

THE BELL NEWS

AND RINGERS' RECORD:

A JOURNAL OF THE RINGING EXERCISE; And COMPENDIUM OF INFORMATION FOR THE CLERGY & CHURCHWARDENS.

No. 1.—VOL. I.

FEBRUARY, 1881.

[ONE PENNY.]

THE EDITOR'S ADDRESS.

THE commencement of an enterprise of the character of a journal, especially one devoted to the interests or fancies of a class, is not, as a rule, devoid of anxiety and care on the part of those who become its sponsors. Many influences are seemingly at work, it may be for a brief period, to unhinge the minds of those who embark in such an undertaking. And this applies with almost equal force to those whose lot it is to hold some sort of sway—and responsibility, indeed—as to the proper conduct of its columns. In these prefatory remarks, we would, however, have it understood that while exceedingly desirous of meriting the approbation of our readers and patrons, we are sanguine that this journal, which is devoted to the special purpose its name indicates, will meet with success. That it is an undertaking of no mean order, inflicting care and responsibility upon those who are immediately concerned, we are in a position amply to testify. But in connection with our proceedings so far, we have been cheered from all parts of the United Kingdom with words of encouragement, accompanied with hearty promises of support; the first results of our labours therefore now appear. Everything that was promised in the prospectus issued previous to publication has, to use a phrase now become historical, “been literally fulfilled;” and though it may be contrary to editorial precedents to do so, perhaps, we will attempt to shadow forth in some degree what our aims will henceforth be in the management of these columns.

The present aspect of the BELL NEWS AND RINGERS RECORD may be considered by some to be of too diminutive proportions. The assertion may nevertheless safely be hazarded that at the price at which it is published, nothing has yet appeared possessing a greater quantity of intelligence which claims to be interesting to the Exercise. A wise saying it is that “we should never despise the day of small things.” It is dependent solely upon those for whom our paper is intended whether it assumes larger proportions or not. We are of opinion, and that opinion is shared by

those who possess a practical knowledge of such a question, that the future sketched out for this journal will, in a shorter time than some imagine, become realised. It has been cynically observed that the components of the ringing community are of such a heterogeneous character that their unitive faculties are not sufficiently adhesive to support a paper established in the interests of ringing. This is a reproach which personal experience of our ringing brethren does not at all warrant, and the prosperity of the BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD will be a sufficient confutation of it.

The ultimate object in view for this journal is not only that it may develop into a weekly issue, but that its usefulness and attractions may be augmented by illustrations; portraits of eminent ringers, with biographical sketches and records of their performances; and other pertinent matter. The discussion of any subjects offensively irrelevant to ringing and its surroundings will be eschewed, nor will our columns be allowed to become a vehicle of partisanship of any kind whatever. While avoiding the least semblance of offence, or favoritism to one society or the other, we shall act fearlessly, according to our lights, when occasion presents itself requiring our testimony. As the ringing Exercise enjoys, happily, so close a connection with the Church, and as many of the clergy are among our immediate supporters, while some of them are clever executants, exertions to conduct our paper so that all connected with the Establishment may find in it some interest, will be strenuously made.

It is absolutely necessary, in the conduct of this or any other paper, that some responsible editorial management should have a place, but it is nevertheless desired that the ringing community will not fail to comprehend that this journal is one peculiarly their own, and they are thus cordially invited to become contributors to its columns. Anything received for this purpose, together with any suggestions as to the paper, will receive the most careful consideration.

With this expression of views and purposes, we submit to the discernment of the exercise, the first number of THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD.

REPORTS OF MEETINGS, &c.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION QUARTERLY MEETING.—The January meeting of this society was held at the headquarters, Leeds, on Saturday, January 1st, when there was a good muster of members, the twelve bells of the Parish Church and the rings of eight at Holbeck and Hunslet being at the disposal of the Association during the day. A general meeting was held during the afternoon, when the president, Jasper W. Snowdon, Esq., took the chair. Notices of proposed alterations in the rules were given, the principal of these alterations, which will be considered at the April meeting, was one giving the society power to remit the further subscriptions of members when ten years' annual subscriptions, or an equivalent amount, has been paid. The April meeting of the Association was appointed to be held at Bingley on April the 23rd, the Saturday in Easter week. Before the conclusion of the meeting the President said that he had been requested by the committee, for the information of the members present, to read a circular announcing the publication of *The Bell News and Ringers' Record*. After this circular had been read the hon. secretary, Mr. William Whitaker, addressed the meeting in approval of the projected paper, and remarked that as it was to be devoted solely to the interests of change-ringing it would entirely depend upon the amount of interest that ringers themselves took in the matter whether it was successful or not. He therefore impressed on his hearers the great advisability of their supporting the new paper, and endeavouring to promote its circulation so that, at least, it might have a fair start and trial during the first year, and thereafter be allowed to stand or fall according to its merits. A vote of thanks was passed to the various authorities for the use of the bells at the different churches, after which a vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the business.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—On Wednesday, January 5th, this Association held their third anniversary meeting at Stroud, which was well attended by contingents from Gloucester, Bristol, Cheltenham, Cirencester, &c. On arriving at Stroud the members attended Divine Service in the parish church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Badcock, vicar of Stroud. A short touch of Grandsire Caters was afterwards rung by a mixed band. At one o'clock the members, to the number of fifty-four, sat down to a capital dinner in the Corn Hall, prepared by hostess Browning, and presided over by the Rev. Thomas Koble, vicar of Bisley; the Rev. Mowbray Trotter, rector of St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester, occupied the vice-chair. The chairman was supported by the Rev. H. H. M'Creia, vicar of Painswick; Rev. F. Smith, vicar of Woodchester; Rev. Pitt Eykyn, France Lynch; W. Miller, Esq., Bisley; G. H. Phillott, Esq., Staunton-on-Edge; Mr. J. Drinkwater, &c. Owing to indisposition the Rev. Dr. Badcock was unable to attend. The usual loyal toasts having been disposed of, and a meeting held for the transaction of business, the ringers adjourned to the tower, when, in consequence of so many being present, short touches only could be essayed, which consisted of Doubles, Triples, and Caters, in the Grandsire and Stedman methods. One band visited Chalford, where there is a ring of six steel bells. The Cheltenham band accepted the invitation of Rev. T. Keble, and went to Bisley, when they rang 756 Grandsire Triples and a short touch of Stedman Triples.

DISS (Norfolk).—The forty-eighth Anniversary of St. Mary's Church Bells was held on Thursday, Jan. 6th. Several touches of Treble Bob Major, in the Oxford and Kent varia-

tions, also Grandsire Triples, were rung by different companies. It is stated that during the year 1880 65,096 changes in various methods have been struck on these bells.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—On Thursday, Jan. 13th (being old New Year's Day), the Redenhall Branch of the above Association met to celebrate the 145th Anniversary of their club. The following is a list of those present. The numbers under the different headings show the peals in which each one has taken part, and a dash (—) denotes the methods in which they are proficient:—

Name.	Club.	Superlative Surprise.	Double Norwich Court.	Stedman Triples.	Oxford Treble Bob.	Kent.	Grandsire Triples.	Bob Major.	Totals.
Rev. G. H. Harris ..	Tunstead				3				3
Mr. J. Miles ..	Woolaston								
Captain Moore ..	Redenhall	1	1	2	11	1	3	1	20
Rev. N. Bolingbroke ..	"	1	1		2	1	1		6
Rev. H. E. Bulwer ..	"								
H. A. O. Mackenzie, Esq. .	"								
C. Candler, Esq. ..	"								
G. Holmes, Esq. ..	"	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	8
Mr. E. Smith ..	"	1	1	2	10		3	2	19
" J. Smith ..	"	1	1	1	7	1	1	1	13
" W. Matthews ..	"				6			1	7
" G. Mobbs ..	"			1	9		2	1	13
" G. Prime ..	"	1	1	2	8		3		15
" W. Shelldrake ..	"				9		2	1	12
" R. Bentley ..	"				2			1	3
" J. Tann ..	"				6			1	7
" W. Whiting ..	"	1	1	1	3		2		8
" M. Burgess ..	"								
Two members unavoidably absent									
Rev. C. F. Blyth ..	"			1	1		1		3
Mr. F. Smith ..	"				3		2	1	6

During the day touches of Superlative, Stedman, and Treble Bob Major, were rung on the Tower Bells, and Treble Bob Royal and Grandsire Caters on the Handbells.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The Annual Meeting of the above Society was held at Manchester on Saturday, January 22nd, 1881, under very unfavourable circumstances, the weather being such as to prevent members from remote parts of the country from attending, contingents were however present from Eccles, Ormskirk, Liverpool, Bolton, Leigh, Stockport, Garston, &c., &c. The annual sermon was preached in the Cathedral at 3.30 p.m., by Rev. J. W. Diggle, M.A., Vicar of Moseley Hill Church, Liverpool, from the 1st verse of the 22nd Psalm. He first stated the circumstances to which the psalm owed its origin, and then spoke of the duty and privilege of public worship, and of the part which bell-ringers play in assisting and brightening the performance of that gladsome and Christian act. In the Jewish and Egyptian Churches trumpets were used and not bells, and in the early Christian Churches no summons was used, owing to the fear of persecution. The bell, said the preacher, is supposed to have been introduced into the western Church by Paulinus. He alluded to the light esteem in which ringers had formerly been held, but trusted that that era was passing away. He said—"Yours is a higher work, yours a nobler art than some men of recent times have thought it to be. Try to make it a high and lofty one by your conduct. The exercise was a physical, mental, and religious exercise. Mental because of the number of complex changes which could be rung; and religious, as they were as much a part of the Church as the choir." The rev. gentleman urged his hearers to remember and never forget that the power of the music of the Church bell was very great. It accompanied

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us in our moments of happiness ; and in our moments of sorrow, when we leave behind us in the tomb the bodies of those we have loved. A business meeting was held at 6.30 p.m., when among other business Mr. Jos. Scott, Manchester, was re-elected treasurer; Messrs. J. Aspinwall, Liverpool; J. Curtis, Leigh; J. W. Jackson, Bolton; and J. Barratt, Eccles, were re-elected as the committee of management. Nine new members were enrolled, and Rev. Canon Woodard, of Manchester, was elected a life member. Votes of thanks were passed to the various officers and to the clergy of the Cathedral. The annual meeting in future will be held in September, and not in January as heretofore.

STANDARD METHODS IN THE ART OF CHANGE-RINGING.

By JASPER W. SNOWDON.

In November, 1879, Mr. Snowdon published a book called *Rope Sight*; an introduction to the art of change-ringing, the aim of which was to place in the hands of beginners all such rules and explanations as are required for practical ringing, and which had hitherto only been imparted by instructors or picked up by novices after many hours wasted in reiterated attempts at ringing. In this book Mr. Snowdon only explained one system—Plain Bob—but expressed his confidence that if young ringers would only make themselves acquainted with one plain method, and learn this one thoroughly, they would afterwards be able to proceed, without much more trouble, to the most intricate systems of ringing.

So great was the success of *Rope Sight*, that the first edition of five hundred copies was sold off in little more than four months from the date of issue, and in October, 1880, a second edition was published. In this edition touches and peals on seven and eight bells, and instructions for conducting on those numbers were added, besides which the whole work was thoroughly revised, and in many parts extended.

Having in this way provided for the instruction of beginners up to the point at which a more complete acquaintance with the various methods in change-ringing should commence, Mr. Snowdon has, in *Standard Methods*, now provided the means with which they may not only become acquainted with the four standard systems by which changes are produced, but also with all the other methods, from five to eight bells, which have from time to time been most generally esteemed and practised. In the first pages of this book the four standard methods of Plain Bob, Grandsire, Treble Bob, and Stedman's Principle are explained. As Plain Bob is explained at such length in *Rope Sight* a summary of the necessary rules for ringing this method is only given, but in the three other systems lengthy explanations and many practical hints with regard to ringing are given; the explanation given with regard to Stedman's Principle—for instance—being such that few ringers will not gain some information from its perusal. After these explanations the various other methods, which are extremely numerous, are thoroughly well considered, and thus an amount of information is given which should render more popular the practice of some one or other of the many musical variations which have from time to time been periodically attempted, and should also tend to a very great advancement in the study of method ringing.

Besides giving rules of the duty of a bell throughout a plain course of each method, a plain course is also printed in full. These plain courses, which form the distinctive peculiarity of Mr. Snowdon's mode of instruction, have a red line lithographed through the path of the treble, and a blue line through that of one of the working bells. By this

method of linear representation the duty of each bell and its relation to the path of the treble can be seen at a glance, and thus a mental impression of the duty can afterwards be retained. In this way the study of a method and its subsequent retention in the memory is rendered much more simple than when the eye and mind is perplexed by an otherwise complicated arrangement of figures. Following the arrangement in *Rope Sight*, all the rules in *Standard Methods* are printed so that they stand out conspicuously from the rest of the printed explanations, and in order that the path of a bell can be followed without turning from the explanation, the various plain course diagrams are bound up in a separate cover. This part contains forty-three plain-course diagrams and consists of forty pages; and when it is considered that the price of the whole work is only 2s. 6d., it may fairly be said that not only is the exercise once more indebted to Mr. Snowdon for another valuable contribution to the literature of change-ringing, but that it is once more indebted to him for publishing another work which is within reach of all its members.

In conclusion, we may add that, as with any other of the works of this writer, *Standard Methods* may be obtained through any bookseller by mentioning the name of the London publishers, Messrs. Wells Gardner, Darton & Co., or it may be obtained (post free 2s. 6d.) from the author, Mr. J. W. Snowdon, Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

Having thus described the contents of *Standard Methods*, we shall have more to say concerning the details of Mr. Snowdon's explanations in our next issue.

NEW AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS.

"Great then are the mysteries of Bell-Ringing."—*Southey*.

The Editor will be glad to insert anything that is sent for this column, but each production must be accompanied by the name of its composer (for publication), who must be responsible for its truth and harmony.

STEDMAN CATERS.

1881.	—	1882.	—
231456	Bob on 789	231456	Bob on 789
	Two courses, each with Bobs on the 4th, 7th, 10th, 12th, and 14th sixes, produce—		Four courses, called same as the first two in the '81 touch, and one course substituting a Bob at the fifth instead of the fourth six, produce—
143526	4 5 6 16	216453	4 5 16
413625	— — — —	612354	— — — —
415326	— — — —	512463	— — — —
416523	— — — —	215364	— — — —
614325	— — — —	214563	— — — —
214563	— — — —	412365	— — — —
412365	— — — —	415263	— — — —
415263	— — — —	412365	— — — —
413562	— — — —	415263	— — — —
314265	— — — —	514362	— — — —
315462	— — — —	614253	— — — —
312564	— — — —	613452	— — — —
213465	— — — —	316254	— — — —
215364	— — — —	314652	— — — —
615423	— — — —	539182746	— — — —
516324	— — — —	312458967	— — — —
134752689	— — — —	143829567	— — — —
372815496	— — — —	123456789	— — — —
783524196	— — — —		
847952361	— — — —		

The introductory courses in each touch consists of sixteen sixes only. H. HUBBARD, SEN.

NOTICES.

Contributions to this Journal are invited from all subscribers. Secretaries and members of Diocesan and other societies are respectfully solicited to forward records of all performances which have taken place within their respective districts. Also reports of meetings, election of officers, festivities, and other items of news which may be appropriate for insertion in these columns. It is requested that all correspondence be written on one side of the paper only.

All matter intended for insertion in the current number should be received not later than the 25th of each month, though every effort will be made to insert peals which may be forwarded later.

We shall be happy to answer any enquiries, or to afford information in our power, relative to any portion of the science. If a direct reply is wished a stamped addressed envelope must be sent.

All communications to be addressed to the Editor, at the office, 9a, Curtain-road, London, E.C.

Terms for advertisements, of which only a limited number will be inserted, can be obtained of A. F. Phelps, at the office of the paper, 9a, Curtain-road, or care of the Publisher, to whom all Post Office Orders for the same must be made payable.

Those of our friends who are anxious to promote the interests of THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD can receive circulars for distribution among their friends on application to the Publisher.

In reply to several enquiries we beg to inform our readers that they can obtain copies of this Journal of any bookseller in the United Kingdom, by mentioning the name of the Publisher.

The suggestions made by our Reading correspondent, will, we hope, shortly be carried out.—[Ed.]

The Bell News.

FEBRUARY, 1881.

THE truth of the statement that within the past few years the study and practice of Ringing has increased among the community cannot seriously be brought into question. Various reasons have been assigned for this, some holding one theory, some another; but it may be conceded that no one reason alone can safely be adduced for the esteem which the art now enjoys, but a variety of forces, working, perhaps, at diametrically opposite points, having similar objects in view, has wrought for ringing its present popularity. The interest, and, indeed, infatuation for the art which in some cases accompany a knowledge of its practice, has been exemplified in no small degree by the additional compositions that have appeared within the era to which we allude. We certainly must award to such as Mr. SNOWDON the credit of attempting, by his literary productions—and successfully, too—to circulate broadcast the fact, at least, that the ringing exercise is an art not to be lightly esteemed. Though in the elucidation of such complex questions as the proving of peals, he has published information well known to others before him, it must be admitted that anterior to his day such knowledge was in the possession of a limited number of the most celebrated composers who, merely from want of inclination, perhaps, or from some other legitimate cause, refrained, except in a few instances, from making public their

experience and research. Though the discovery that 8448 was not the extent with the tenors together in Treble Bob Major, has been the greatest event within the recollection of many, several new peals in the same method have appeared, which afford evidence that a deal of attention has of late been paid to composition. These productions, having the fifth and sixth their extent wrong and right, or a certain number of times at home, and possessing other notable features, without the homes being made full, have been got by a few gentlemen who may be considered as belonging to an entirely new school. While not excelling older compositions, they are certainly to be commended as exhibiting other plans by which the orthodox effects of harmony, combined with truth, may be retained.

With a view to promote this art of composition, we have, as will be seen on perusal, devoted a portion of our space to the insertion of essays in this interesting portion of the science. We shall always be glad to insert any original compositions having new features, in the part of this paper set aside for such a purpose. As, however, such compositions will be of greater utility if arranged under a distinct classification, we are glad to take advantage of Mr. SNOWDON'S kind offer to deal in this way with the new peals of Treble Bob which have come into his hands since his collection was published about two years ago. Any of our readers who may have peals that do not appear in this collection should therefore, in accordance with the invitation contained in the letter to be found in another column, at once forward such peals to that gentleman so that they may, in due course, appear in their proper place.

It is hoped that the most eminent in this particular branch of the science, both in London and the provinces, will become frequent contributors to the column to which we refer, and also that the less advanced in the art of composition may exert themselves to attain notoriety in the same direction.

WE hear that the St. Martin's Company, of Birmingham, have in view the notion of going for 9000 Stedman Cinques to supersede the St. Michael's (Cornhill) peal. We wish them success when they make their attempt, but it will require a deal to excel the London performance. Should it become an accomplished fact, the exercise at large will have no hesitation in believing (if so announced) that such a performance has been accurately performed, coming from such a quarter.

FESTIVITY.—On Friday, Jan. 15th, the Walthamstow (Essex) Branch of the Ancient Society of College Youth held their annual festival, partaking of a sumptuous repast at the "Nag's Head" Inn, Walthamstow, W. Robert Jackson, Esq., in the chair. The catering of Host Brown gave every satisfaction to the young "Collegians," who appeared to take kindly to the good fare provided for them. Mr. James Dwight was among the guests, and greatly contributed, as usual, to the flow of anecdotal conversation which prevailed. This branch of the "Colls." is gradually increasing in number, and, we hope, in proficiency.

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The Ringers' Record.

THE METROPOLIS.

BETHNAL GREEN.—On Saturday, Jan. 15th, 1881, eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang on the pretty peal of bells of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, a true peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, containing 5120 changes, in 3 hrs. and 6 mins. Performers:—G. Dorrington, Treble; W. Cecil, 2; R. Jameson, 3; J. Pettit, 4; J. Bonney, 5; W. A. Tyler, 6; M. A. Wood, 7; E. Gibbs, Tenor. Composed by the late W. Harrison, and conducted by M. A. Wood.

THE PROVINCES.

BARKING (Essex).—On Saturday, the Essex Association rang on the Abbey bells, Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 8 mins. G. Murton, 1; A. J. Perkins, 2; J. Gobbett, 3; R. Sewell, 4; W. Doran (first peal), 5; G. Newson (conductor), 6; S. Jarman, 7; A. Wright (first peal), 8. Tenor, 24 cwt. This is the first time that this peal has been rang by the above Association.

BISHOP STORTFORD (Herts).—On Saturday, Jan. 15, the local Society rang in 3 hrs. 7 mins. Holt's Bob-and-Single peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, with 190 Bobs and 50 Singles. *T. Newman, 1; W. H. Tucker, 2; C. Martin, 3; *G. Martin, 4; *G. Newman, 5; *H. Champness, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; *W. Woodcock, 8. This is the first peal of those marked *, and also the first peal by the present Society. Tenor 20 cwt.

BOLLINGTON (Cheshire).—On Monday, Dec. 13th, 1880, the Macclesfield ringers paid a visit to the above place, and rang Taylor's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 7 mins., being the first peal on the bells. J. Holt, 1; Wm. Hulme, 2; C. Bamford, 3; W. Kenny, 4; J. Farrish, 5; E. Matthews (conductor), 6; John Maurice, 7; Josh. Maurice (first peal), 8. Tenor 18 cwt., key F.

DISS (Norfolk).—On Jan. 10th, the Diss branch of the Association rang at St. Mary's church a peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major, 5088 changes, in 3 hrs. 18 mins. R. Canfir (first peal) 1; J. Rudd, 2; W. Ireland, 3; W. Brown, 4; E. Francis, 5; H. Mowle, 6; C. Rudd (first peal of Treble Bob) 7; R. Barnes (conductor), 8. Tenor 24 cwt. in D. A variation of Patrick's, by Hubbard.

DORKING (Surrey).—On Tuesday, Jan. 4th, at St. Martin's Church, by the local Society, a peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes (Holt's ten-part), in 3 hrs. 9 min. H. Wolger, 1; H. Boxall, sen., 2; H. Henden, 3; H. Boxall, jun., 4; R. Harding, 5; C. Boxall, 6; S. Brooker (conductor), 7; C. Dudley, 8. Tenor 25 cwt.

DRAYTON (Berks).—On the feast of the Epiphany, at St. Peter's, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5120 changes, in 3 hrs. 15 mins. H. Woodwards, 1; E. Holifield, 2; B. Bartlett, 3; G. Holifield, 4; J. Avery, 5; W. Bennett, 6; F. White, 7; Rev. E. F. Robinson (conductor), 8. Tenor 9½ cwt.

FRESSINGFIELD (Suffolk).—On Wednesday, Jan. 12th, eight members of the Fressingfield branch of the Norwich

Diocesan Association rang a peal of 6080 Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 4 hrs. 15 mins. H. E. Barber (conductor), 1; W. Motts, 2; J. Motts, 3; J. Gibson, 4; R. Harper, 5; R. Algar, 6; W. Riches, 7; E. Girling, 8. Tenor 17½ cwt.

GUISELEY (near Leeds, Yorks).—On Monday, Dec. 27, 1880, the Yorkshire Association rang at St. Oswald's, 5056 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. C. Ralph (Otley), 1; F. Maston (Otley), 2; F. Mallinson (Guiseley), 3; S. Brown (Guiseley), 4; W. Demaine (Guiseley), 5; J. Baldwin (Guiseley), 6; L. Cawood (Otley), 7; J. Barraclough (Otley), 8. The peal, in one part, with the sixth the extent in five-six, was composed and conducted by Lister Cawood. Tenor 10½ cwt.

GUISELEY (near Leeds).—On Saturday, Jan. 15th, the Guiseley Branch of the Yorkshire Association rang at St. Oswald's 5280 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 10 mins.; the first peal ever rang on these bells by a Guiseley company. O. Frankland, 1; E. Tuff, 2; W. F. Mallinson, 3; S. Brown, 4; W. Demaine, 5; J. Yeadon, 6; J. Baldwin, 7; D. E. Rhodes, 8. The peal was composed by the late Wm. Estcourt, of Painswick (*Snowdon*, Part II., p. 22), and conducted by James Baldwin. Tenor, 10½ cwt.

KENNINGHALL (Norfolk).—On Tuesday, Jan. 11th, eight members of the Kenninghall branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association rang at St. Mary's, a peal of 5088 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 10 min. W. Oxer, 1; H. Eagling, 2; G. Edwards, 3; R. Hutton, 4; J. Cunningham, 5; J. Woods, 6; R. Stackwood, 7; J. Mordey (conductor), 8. Composed by Mr. N. J. Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, and now rung for the first time. The sixth is twice placed each way in 5, 6, and has the 6, 5 and 5, 6 at separate course ends. In the year 1880 there have been 123,864 changes rung on these bells on seven different methods.

PRESTON (Lancashire).—On Saturday, Jan. 15th, the Kirkham parish church ringers rang at Preston parish church Holt's ten-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. J. Henyon, 1; R. Atkinson (conductor), 2; F. Hoffman, 3; R. Redman, 4; W. Kirby, 5; W. Graham, 6; G. Swarbrick, 7; R. Ingham, 8. Tenor, 25 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs. It is ten years since a peal was rung on these bells.

ROTHERHAM.—On Tuesday, Jan. 11th, by the Rotherham branch of the Yorkshire Association, a peal of Stedman Caters, 5055 changes, in 3 hrs. 30 mins. G. Briggs, 1; F. Coates, 2; J. Rowbotham, 3; J. Athey, 4; W. Coates, 5; C. H. Hattersley, 6; G. Flint (conductor), 7; T. Lee, 8; A. Rodgers, 9; W. Challenor, 10. Composed by the late W. Mower, of Rotherham.

SHEFFIELD.—On Monday, Jan. 10th, eight members of the Yorkshire Association rang at All Saints' Holt's Original peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in 3 hrs. 2 mins. C. H. Rawson, 1; W. Bail, 2; C. Bower, 3; T. Hattersley (conductor), 4; A. Brearley, 5; C. Steer, 6; J. Dixon, 7; G. Wilson, jun., 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

MISCELLANEOUS.

(Comprising performances under 5000 changes.)

ALDFORD (Cheshire).—On Monday, Jan. 3rd, by the Aldford Society, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. C. Manning, 1; S. Manning, 2; T. Basnett, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas (conductor), 5; W. Manning, 6. Also in 28 mins., a 720 of Bob Minor. J. Basnett, 1; T. Basnett, 2; C. Manning, 3; J. Manning, 4; C. Thomas (conductor), 5; W. Manning, 6. Tenor 14¾ cwt.

ASHSTEAD (Surrey).—On Saturday, the 8th instant, at the Parish Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 47

mins. G. Sayer (conductor), 1; G. Russell, 2; J. Wyatt, 3; G. Ree, 4; D. Springall, 5; S. Greenwood, 6; S. Brooker, 7; J. Lisney, 8. Tenor 14 cwt.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Thursday, Jan. 6th, at St. Peter's, a date touch of Bob Major, 1881 changes, in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. E. Pickford, 1; J. Hopwood, 2; T. Marshall, 3; J. Adams, 4; J. Andrew, 5; J. Mellor, 6; T. Taylor, 7; G. Longden (composer and conductor), 8.

BEVERLEY (Yorks).—On Friday, Dec. 17th, 1880, four members of the Hull branch of the Yorkshire Association, visited Beverley, and with four of the Beverley branch rang upon the bells of the noble Minster a date touch (1880 changes) of Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 10 mins. J. Smelt (Beverley), 1; G. Witty (Beverley), 2; A. Taylor (Hull), 3; W. Whitfield (Beverley), 4; J. Dixey (Hull), 5; D. Roberts (Beverley), 6; C. Jackson (Hull), 7; P. Dickinson (Hull), 8. This touch has all the 6 7s, and was composed and conducted by C. Jackson. Tenor 29 cwt.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Monday, January 17th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, containing 34 bobs and 2 singles, was rung at St. Philip's in 32 mins. J. Payne, 1; W. Kenny, 2; W. Coleman, 3; A. Cresser, 4; F. James, 5; T. Miller, (conductor), 6. Tenor 28 cwt. in D.

BISHOP STORTFORD (Herts).—On Tuesday, Jan. 11th, at St. Michael's, a Date Touch of Grandsire Triples, 1881 changes, in 1 hr. 11 min. T. Newman, 1; W. H. Tucker, 2; F. W. Elbourn, 3; G. Martin, 4; C. Martin, 5; H. Champness, 6; H. J. Tucker (conductor), 7; W. Woodcock, 8. Taken from Holt's ten-part peal.

BRISTOL.—The seventh anniversary of the decease of the late Mr. William Smith, who was many years a Bristol ringer, was recently celebrated by the following members of the St. James's Society, at St. Matthew's Church, Kingsdown, with intent to ring a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes. After ringing 2250 changes, the tenor rope accidentally broke, and they were obliged to retire without accomplishing their design. T. Salter (conductor), 1; W. Plumer, 2; C. Thomas, 3; G. Morgan, 4; W. Cummins, 5; J. Hinton, 6; J. Brain, 7; T. Colston, 8.

CHESTER.—On Thursday, Jan. 13th, the following members of the Chester Cathedral Society rang at the Cathedral, 172 leads of Grandsire Triples, with one of Doubles, completing 2518 changes, in 1 hr. 34 mins. A. Neers, 1; J. Gibson, 2; G. Gerrald, 3; A. Cross, 4; W. Waton, 5; P. Griffiths, 6; F. Ball (composer and conductor), 7; S. Hand, 8. Tenor, 33 cwt. in C. The above was composed and specially rung as a small tribute of respect to her Grace the late Duchess of Westminster, and corresponds with the number of weeks she lived.

DARESBURY (Cheshire).—On Tuesday, Jan. 4th, the local society rang at the Parish Church a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins., conducted by J. Ellison. On Jan. 13th, in 1 hr. 11 mins., 1881 changes, in the six following methods: 81 Plain Bob; 120 London Single, 120 Woodbine Treble Bob; 120 College Single; and 720 each of Oxford and Kent. On Jan. 20th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, having 26 singles and 34 bobs, in 27 mins. T. Houghton, sen. (conductor), 1; P. Johnson, 2; T. Ellison, 3; P. Hamblett, 4; J. Emison, 5; T. Houghton, 6. Tenor, 12 cwt. in G.

DARLINGTON (Durham).—On Tuesday, Jan. 11th, a mixed company rang at St. John's, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 24 mins. J. E. Hern (Hurworth-on-Tees), 1; *W. Newton (Stockton-on-Tees), 2; R. Alcock (South Bank), 3; R. Moncaster (Darlington), 4; *T. Stephenson (Stockton-on-Tees), 5; Geo. Overton (Darlington) 6, and conductor.

Tenor 10 cwt. [*First 720 in the Oxford Variation.] Also on Tuesday, Jan. 18th, the members of the above belfry rang a 720 of Bob Minor, in 26 min., containing 26 Singles. J. Bolton, 1; J. H. Blakiston, 2; Jno. Whitfield, 3; R. Moncaster, 4; W. Patton, 5; Geo. Overton (conductor), 6; and on the same evening the above members rang another 720 in the last-named method, in 26 mins., containing 18 Bobs and 2 Singles. J. H. Blakiston, 1; *J. Bolton, 2; W. Patton, 3; Jno. Whitfield, 4; R. Moncaster, 5; Geo. Overton, (conductor), 6. [*First 720 on an inside bell.]

DRSS (Norfolk).—On Monday, Jan. 6th, on the back six of St. Mary's, a 720 of Double Court Bob Minor, in 33 mins. by the Norwich Association. J. Rudd (conductor), 1; T. Preston, 2; W. Scales, 3; E. Francis, 4; W. Ireland, 5; W. Brown, 6.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Wednesday, Jan. 5th, a 720 of Bob Minor in 25 mins. J. Page, 1; T. Gleed, 2; T. Driver, 3; J. Barrett, 4; J. Hannington (conductor), 5; E. Chapman, 6. Tenor 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ cwt. The above, which has 26 singles and 16 bobs (the greatest number of calls yet obtained in a 720 of this method) was composed by J. F. Penning, of Saffron Walden, Essex.

HULL.—On Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 1880, the local branch of the Yorkshire Association rang at St. James's, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. F. Merrison, 1; A. Taylor, 2; J. Dixey, 3; S. Slingsby, 4; J. W. Stickney, 5; C. Jackson (conductor), 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

HULL (Yorkshire).—On Monday, Jan. 3rd, six members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London, forming the present company of St. Mary's, Lowgate, Hull, rang a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor in 33 mins. W. T. Verity, 1; T. Walker, 2; W. Jackson, 3; C. Bennett, 4; H. Eastwood, 5; W. Southwick (conductor), 6. The ringers then changed bells, and a 720 of Bob Minor was rung in 30 mins., conducted by Mr. Bennett; making a total of 36 complete performances rung by this company during the past two years.

NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.—On Saturday, Jan. 15th, a party of ringers from St. Nicholas and All Saints, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and St. Mary's, Gateshead, members of the Durham Diocesan Society, rang a touch of 1008 Grandsire Triples in 59 mins., at St. Stephen's. J. Weddle, 1; R. Simm, 2; E. Wallace, 3; J. Donald, 4; T. Denton (conductor), 5; J. Power, 6; J. Simm, 7; J. Alderson, 8. Tenor 30 cwt. St. Stephen's Society, all learners, has been in existence only two months, under the management of Mr. W. Stainton, late of St. Cuthbert's, Darlington.

NORTH SHIELDS.—On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 16, for Divine Service, at Christ Church, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor was rung in 26 mins. *J. Rossiter, 1; W. Reed, Esq. (conductor), 2; J. Gibson, 3; R. Smith, 4; R. Williams, 5; J. Hern, 6. Also, on Tuesday, the 18th inst., a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. *J. Rossiter, 1; *G. Park, 2; J. Gibson, 3; R. Willins, 4; J. Hern, 5; *R. Smith (conductor), 6. Tenor 19 cwt. in E. [*Their first 720.]

ORMSKIRK.—On Monday, January 17th, seven members of the parish church ringers, assisted by Mr. W. Avis, rang a date touch of 1881 changes in the Grandsire method in 1 hr. 9 mins. It was composed by Mr. John Aspinwall of Liverpool. T. Higham, 1; W. Avis, 2; J. Eastham, 3; J. Winrow, 4; J. Leatherbarrow, 5; R. Clayton, 6; N. Spencer (conductor), 7; J. Prescott, 8. Tenor 25 cwt. 2 qrs. 25 lbs.

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PADIHAM (Lancashire).—On Saturday, January 8th, six members of St. Leonard's Church Bell-ringers' Society rang for the dedication of SS. Anne and Elizabeth Church, Padiham Green, a date touch of 1881 changes, in 1 hr. 11 mins., in the following order:—441 Plain Bob, 720 Double Bob, 720 Grandsire Minor. T. Duxbury (conductor), 1; C. Parkinson, 2; F. Pollard, 3; R. W. Hargreaves, 4; F. Wagner, 5; T. Green, 6. Composed by W. Whittaker of Leeds. Tenor 9 cwt.

QUEDGLEY (Gloucester).—On New Year's Eve, by the local society, 1880 changes of Grandsire Doubles, in 60 mins. T. Brown (conductor), 1; W. Brown, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; C. Lyes, 4; H. Wren, 5; G. Davies, 6. Also on Jan. 21st, 1881 changes in the same method, in 58 mins. W. Brown (conductor), 1; A. Harris, 2; T. Mansfield, 3; C. Lyes, 4; T. Brown, 5; H. Wren, 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

RAWMARSH (Yorks.).—On Tuesday, Jan. 4th, in 1 hr. 7 mins., 1881 Grandsire Triples. J. Ensor, 1; T. Whitworth (conductor), 2; V. Hawkings, 3; J. Hawkins, 4; T. Wild, 5; J. Ensor, 6; R. Whitworth, 7; J. Schofield, 8. Tenor 10 cwt.

RIPON.—On Monday, Jan. 10th, the Society of Change-ringers of Ripon Cathedral rang a date touch of 1881 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 1 hr. 8 mins. J. Strodder, sen., 1; W. Orton, 2; W. Pick, 3; T. Clark (conductor), 4; J. Strodder, 5; F. Strodder, 6; J. Trevor, 7; H. Rumbold, 8. Composed by T. Lockwood of Leeds. Tenor 21 cwt. in E natural.

ROTHERHAM.—On the 24th inst. a Date Touch of Stedman Caters, 1881 changes, was rung in 1 hr. 16 mins. G. Briggs, 1; C. H. Hattersley, 2; J. Horner, 3; J. Athey, 4; W. Coates (composer and conductor), 5; G. Flint, 6; F. Coates, 7; T. Lee, 8; A. Rodgers, 9; T. Oxley, 10. Tenor 32 cwt.

SHREWSBURY.—*Hand-bell Tapping*.—On Monday, Jan. 24th, 630 Grandsire Triples, containing 24 bobs and 6 singles, were tapped on hand-bells by D. Davies, and called from a m.s. by D. H. Davies, in 25 mins.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Saturday, Jan. 22nd, a 720 of Bob Minor, with 18 bobs and 2 singles, was rung on the back six bells of St. Paul's in 29 mins. J. Wilson, 1; E. Waive, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; E. Mason, 4; J. S. Wright, 5; R. Creasy (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

STAND (Lancashire).—On Sunday, Jan. 9th, the local Society of Change-ringers rang for service, in 1 hr. 7 mins., Mr. Aspinwall's date touch of 1881 Grandsire Triples. W. Hilton, sen., 1; W. Warburton (conductor), 2; H. Hilton, 3; T. Crawshaw, 4; R. Fray, 5; E. Bradshaw, 6; W. Hilton, jun., 7; J. Bradshaw, 8. Tenor 21½ cwt.

WILLESDEN (Middlesex).—On Thursday, Jan. 13th, at St. Mary's, a 720 of Bob Minor, containing 30 bobs and 2 singles, was rung in 25 mins. J. Basden, 1; J. P. Parker, 2; F. Weare, 3; H. Cutter, 4; R. Kilby, 5; S. Hayes (conductor), 6. Tenor, 9 cwt.

WILTON (Norfolk).—On Monday, Jan. 3rd, several of the clergy, members of the Norwich Diocesan Association, were invited by the vicar of Wilton to ring. They succeeded in performing six-scores of Old, Grandsire, and Stedman Doubles, also some touches of Bob and Treble Bob Minor. The following day they rang at the neighbouring church of Methwold, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, in 27 mins., a 720 of Bob, in 26 mins., and a course of Kent. The Revs. A. G. Blyth, 1; J. P. Hardman, 2; C. F. Blyth, 3; W. W. Hutt, 4; N. Bolingbroke, 5; C. H. Harris, 6. The Treble Bob was called by the Rev. A. G. Blyth, and the Bob by the Rev. G. H. Harris. This is said to be the first 720 of Treble Bob ever rung by a band consisting wholly of clergymen.

CORRESPONDENCE.

* * * The writers alone are responsible for the opinions they enunciate.

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

SIR,—I suppose we are to have another large bell in London, if one may judge by the correspondence which has appeared lately in some of your contemporaries. But why a "Big Ben?" The cognomen is bad. I believe when the present Westminster bell was cast Sir Benjamin Hall was Commissioner of Works, and that the bell was named after him. This did not matter, the bell not being intended for a place of worship, but if one of large calibre is to be placed at St. Paul's, it ought to receive a different appellation.

But I don't see the necessity of another large bell at the Metropolitan cathedral. The bell there at present answers every purpose, and in my opinion, is a good bell, Sir E. Beckett notwithstanding. I think it is a capital bell, and I begin to have my doubts whether the learned Q.C. knows anything at all about it. If the Dean and Chapter determine to have another large bell, let them call to their counsel one or two of the most eminent ringers, many of whose aural faculties enable them to do what many of our great musicians would pronounce to be all but impossible.

I am sure that many ringers would feel interested with an account in your columns of "Big Ben," of Westminster, and what is meant by the phrase "to prevent the referees being taken in again by concealed defects;" perhaps the learned baronet would give us the bell's history. I am sure it would be appreciated by many. A YOUNG RINGER.

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

SIR,—A friend writes to me suggesting that as a portion of your space is to be allotted to original compositions, I should forward to you the Treble Bob peals that have come into my hands since the end of the year 1879, the date at which my collection of Treble Bob peals was published.

If this idea meets with your approval, and you insert this letter in your columns, I may add that I shall be glad to receive from any of the Exercise, at the address given below, any peals that are not given in my collection, whether such are old peals or have been composed since 1879. I shall then be able to forward them to you arranged in classes, in a similar manner to that adopted in my published collection. Where any of the peals have already been rung, I shall be glad to have the date and place of such first performance, in order that, when published, such particulars may also be appended.

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FEBRUARY 1st, 1881.

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