductor), 1; James Walmsley, 2; Hy. Hunt, 3; Henry Brewer, 4; Joshua Walker, 5; John Eccles, 6. And for afternoon service the parish ringers of St. Leonard's, Walton-le-dale, rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 26½ mins. Robert Dewhurst (conductor), 1; Henry Robinson, 2; David Gregson, 3; John Robinson, 4; Eli Dalshaw, 5; James Robinson, 6. Tenor 16 cwt. 3 qrs. 26 lbs.

LONDON.—On Saturday, March 17th, at St. Vedast's, Foster Lane, six members of the Cumberland society, rang a 720 and a half of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 39 mins. J. Gobbett, 1; E. Moses, 2; W.

Meadows, Esq., 3; J. Jacob, 4; D. Stackwood, 5; S. Jarman, 6. Called by John Gobbett. Also several 6-scores of Grandsire Doubles, in which J. Barry and P. Kendall, Esq., took part. Tenor 19 cwt.

MILDENHALL (Suffolk).—On Saturday, March 10th, a 720 of Bob Minor, with forty-two singles, was rung in good style by the local company, in 27 mins. C. Palmer, 1; H. Turner, 2; T. Bartle, 3; G. Turner, 4; J. Carpenter, 5; G. Flatt (conductor), 6.

OXFORD.—*Handbell Ringing.*—On Monday, March 19th, on handbells, retained in hand, an excellent touch of Grandsire Triples, containing 532 changes, in 14 mins. William C. Baston, 1-2; Charles Hounslow, 3-4; James W. Washbrook (conductor), 5-6; Samuel Hounslow, 7-8.

RIPON.—On Tuesday, March 13th, the Cathedral Society assembled for practice, and rung a 720 of Bob Minor, with nine bobs and six singles; and 360 of College Single, with four bobs and two singles, in 43 mins. Jno. Strodder, sen., 1; Jno. Strodder, jun., 2; Anthony Ingleby, 3; Walter Pick, 4; T. Clark (conductor), 5; George Ingleby, (first 720), 6. Tenor 21 cwt. in E.

STANSTED (Essex).—On Thursday, March 15th, four of the local company with Messrs. F. and R. S. Sworder, of Great Hallingbury, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor. J. Cavill, 1; R. S. Sworder, 2; C. Prior, 3; F. Sworder, 4; J. Luckey, 5; H. Prior (conductor), 6. Tenor 13 cwt.

THURSTON (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, March 6th, the ringers from Hessett, Pakenham, Thurston, &c., rang several touches of Grandsire, after the rehanging of the tenor with new oak head-stock, gudgeons, &c., the work being satisfactorily carried out by Geo. Bullock, Bill Hanger, & worth.

WORDSLEY (Staffordshire).—On March 10th, in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the marriage of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the following members of the South Staffordshire six-bell ringers rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor in 25 mins. Thomas Darby, 1; John Guest (conductor), 2; William Lawrence, 3; Richard Bidmead, 4; George Howells, 5; Ernest Samuel Chapman, 6.

THE DUNDEE SOCIETY.

This society entertained Mr. G. P. Crossman, of the College Youths, to supper in the Albion Hotel, on Saturday night, on the occasion of his leaving Dundee, after a visit of two or three months. Mr. Robert Knight, master, presided, and in an appropriate speech, referred to the benefit which the company had derived from the advice of the guest of the evening during his stay at Dundee with regard to ringing matters. He also thought their belfry would be benefited by the attention drawn to its deficiencies by that gentleman. He trusted the members of the society would continue persevering in the art of ringing, and be able in a short time to give a good account of themselves to the ringing world through their own medium "BELL NEWS." He concluded by proposing the health of Mr. Crossman. In reply Mr. Crossman thanked the members for the hearty manner they had drunk his health, and referred to the many friends he had met since he came, and the great kindness shown not only by the ringers, but also by those whom he had met in his business capacity. He trusted that the ringers would persevere in the art of ringing, as nothing but attention and study would make them proficient. If ever he was in this part of Scotland again, he would be happy to pay them a visit, when he trusted he would see a great improvement in their ringing and also in their belfry. The rest of the evening was pleasantly spent.

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,—Mr. Gardom is very kind to offer his services on my behalf, but they are not required; I can do all I want to do without his help.

But to come to the point at issue. I challenged his peal as being doubtful, and in his letter—which is a poor attempt at sarcasm—he does not deny my assertions, or offer any explanation whatever. A correspondence showing fair criticism deserves fair answers. He talks somewhat boastfully of his own knowledge and experience, but it is not of long duration. I had rung one or two peals before he could strike a blow in rounds. In his would-be sarcastical note he has not got hold of the right way of addressing a fellow-creature. He forgets the preterit; but if he succeeds in ringing a 720 in any method, he does not forget the affix "esq." to his own name; why, I don't know.

I would also tell him that his information concerning me going for a peal "weekly" for the past ten months is not true, because I have only attempted it four times. Once a rope broke, on the other occasions shift-courses happened.

Now the peal in question rung at Walthamstow has been proved false by a prominent member of the College Youths, whose opinion was asked by one who was in the peal, the circumstances being stated to him as they really did occur for him to pass such opinion. The gentleman who was thus written to says, on the account laid before him by one of the company who rang it—and who asked particularly for his opinion—that it was decidedly a false peal; and it is the opinion of almost every one who has rung at Walthamstow old church that a peal cannot be rung there quicker than nine minutes than the quickest yet recorded.

T. A. ESTALL.

A PEAL OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

5088.

By JOHN THORP, Ashton-under-Lyne.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | M | B | W | H |
| 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | I | - | | |
| 6 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 4 | - | 2 | 3 | |
| 6 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | - | | I | |
| 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | - | | I | |
| 5 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 2 | - | I | |
| 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 6 | I | - | | |

Twice repeated.

This peal has the sixth her extent at home at nine different course-ends; and the fifth her extent home.

Rang at St. Peter's, Ashton-under-Lyne, March 17th, 1883; conducted by George Lonsden.

Dr. GRAYLING, of Sittingbourne, writes:—
 "In reply to 'Man of Kent.' I may add that the 3rd at Rainham is by Robert Mot, 1601. The tenor, 49 ins., soundbow, 3½ ins., same as Sittingbourne tenor, by Bartlett, but longer in the waist. Mot also made the Bredgar 3rd, 1579. With regard to Charcham, one knows not whether to blame architect or parson, probably the latter, for the continued state of things there: the splendid 6 ft. brasses were at the same time moved about the church for sheer trumpery.

"Date of Rainham tenor, 1582.

"The cracked bell at Minster Abbey was lowered by amateurs on Thursday last."

Mr. J. DRINKWATER, Master of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association, asks if any of our readers can inform him where and by whom the forty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, as arranged by the late Mr. Isaac Gaze, of Gloucester, was first rung. They are ten six-scores in the true Grandsire method, and thirty-two with extremes instead of plain leads.

One Hundred and Thirty-Six closely-printed pages, Post-free, 2s. 1½d.

A TREATISE ON TREBLE BOB PART II.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

A Collection of Two Thousand peals of TREBLE BOB MINOR, MAJOR, ROYAL, and MAXIMUS, with the Tenors together; and a Selection of Musical Compositions with the Tenors parted. Arranged with their reverse variations under a simple classification, with remarks upon the different qualities in each class; with particulars of the time of performance, etc.

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.

ORGAN (FINGER) FOR SALE,

Very Superior, suitable for Large Room or Small Church or Chapel; in substantial oak grained case, bold and handsome front (speaking) six stops, viz.:

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| STOP DIAPASON | Through. |
| OPEN DIAPASON | Through. |
| PRINCIPAL | Through. |
| FIFTEENTH | Through. |

German Gamba; Tenor, F & to C C; Stop; Flute Tenor C, two Composition Pedals, and front and side Blowers.

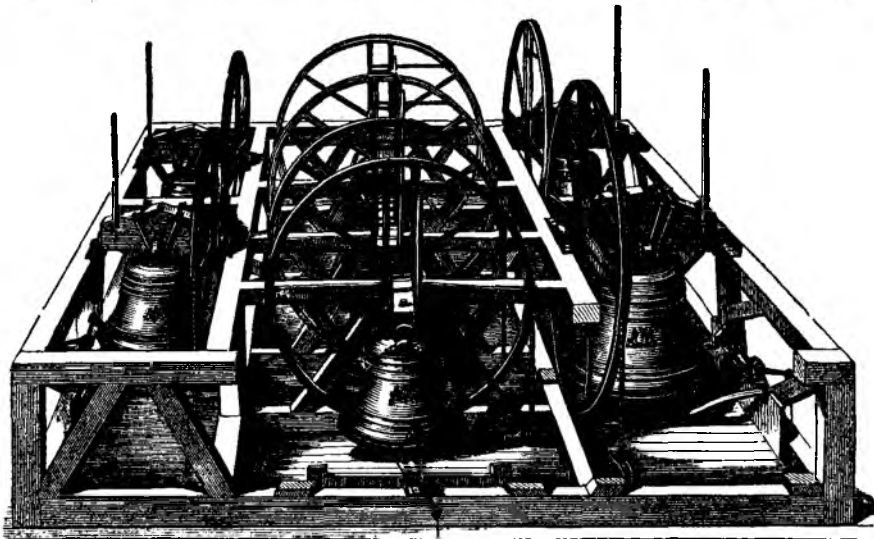
Will sell at cost price, room being required. Address: 25, Wolverley Street, Bethnal Green Road London.

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 Church Bell Hangers,
 WOODBURY, NEAR EXETER,

Undertake to hang Church Bells, single or in peal, on the most improved principles, and best workmanship and materials.

The Ellacombe chiming apparatus fixed at the cost of £1 per bell. Over 200 sets have already been fixed.

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 Bell and Brass Founders to Her Majesty,



THE CRESCENT FOUNDRY, CRIPPLEGATE, LONDON, E.C.

Prize Medals awarded in London, Vienna, &c., for Bells, Chiming Machinery, Metal Work, &c. Bells Cast Singly or in Rings. Church Bells, School Bells, Chapel Bells. Old Bells Re-cast or Re-hung. Hand Bells in sets in Diatonic and Chromatic Scales. Clock Bells and Carillons in any size or number.

Bells of every Description and Size.

References to Cathedrals and Churches in every part of the world, if desired.

J. W. & SONS are prepared to send an experienced Bell-hanger to report or advise upon repairs, Alterations or New Rings of Bells. Illustrated Catalogues can be obtained upon application, post-free, giving a large amount of information.

Also, "A B C OF MUSICAL HAND BELL RINGING," by S. B. GOSLIN. Second Edition, enlarged and revised, price 1s.; and

"THE FIRST STEPS TO BELL-RINGING UPON CHURCH BELLS," by S. B. GOSLIN, price 1s.

"THE MUSICAL HAND-BELL RINGERS' INSTRUCTOR," Part II., by S. B. GOSLIN, containing Musical Theory and Tunes for Hand Bells. Price 2s.

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Church Bell Hanger.

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HANDBELL MUSIC.

THE ANNUAL JOURNAL FOR 1883 WILL CONSIST OF TWELVE PIECES OF DANCE MUSIC, value 27s., if purchased separately. The first two monthly numbers are now ready, arranged for medium peal, six ringers, bells from C 22 to C 1; or large peal, seven ringers, bells from G 25 to G 04. Subscription for the whole year, 12s.

No. 86. "The Sphinx" Quadrille (January No. journal music), price 3s., separately.

No. 88. "The Crocus" Polka (February No. journal music), 1s. 6d., separately.

Also, just out, new editions to No. 66.—"The Blue Bells of Scotland," one variation, 1s. No. 63.—"Glorious Apollo," 1s. For six ringers, small peal, two octaves, in G.

N.B.—"The Sphinx" Quadrille is also arranged for full brass band of twenty instruments, price 2s.

W. GORDON, 20, CROWTHER STREET, STOCKPORT.

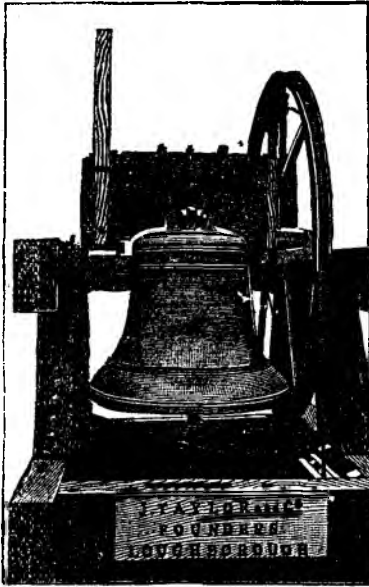
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CLOCK AND CHIME ROPES,**
Specially Manufactured by
JOHN ASTLEY,
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Coventry, one of the best Rings of Ten extant.*

John Taylor and Co.,
Bell Founders,
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Founders of the New Ring of Bells for ST. PAUL'S
CATHEDRAL, the HEAVIEST Peal of 12 ringing
BELLS in the COUNTRY.

*"This is unquestionably the grandest ringing peal in
England, and therefore in the world."—SIR EDMUND
BECKETT, Bart., Q.C., Times, Nov. 20th, 1878.*



Also Founders of the Ring of Sixteen Bells, the
heaviest, 4 tons 10 cwt., for Worcester Cathedral.

And the Bells for the Carillons at Manchester Town
Hall; Bradford Town Hall, Yorks, and Rochdale Town
Hall.

The Ring of Ten, Tenor 41 cwt., for St. Mary's Cath-
edral, Edinburgh

HARRY STOKES,
(Late a partner with Mrs. C. Hooper)

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ETC.,

WOODBURY, EXETER.

Bells Re-hung with New Fittings, Wheels, &c.

*The Ellacombe Chiming Hammers fixed complete for £1
per bell and travelling expenses.*

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CHURCH
BELL ROPE MANUFACTURER,
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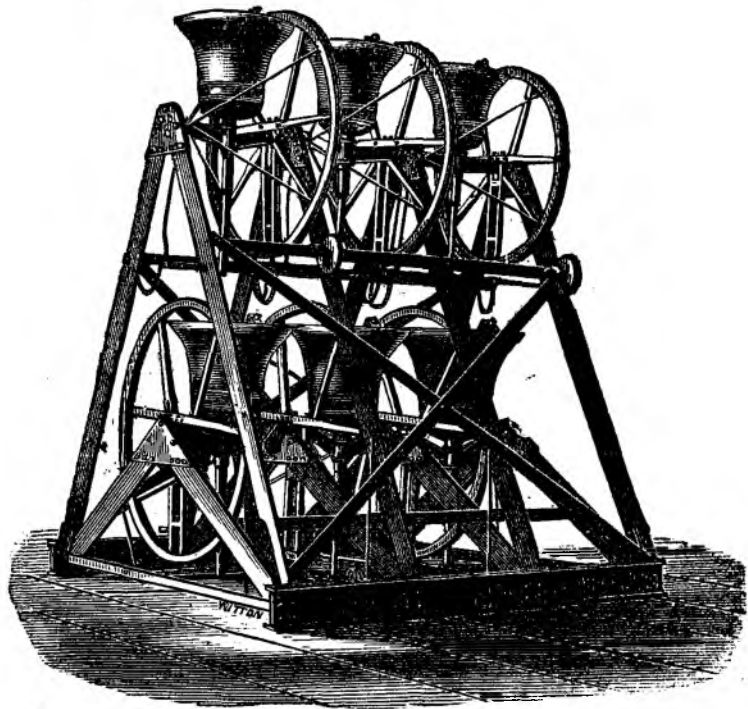
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