

THE BELL NEWS

And Ringers' Record:

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

No. 174. [NEW SERIES.]—VOL. IV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1885.

[ONE PENNY.]

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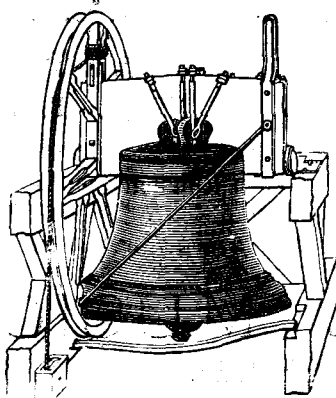
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London: Wells Gardner, Darton, & Co.

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THE SURPRISE PEALS.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

At the conclusion of the descriptions of the peals rung in each of the methods which are under consideration, it is my intention to give a collection of the peals composed in each of them. In connection with these peals, a few preliminary observations are necessary. In Cambridge and Superlative Surprise, the lead-ends at plain-leads and bob-leads are the same. In these methods, a bob B. (before), cuts out two leads of the course, those at which bobs M. and W. may be called—and thus shortens the course to five leads. In London Surprise, a bob B. only reduces the course one lead, and does not cut out the M. and W. leads. Annexed are the treble lead-ends of a plain course of Cambridge, Superlative, and London Surprise, in which the lead-ends at which bobs M. W. and H. may be called are marked, and also the lead-ends of a short course, that is, one in which a bob B. is introduced, in each of these methods.

CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE.				LONDON SURPRISE.											
Plain course.		Short course.		Plain course.		Short course.									
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
5	7	3	8	2	6	4	4	2	6	3	8	5	7	M	
8	6	7	4	5	2	3	6	4	8	2	7	3	5		
4	2	6	3	8	5	7	M	8	6	7	4	5	2	3	B
3	5	2	7	4	8	6	W	7	8	5	6	3	4	2	
7	8	5	6	3	4	2	5	7	3	8	2	6	4	W	
6	4	8	2	7	3	5	3	5	2	7	4	8	6	W	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	H	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	H

Ordinary bobs at the M. W. and H., do not increase the number of leads in the course as in the Kent or Oxford Treble Bob methods. The effect of a bob in the Surprise methods may be compared to that of one in Plain Bob, or any method in which the bells behind are not disturbed by the bob. From the foregoing lead-ends, a table of course-ends may be constructed. The table of course-ends for bobs at the M. W. and H., is the same as ordinary Treble Bob course-ends, when single bobs only are called. The second and third tables shew the calls that may be made in a course with a bob B.

TABLE OF COURSE-ENDS.

FOR ALL THREE METHODS.						CAMBRIDGE & SUPERLATIVE.				LONDON SURPRISE.							
2	3	4	5	6	M W H	2	3	4	5	6	B H	2	3	4	5	6	M B W H
4	3	6	5	2	-	3	5	2	6	4	-	3	5	2	6	4	-
5	2	4	3	6	-	2	3	5	6	4	-	3	5	4	2	6	-
4	2	3	5	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	2	5	4	-
5	4	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	6	4	-
6	4	3	5	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	3	5	4	-
6	5	4	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	3	5	2	6	-
4	5	2	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The peals composed in these methods are not very numerous, and as the use of bobs B is the only way of obtaining reduced courses it is not so easy to compose peals containing various numbers of changes, as it is in other methods. Most of the peals already composed are in three or five parts, and the plan is frequently adopted of shortening some of these parts by two courses. The way of doing this, which also applies to many other plain methods, is as follows: when three bobs at H. are called without any intermediate bobs, as shewn in the annexed three courses, it is evident that if the first bob at H. is omitted, the third course-end will be brought up, and two courses altogether done away with. In this way 448 changes may be cut out of a peal and no new changes introduced. If the peal was true beforehand, it is evident it will be quite true in this abbreviated form.

2	3	4	5	6	M	W	H	2	3	4	5	6	M	W	H
6	5	4	3	2	-	-	-	5	4	6	3	2	-	-	-
4	6	5	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	4	6	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

There are various bobs which, in a three-part peal, can be either called or omitted. It is not my purpose to go thoroughly into such a matter in this place, but I would remind my readers, that in a three-part peal which has 5-6 at home at the part-end and a bob at the M. or W., as well as one at H., the bob H. can generally be omitted at the part-end.

PEALS OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE.

Since I introduced this method into my book, *Standard Methods* I may say that I have somewhat modified the high opinion I then had of the method. When the historical description of this method is compared with those of Superlative and London Surprise, it will be seen that this was the first to receive consideration. As a good number of performances had been achieved in this intricate method, I was led to class it amongst those to which I applied the term "Standard." The only reason I have for modifying this opinion is that when I have, as now, to place before the Exercise the peals composed in this method, I am reminded of the fact that practically only one true peal, with the tenors together, has been composed. In former days when a crack band practised an intricate method, it was usually the custom to ring one peal in the method and then abandon it altogether. In these days, fortunately, the Burton-on-Trent society has set the praiseworthy example, when they have become acquainted with a method, of ringing all the best and musical peals to be had in the method. It is therefore a serious question whether it is worth while spending much time in learning a method in which, practically, only one peal is to be had.

The one peal, with the tenors together, that has been composed of Cambridge Surprise, is one in five parts, of 5600 changes. This peal was composed independently by Mr. Charles Middleton, of Norwich, and Mr. Henry Johnson, of Birmingham. It was however first published by Mr. Middleton in 1845, in Hubbard's first book, and thus I think that the peal, which is as follows, must be awarded to Mr. Middleton.

5600.

2	3	4	5	6	M	W	H
4	3	6	5	2	-	-	-
5	6	2	3	4	-	-	-
2	3	5	6	4	-	-	-
5	2	3	6	4	-	-	-
3	5	2	6	4	-	-	-

C. MIDDLETON.

First rung on February 11th, 1873, at St. Michael's, Benington, by the Benington Society. Conducted by Thomas Page. The calling was begun at the fourth course-end thus producing 3 4 5 6 2 at the first part-end.

This composition reverses to the same peal. By omitting the three consecutive bobs H. in any one-part, two courses will be cut out and the number reduced to 5152.

Mr. Johnson has cut the peal to 5056 changes, by introducing the course 1 B., 1 H, which brings up the third course-end 23564, and thus if this calling is used instead of the calling of the first three courses, as given above, the peal is reduced two courses, and a short course introduced instead of the long one. As Mr. Johnson was the first to obtain this length, I think, whenever this peal may be rung, that the 5056 may be fairly attributed to Mr. Johnson.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

At the Annual Meeting of this Society, on Monday, July 27th, the following were elected officers for the ensuing year. *Master*, Mr. G. T. McLaughlin; *Steward*, Mr. H. Langdon; *Treasurer*, Mr. E. Albone; *Secretary*, Mr. D. Newton. D. NEWTON, Sec.
31, Bidborough St., Euston Road, W.C.

COLLEGE YOUTHS AT CHICHESTER, SUSSEX.

On Saturday, July 18th, eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths started from London, and having arrived at this old town, were conducted by Mr. Heather and Mr. Lambert (the kindly and obliging sacristan), to the Cathedral dedicated to St. Peter and the Holy Trinity. On reaching the belfry at 4.30, the order was at once given to "get to work," and after the preliminary rounds, Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples was achieved in excellent style, in 3 hrs. and 8 mins., (see peal column). This is the first true peal on the bells, many of which are over 300 years old. Every bell sounds very distinctly in the ringing-room, and all go well except the tenor. Before leaving, all signed the elaborate visitors' book in the order in which they had been standing, and a short account of what took place was written therein.

After a wash in the first chamber, all adjourned to the "Anchor Hotel," where the band were very liberally entertained at a most princely banquet, served in excellent style. The entire Guild sat down, and the party numbered between thirty and forty. The chair was taken by R. G. Raper, Esq., for the last nine years Mayor of Chichester, and President of the Ringers' Guild; and his hospitality on this occasion was certainly such as is rarely, if ever, met with—in fact to enumerate the *menu* would be almost impossible, as well as out of place.

In returning thanks, Mr. Routh, in a few excellent remarks, proposed the Mayor's very good health, which was seconded by Mr. Dawe, and responded to in a very kind and genial manner, at the same time handing a photo of the Cathedral and tower to each visitor. Mr. Mash next proposed "The Conductor," and in responding, Mr. Dawe spoke of the great pleasure it gave him at having the honour of calling the first peal on the Cathedral bells. Other toasts followed, such as "The Guild," etc., which were all suitably responded to. Messrs. Hayes, Horrex, and French, then left by the last train for London, after which, the entire Guild of ringers, seventeen in all, resolved to become members of the Ancient Society of College Youths. A short touch of Grandsire Triples was rung on the handbells, by J. M. Routh, Esq., 1-2; C. F. Winny, 3-4; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 5-6; J. R. Haworth, 7-8, and later on an excellent course of Stedman Triples. The remainder of the evening was well spent in the most convivial manner, and some excellent songs and speeches brought the very enjoyable evening to a close.

The next morning (after being complimented by the Dean and other authorities upon their excellent striking the previous night), the visitors spent in having a look round, and the following account will probably be of interest, viz.: the city was once a Roman settlement called "Regnum," then named "Cissas Camp," by a Saxon Prince, about the year 500 A.D. The Cathedral was commenced in the year 1100 by Bishop Ralph, and is chiefly Norman and Early Gothic styles. The cloisters are very good, built in the sixteenth century, with the Perpendicular style of the fourteenth century. The nave is Norman, with one aisle on each side, divided by a massive arcade of eight arches, and an additional aisle, in Early English outside, each of these was added about the time of Henry III., thus possessing a peculiarity unknown to any other. An old oak chest in the north aisle, as sound as ever, with curious old locks, is believed to be a thousand years old, as it originally came from Selsey Cathedral, a few miles south, the site of which now lies buried beneath the sea. The presbytery is famous for the stern solidity of the Norman work, gracefully combined with the lighter Gothic style. Tombs point out the frequent practice, in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, of burying the heart separately from the body. In the Lady Chapel is seen the old Winchester and Oxford motto of William of Wykeham, "Manners makyth man." The old spire collapsed in 1861, and the new one was erected shortly afterwards at a cost of £50,000, and it reaches to a height of 277 feet.

The Bell Tower is purely a Campanile, built in the fourteenth century by Bishop Langton, and standing entirely by itself about thirty yards or so away from the main building. It is 120 feet in height, and is one of the most commodious towers possible to be found anywhere. On entering the massive doorway on the ground floor, the visitor immediately finds, a little to the right, six washing places, as many Turkey towels, with the same number of brushes and combs, and large looking-glasses. The most interesting feature of all however is the fact that this floor constitutes a Fire Brigade Station, the local ringers here being volunteer firemen, and the many important appliances too numerous for insertion here, being arranged in picturesque order, the glitter of the accoutrements being a credit to all, in fact like everything to do with fire brigades—"up to Dick."

On walking up a very good stone spiral staircase, with the assistance of a rope in the middle, so as to afford every safety and comfort, the next place reached is the ringing room, eighty feet from the ground, which is certainly unique in its way. Every visitor who enters here, is immediately struck with the excellent and cared for appearance of the place. It is 27 feet square, and is lighted by four gigantic windows, and has an excellent wooden floor, adorned with a large carpet in the

middle. The circle of ropes is also one of the best that can possibly be found. Texts in Old English, written in red, blue, and black, circulate the top of each window, also texts similarly executed, on the top of each of the beautiful groined arches, half way up in each corner, thus making the upper portion of the chamber octagonal. Handbells, speaking tubes, and electric bells, also ornament the walls. A chandelier is suspended from the centre, and a gas stove for the winter months, stands in the centre of the room. Book cases with choice works, writing table, photographs, drawings, etc., muffles, and other very interesting articles are most artistically arranged, and framed Latin mottoes, such as "Audi, Vide, Tace," convey to the mind that we are to keep our eyes and ears open, and mouth closed.

The next floor is octagonal, 30 feet square, with eight louvre board windows, and contains the principal occupants of the tower, viz., the bells, some of which are over 300 years old, clothed with excellent ornamental inscriptions. All hang on one level, on a sort of double frame, apparently one tier above the ground, with sawdust underneath to modify the sound. They have lately been rehung by Messrs. Taylor, and a large Bourdon hour bell by the same firm, weighing 73 cwt., in Bb, at one end in a separate frame, and this, with the Westminster chimes on the second, third, fourth, and seventh, marks the fleeting hours.

The next landing place is the roof, from which a fine view of the English Channel is obtained. I may add that the tower is now in the excellent charge of a Guild of ringers, who do not receive payment for their services. The customary fees are paid to them for ringing, and deposited in a fund, from which the necessary expenses are paid, in fact, the whole tower is a credit to the President, the Guild, and Mr. Falconer, the steeplekeeper, and the very best thanks of the visitors are due to them all for their kindness, and I now take this opportunity of putting it "in black and white."

In the afternoon, a delightful drive was enjoyed, the first object being Chichester Cross, built by Bishop Storey; it is 50 feet high, and one of the finest of its kind in the kingdom.

After going five or six miles, Bognor was reached, and after an hour or two's walk by the sea-side, the party drove back for tea, and having again thanked their kind friends for the very cordial manner in which they had been received, the remainder of the party returned to town, and to use the well-worn expression, "well pleased with their outing."
F. E. DAWE.

ALL SOULS' SOCIETY, HALIFAX.

On Saturday last, July 25th, the above company had their Annual Excursion, Durham being the place chosen. Halifax was left at 10.13 p.m. on Friday, and Durham was reached at 6.0 on Saturday morning. After a slight luncheon the beautiful wooded banks of the river Wear was visited, boating was also indulged in, when an adjournment was made to "The Three Tuns" Hotel, the head-quarters for the day, where a good substantial breakfast was done justice too. The Castle was afterwards visited, and through the kindness of Mr. Hilton, who at one time resided at Birks Hall, the party were conducted through the interior, where the beautiful tapestry, wood carvings, &c. were much admired. Crossing the green to the cathedral, where, through the generosity of the Dean, and under the most able guidance of Mr. Liddell, senior verger, the ringers were shown through parts of the cathedral not open to an ordinary visitor: the beautiful marble floor of the chancel, and the stained glass windows, illustrating the life of Christ. The chapter house, lady chapel, and the old prison were much commented on. After a good dinner—the catering of "The Three Tuns" was excellent—Durham was left at 4.21 p.m., and Harrogate, reached at 6.35 p.m., where a pleasant two hours were spent in rambling about the town; Harrogate left at 8.30 p.m., and reaching Halifax shortly before midnight, all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

THE SOUTHPORT SOCIETY, LANCASHIRE.

On Tuesday, July 21st, the members of the above Society had their annual outing to Llangollen. They enjoyed themselves on their handbells, and by admiring the beautiful scenery around in the early part of the day. In the afternoon they went to Wrexham, a distance of ten miles, where they were met by Messrs. Evans and Parry of the Wrexham company, and with the assistance of these very courteous gentlemen, rang a touch of Treble Bob Major on the back eight of the ring of ten at the parish church. Also a touch each of Grandsire Caters and Treble Bob Royal; tenor 28 cwt. The tone and the go of the bells are all that could be desired. The party arrived home again by train about 9.30 p.m., after having had a very pleasant time of it. The Christ Church society wish, through the medium of "THE BELL NEWS," to return their best thanks to the Vicar and churchwardens, and to the use of the bells, and also to Mr. R. Evans, for the very kind and courteous manner in which he received them.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

ON Saturday, July 5th, a District Meeting of the above Association was held at Harwich, by kind permission of the vicar, when thirty-six members assembled. Ringing commenced on the bells of the parish church soon after one o'clock, and was carried on till four o'clock, at which hour tea was provided at the "Great Eastern Hotel." The Business Meeting was held immediately after the tea, the chair being taken by the Rev. G. W. Druce, Vicar of Harwich, who was supported by the Rev. H. A. Cockey, Hon. Sec., the Rev. C. Ironmonger, Mr. J. Durrant, and Mr. H. W. Parker. The minutes of the last meeting having been read, the following members were elected: Honorary: The Rev. Canon King (Leigh), the Rev. G. W. Druce (Harwich), Jas. Round, Esq., M.P., J. R. Franks, Esq., J.P., Dr. Evans, Dr. Hardwick, Mr. J. Durrant, and Mr. W. Groom. Ringing Members: Messrs. F. Tillet, R. H. Brundle, A. R. Aldham, E. Pemberton, W. L. Catchpole, and W. Meadows (Ipswich), J. Scowen, and G. S. Scowen (Hadleigh), as Distinguished Ringers. A. Nash (Dedham), J. Brewster, G. Knock, C. Ramplin, D. Huff, W. Easter, T. Aldis, A. Peachey, W. Green, and H. W. Parker (Harwich), as Probationers. The election of T. Scarlett, and A. P. Heywood, Esq., at Walthamstow, on the occasion of an attempted peal on Whit-Monday, was confirmed. Mr. H. W. Parker, leader of the Harwich band, spoke of the great pleasure it had given him to arrange for the reception of the Association at Harwich on the occasion of their first visit to the town, and expressed a wish that any members who might live near enough to do so, would come over now and then to help on the young band which had just become affiliated to the Association. He was sorry to say that at Harwich they were not able to invite ringers to their belfry as often as they could wish, owing to the great dislike which several of their townsmen had to hearing the bells rung oftener than was absolutely necessary, some of them complaining strongly even of their weekly practice. The Hon. Secretary, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Vicar and Churchwardens, and Mr. Parker, for their very kind reception of his fellow ringers, expressed a hope that those members who had that day met together at Harwich, would not forget to give the benefit of their knowledge of change-ringing to those who might be trying to become proficient in the art, being well-assured that sooner or later they would themselves reap some advantage from their labour in finding skilful ringers ready to join in a touch with them, where but for their own efforts, there would have been none. The Vicar and Mr. Durrant having responded, the meeting came to an end, and the bells were again set going for about a couple of hours; most of the ringers leaving Harwich by the 8.10 train. In the morning a few members of the Association paid a visit to Ramsey, on their way to Harwich. The bells there, a fine melodious ring of five, tenor about 16 cwt., were found to be in a very bad state as regards their fittings. But as the party included an experienced bell-hanger, they set to work, aided by the Vicar, and after an hour spent in splicing ropes, fitting stays and sliders, etc., were able to raise the five, but could only ring the twenty-four changes on the front four, and afterwards a few rounds on the five. An adjournment was then made to the Vicarage, where refreshments had been kindly provided, and after two courses of Grandsire Triples on the handbells, the journey to Harwich was continued. It is to be hoped that we shall soon hear of steps being taken to rehang this beautiful ring.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE is hereby given that a District Meeting will be held at Horsham on Monday, August 3rd (Bank Holiday). All ringers are invited. The following are the arrangements for the day: 9.30 a.m.: ringing will commence at St. Mary's, the parish church of Horsham, (8 bells, tenor 24 cwt.). The towers of Crawley (8 bells, tenor 13½ cwt.); Billingshurst (6 bells, tenor 12½ cwt.), and Slinfold (6 bells, tenor 13 cwt.), will also be open for ringing during the day. At 1 p.m. a cold luncheon will be provided, tickets 2s. each. Application for tickets to be made to me. At 6 p.m., short service in the parish church (members are particularly requested to attend). 6.30 p.m., tea will be served. At 7.15 p.m., an extraordinary general meeting for business purposes.
GEO. F. ATTREE, Hon. Sec.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

ON Monday, July 27th, Sergeant Bulmer, of Spalding, winner of the Queen's Prize, met with a magnificent reception. He was received at the station by the full band of the 2nd Lincoln Volunteers, and such a mass of people as was never witnessed in Spalding before, who paraded the principal streets of the town. The bells of the parish church gave him a hearty welcome by ringing a 720 of Bob Minor. J. W. Jarvis, 1; C. Neaverson, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; R. Mackman, 4; J. S. Wright, 5; J. Brown, 6. At 6 o'clock, a sumptuous dinner was provided at the Corn Exchange by Mr. J. Harper, White Hart Hotel, to which upwards of 500 sat down, including the ringers, who were kindly invited by Lieut. Hobson.

THE BIRMINGHAM AMALGAMATED SOCIETY AT WORCESTER.

ON Saturday last, July 25th, the members of this Society had their annual outing, the place selected for the visit being the diocesan city—Worcester. They left Birmingham as early as 8.25 a.m., arriving at their destination after about an hour's ride, and there they met with three of the members of the Holt Society, of Aston-juxta-Birmingham. The visitors were met at Worcester Station by Mr. James Hinton, sen., who as many of our readers are aware is totally deaf, not being able to hear the least sound; even if a gun was discharged close to his head he would be unable to hear it. He is, however, a good ringer, and is one of a family whose abilities in the art have always stood high in the estimation of local ringers. Previous arrangements having been made, Mr. Hinton conducted the visitors to the Royal Porcelain Works, where they witnessed the various operations necessary for the manufacture of that beautiful ware known as Worcester china—grinding, mixing, turning, painting, gilding, enamelling, etc. Through the kindness of the Rev. Canon Cattley, a good examination of the noble Cathedral and grand peal of bells was made, but owing to something being amiss with the huge frame-work supporting the bells, no ringing could be had. Leaving the sacred pile, a ramble was had through the principal streets of the "faithful city," and the various places of interest—generally of some worth in our ancient Cathedral cities—were seen. The Guildhall, a handsome structure, with its interesting relics, and the Museum was also visited. But as time wore on the party became sensible to the requirements of what is known as "the inner man," and a move was made to "The Shades" inn, where an excellent dinner was enjoyed with gusto. The church of All Saints, having a noble square tower towering above all the other ones in the city except the cathedral, with a very good ring of ten, was visited, and by the kindness of those in authority a touch of Grandsire Caters was rung. Then to St. Helen's church, a ring of eight, where some Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung. A social hour was spent in the evening at the house of Mr. H. Baker, New Street—"The Greyhound." The handbells were here extensively patronised. The major part of the company returned to Birmingham by the 7.55 train, well pleased with their few hours' sojourn in such an interesting city as Worcester. Messrs. J. Carter and T. Horton remained behind, and were hospitably received by Mr. J. Hinton, sen., who entertained them also by tunes and courses on the handbells, which he tapped off, the bells being placed in a box similar to the plan of Elijah Roberts. The visitors were greatly surprised to see a ringer who is so afflicted with a deafness, now it is afraid, past removal, being able to tap handbells with such precision. But ringing skill is not confined to one member of the Hinton family. On the Sunday morning Mr. J. Hinton, jun., arrived from Bristol, and at St. Helen's church, for morning service, 503 of Grandsire Triples was rung. The whole of the visitors wish, through the medium of this paper, to thank the Rectors of All Saints and St. Helen's, the Rev. Canon Cattley, and their various brother-strings, for enhancing the pleasure of their visit.

CAVENDISH, SUFFOLK.

ON Tuesday, July 21st, the nuptials of Miss Prentice, daughter of Mr. William Prentice, of the "White Horse," Cavendish, and Mr. J. S. Page, a member of the Cavendish Company, were celebrated at the parish church. In honour of the happy event his brother-ringers met at the church, and rang immediately after the ceremony a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 25½ mins., and a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 25 mins. After a short interval for refreshment, a 720 of Plain Bob was rung in 23½ mins. An adjournment was then made to the "White Horse," where a capital spread had been prepared by the bride's father, to which ample justice was done. After the cloth had been removed, and the "port" handed round, the chairman (Mr. Alexander Hurst) requested the presence of the happy pair, and gave in suitable terms the toast of their health. After wishing them much happiness, he (the chairman) paid a graceful tribute to the interest which their brother-ringer had manifested in Cavendish ringing, which had enabled them to do so much in the art, and his earnest desire was that in the future their friend would find time to assist Cavendish ringing, and by his strict attention (for they all knew he had the ability) prove an ornament to it. Mr. Page responded in a few well-chosen sentences. After an enjoyable afternoon, another move was made for St. Mary's tower, and a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob rung in 26 mins. The rest of the evening was spent in the "White Horse" in a most enjoyable manner, the liberality of Mr. Prentice being most marked and bountiful. The following rang in the foregoing 720's. Fred. J. Thompson, 1; Fred. Paul Adams, 2; Chas. W. Hurst, 3; Albert Ives, 4; Harry Thompson, 5; Alexander Hurst (conductor), 6. Mr. J. T. Deeks also took part in 120 of Bob Doubles. Throughout the day the striking was really excellent, and drew forth many an expression of praise, everything attempted being brought home without a hitch.

THE SHIPWAY REPRINT

May now be obtained of all news agents in town and country. As in this shape the number of copies printed will only be just enough to cover the demand, it is obvious that those who neglect to obtain the numbers at once will not afterwards have the opportunity.

Each number contains sixteen pages, size of page being the same as the original work, and having about the same quantity of matter per page. Mr. Snowdon will probably add a valuable contribution to the work in the shape of an appendix.

The numbers are printed in a popular style, and on superior paper.

PRICE ONE PENNY.

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One copy, 12 months 6s. 6d.

" 6 " 3s. 3d.

" 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, and performances under 5000 changes must reach us not later than Wednesday morning; and the insertion of any communication coming later than the first Postal delivery on Thursday morning cannot be guaranteed in that week's number. When it is found impossible from want of space to insert all touches forwarded, the earlier ones will have the preference.

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

W. S.—Before the end of the year, at any rate.

B. FAKENHAM (of Woolwich) writes:—"Sir,—Permit me to express my gratification at the style and quality of the paper of the Shipway reprint for if it had been offered at two pence per copy instead of a penny I should have been glad to have taken it even then."

AUDITOR TANTUM.—Yes, please.

G. P. C.—Have a good try. You'll not be let off so easy next time.

The Bell News & Ringers' Record.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1885.

The correspondence which has recently occurred in our columns relative to the performance of a peal of Bob Major at the town of West Malling, in Kent, is sufficient to give rise to the opinion that many peals recorded as having been rung are not altogether what they should be. If it is agreed that this performance at the above-named Kentish town was just what its conductor ingenuously stated it to be—and we ourselves have no reason to think or believe otherwise—yet the correspondence upon the matter is apt to beget a conviction that in these quiet little places, the names of which do not figure upon the schoolboy's map of England, many of these ringing feats will not always bear the strictest inquiry, or sustain the closest examination.

It is not the first time that a performance recorded in our pages as a truthful one has been brought into question. Some time ago a similar instance to the one under consideration occurred, correspondence about which we thought ought to cease long before we stopped it. And here it may be said, that while anything in the way of irregular or incorrect ringing ought to be brought to

light, it is at all times to be wished that disputants should carry on their discussions not only in a gentlemanly manner, but in a brotherly spirit, each side, while exhibiting their wish for real fairness, having for their prime object only the establishment of truth.

The necessity for acquiring a little refinement both in character and language becomes every day more apparent. And to those who enter the lists of argument there is no advice more salutary than this. The illwill and division caused by heated language has been a stumbling-block to many, and has been productive of much evil in many ringing companies. It is still to be feared that when differences of opinion arise, singleness of purpose is not always shown in their debate.

The Provinces.

CHICHESTER, SUSSEX.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Saturday, July 18, 1885, in Three Hours and Eight Minutes,

AT THE CATHEDRAL CAMPANILE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S TEN-PART. Tenor 27 cwt. in Eb.

JAMES R. HAWORTH Treble.	J. MARTIN ROUTH, ESQ. . . . 5.
RICHARD FRENCH 2.	FRANCIS E. DAWE 6.
GEORGE MASH 3.	JOHN M. HAYES 7.
CHALLIS F. WINNY 4.	EDWIN HORREX Tenor.

Conducted by FRANCIS EDWARD DAWE.

This is the first peal on the bells, many of which are 300 years old. The ringers wish to tender their most sincere thanks to the Dean and Chapter for kindly allowing them the use of the Cathedral bells on this occasion.

All the above company hail from London. (For particulars see separate account.)

DUFFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION.

Wedding Peal.

On Thursday, July 23, 1885, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

AT ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

HOLT'S 10-PART. Tenor 16½ cwt.

GEORGE DAWSON Treble.	GEORGE HINGLEY 5.
ARTHUR BERTRAM WARD .. . 2.	ROBERT JOHNSON 6.
EVAN MORETON 3.	JOHN HOWE 7.
WILLIAM HICKLING 4.	SAMUEL JOHNSON Tenor.

Conducted by ARTHUR BERTRAM WARD.

This peal was rung in honor of the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice with H.R.H. Prince Henry of Battenberg.

BURTON-ON-TRENT, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES' ASSOCIATION AND THE ST. PAUL'S SOCIETY, BURTON-ON-TRENT.

Wedding Peal.

On Thursday, July 23, 1885, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,

AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES; Tenor 26 cwt.

REV. JAMES H. FISH Treble.	A. PERCIVAL HEYWOOD .. . 5.
HARRY WAKLEY 2.	JOHN JAGGAR 6.
ARTHUR WAKLEY 3.	THOMAS HOLMES 7.
JOSEPH GRIFFIN 4.	WILLIAM WAKLEY Tenor.

Composed and Conducted by JOHN JAGGAR.

This peal, which is now rung for the first time, is a two-part peal, and contains the 6th twenty-two times wrong and twenty-four times right. It is the 16th peal of Double Norwich rung by the above society, and the conductor's 50th peal, the 50 being made up as follows: Stedman Caters, 1; Superlative Surprise, 5; Double Norwich, 15; Stedman Triples, 7; Treble Bob, 14; Grandsire Triples, 8. The above was rung on the occasion of the marriage of Princess Beatrice. The figures of the peal will appear in a future number.

WORSLEY.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, July 23, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REEVES'S VARIATION. Tenor 21 cwt.

FREDERICK DERBYSHIRE .. Treble.	RICHARD RIDYARD 5.
GEORGE LEE* 2.	THOMAS DERBYSHIRE .. 6.
JOHN WELSBY 3.	JOHN BAGULEY 7.
JAMES HENRY RIDYARD .. 4.	SAMUEL FRYER Tenor.

Conducted by JAMES HENRY RIDYARD.

* First peal. J. Welsby hails from Walkden; the rest are the local company.

HULL, YORKSHIRE.—THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

Wedding Peal.

On Thursday, July 23, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-five Minutes,
AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
REV. C. D. P. DAVIES' No. 4. Tenor 25 cwt.

ALGERNON TAYLOR Treble.	HARRY CUTTER 5.
CHARLES JACKSON 2.	JAMES DIXEY 6.
WILLIAM SOUTHWICK .. 3.	FRANK DRABBLE 7.
HENRY JENKINS 4.	CHARLES BENNETT Tenor.

Conducted by CHARLES JACKSON.

This peal will be found on p. 52* (vol. 2) of "THE BELL NEWS," and is now rung for the first time on the occasion of the marriage of H.R.H. Princess Beatrice.

ECCLES.—THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, July 25, 1885, in Three Hours and Six Minutes,
AT THE PARISH CHURCH,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES.
Tenor 13½ cwt.

EDWARD CASH Treble.	JAMES BARRATT 5.
JOHN WELSBY* 2.	JAMES WOOD 6.
ALFRED EGGINGTON .. 3.	SAMUEL WOOD 7.
WILLIAM JAMES* 4.	*WILLIAM DAVIES Tenor.

Composed and conducted by SAMUEL WOOD.

* First peal in the method. Messrs. Wood Bros. hail from Ashton; Welsby from Walkden; James and Davies from Liverpool; the rest are the local company.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, July 27, 1885, in Two Hours and Fifty-one Minutes,
AT ST. JOHN'S CHURCH,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;
VICARS'S COMPOSITION. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROBERT J. ROBSON* .. Treble.	†CHARLES L. ROUTLEDGE .. 5.
THOMAS DENTON 2.	EDWARD WALLIS 6.
HENRY FERGUSON* .. 3.	†WILLIAM STORY 7.
FRANCIS LEES 4.	*JOHN DIBOLL Tenor.

Conducted by EDWARD WALLIS.

* First peal. † First peal of Triples. This is the first peal in this method on the bells. The 2nd, 6th, and tenor men belong to the Old Newcastle Society, and the rest to the St. John's Guild, Newcastle.

Date Touch.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

BEDFORD.—On Thursday, July 23rd, at St. Mary's church, date touch of 1885 changes in the following methods: 85 of Plain Bob, 360 College Single, and a 720 each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 1 hr. 3 mins. S. Cullip, 1; J. Frossell, 2; T. Foote, 3; J. Atkins, 4; C. W. Clarke (conductor), 5; I. Hills, 6. Tenor 8 cwt. in B.

Miscellaneous.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

SUNDERLAND.—On Saturday, July 25th, at the parish church, 720 each of Oxford Bob and Plain Bob, and 480 of Grandsire Minor, with the tenor covering. W. Henderson, 1; R. Oliver, 2; T. Nanson,

3; J. Chapman, 4; J. Campbell, 5; F. Harrison (conductor), 6; J. Miller, 7. The above company hail from Jarrow with the exception of the third and seventh ringers. Tenor 14 cwt.

JARROW.—On Sunday, July 26th, for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of College Single, in 23 mins. W. Baxter, 1; A. English, 2; W. Henderson, 3; J. Chapman, 4; J. Campbell, 5; F. Harrison (conductor), 6. Tenor 8½ cwt.

THE ST. JAMES'S SOCIETY, LONDON.

LEWISHAM (Kent).—On Tuesday, July 28th, eight members of the above Society made an unsuccessful attempt to ring the Rev. C. D. P. Davies' five-part peal of Grandsire Triples, at St. Mary's church, the peal coming to grief after 2000 changes were completed, in 1 hr. 5 mins. Harry William Grout, 1; William Pead, 2; William Weatherstone, 3; William Henry Freeman, 3; Frederick William Thornton, 5; William Henry Bowles, 6; Abraham George Freeman, 7; Joseph Laws, 8. Conducted by William W. Thornton, and rung to celebrate the 20th birthday of Harry W. Grout, both of St. Alphege, Greenwich. Another lengthy touch of Grandsire Triples was also rung by the same band, with the exception of William Pead, whose place was taken by William G. Shade. Conducted by Abraham George Freeman. Tenor 23 cwt. in Eb.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION AND ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Sunday, July 19th, for Divine Service, a 720 of Morning Exercise. F. Bumpstead, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; S. Hammond (conductor), 3; H. E. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin, 5; Ezra Carter, 6. On the occasion of the wedding of Prince Henry of Battenberg and Princess Beatrice, July 22nd, seven 720's in seven different methods was rung during the day, the methods and ringers as follows: 720 of Oxford Treble Bob at 6.0 a.m., 720 of New London at 11.0 a.m., 720 of London Scholars at 12 a.m., 720 of Cambridge Surprise, 720 of College Exercise, 720 of Woodbine at one standing at 5.0 p.m., 720 of Kent Treble Bob at 8.30 p.m. F. Bumpstead, 1; F. Calthorpe, 2; S. Hammond, 3; H. E. Hammond, 4; F. Rudkin (conductor), 5; A. Huckson, 6.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHERITON (Kent).—On Sunday, July 26th, at the parish church, for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 27 mins. A. Beer (Lyminge), 1; R. Andrews (Lyminge), 2; W. Driscoll (Cheriton), 3; J. Andrews (Lyminge), 4; F. Rolfe (Cheriton), 5; A. Tanton (Lyminge; conductor), 6. Tenor 7½ cwt.

MEREWORTH (Kent).—On Sunday, July 19th, at St. Lawrence's church, a 720 of Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 25 mins. W. Bellingham, 1; G. Bishop, sen., 2; F. G. Newman, 3; G. Bishop, jun., 4; W. Eldridge, 5; H. Pearce (conductor), 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. These bells have lately been rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank, of Whitechapel.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Thursday, July 23rd, at St. Martin's church, a 720 of Bob Minor (twenty-two singles and eight bobs), in 27 mins. Charles Slingsby, 1; David Hodgkin, 2; William Post, jun., 3; Fred Wanstall, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; Philip Hodgkin, 6. Also a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor (twelve bobs), in 27 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; D. Hodgkin, 2; Edward Hyder, 4; F. Wanstall, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. The above was rung in honour of the marriage of Princess Beatrice to Prince Henry of Battenberg. Tenor 14 cwt in G.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

HAUGHTON (Lancashire).—*Birth-day Peal.*—On Sunday, July 26th, for Divine Service in the morning at St. Anne's church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. James A. Thomas, 1; John Bardsley, 2; Wm. Wilde (conductor), 3; John S. Leech, 4; John Howard, 5; Peter Smith, 6. And for Divine Service in the evening, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 27 mins. John S. Leech, 1; John Bardsley, 2; Wm. Wilde, 3; James A. Thomas, 4; John Howard, 5; Peter Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt. in G. These were rung to commemorate the 21st birthday of Wm. Wilde, and his brother ringers wish him many happy returns of the day.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

BINFIELD (Berks).—On Saturday, July 25th, at the parish church of All Saints', a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. T. Woolford (first 720 of Minor), 1; F. Bissley, 2; H. Rogers, 3; W. A. Garraway (conductor), 4; R. Smith, 5; E. Rogers, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. The above is the first 720 of Minor on the bells, which were augmented to six by the addition of a treble about 3 years ago by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

BLACKBURN (Lancashire).—On Wednesday, July 22nd, at the Parish Church, for practice, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 27 mins. E. J. Gorse, 1; H. Sagar, 2; R. Lund, 3; T. Sharples, 4; W. Clark (conductor), 5; S. Aldrich, 6.

CAPEL (Surrey).—On Sunday, July 26th, the Capel ringers, with some friends, rang a 720 of College Exercise Minor. G. Williams, 1; A. Tidy, 2; R. Jordan, 3; E. Jordan, 4; W. Wadey, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6. Also 240 in the same method. G. Moore, 1; A. Tidy, 2; R. Jordan, 3; H. Chantler, 4; W. Wadey, 5; D. Jordan, 6. Also a 720 of Kent Treble Bob. G. Moore, 1; A. Tidy, 2; G. Williams, 3; R. Jordan, 4; E. Jordan, 5; D. Jordan (conductor), 6. G. Williams hails from Reigate; W. Wadey from Billingshurst; H. Chantler from Warnham.

EASTHAM (Cheshire).—On Saturday, July 18th, at St. Mary's church a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (sixteen bobs and two singles), in 25½ mins. H. Coley, 1; C. E. Wilson (conductor), 2; T. R. Somerville, 3; T. Rushton, 4; R. Stockley, 5; J. Hughes, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in A. H. Coley hails from Liverpool; Wilson, Somerville, Rushton, and Stockley from Walton; and J. Hughes belongs to the local company.

HAMPSTEAD (Middlesex).—On Tuesday, July 21st, the local company rang on St. Stephen's bells, a 1133 of Grandsire Caters. S. Clarke, 1; G. Newson (conductor), 2; B. Payne, 3; B. Foskett, 4; H. Tyler, 5; C. Deal, 6; W. Pryor, 7; N. Alderman, 8; E. Chapman, 9; W. Arcscott, 10. This was rung on the occasion of a double wedding at the Parish Church: the eldest surviving son and the third daughter of Mr. Bell, Churchwarden, of Bayford House, Rosslyn Park, were married—the former to Miss Mary Jessie M. Wahl, of Neuwied, on the Rhine, the ceremony being performed by the Rev. M. G. Tracy, senior curate; and the latter to Mr. Arthur Swayne Underwood, son of Mr. Thomas Underwood, of Bedford Square, the service being read by the Rev. S. B. Burnaby, assisted by the Rev. John Swayne, vicar of Willingale Doe, Essex, and the Rev. Francis Key Underwood, curate of St. Andrews, Wells Street, and brother of the bridegroom.

KIRK ELLA (Yorks).—On Monday, July 27th, on the occasion of the opening of the Hull and Barnsley Railway for passenger traffic, the following company from Hull rang at the parish church, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. C. Bennett, 1; A. Taylor (conductor), 2; F. Drabble, 3; J. Dixey, 4; W. Southwick, 5; C. Jackson, 6. Tenor 20 cwt. The company afterwards spent a pleasant hour in ringing courses and tunes upon the handbells, songs and recitations, and returned to Hull by the new railway.

LIVERSEDGE (Yorkshire).—*Muffled Peal.*—On Thursday, July 23rd, at Christ Church, the local company rang 1248 of Kent Treble Bob Major, with the bells deeply muffled in memory of the late Mr. George Carter, of Tong, who was interred that day, and followed by a numerous party of ringers. He had been a ringing visitor at Liversedge for nearly 50 years, and was highly esteemed by his brother ringers. J. Whitworth, 1; J. Knott, 2; W. Firth, 3; L. Illingworth, 4; H. Brook, 5; M. Ramsden, 6; G. Illingworth, 7; W. Collins (conductor), 8.

MELBOURNE (Derbyshire).—On Sunday, July 26th, for morning service, the local company rang 240 of Bob Minor. J. R. Wood, 1; G. A. Fish, 2; J. Vickers, 3; F. W. Cook, 4; T. Hollingworth, 5; T. C. Tunicliff (conductor), 6. Also for evening service, a 180 of Bob Minor, the band standing as before, and a 6-score of Bob Doubles, conducted by T. Hollingworth. Tenor 16 cwt.

OCKLEY (Surrey).—On Sunday, July 26th, four of the Capel ringers, with W. Wadey, of Billingshurst, and H. Chantler of Warnham, rang at St. Margaret's church a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. G. Moore, 1; A. Mills, 2; W. Wadey, 3; R. Jordan, 4; D. Jordan, 5; H. Chantler (conductor), 6. Also a 360 of Kent Treble Bob. G. Moore, 1; R. Jordan, 2; W. Wadey, 3; A. Mills, 4; D. Jordan (conductor), 5; H. Chantler, 6.

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Tuesday evening, July 21st, at St. Mary's Church, a 252 of Bob Minor (eight singles and three bobs). Hy. Symonds (conductor), 1; Wm. Hollocks, 2; A. Symonds, 3; H. Smith, 4; G. Hammond, 5; J. Bird, 6. The above was rung in honour of the twenty-first birthday of the 2nd ringer, being the number of months he has now lived, his brother ringers wishing him many happy returns of the day. Also a 720 in the same method (fourteen bobs and two singles), in 27 mins. Hy. Symonds, 1; Wm. Hollocks, 2; P. C. S. Scott (conductor), 3; A. Hollocks, 4; G. Hammond, 5; J. Bird, 6. Messrs. Scott, Hammond, and Bird hail from Long Melford, Symonds and Smith from Lavenham; the rest belong to the local company.

WOMBOURN (Staffordshire).—On Sunday morning, July 26th, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor (eighteen bobs and two singles), in 26 mins. G. Deans, 1; *A. Little, 2; H. Deans, 3; *W. Devey, 4; *R. Cartwright (conductor), 5; J. E. Claridge, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. *Midland Counties' Association.

ST. JOHN'S COMPANY, PIMLICO, MIDDLESEX.

On Saturday, July 11th, the young band of ringers from the above church enjoyed their annual outing. About 8.30 a.m. all assembled at St. John's, Wilton Road, and when all was ready, the first thing was to be photographed on the steps of the mission-house, which has since proved quite a success, as they were well arranged with the principals seated in front, holding a pair of handbells, and whilst all the others were standing on the steps holding one each, but as a few members could not possibly be there until later in the day, it was decided that Mr. Bailey, the photographer, should accompany the party for the purpose of taking further negatives. Shortly afterwards, an enormous arrangement with an *upstairs* and a *downstairs* hove in sight, and drove up with three horses, and the party having taken seat, started in a northern direction for Hertfordshire. Nothing of interest took place until a stoppage was made half-way, and here the feelings of all were damped at witnessing a most determined suicide only a few yards in front. Later on in the morning, four of them rung a touch of Grandsire Triples on the handbells whilst riding along, and at last the illustrious party arrived at the very picturesque village of Northaw, and having had a wash, the pretty church of St. Thomas a'Becket was first visited. The belfry contains six bells, tenor 10 cwt. in A natural, and all went so well, that it was very pleasant to handle them, even on such a hot day. The ringing-room is a well appointed apartment, the cleanliness and fittings of which does one's heart good to see, and is one of the nicest six bell towers possible to find. All having had a pull, a good dinner was the next on the programme, after which the party visited the hayfields, and then went boating on a very sequestered and most beautiful lake about thirty feet deep. Here the party enjoyed themselves among the trees round it, and on it, whilst a gallant few sought refuge in it, in order to be better acquainted therewith; and as St. John's can boast of having several prize winners at swimming, the spectacle was pleasing and interesting in the extreme.

After tea, the Rev. W. S. Kelly, and the Rev. O. P. Yerburgh, made a few remarks, saying how glad they were to see so many present, and that everyone had so thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Mr. F. E. Dawe in returning thanks, said it was always a pleasure to be with such a promising and first class company, as he had originally learnt to ring at St. John's, and some excellent ringers had been turned out from there, and that many more promised to be quite as good, and he and Mr. Gover, as the leaders, could always depend on what support they required. A vote of thanks to the Rev. W. Bonsey, for the use of the bells, and his kindness to them, was then passed. Several 120's of Grandsire Doubles were then rung on the tower bells (which it may be remembered were opened by this company some thirteen months ago), and after the Rev. W. Bonsey had accomplished his first 120 with the treble, and the handbells had been rung on the vicarage lawn, two more photographs were taken of the party, which consisted of the Rev. W. S. Kelly, Rev. O. P. Yerburgh, Messrs. F. E. Dawe, F. T. Gover, C. F. Winny, J. H. Martyn, J. Pullman, R. A. Sparkes, C. Teesdale, R. C. Hart, C. Simmonds, F. Gross, A. Woolley, W. C. Holden, A. Hart, H. Walsh, A. Ayres, W. Chew, H. Woodford, and E. Harris. About 8 o'clock, the party mounted their chariot and started for London. Songs, etc., were freely indulged in, and the vocal powers of Mr. Ayres and others were well brought to the front, and at about 10.30 the merry-hearted charioteers pulled up in Wilton Road, all agreeing that they had spent a most enjoyable day.

CHRIST CHURCH SOCIETY, MITCHAM, SURREY.

On Saturday, July 25th, six members of the above society paid a visit to Mr. and Mrs. Harris, of Gorrage Park, Mitcham, (who are the donors of the bells), it being the anniversary of Mr. Harris's birthday, and rang some Grandsire Doubles on their handbells, after which they were very kindly entertained by Mr. and Mrs. Harris. Having refreshed the inner man, some more Doubles were rang on the handbells, and an adjournment was made to the church, where several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung on the church bells. Having thus spent an hour in ringing on the church bells, another adjournment was made to Mr. Churchwarden Nobes' house, where an excellent tea was provided. Having done justice to the good things provided, the handbells were then again brought out, and some more Doubles rang by some, while others enjoyed themselves at Lawn Tennis, which brought a very pleasant evening too soon to a close. The ringers wish to thank Mr. and Mrs. Harris, and Mr. and Mrs. Nobes for their kindness, and hope that they may long be spared to enjoy the blessing of God. The ringers were very sorry that their kind Vicar, the Rev. F. S. Legg, was prevented being with them. H. J. Schneider (conductor), 1; J. Kohler, 2; D. Burtenshaw, 3; R. Reynolds, 4; E. Burtenshaw, 5; C. Schneider, 6. Tenor 7½ cwt. in Eb. Mr. A. Nicholson also took part in some handbell ringing.

A VISIT TO STANFORD-LE-HOPE, ESSEX.

Readers of this journal will remember the detailed description, which we gave twelve months ago, of the new ring of six which had just been put up under the personal supervision of Mr. Gervas Holmes, at St. Margaret's, Stanford-le-Hope, the opening of which was hailed with delight by the natives, and was well deserving of the special attention of the Exercise at large. Doubtless some may have watched for reports of the progress made in the art upon such a magnificent maiden ring, hung with the most modern inventions the science has suggested, and with mechanism that is faultless. The village at present, whatever its future may be, is partly agricultural, and partly a fruit-growing district, the produce of the latter consisting of enormous quantities of delicious strawberries, which in season are daily sent for the mouths of the hardworking cockneys. A local band has been started, and under the able tuition of Mr. W. Eve, is making progress, but unfortunately a majority of the rising generation, like those in most agricultural districts, is a moving one, hence the absence of an elaborate report of progress. With a view of stimulating the natives to seek a knowledge of the art, and in order to enjoy a pull in such a model belfry, the following band of the Essex Association visited the village on Sunday, July 26th. J. Nunn (Walthamstow), A. Pye (Little Heath), C. Waskett, E. Scotcher, and H. Braizer (Widford), A. J. Perkins and B. Keeble (Romford). The band not only secured permission to ring, but received a hearty welcome from the rector, Dr. Sedgwick, and Mrs. Sedgwick, who also kindly provided dinner and tea in a marquee in front of the rectory, an act of kindness which was highly appreciated and duly acknowledged. The visit of the band evidently created some little attention in the village, the inhabitants listening to the ringing with apparent delight. In acknowledging the thanks of the band, Mrs. Sedgwick expressed the pleasure listening to the ringing had afforded her, and remarked that she considered it a clergyman's duty to take an interest in the belfry of his church and not allow it to become like those that when she requested permission to visit, she was informed was not fit for a lady to enter. The "go" of the bells remains as satisfactory as ever, and during the day the band rang 720 each of Plain, Oxford Treble, and Grandsire Minor, besides touches. There is not a shadow of doubt but what the rector is the right man in the right place, and takes as much interest in the tower and its contents, which were erected through his exertions, as he does with any other portion of the church. His hospitality, his welcome to the band, the entire use of the tower for the whole of the afternoon (dispensing with a short service), were such as is seldom met with; under such guardianship there is no reason why, with a little coaching, there should not exist a talented company at St. Margaret's. Mr. W. Eve, who has the local company in hand, kindly met the band on Sunday, and besides taking part in some of the ringing, left no stone unturned in adding to the day's pleasure. During the day a visit was paid to the top of the tower, from which can be seen for miles the surrounding country, with its golden fields of corn, some of which had already fallen before the reaper.

THE RECENT ACCIDENT TO A RINGING PARTY.

The following sums have been received for the purpose of helping to defray the great loss sustained by Mr. H. F. Wood in this unfortunate affair:—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
Rev. E. S.	2	6	G. Dorrington	2	0
J. West	2	0	H. J. Shade	2	6
J. W. Snowdon, Esq.	10	0	G. Russell, Croydon	1	0
W. Banister	5	0	H. Pearce	2	0
Bedfordshire Association	5	0	F. Newman	2	0
St. Martin's, Salisbury	10	0	R. Turner	2	0
St. Peter's, Leeds, Yorks	5	0	T. Dupen	2	6
H. Edwards	2	6	W. Prime	2	0
J. Dwight	2	6	W. Cooter	2	6
I. Shade	5	0	J. Davidson	3	0
R. S. Story	5	0	Widford and Galleywood C.R.	5	0
E. Wallege	2	0	H. Lewis, St. Albans	5	0
J. Barrett	2	0	S. Joyce	2	6
J. Comb	5	0	J. H. Monday	5	6
Spalding, SS. Mary and Nicolas	3	0	M. A. Wood	10	0
D. Newton	1	0	A. Hayward	2	0
J. Dupen	2	0	W. Cecil	2	0
C. Lee	1	0	A. B. Goody	5	6
C. Beech	1	0	Mr. Lewis Green	2	0
J. West (second donation)	3	0	St. Mary's society, Walthamstow	10	0
J. Barry	1	0	Thomas Clark, Sharow, Ripon	5	0
T. Powell, Waltham Abbey	2	6	I. S.	5	0
J. Baxter, Leamington, late of Devonport	5	0	H. Dains	2	0
J. R. Jerram, Salisbury	2	6	C. A. Clements, Salisbury	2	6
S. Margaret's Society, Wolstanton, Staffordshire	5	0	W. Story, Newcastle-on-Tyne	2	6
			G. Banks, Lower Kennington Lane	2	6
			D. Newton (second subscription)	1	0

Further donations, however small, are urgently solicited. Mr. Matthew Wood, 11 Church Row, Bethnal Green, London, will be happy to give any further information, and will thankfully acknowledge any sums forwarded to him.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

THIS Guild held its annual festival at Bournemouth, on Tuesday, July 21st. Members from all parts of the diocese arrived safely at this distant corner by 11.30, just in time for the service which commenced at St. Peter's church, at 12 o'clock. A beautiful and impressive service was performed by the efficient choir of this grand church. The prayers were said and the lesson read by the vicar, the Rev. G. S. Ram, and an able and interesting address was given to the ringers by the Rev. N. J. Spicer, M.A., Rector of Wonston. The text was Dan. iii., v. 4, 5. In it allusion was made to the history of the use of bells for purposes of calling people to the House of God, and especially in England. He remarked upon the great improvement that had taken place in late years in the reverence paid to belfries as integral parts of the House of God, and he exhorted the men to remember the sacredness and importance of their office, and that they had as much to do with the musical portion of church worship as the choir and organist. Two special hymns, set to music by Cameron Brock, Esq. (a performing member of the Guild) were admirably rendered by the choir.

A capital dinner was served in the Town Hall, at which about 160 members were assembled under the presidency of the President of the Guild, W. W. Moore, Esq., of Bournemouth, supported by the Rev. G. S. Ram, Rev. P. Lory, Rev. A. du B. Hill, Rev. F. Whyley, Rev. N. J. Spicer, Rev. T. H. Bush, W. Scott Evans, Esq., Gerard Hall, Esq., and the Rev. H. A. Spyers. At the conclusion of the dinner, the president proposed the toast of "The Queen," and alluded to the marriage of Princess Beatrice, which was to take place two days later. After this came the election of officers: W. W. Moore, Esq. was re-elected President, and the Rev. H. A. Spyers, Treasurer and Secretary, and all the old members of committee were re-elected. Thanks were given to the vicar of Bournemouth for the use of his belfry and the cordial welcome given to the Guild by the local band.

The Guild now numbers 235 performing members. Ten new bands have joined the Guild, and ten complete peals have been rung and inserted in the new peal-book, so that both as regards numbers and efficiency, the Guild bids fair to rank as one of the leading Associations of change-ringers in the kingdom. In the afternoon excursions were made to Poole, Wimborne, Ringwood (eight bells), and to Lyndhurst and Eling (six bells). At Poole the Soberton, Fareham, and Havant bands rang two 504s of Grandsire Triples, the men standing as follows: First 504—W. Naylor, 1; C. Privett, 2; J. Staples, 3; F. Hill (conductor), 4; J. Hewett, 5; G. H. Child, 6; J. W. Whiting, 7; G. Grafham, 8. Second 504—A. Payne, 1; J. Hewett, 2; G. Grafham, 3; F. Hill (conductor), 4; J. Staples, 5; G. H. Child, 6; J. W. Whiting, 7; H. Matthews, 8. At Wimborne Minster, on a grand ring (tenor 32 cwt.), some first-rate ringing was done by the Leatherhead band, including a 504 of Grandsire Triples. It was remarked by one of the local ringers that such good ringing had not been heard in Wimborne for the last twenty-four years. At St. Peter's, Bournemouth, touches of Grandsire were rung by the Privett, Farnham, Godalming, and Weybrigde bands, assisted by the Rev. A. du B. Hill (the former secretary and founder of the Guild). Good accounts have been received of the ringing at Lyndhurst, Ringwood, and Eling. All parties are agreed that this year's meeting has been one of the most successful that has ever been held by the Association. Altogether twenty-three bands sent representatives to the festival.

SPALDING, LINCOLNSHIRE.

On Wednesday, July 22nd, a committee meeting, to provide two new bells for SS. Mary and Nicolas, was held in the Guild Room under the presidency of Canon Moore. A. Maples, Esq., attended, and said it was the wish of his brothers and sisters they should give the treble bell, which was accepted, and W. J. E. Hobson, Esq., Secretary, announced that sufficient funds was now raised to complete the object in view. A small committee, consisting of Canon Moore, W. J. E. Hobson, Esq., W. Wright, Esq., engineer, was selected to carry out the scheme. Mr. J. Wright, bellhanger, was called in, and orders were given him to proceed at once with the work, Warner and Son being selected to supply the bells.

ST. MARY'S, BEDDINGTON, SURREY.

THE members of the above Society will hold their sixteenth anniversary on Bank Holiday, August 3rd. Any ringers honoring the members with their company will receive a hearty welcome.

WANTED.—Thoroughly experienced church bell hanger for permanency. One who can take notes of bells preferred. None need apply but competent steady men, to GILLET & Co., Croydon.

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."

ELIJAH ROBERTS.

SIR.—Mr. Snowdon's article in "THE BELL NEWS" of July 11th, on Elijah Roberts, will no doubt be read by the Exercise with much interest and curiosity, especially by those who, like myself, have had some experience in tapping change-ringing. Besides some special ability which a person must necessarily possess to enable him to proceed far with change-ringing in this manner, I have always been of opinion that only those who are great admirers of the music which change-ringing produces could ever have the patience to make much progress, and no doubt Elijah Roberts was an admirer in the highest degree. I commenced tapping changes about the middle of my teens, and have tapped off all the best known methods on five and six bells, to the extent of the changes, but never attempted more than plain courses and touches on higher numbers, for the reason that, whilst I could tap off a 720 on six bells with ease, less than half the number on eight would cause the muscles to ache intensely, which was produced, as I imagined, by the increased action of the arms. Under these circumstances I was inclined to believe that to tap a 5000 would be an impossibility without rest, not having heard of the extraordinary feats achieved by Elijah Roberts. The degree of easiness with which tapping can be performed, no doubt depends in a great measure on the position of the bells. Roberts' frame, as described by Mr. Snowdon, is the best I ever saw, the large bells on one hand and the small ones on the other, and cover the least possible space. My bells, fourteen in number, size 21, old Eb, are hung in two rows of seven each, mouths downwards, the small bells running from right to left and the large ones left to right, and consequently take up a large space. As I believe there are several in the present day who more or less practice the tapping of changes in their leisure time, it would be interesting to know what progress they have made in this branch of the science.

Wakefield.

JNO. T. HOLLIS.

BELLS AND RINGERS IN 1885.

SIR.—Your correspondent, Mr. W. J. Rees, has set me a somewhat difficult task in correcting his list. I have only been about two and a half years in Wiltshire, and I cannot possibly tell whether he has omitted any rings. I may say, however, that the ring at Berwick St. John's has just been augmented to six, which he has not mentioned. As to weights of tenors, the present tenor at Trowbridge (cast by Blews) weighs 23 cwt. The old one (by Wells), was only 21 cwt. St. Martin's, Salisbury, is 15 cwt. (not 13 cwt.) The old ringers used to say 19 cwt. St. Thomas, Salisbury, is generally supposed to weigh 32 cwt. Old ringers would tell you 36 cwt. or perhaps more. Wilton tenor is 8½ cwt.

J. R. JERRAM.

A QUERY.

SIR.—In the belfry of St. Mary's, Kidderminster, there is a peal-board with the following inscription: "On Monday, August 29th, 1765, in 3 hours 11 minutes, was rung a peal of Grandsire Triples. T. Webb, 1; F. Rook, 2; J. Preen, 3; W. Pugh, 4; T. Little, 5; A. Peak, 6; J. Bradley, 6; B. Stone and E. Lewis, Tenor." No conductor's name is given. I should be very glad if any of your readers could give me any information about the ringers mentioned.

34, Park Walk, Fulham Road, S.W.

E. F. STRANGE.

BELFRY REFORM.

SIR.—Since my first letter on the above subject, several correspondents have given their ideas thereon, and have touched upon some points hitherto unnoticed. To sum the matter up, the reform needed seems to be fourfold, viz.: (1), Reform in the use of church bells; (2), Reform in the ringers themselves; (3), Reform in the belfry arrangements, as to keeping everything in proper repair; (4), Reform in the manner of ringing (*i.e.*, the cultivation of scientific change-ringing). Now when I say that reform in all these four points is needed, I do not mean to imply that there are not a great many belfries in which all these four matters are carefully attended to, and many more in which one or more are looked to. Taking them in the order in which I have placed them, the first thing to be observed seems to me to be the use of bells for church purposes; that is, to ensure ringing of some kind on the four great festivals of the church, viz.: Easter Day, Ascension Day, Whit-Sunday, and Christmas Day. Whether this ringing is to be only round-ringing, or change-ringing, or whether the ringers must be all strict churchmen or not, must be a secondary consideration. This having been provided for, other occasions may be looked to, such as the Queen's birthday, Coronation, Mayor's day, etc. Having provided for all this, the ringers themselves become the next consideration. Of course it is desirable as far as possible to employ those who are strict Churchmen, but this is a matter in which

it will not do to be too stiff, especially if you wish to cultivate change-ringing in a district where change-ringers are few and far between. Then comes the state of the bells and fittings, and the comfort and convenience of the ringers. Perhaps I ought to have put this first. I have not done so, because a well fitted belfry and bells in good order, although necessary for the practice of change-ringing, do not in all cases in themselves forward the art, or raise the moral tone of the ringers, as is supposed by some. Having settled these three points, we now come to the cultivation of change-ringing. This is really the most difficult of all, especially if you may not happen to be situated in a change-ringing district. I cannot here give any directions as to the best mode of teaching young ringers, as I am writing on the subject of Belfry Reform, and not on the art of change-ringing. Now just a word or two on some of the common mistakes often made by those in authority. Some think that if they can get a body of young men together to practice the art that they are necessarily promoting the proper use of church bells. Not at all. The young company may practice one or more evenings a week with varied success as to proficiency, and never attend at all to ring on such days as the bells ought to be rung upon. I grant that the formation of such a company may do good in one way, viz.: by providing something to interest the young men of the parish, and perhaps keeping some of them from mischief; but this is not the primary object. Again: the practice of scientific change-ringing, whether by an old or a young company, has not necessarily anything to do with the proper use of bells for church purposes, although it may be made subservient thereto. Anybody knows that with a great many the sole object is to meet at some place where the bells go well, and on some convenient day to go for some particular length in some particular method; nor can they be blamed for so doing. All honour to those who have achieved long peals in difficult methods; but it must be borne in mind that this has nothing to do with the Church, her festivals or services. When we can get all the above mentioned points combined, then—and not until then—shall we have arrived at anything like perfection in Belfry Reform.

J. R. JERRAM.

ANSWER TO MR. SYKES.

SIR.—In answer to Mr. A. Sykes, of Huddersfield, I am sorry to see that he is so thin-skinned, as to take exception to my proving his peal, and finding it false I should not have troubled myself to have sent you word, but I thought a set of ringers might possibly ring it under the impression that it was a true peal. It is false in the following places:—

7 6 4 8 5 2 3	1st course.	8 5 3 4 7 6 2	8th course.
2 4 6 5 8 3 7	17th course.	2 3 5 7 4 8 6	17th course.
3 5 2 6 8 4 7	2nd course.	3 4 6 7 5 8 2	2nd course.
7 2 5 8 6 3 4	11th course.	8 6 4 5 7 2 3	18th course.
8 2 5 6 7 3 4	3rd course.	6 3 5 4 8 2 7	7th course.
4 5 2 7 6 8 3	12th course.	7 5 3 8 4 6 2	16th course.

The above are all the places I have had time to examine, but I think I have shown quite sufficient to prove what an excellent composition it is, and I should certainly advise Mr. Sykes before he again rushes into print with a false peal, to get some kind friend to prove it for him, or what would be far better to learn to prove peals before he begins to compose them.

TOM LOCKWOOD.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

THE Annual Meeting was held at Croydon, by the kind permission of the Vicar, on Tuesday, July 28th. Proceedings began shortly before half-past four, with some Grandsire Triples on the church bells for the afternoon service at 5 o'clock. About twenty-seven members sat down to tea at the Victoria Coffee Tavern at 5.30, the Vicar taking the head of the table. After tea, the usual business meeting was held, at which the election of three members was ratified, viz.: Mr. Church, of Battersea, Mr. Brickwood, of Thames Ditton, and Mr. Schneider, of Mitcham, and three new members were elected, viz., Messrs. Down and Dudley, jun., of Croydon, and Mr. W. H. Fussell, of Slough. The committee and officers were then re-elected for the ensuing year. It was arranged that the next district meeting should be held at Epsom, on Saturday, September 5th, and the next Quarterly Meeting at St. James's, Bermondsey, on Monday, October 12th. After a vote of thanks to the chairman, the party adjourned to the church, where the Vicar held a short special service for the members of the Association, ending with an address on the "Ministry of bell ringing." He pointed out that on each of the various occasions when church bells are rung, the ringing is either an actual service in the worship of God, or is a preparation for such service; and ended by wishing God speed to the Association, and all its members. After the service, the bells were kept going until about nine o'clock, in various seven bell methods, for Major is an impossibility on account of the bad going of the tenor.

A. B. CARPENTER, Hon. Sec.

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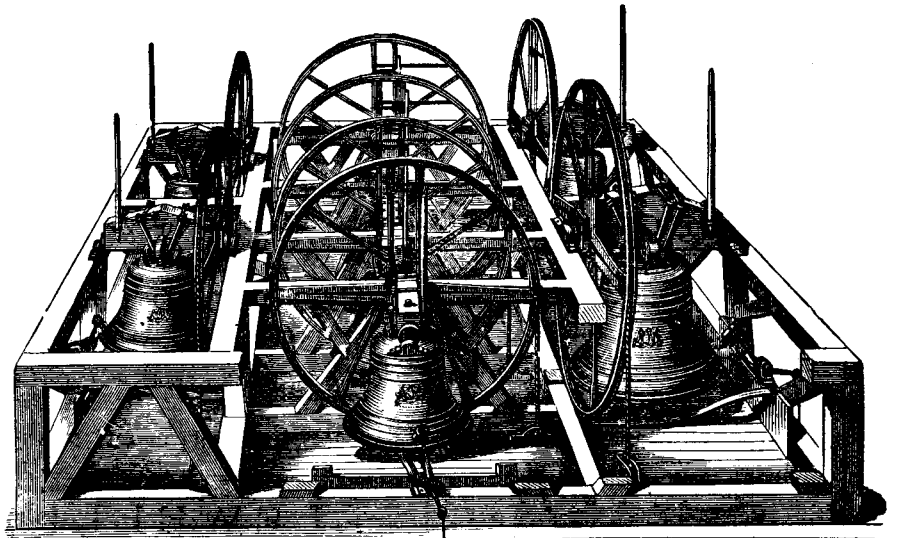
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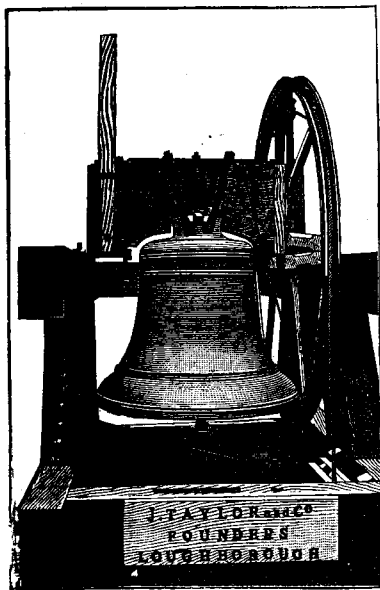
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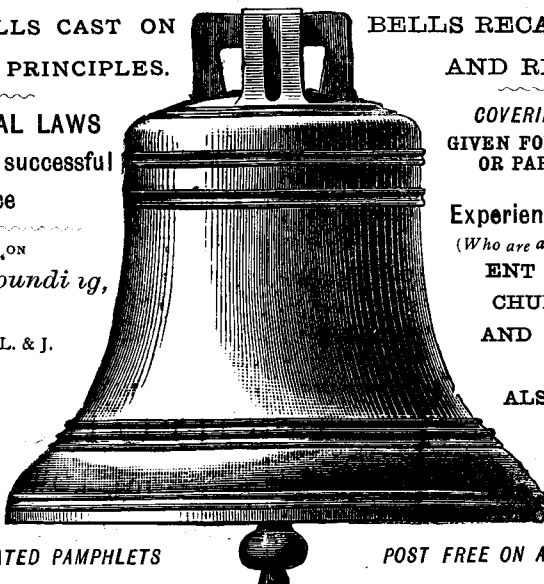
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