

THE BELL NEWS

AND RINGERS' RECORD:

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

No. 5.—VOL. I.

JUNE, 1881.

[ONE PENNY.]

ON A RING OF BELLS IN PERFECT TUNE.

By THE REV. C. D. P. DAVIES.

The general object of this article will be rendered sufficiently apparent by the title. In order to arrive at an idea of what a ring of bells should be to be in correct tune with one another, it will be necessary at the outset to say a few words upon the nature of sound in general. I shall then attempt to show as clearly as possible what is the true physical relation to one another of the notes in a perfect octave; to explain how this true relation never exists in the notes of a piano, organ, or other imperfect instrument; while it may, and most certainly ought to be, found in a condition as nearly perfect, as is practically possible, on a ring of bells. To this I shall add a slight description of one or two instruments adapted for ensuring the foregoing properties. To follow any mathematical reasoning that may arise, the only knowledge that will be required will be an acquaintance with the rules of ratio and proportion, and the multiplication and division of vulgar fractions.

And here I wish, on my own part, to renounce all claims whatever to originality in the composition of this article. If any of my readers possess Ganot's *Physics*, translated by Atkinson, they have only to refer to Book V. and there they will find the substance of this article, and much more. Parts of that which are foreign to the matter in hand, I entirely omit, as a matter of course, while other parts are slightly expanded, so as to render the descriptions fuller, and more easy of comprehension to those of my readers unacquainted with the elements of science. I may also refer to an article by Mr. Ellis in Vol. XIII. of the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* (p. 93), "On a Perfect Musical Scale."

In the first place, then, what is sound, and what is the cause of it? When a body is struck it receives a shock, which may be perceptible to the eye or may not; this shock is communicated to the air in the form of a wave. If we suppose a piece of wood to be floating on the surface of some water, and to be struck, we should see ripples extending around it on all sides. This is precisely the case with the air, except that the waves in the air spread out on all sides, above, below, and around, and travel with far greater speed than those on water. The air, too, being invisible, its waves, of course, cannot be seen, but their existence forces itself upon our senses; for by these waves certain parts of the ear are put into a similar state of motion, and this motion is transmitted to the brain, causing the sensation of what is known as sound. This is the general sense of the word *sound*.

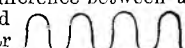

But in the science of acoustics, and in this article, it will be necessary to make its meaning somewhat narrower. We must now place a distinction between *sound* and *noise*. By the latter we mean the sensation caused by waves in the air, which do not last long enough to produce a feeling otherwise than as a shock; or the sensation caused by the continuous mixture of waves which have no particular resemblance to one another. But when the waves in the air continue to succeed one another in order, and are of the same kind, then is produced that pleasing sensation which we call *musical sound*, and which in this article I shall simply denominate *sound*.

In explaining above that sound is the effect produced on the ear when a body is struck, the word *sound* was used in its wider sense; but with the narrower meaning to which it has been now restricted, it will be necessary to define *sound* as the effect produced when a *sonorous body* is struck: and by a sonorous body is meant one that continues to emit the same sound as it did when struck, for some appreciable time after the striking has ceased. In such a body as this the stroke given has produced a shock which does not terminate with the stroke, but the particles of matter composing the body have had a motion communicated to them which lasts for some little time. This is very rapid, of small extent, and to and fro, and in the case of some bodies is clearly visible. Among such are the wires of a pianoforte and large bells. Each of these motions to and fro is called a *vibration*—that is, a body has performed one vibration when it has gone from one extreme to the other and back again. Each vibration causes a corresponding wave

in the air, and therefore the number of waves equals the number of vibrations.

In all ordinary sounds the number of vibrations is tolerably high. The human ear is so constructed that it cannot perceive the vibrations, unless they are within certain limits—that is, if the vibrations are too few or too many, no impression of sound is conveyed to the brain—in other words, we cannot hear them. The actual numerical value of these has been matter of question, but we shall not be far wrong in saying that the fewest vibrations the human ear can perceive are about 15 per second, the most about 50,000 per second.

We are now in a position to consider musical tones. A simple *musical tone* results from a continuous rapid series of equal vibrations, provided the number of vibrations falls within the very wide limits just mentioned. Musical tones are in reality in most cases compound, but in this article it will not be necessary to regard them as such; we shall therefore look upon them as simple.

I may, however, here attempt to explain the difference between a simple and compound musical tone thus: if we could see the waves of a simple tone they would appear  but the waves of a compound tone would be seen as this—

We shall therefore look upon the waves of our tones as being smooth, not having other small waves or ripples upon them.

Musical tones have three leading qualities. First, *pitch*—that is, height or depth: this is determined by the number of vibrations per second yielded by the body producing the tone. Second, *intensity*—that is, softness or loudness: this depends upon the extent or size of the vibrations. Third, *timbre* or *colour*: that peculiar quality of tone which distinguishes a note when sounded on one instrument from the same note when sounded on another—that is, the difference between the same note, as C, sung by the voice, or sounded on a pianoforte or bell. It will be only necessary for us to go into the first of these.

The pitch of a tone, then, is determined by the number of vibrations per second. If two bodies are giving an equal number of vibrations per second, they are both producing a sound of the same pitch; or, as we commonly say, they are sounding the same note. But if they are not yielding an equal number of vibrations, then that which is giving the greater number will be sounding a higher note, or more "treble" than the other; the one giving fewer will be sounding a lower, or more "bass" note.

Although two or more tones of different pitch may be separately musical, it by no means follows that when sounded together they produce a pleasurable sensation. On the contrary, unless they are *concordant*, the result is harsh, and ordinarily the reverse of pleasurable. This predilection for a combination of certain tones, and aversion for certain others is part of our nature, we cannot help it. We have, therefore, to enquire what notes are fit to be sounded together, or to follow one another so as to excite a pleasurable sensation, and when we have done this we shall find that in this particular, as in many others, there has been implanted in our nature a principle that loves simplicity.

Let us now suppose that we have two bodies yielding the same number of vibrations per second: these two will be giving the same note, and the sounds will be perfectly concordant; but if by some means we contrive to make one of the bodies give a continually increasing number of vibrations, we shall obtain a series of combinations of tones some of which will be concordant and pleasurable, others discordant and harsh, until the body, whose vibrations are increasing in number, is made to give out exactly double the number of vibrations of the other, when the sounds will be found to be most perfectly concordant, so much so that we shall seem to have come back to the place whence we started. The two sounds are now so alike that they seem to be absolutely one, and we may, as is always actually done, give them the same name. If we call one C we call the other C also, and each of these notes is said to be the *octave* of the other.

[To be continued.]

THE MONTH.

GREAT GLEHAM CHURCH BELLS, WICKHAM MARKET.

The bells in this parish, which have recently undergone extensive repairs, were re-opened on Thursday, 12th inst., ringers being present from Kelsale, Saxmundham, Eye, Framlingham, Aldborough, Peasenhall, Brandeston, Blaxhall, Benwell, &c., &c. A dinner was provided at the Crown Hotel, to which about 25 sat down, the chair being occupied by E. Dove Esq., Churchwarden, the vice-chair by Mr. E. Woods. After dinner the health of the Rector, the Rev. R. H. King, was drunk, also the churchwardens of the parish, and other gentlemen who have assisted in carrying out the above restoration. The bells, which are five in number (are a fine ring, the tenor weighing 16 cwt.) have been turned on the new stocks and restored with all new fittings, complete; the frame has also been thoroughly repaired with new braces and ironwork. Ringing was kept up till a late hour, the ringers all returning to their homes well pleased with the going of the bells and the manner in which they are hung. Among those who assisted at the ringing was a gentleman aged 82 years. The work was entrusted to Messrs. George Day & Son, Church Bell-hangers, Eye, who have carried out the renovations in a satisfactory manner.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CHANGE-RINGERS.

A meeting of the above Association was held on Saturday, April 30th, at St. Thomas's Parish Church, Stockport. Owing to a new ring of bells being opened the same day at Ramsbottom, the attendance was not so good as at former meetings. Over 30 members were present from various parts of the district. During the course of the afternoon, various touches were rung upon the Tower Bells by mixed bands. A meeting was held at 6 p.m., presided over by the Rev. J. Bridges, senior curate, in the unavoidable absence of the vicar. He cordially approved of the objects of the Association, and felt sure that a great improvement had taken, and would take place, in the status of ringers. He exhorted them to respect themselves, and then others would respect them. He wished to see more unanimity amongst ringers, and thought meetings imparted a good feeling, and encouraged them to persevere in the right course. A vote of thanks to the Chairman for presiding, closed the business of the meeting, the rest of the evening being occupied with ringing.

A district meeting for ringing only was held on Saturday, May 14th, at Holy Trinity Church, Bolton. Notwithstanding the exceedingly bad state of the weather, over 70 members and friends attended from Heywood, Bolton, West Houghton, Whitefield, Hindley, Manchester, Leigh, &c. Ringing was commenced by the local ringers at 2.30 p.m., and was continued by various bands from the above-mentioned places, until after 9 p.m. Each set was limited to half-an-hour; touches of Grandsire Triples, and 720's of Plain Bob Minor being principally rung. Arrangements have been made to hold a Ringing Meeting at Swinton, on Saturday, May 28th, and the next quarterly meeting at Ormskirk, on Saturday, June 25th.

THE NORTH WILTS GUILD.

This Guild will hold their Annual Meeting on Monday, June 6th, 1881. Meet at Corsham Church at 10 o'clock, Divine Service at 11. The sermon will be preached by the Rev. H. F. J. Coape-Arnold, Rector of Yatton-Keynell. Dinner at 1 o'clock. Ringing before and after service, and after dinner and in the evening at St. Paul's, Chippenham. C. W. Hony, Sec.

THE HARRISON MEMORIAL.

A meeting of the general committee was held at the White Hart Inn, Mottram, on Saturday, May 21st. A donation of two guineas to the fund was received from the Odd Fellows' Lodge, to which Mr. Harrison acted as treasurer. A sub-committee, consisting of one representative from each of the eight societies of Odd Fellows in Mottram, two of the Mottram ringers, and four members of the memorial committee, was appointed to arrange the proceedings on the 2nd of July, when the monument is to be unveiled. On this day the members of the lodges, ringers, and friends, all of whom are cordially invited to attend, will meet in the square opposite the White Hart Inn at 3 o'clock, and walk in possession to the church when, after a short service, at which a collection in aid of the memorial fund will be made, the monument will be uncovered. A dinner will afterwards take place at the White Hart Inn at six o'clock.

ANNIVERSARY AT BRAUGHING, HERTS.

On Tuesday, 10th May, the One hundred-and-second Annual Ringing Festival was held, to celebrate the 12,240 changes of Bob Major which were rung on the 10th May, 1779, in 7 hrs. 34 mins. The Bennington company, accompanied by the Squire, were present, and rang touches in the methods for which they are so famous; also Messrs. J. Cox, Haworth, Smith, Chapman (London); G. Rochester, Dorrington (Sawbridgeworth); H. Prior (Stanstead, Essex), etc. A dinner was provided at the Bell Inn.

ST. PAUL'S, RAMSBOTTOM, MANCHESTER.

The new ring of eight bells was opened on Saturday, April 30th, after a dedication service, conducted by the Right Rev. Bishop James B. Kelly, D.D., assisted by the vicar of Ramsbottom, the Rev. W. H. Corbould. The company of St. Philip's, Hulme, gave the bells their first turn in changes in a short touch of Grandsire Triples. The following are the notes, diameters, and weights of the bells:—

				cwt.	qrs.
A	Treble	25	inches diam.	4	0
G sharp	2nd	25	" "	4	0
F sharp	3rd	26	" "	4	1
E	4th	27	" "	4	2
D	5th	29	" "	5	0
C sharp	6th	30½	" "	5	3
B	7th	31	" "	6	0
A	Tenor	36	" "	9	1

Total weight 43 cwt. 3 qrs.

The tower being only 10 feet square inside, and of very light construction, the vicar and churchwardens obtained professional advice from Messrs. Jasper and Wm. Snowdon, consulting mechanical engineers, of Leeds, who limited the weight as above, and themselves designed the bell frame to suit the special circumstances. The frame is in two tiers, the six heavy bells being at the bottom, all swinging north and south, so as to throw a portion of the strain into the west end wall of the church, which forms part of the tower; the trebles swinging east and west in the top tier. The notes of the trebles, as will be seen above, are unusually high, but are nevertheless very satisfactory in tone. The whole of the work has been executed by Messrs. Llewellyns and James, Bell Founders, Bristol, acting under the superintendence of the engineers above-mentioned.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, the last day of April, being the occasion of a committee meeting of the above Guild, a mixed party of ringers assembled at Reading, visiting St. Mary's first, where they essayed several touches of Grandsire Triples without much success, the second bell being out of order. They next proceeded to St. Giles', and there rang two 720s of Grandsire Minor, these being the first complete performances of any kind in the town in which local men have taken part (with the exception of ringing the tenor behind) for upwards of a century. Details of the ringing will be found among the "Records," but in consequence of our correspondent having been unable to ascertain the whole of the ringers' names who took part, the account is incomplete.

THE PROPOSED LARGE BELL FOR ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

We cull the following from the *City Press* of May 7th. As some interest upon the subject of large bells is being evinced just now, we insert these and other extracts bearing upon the subject, without professing to share the opinions expressed. Our readers will hardly agree with one of the speakers, whose hyper-sapience betrayed him into the remark that the bells of this country were infamous. Notwithstanding the pedantic vaunting indulged in by some, relative to the alleged excellence of foreign over English bells, we should hesitate to attempt a 5000 in any method upon a moderately heavy ring, cast and hung by a Belgian, or, indeed, any other foreign firm. Whether or not another large bell is required for the Metropolitan Cathedral, is purely a matter of opinion. If the capitular body intend to carry out their idea, perhaps it will not be considered presumptuous to suggest that if counsel and advice, beyond what the founders can supply, is needed, it will be best to obtain it from a source where practical knowledge has been gained by actual experience. Big Ben of Westminster (which was at first considered to be the acme of perfection by its sponsor, but afterwards repudiated by him) is now held to be a failure, and now another large bell has also become useless. It is not attempted here to probe the causes of these accidents, or, it may be, defects. It is open to question, however, whether it would not be wise to dispense with some of the conditions with which the founders of these bells may have been hampered, and also, after giving instructions for a certain bell to be supplied, to leave the founders to cast it in their own way, its acceptance or rejection being subject to the approval or otherwise of competent persons. Or, we repeat, if extraneous consultation is desired, to search for it in a totally different direction than hitherto. When it is found that two of the heaviest bells in the kingdom, which we believe were cast in accordance with certain scientific theories, have turned out failures, it is certainly not impertinent to question the soundness of such theories, and adopt means by which such mishaps may, for the future, be obviated.

At a meeting of the Common Council of the City of London, on May 5th, the following resolution was moved by Mr. Pitman:—
"That this Court do contribute the sum of £300 out of the City's cash

(being half the required balance) towards defraying the cost of a Bourdon bell for St. Paul's Cathedral, and that the Chamberlain do pay such sum to the Dean and Chapter accordingly."

Mr. W. J. SCOTT seconded, but at the same time suggested that the grant should be limited to 100 guineas.

Mr. E. D. ROGERS hoped that the motion would be withdrawn, as the Court had already voted two large sums towards the cathedral bells, which the inhabitants of St. Paul's-churchyard found to be a perfect nuisance. ("No, no!") At all events, those who had charge of the cathedral might give something towards the bells, considering the enormous amount they asked from the Commissioners of Sewers for the widening of the churchyard.

Mr. Deputy ATKINS asked Mr. Pitman what a Bourdon bell meant.

Mr. PITMAN replied that it was a bell which gave forth a deep bass sound, and added to the effect of those of a more silvery tone.

Dr. CROSBY hoped the motion would be carried. If hon. members went to any small town in Belgium they would hear what a proper Bourdon bell was. As a rule the church bells in this country were infamous. (Laughter).

Mr. BEDFORD, in replying to strictures which had been made by several speakers as to the ritual now in use at St. Paul's, said that it was only a small sum that was proposed, and it should be granted.

A desultory conversation then ensued and ultimately the motion was put and lost.

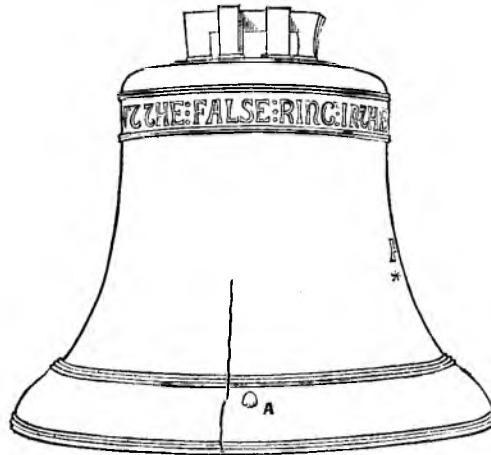
In a leader on the above motion, the same paper says:—"Mr. Pitman's motion to contribute £300 out of the City's cash towards defraying the cost of another bell for St. Paul's Cathedral has been rejected. Mr. Pitman offered nothing that could be called an argument in support of his motion; and the seconder contented himself with appealing to such sentimentalism as he thought the Court might possess on the subject of the metropolitan cathedral. Unfortunately for both, as well as for the Dean and Chapter, the Court, with the exception of one or two of its members, is devoid of all sentimentalism whatever on this subject. The Court indeed regards it in a strictly utilitarian spirit. What is the good of more bells, when there are bells enough and to spare already? The Court goes further than this, and does not conceal its opinion that the church bells are a nuisance rather than a delight in the City. It may or may not be exactly the case, as Mr. Dresser Rogers suggested, that at a certain hour of the day the citizens generally invoke the opposite of a blessing on the Corporation in having by previous grants enabled the cathedral authorities to ring more bells than they were wont to ring; but it is a fact beyond dispute that there is a very strong sentiment throughout the City against the desire on the part of the Dean and Chapter to add another to the already superfluous tongues of St. Paul's."

We extract the following from the *Norfolk News*:

"REVIVAL OF THE ART OF CHURCH BELL FOUNDRY.—When we read in the history of some old monastery, how the monks devoted themselves, some to one branch of science, some to another—how some worked as masons, or organ builders, others as silversmiths, when we remember that many of these men were members of the old county families of high standing and position, and who worked entirely for the love of the thing, we feel that we are reading and thinking of times long past and never to return. But the old saying, "Nothing new under the sun" comes true again, and it is our pleasure to record and refer to an enterprise that has for some time been carried on in this quiet agricultural district, that not only reflects the utmost credit on those concerned, but that carries our minds back in a vivid manner to the times above alluded to. In this town there are three gentlemen who have adopted certain theories on the subject which forms the heading of this paragraph, and who seem to be following the old monkish plan of carrying out their ideas with their own hands. This no doubt was the way in which science in all its branches was brought to perfection in past ages. The thinkers and the workers were one, and what with them was an art became in the hands of their successors only a money-making trade. The art, as an art, was lost. When the Redenhall Bell Foundry was first started, most of the inhabitants of this town and neighbourhood looked upon the scheme as a wild one, and few indeed were those who ever expected that the company would succeed in casting a bell, let alone a good one. These expectations have, however, been completely set aside, and if there still remained in the minds of any a doubt, it must now have vanished, for within the past few days these gentlemen have placed in the turret of St. John's Church, Harleston, a little bell, which, for brightness and purity of tone could not well be surpassed. The old bell upon which the town clock strikes is one of unusual power and sweetness, so that the inhabitants have for many years been accustomed to the sound of a really first-class bell. It is, therefore, all the more pleasing to find that the new church bell gives such universal satisfaction, and in no way suffers when compared with its older sister. The proprietors of the Redenhall Bell Foundry are heartily to be congratulated on the issue of their enterprising efforts."

"THE GREAT HOUR BELL, TOWN HALL, MANCHESTER."

The following article (with an illustration similar to what we furnish) by Mr. R. LANGTON, a great authority on the subject, we are told, appears in the May number of *The Palatine Note-Book*, a high-class magazine dealing with archaeological subjects within the above diocese. We have taken the liberty to copy it *verbatim* for the benefit of our readers. In doing so we are actuated only by a desire to insert in our columns everything coming to our knowledge which may be considered of interest.



"He first shall have a Bell that's ABEL."

"BEN JONSON.—*The Alchemist*, Act II. sc. vi.

"How it happens that, for the most part, the best bells are liable to be cracked, while bad bells endure from generation to generation, has for a long time been an irritating puzzle.

"Perhaps this remark should be confined to clock-bells, as in ringing bells, which are struck when on the swing 'time and chance happeneth to them all,' and with tolerable impartiality.

"The Great clock-bell at the Manchester Town Hall now hangs cracked and useless in the lantern of the tower; and the above diagram will serve to show the position and extent of the fracture. The front of the bell where the initials A. H. (Abel Heywood) appear is indicated thus; the round mark A is where the clock hammer has struck upon the bell. From the centre of this mark to the crack is just 3½ inches, and the length of the crack is 22 inches. The mischief, of course, is fatal, and the only thing to be done is to take down the bell and recast it. This is an expensive undertaking, chiefly on account of the great cost of taking down and replacing it in the tower. We may hope, however, that the Corporation will ere long recast the bell.

"A few particulars of this bell may be interesting to the readers of *The Palatine Note-Book*. It was cast by Messrs. John Taylor & Co., of Loughborough, 18 October, 1876; and it is what is called a maiden bell. It weighs 6 tons 9 cwt., and the diameter across the mouth is 7 feet 5 inches. The note was G.

"Until the unfortunate fracture, which occurred on the night of 20th May, 1880, this was the finest clock-bell in the United Kingdom; and its full rich tone had been heard for many miles round Manchester, and had become a familiar sound. Some of the more distant places at which it has been heard are Irlam, Bowdon, Mottram, Oldham, Wilmslow, and Moberley.

"The bell first began to give 'note of time' on the first of January, 1879, and up to 30 May, 1880, it had been struck with its ponderous hammer nearly 79,000 blows. Why it should then give in, instead of lasting on for ages, is of course what no man can tell.

"R. LANGTON."

BELL-FOUNDING OPERATIONS.

MESSRS. JOHN TAYLOR & Co.—This firm has just sent to St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, New South Wales, one large bell, with fittings and framework complete; weight 44 cwt. 2 qrs. 11 lbs.—Bredenbury Church, near Bromyard, Herefordshire, a ring of five; weight of tenor 8 cwt. 3 qrs. 3 lbs.; the gift of W. H. Barneby, Esq., of Bredenbury Court.

"'TIS NOT IN MORTALS TO COMMAND SUCCESS."—On April 26th (in memory of Lord Beaconsfield) a muffled peal of Oxford Treble Bob Major was attempted at Keighley Parish Church, but lost at the end of 2 hrs. 21 mins., through the breaking of the 7th rope; and on Saturday, May 7th, the Ancient Society of College Youths were unsuccessful after 3 hours, capital ringing, in gaining their long peal of Stedman Cinques, at St. Michael's, Cornhill.

Everything for insertion in this Journal, to be in future, addressed
"The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London."

The Bell News.

JUNE, 1881.

From the pressure on our space we are once more reluctantly compelled to postpone the usual comment which should find a place in this column. From the same cause is deferred till our next number the interesting page of Treble Bob peals, which is under the direction of Mr. Snowdon. We would direct the attention of the Exercise to the proposed testimonial to Mr. Hubbard, full particulars of which will be found below.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. HENRY HUBBARD.

A committee of nine members, representing the different societies of change-ringers in Leeds, has been formed to promote the testimonial to Mr. Hubbard, which has been previously alluded to in these columns. Mr. John Whitaker, of the Leeds Parish Church Company, is the president; Mr. J. Winder, the treasurer of the Yorkshire Association, is treasurer; and Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon honorary secretary to the fund. The following is a copy of the circular which is being issued by the committee. We are requested to state that the committee hope this circular, as published below, will be taken as addressed to each individual company. On receipt of a postcard giving the address the secretary will, however, be glad to forward a copy to any society.

THE HUBBARD TESTIMONIAL FUND.

After the conclusion of the General Meeting of the Yorkshire Association of Change-Ringers at Bingley, on April 23rd, the urgent necessity of making some public recognition of the services rendered by Mr. Henry Hubbard, senior, to the art and science of change-ringing was brought before the members.

It was suggested that as Mr. Hubbard now lives in Leeds, the best way to carry out this object would be to elect a committee of ringers representing the Leeds district, who should undertake to bring his claims before the ringing fraternity, receive and hold all subscriptions, and attend to the disbursement of them in the most desirable manner. This committee having been elected, now appeals to you to assist in carrying out this work.

Mr. Henry Hubbard was born at Norwich, on August 23rd, 1807, and is therefore now in his seventy-fourth year. Until 1856 he resided at Norwich, and was a member of the Society of Norwich Scholars, but in that year he removed to Leeds, and became a member of the Leeds Parish Church Society of Change-ringers. In this society he continued until a few years ago, and although, owing to the state of his health, during the later years of his membership, he was unable to attend except at very irregular intervals, received a certain quarterly allowance from the society.

After suffering severely from asthma for many years, Mr. Hubbard at last became quite incapacitated from working, and has for some time been a confirmed invalid, totally dependent on others for support. It is therefore now, especially, that the assistance of his friends may advantageously be extended to him. In making this appeal the committee would submit to you the great interest both with regard to the practice and science of change-ringing that Mr. Hubbard has taken throughout his life-time.

In the year 1845, Mr. Hubbard published the first edition of his *Campanologia, or an Essay on the Art of Change-Ringing*. Since that time this book has passed through several editions, the fourth of which was published in 1876, and thus for about thirty years Mr. Hubbard's book was almost the only one on change-ringing in the hands of the public. To very many ringers this book was the sole source from which they could procure any information either on the practical or scientific branches of the art, and if the production of this work was all that Mr. Hubbard had done for the advancement of change-ringing, the Exercise would still be greatly indebted to him.

Not only, however, as a writer has Mr. Hubbard so long been connected with change-ringing, but, to a former generation, his name was also well known as a practical performer in some of the greatest feats in scientific ringing which had ever been accomplished. In evidence of this it may be mentioned that besides assisting in many ordinary peals Mr. Hubbard has taken part in the following excellent performances:—

On April 17th, 1831, he took 3-4 in 2520 changes of Stedman triples, rung on handbells at Norwich, the greatest length ever rung in hand, at that time, in this complicated method.

On February 6th, 1835, he rang the fourth at St. Giles's, Norwich, in 5376 of Superlative Surprise Major, the second peal in this method, of which seven only have been rung.

On November 17th, 1835, he rang the fourth at St. Andrew's, Norwich, in 5280 changes of London Surprise Major, the first peal in this method, of which two more only have since been rung.

On January 18th, 1844, he rang the eleventh at St. Peter's, Norwich, through 7126 changes of Stedman Cinques in 5 hours and 17 minutes, this being the longest length then completed in the method.

Mr. Hubbard's last peal was rung on August 23rd, 1868, at Guiseley, near Leeds, when he conducted a peal of 5088 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, which was rung by eight men whose united ages amounted to 553 years.

Having thus laid before you the claims that Mr. Hubbard has to the assistance of the Exercise, the committee trust that you will do your best to assist them in this object.

It is also suggested that in many cases where individual subscriptions may not be thought of sufficient value to be worth forwarding, a small all-round subscription amongst those practising at any church would make a creditable sum when entered in the name of the Tower, and especially would this be the case where any society will contribute a small sum quarterly during such time as they may be disposed.

I shall be glad to answer any further enquiries, and to receive any donations to this fund with which you may favour the committee.—Yours respectfully,
Old Bank Chambers, Leeds.

JASPER W. SNOWDON, Hon. Sec.

The Ringers' Record.

[Our friends will greatly assist us by forwarding their reports as early in the month as possible. The month should always be specified, not "ult." or "inst."]

THE METROPOLIS.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

WESTMINSTER.—On Monday, May 16th, by kind permission of the vicar, at St. Stephen's, Rochester Row, Westminster, Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 12 mins. E. Horrex, 1; R. French, 2; H. Cutter, 3; C. F. Winny, 4; S. Hayes, 5; G. Mash, 6; J. M. Hayes (conductor), 7; W. H. George, 8. Tenor 24 cwt., in D. This is the first peal rung on these bells since the marriage of the founder of the church (the Baroness Burdett-Coutts), and also the first since the accession of the present vicar, the Rev. W. Macdonald Sinclair, M.A.

THE WATERLOO SOCIETY.

DEPTFORD (Kent).—On Wednesday evening, April 27, eight members of this society rung, at St. Nicholas, Holt's Original one-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 54 mins. W. Shade, 1; E. F. Cole, Esq., 2; T. G. Deal, 3; W. Pead, 4; I. G. Shade, 5; T. Taylor, 6; H. Shade (conductor), 7; J. Barry, 8. The above was rung as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Earl Beaconsfield, with the bells muffled. Tenor 21 cwt.

THE PROVINCES.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

REDENHALL.—On Tuesday, May 3rd, 1881, the following members of the Redenhall branch of this Association (being also members of the Society of Royal Cumberlands, London), rang a peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, 5040 changes, at St. Mary's, in 3 hrs. 8 mins. E. Smith (conductor), 1; G. Prime, 2; Rev. N. Bolingbroke, 3; C. Candler, Esq., 4; Rev. H. E. Bulwer (first peal), 5; G. Mobbs, 6; G. Holmes, Esq., 7; Captain Moore, 8. Tenor 24 cwt., in D. This peal is a variation of one of Annable's productions, by the Rev. H. E. Bulwer.

REDENHALL.—On the Queen's Birthday, May 24th, 1881, the Redenhall branch of the above association, with N. H. Mack, Esq., of Tunstead, rang 5024 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 4 mins. Composed by Mr. H. Dains, conducted by Edward Smith, and now rung for the first time. E. Smith, 1; J. Bentley, 2; J. Smith, 3; *N. H. Mack, Esq., 4; R. Whitney, 5; F. Smith, 6; G. Mobbs, 7; Captain Moor, 8. Tenor 24 cwt., in D. [*First peal.]

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PUDSEY (near Leeds).—On Saturday, April 30th, at St. Lawrence's, 5024 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. W. Sugden, 1; T. Lockwood, 2; J. Hutchinson, 3; J. Whitaker, 4; W. Walker, 5; J. Woodhead, 6; J. W. Snowdon, Esq., 7; R. Binns, 8. The peal, which is in one part, with the fifth and sixth the extent in 5-6, was composed by N. J. Pitstow, and conducted by Tom Lockwood. Tenor 16 cwt.

HOLBECK (Leeds).—On Tuesday, April 26th, at St. Matthew's, 5040 of Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 6 mins. Rung with the bells muffled, as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G. T. Harrison, 1; M. Tomlinson, 2; H. Moss, 3; S. Bassett, 4; J. Woodhead, 5; J. Hutchinson, 6; H. Hubbard, jun., 7; T. West, 8. The peal was composed by M. Tomlinson, and conducted by T. West. Tenor 16 cwt.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

BARKING.—On Saturday, May 21st, the following members rang at St. Margaret's, 5088 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 20 mins. *H. Randall, 1; *A. J. Perkins, 2; J. R. Haworth, 3; R. Sewell, 4; *W. A. Alps, 5; G. Newson (composer and conductor), 6; *W. Doran, 7; S. Jarman, 8. Tenor 22 cwt. [*First peal in this method.]

BEDDINGTON (Surrey).—On Saturday, May 7th, ten members of the St. Mary's Society, being also members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, rang at St. Mary's Church a true peal of Grandsire Caters, containing 5021 changes, in 3 hrs. 18 mins. C. Martin, 1; J. Branch, 2; C. Bance, 3; E. Bennett (conductor), 4; J. Cawley, 5; J. Trappitt, 6; J. Plowman, 7; C. Gordon, 8; J. Zealey, 9; J. Clark, 10. This peal, composed by Mr. J. Cox, has the 5th and 6th only behind the ninth, and is in the titum position throughout. It is also the first peal of Caters rung by any of the above company. Tenor 21 cwt.

BRIGHTON (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, April 16th, at St. Martin's, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5120 changes, in 3 hrs. 7 mins., by six of the young local company, being their first peal, assisted by C. Shaw and F. Schofield, of Lindley. C. Neald, 1; J. W. Rawlinson, 2; J. F. Pearson, 3; W. Wood, 4; J. Cockroft, 5; F. Prince, 6; C. Shaw, 7; F. Schofield, 8. Composed by T. Day, of Leeds, and conducted by F. Schofield. Tenor 14½ cwt.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—On Saturday, May 7th, a true and complete peal of Kent Treble Bob Royal was rung on the bells of the Parish Church, consisting of 5080 changes (which is taken out of the 14,000 composed by Mr. John Thorp), and conducted by Mr. Samuel Wood, in 3 hrs. 32 mins. T. Moss, 1; J. Bowcock, 2; J. Wood, jun., 3; T. Wroe, 4; B. Broadbent, 5; J. Wilde, 6; S. Andrew, 7; J. Gillot, 8; S. Wood, 9; J. Thorp, 10. Tenor 28 cwt., in D.

THE PEAL (*in extenso*).

14000					

2	3	4	5	6	
3	5	2	6	4	M W H
5	4	2	6	3	1 2
6	5	2	4	3	1

Four times repeated would be a 7000, but by letting the bells lie still thus—

1	3	2	5	4	7	6	9	8	0
1	3	2	5	4	6	7	8	9	0
1	2	3	4	5	7	6	9	8	0
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

and repeating the above three courses four times again it will bring up

BIRMINGHAM.—Handbell Performance.—On Wednesday, September 3rd, 1879, four members of the St. Philip's Society rang, at the first attempt, Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, on handbells, retained in hand, in 2 hrs. 37 mins. T. Miller, 1-2; J. Hinton, jun. (of Worcester), 3-4; R. Hunt, 5-6; G. Wiseman, 7-8. Conducted by R. Hunt; rung in the presence of Messrs. J. Bannister and A. Cressor.

[We are asked to insert this performance, it never having yet been published.]

BIRMINGHAM.—On Saturday, May 7th, the following members of the St. Martin's Society rung on the bells of the Parish Church, Harborne, Warwickshire, a peal of Bob Major, containing 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 2 mins: H. Bastable, 1; J. Perks, 2; G. W. Baldwin, 3; J. Buffery, 4; H. Johnson, senr., 5; J. Day, 6; F. H. James, 7; H. Johnson, jun., 8. Composed by the late Thos. Day, conducted by H. Bastable, and the first peal in this method on the bells. Tenor about 12 cwt.

LEESFIELD, LEES (Lancashire).—On Thursday evening, May 5th, a mixed band of ringers met at St. Thomas's, Leesfield, and rang Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 57 mins. J. Standing (Lees), 1; *F. Crosland (St. Thomas's, Leesfield), 2; J. Platt (St. Mary's, Oldham), 3; C. Dronsfield (St. Mark's, Glodwick), 4; J. Priestley (St. Mark's, Glodwick), 5; S. Stott (conductor) (St. Mary's, Oldham), 6; W. Ashworth (St. Mary's, Oldham), 7; *J. Hilton (St. Thomas's, Leesfield), 8. [*First peal]. Tenor 14 cwt.

LIVEREDGE (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, May 14th, the local band rang at Christ Church, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, 5280 changes, in 3 hrs. 11 mins. J. Illingworth, 1; W. Goodall (composer), 2; J. W. Lang, 3; L. Illingworth, 4; G. Illingworth, 5; T. Goodall, 6; W. Collins, 7; S. Goodall (conductor), 8.

MILNROW (Lancs).—On Saturday, April 30th, the company of St. James's, Milnrow, rung a ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples (Reeves's variation), 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 13 mins. R. Warburton, 1; R. Buckley, 2; J. Fitton, 3; J. F. Wild, 4; A. Clegg, 5; *J. Crowther, 6; E. Clegg (conductor), 7; *J. Greaves, 8. [*First peal.] Tenor 24 cwt. The bells were muffled as a token of respect to the late John Fielding, who was a ringer at the above church for upwards of 10 years. He died in March last, after a short but severe illness, much regretted by the ringers and friends. He was also a member of the Rochdale and District Association of Change-ringers.

MINSTERWORTH (Gloucestershire).—On Monday, May 9th, a mixed band of the Societies of Churcham and Minsterworth ringers rang 32 six-scores with extremes and ten without, the whole containing 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 36 mins. J. Gough (Churcham), 1; J. Daniels (Churcham), 2; J. Ashmead (Minsterworth), 3; R. Gardner (Churcham), 4; W. Pugh (Minsterworth) (conductor), 5; T. Pugh (Minsterworth), 6. Tenor 9 cwt. 2 qrs.

DATE TOUCHES.

BROMSGROVE, (Worcestershire).—On Sunday, April 24th, 1881, nine members of the St. John's Society of Change-ringers, with the assistance of Mr. H. Lawton, of Wednesbury, rang at the Parish Church 1881 Grandsire Royal in 1 hr. 10 min., being the date of the present year. J. Perry, 1; G. Bourne, 2; T. Albutt, 3; H. Lawton, 4; O. James, 5; E. Crump, 6; W. Duffill, 7; G. Hayward (composer and conductor), 8; W. Rea, 9; R. Broomfield, 10. Tenor 20 cwt.

BURNSALL (Yorkshire).—On Tuesday, May 3rd, a date touch, consisting of 1881 changes, was rung by the St. Wilfrid's Society of Ringers in 1 hr. 13 min., in the following methods:—441 Bob Minor, 720 of Craven Delight, 360 of Woodbine, 360 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor. Wm. Whittaker, 1; S. Whitely, 2; J. Thompson, 3; J. S. Wilkinson, 4; C. Inman (conductor), 5; J. P. Birch, 6. Tenor 13 cwt. Composed by W. Whittaker, Secretary to the Yorkshire Association, Leeds.

CHURCHAM (Gloucestershire).—On Monday, April 11th, six of the local society rang 1881 changes, the date of the present year, in 1 hr. 1 min. J. Gingell, 1; J. B. Daniels, 2; J. Ashmead, 3; R. Gardner, 4; J. Gough (conductor), 5; M. Stephens, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. 3 qrs. This number of changes were rung to commemorate the birthday of Hay H. C. Hall Esq., son of the Rev. G. C. Hall, who took a particular interest in the restoration of these bells.

WAKEFIELD.—On Sunday, the 15th May, 1881, the Wakefield Ringers rang at the parish church 1881 changes of Grandsire Caters, in 1 hr. 24 mins. W. Milnes, 1; R. Wrigley, 2; J. P. Healy, 3; T. Prince, 4; W. Scott, 5; G. Firth, 6; W. Firth, 7; T. H. Ormond, 8; T. A. Moorhouse, 9; J. Styles, 10. Tenor 32 cwt. in D. The above was composed by J. Hollis, Wrenthorpe, and conducted by Walter Scott. [This touch appears in the May number of THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS RECORD.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

(Comprising performances under 5000 changes.)

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

WOODFORD (Essex).—On Sunday evening, May 15th, at St. Mary's, five members of the above association, with Mr. Taylor, of Rotherhithe, rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in 26 mins. G. Akers (first 720 in this method), 1; G. Gobbett, 2; H. Nunn, jun., 3; J. Nunn, 4; A. H. Gardon, Esq., 5; T. Taylor (conductor), 6. Tenor about 13 cwt., in G.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Sunday, April 22nd, for Divine Service, was rung a 720 Plain Bob Minor, with 9 bobs and 6 singles, in 28 mins. *W. Pye, 1; A. Porter, 2; A. Pye, 3; †G. Garnett, 4; J. W. Aldridge, 5; A. J. Perkins (conductor), 6. Tenor about 17 cwt. [*First peal; †first peal inside.]

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION OF SIX-BELL RINGERS.

In Memoriam.

BLACKROD.—On Friday, the 13th inst., a muffled 720 of Plain Bob was rung at the Parish Church, in memory of the late Mr. Samuel Speak, who died at Blackrod on the 9th inst., aged 62 years, and who had been a ringer at the above place upwards of 40 years, and was very well known and respected among the ringing community. G. Bullough (conductor, aged 82 years), 1; W. Croston, 2; R. Watnough, 3; J. Rawlinson, 4; G. Higson, 5; J. Higson, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt. Also on Sunday for Evening Service, a Muffled 720 of Plain Bob Minor, containing 34 bobs and 2 singles. R. Watnough (conductor), 1; W. Croston, 2; W. Heald, 3; J. Rawlinson, 4; G. Higson, 5; J. Higson, 6.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

CHERITON (Kent).—On May 21, at St. Martin's, by the Aldington branch of the Kent County Association, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with nine bobs and two singles, in 26 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; F. Slingsby, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; C. Boulding, 4; E. Hyder (conductor), 5; T. Post, 6. The first 720 of Plain Bob on these bells. Tenor 7 cwt., in B flat.—Also 720 of Oxford Treble Bob, with nine bobs, in 26 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; F. Slingsby, 2; W. Hyder, 3; T. Post, 4; E. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.—Also on April 26th, 720 of Bob Minor, with 14 bobs and 2 singles, with the bells deeply muffled, as a last mark of respect to the late Earl of Beaconsfield. C. Slingsby, 1; T. Post, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; W. Hyder, 4; E. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.—Also on April 28th, 720 Bob Minor, with 14 singles and 4 bobs, in 28 mins. T. Post, 1; T. Hodgkin, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.—Also on May 5th, 720 Bob Minor, with 14 bobs and 2 singles, in 28½ mins. C. Slingsby, 1; T. Post, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; W. Hyder, 4; E. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.—Also on May 12th, 720 Bob Minor, with 18 bobs and 18 singles in 28 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; T. Post, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Thursday, April 21st, at St. Martin's Church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with fourteen bobs and two singles, in 28 mins. C. Slingsby, 1; F. Slingsby, 2; P. Hodgkin, 3; W. Hyder, 4; E. Hyder, (conductor), 5; W. Post, 6. Tenor 14 cwt., in G. All members of the Kent County Association. This 720 was first rung at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, in 1740; now at Aldington for the first time.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

IPSWICH.—On Tuesday evening, May 24th, 1881, at St. Mary-le-Tower, the St. Mary-le-Tower Society rung a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 51 mins, consisting of 1260 changes, being the first five parts of Mr. T. Thurstan's peal of 5040. This is the greatest number of changes in the method rung upon the bells. D. Prentice, 1; R. Hawes, 2; I. S. Alexander, 3; R. Brundle, 4; H. Bevan, 5; E. Pemberton, 6; W. Catchpole (conductor), 7; T. Pollard, 8. Tenor 32 cwt.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

READING.—At St. Giles', by members of the above Guild, two 720s of Grandsire Minor. The name of third ringer omitted in each. R. Swain (Reading), 1; — Rogers (Maidenhead), 2; H. Castiff, (Reading),

4; C. Hounslow (Oxford), (conductor), 5; H. Egby (Reading), 6. Time 28 mins. 2nd—R. Swain (Reading), 1; T. Newman (Caversham), 2; J. Dart (Reading), 4; C. Hounslow (Oxford), (conductor), 5; H. Egby (Reading), 6. Tenor 18 cwt.

BELCHAMP WALTER (Essex).—On Wednesday, May 18th, six members of the local company rang, at St. Mary's, 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. W. Firmin, 1; J. Chattis, 2; H. Twitchett, 3; F. Hawkins, 4; W. Finch, 5; N. Hawkins (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 in this method by the above company, excepting the conductor; and also the first of Treble Bob rung by a Belchamp society for over 50 years. Tenor 12 cwt.

BRAINTREE (Essex).—On Saturday, May 14th, three of the Stebbing ringers visited Braintree, and with the assistance of three of the Braintree company, rang a six-score of Bob Doubles, and a six-score of Grandsire Doubles. E. Hynes (Stebbing), 1; W. Dyson, 2; J. F. Barker (Stebbing), 3; F. Rudkin, 4; E. Claydon (Stebbing) (conductor), 5; S. Hammond, 6.—Also a 720 Bob Minor, time 26 min. *E. Hynes, 1; *J. F. Barker, 2; F. Calthorpe, 3; S. Hammond (conductor), 4; *E. Claydon, 5; F. Rudkin, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt. [This is the first 720 of those marked thus * who had never rung as much as a plain course before they rung this]. During the past year (Easter 1880-81) the Braintree company have rung exactly 100 720's of Minor, and 86 six-scores of Doubles, and 101 Touches (two of which were date touches, 1880 and 1881) that have been brought home, making a total of 107,235 changes in the following methods:—Bob Minor, 18; Oxford, 37; Kent, 19; Double Court Bob, 13; Court Singles, 4; Cambridge Surprise, 1; Woodbine, 8; Grandsire Doubles, 55; Bob Doubles, 31.

BROMBOROUGH (Cheshire).—On Saturday last six members from Liverpool paid a visit to the above Parish Church, and rung a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. Rich. Williams, 1; W. Woodhead, 2; G. Helsby, 3; H. Beck, 4; Robt. Williams, 5; J. Egerton, 6. Tenor 24 cwt. in E. Composed by the late Mr. John Heron, jun., and conducted by Mr. James Egerton, and is the first 720 rang upon the bells. These bells were opened on Easter Monday, and our readers will no doubt recollect that in our March number appeared a copy of the inscriptions upon them. Cast by Messrs. Taylor & Sons, of Loughborough.

ELMORE (Gloucester).—On Wednesday, May 11th, the local band of ringers rang 1881 changes in the Grandsire method in 61 mins., being the date of the present year. *T. Brown (conductor), 1; T. Harmer, 2; H. Watts, 3; *H. Merrett, 4; R. Prosser, 5; E. Taylor, 6. Tenor about 12 cwt. Those marked * are members of the Gloucester and Bristol Association.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Saturday, May 11th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (in two parts), in 27 mins. C. Clarke, 1; J. Parker (composer and conductor), 2; J. Basden, 3; A. Batten, 4; E. Rogers, 5; R. Flaxman, 6.—Also on Sunday the 22nd May, for Morning Service, a touch of 504 Grandsire Minor, in 19 mins. C. Clark, 1; J. Parker (conductor), 2; R. Flaxman, 3; W. Wilder, 4; G. Buckland, 5; S. Hayes, 6.—Also for Afternoon service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor (in two parts), in 28 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Parker (conductor), 2; R. Flaxman, 3; J. Basden, 4; G. Buckland, 5; S. Hayes, 6.—Also after service, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. J. Parker, 1; J. Basden, 2; S. Hayes (conductor), 3; W. Wilder, 4; A. Batten, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Tenor 12 cwt., in F.

GRAVESEND (Kent).—On Sunday morning, May 15th, the following rung at S.S. Peter and Paul's, Milton, Gravesend, for Divine Service, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, containing 18 bobs and 18 singles, in 26½ mins. *J. N. Chapman, 1; M. Lambert, 2; *H. Weeks, 3; *W. King, 4; *B. Spooner, 5; *S. Hayes (conductor), 6. [Marked thus * are members of the Society of College Youths.]

HINDLEY (Lancashire).—On Tuesday, April 26th, the ringers of St. Peter's Church rang, with the bells muffled, as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Lord Beaconsfield, the first half of Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 2520 changes, time occupied being 1 hr. 30 mins. R. Calland (conductor), 1; E. Prescott, 2; E. Brown, 3; W. Chisnall, 4; W. Pemblett, 5; T. Tickle, 6; J. Prescott, 7; T. Eccleston, 8. Tenor 14 cwt. 1 qr.

ORMSKIRK (Lancashire).—On Thursday evening, May 5th, the ringers of the parish church, Ormskirk, rang a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples, in memory of the late Right Hon. the Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G., and as a tribute of respect to the deceased nobleman, comprising 916 changes (being the number of months the late Earl had lived), in 40 mins. S. Higham, 1; J. Winrow, 2; J. Eastham, 3; R. Clayton, 4; J. Leatherbarrow, 5; N. Spencer, 6; J. Aspinwall, 7; J. Prescott, 8. Tenor 25½ cwt. The above was composed expressly for the Ormskirk ringers by Mr. John Aspinwall, and was conducted by him.

PRESTON (Suffolk).—On Wednesday evening, May 11th, at St. Mary's, at the usual weekly practice, the local company rang a 720 of

Bob Minor, having 8 bobs and 6 singles, in 25 mins. H. Symonds (conductor), 1; A. Baldwin, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; A. Symonds, 4; W. Snell, 5; J. Levitt, 6.—Also on May 18th, 720 Bob Minor, in 25 mins., in three equal parts, with 42 singles, called at every lead, except 2nd, 7th, 8th, 14th, 15th, 16th, in each part. H. Symonds (conductor), 1; A. Baldwin, 2; A. Hollocks, 3; W. Hollocks, 4; W. Snell, 5; A. Symonds, 6. Tenor 11 cwt.

SALTAIRE (Yorkshire).—On Saturday, May 21st, the local company rung a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins.—Also at Low Moor same evening a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. H. Wilson, 1; J. F. Pearson, 2; J. Robnett, 3; W. Wood, 4; J. Cockroft, 5; F. Prince (conductor), 6.

SPALDING (Lines).—On May 8th, on the back six bells of St. Paul's, Feelney, a 720 Bob Minor, with 18 bobs and 2 singles. J. R. Jerram, 1; J. W. Creasey, 2 (aged 14 years, his first 720 in this method on an inside bell); J. Woodward, 3; J. S. Wright, 4; R. Mackman, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6.—Also on May 12th a 720 Bob Minor, with 13 bobs and 2 singles. A. Hayes (his first peal in this method), 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; R. Mackman, 3; J. S. Wright, 4; the Rev. R. G. Ash, vicar, member of the St. Paul's Amateur Company of Change Ringers, 5 (his first 720 in a six bell method); R. Creasey (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt., in F. We are informed that the Amateur Company commenced to learn to ring on the 9th November, 1880, and have rung a great many six-scores of Grandsire Doubles. They are now learning Bob Minor; with a few more practices they will be proficient in it. It is intended afterwards to go on to Grandsire Triples and Treble Bob Major.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—May 10th, at SS. Mary and Nicolas, a 720 of Plain Bob, 18 bobs and 2 singles. W. Wyche (Crowland), 1; J. S. Wright, 2; R. Mackman, 3; G. L. Richardson, 4; J. R. Jerram, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6.—Also on May 18th, 720 of Plain Bob, 18 bobs and 2 singles, J. S. Wright, 1; J. Woodward, 2; G. L. Richardson, 3; T. Blackburn, 4; R. Mackman, 5; J. R. Jerram (conductor), 6.—Also 720 of London Singles, 18 bobs and 2 singles. J. R. Jerram, 5; R. Mackman (conductor), 6.—Also on May 22nd, 720 Plain Bob, 18 bobs and 2 singles. J. W. Creasey, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; A. Ridlington, 3; R. Creasey, 4; R. Mackman, 5; J. Wright (conductor), 6.—Also on Queen's Birthday, May 24th, 720 College Single, 18 bobs and 2 singles. J. Wright, 1; J. Woodward, 2; J. R. Jerram, 3; T. Blackburn, 4; G. Richardson, 5; R. Mackman (conductor), 6.—Also a Date Touch consisting of 81 Plain, 6 bobs and 1 single; 720 London Single, 18 bobs and 2 singles; 720 Plain Bob; 360 College Single, 9 bobs. R. Mackman, conductor. Tenor 18 cwt.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

The following letter to the *Durham County Advertiser*, a copy of which was forwarded to us some time ago by the respected Hon. Sec. of the Durham Diocesan Association, Mr. G. P. Clarkson, has been circulated throughout the northern diocese:—

Sir,—The large and successful quarterly meeting lately held at North Shields calls to mind the inaugural meeting held there just two and a half years ago, as the result of a small meeting held in the Choristers' Room of Durham Cathedral for the purpose of carrying out a long-felt wish of forming an association of ringers for the diocese. Why North Shields should so soon have received a second visit may be attributed partly to the well-known condition of the bells and ringing chamber; a pattern of excellence to which many places would like to make even a distant approach, but more especially to the fact that since the first meeting there two more bells have been added, making up the only ring of ten in the diocese. The success which attended the inaugural meeting showed at once that the formation of this association had excited great interest among the bell-ringers of the diocese, and great expectations were formed of it. We have certainly produced no transformation scene, achieved no impossibilities. We have, nevertheless, carried out our programme of having quarterly meetings, which have been the means of bringing change-ringing into greater notice, and of affording ringers from different places opportunities of meeting together and knowing each other, and of exciting the different branches to achieve as much as possible during each year so as to make up the best possible annual report. One portion of our programme yet remains in abeyance—that is, providing an instructor to visit and coach up those branches who have not mastered the art of change-ringing. I think that during the first two years we have done enough to pay our way, and even if we had the funds in hand it would not have been desirable to have spent any in that direction until it had been ascertained which branch would really set themselves to work and benefit by it. I hope at the next annual meeting to show a state of the funds that

will enable the committee to take the matter up, and select what may be thought the most deserving branch to be dealt with first, and the others in turn. It could not reasonably have been expected that as soon as this association had thrown a flood of light on the condition of the belfries and ringers of the diocese, all would at once be put right. It is our business to establish ourselves, exhibit an earnest and able method of progress, and then as our influence increases, as it must do from year to year, our advice and assistance will be sought after; and those ringers who, from whatever motives, may wish to keep change-ringing out of their belfries, will find the task one of increasing difficulty, and finally impossible. It generally happens, when a new ring is to be put up, or an old one restored, that many people are to be found willing to subscribe for the purpose, but do not care, when once the peal is set going, to be asked to subscribe again. It is, therefore, of great importance that when the money is spent it should be done to the best possible advantage; and that while the workmanship is good, the arrangements are good also. But when we look around, what do we see has been done during the last ten or fifteen years? The ringers are stuffed into a chamber immediately under the bells, with neither sufficient light nor ventilation, and with the noise so excessive that the ringers can scarcely tell what they are doing, and only by frantic efforts can the conductor make himself heard; the ringers are hampered and their pleasure spoiled. Such is the case at Hurworth, St. Cuthbert's, Darlington, Gainford, and, perhaps a worse case than all, at Whitley, where, in addition to the noise, the ringers can scarcely see each other for obstacles of one kind or another, and the whole arrangement is positively dangerous. The ropes should have been carried down through the present belfry floor into a chamber below. This, without doubt, would be pointed out as impossible; but would such impossibilities be allowed to have place in the case of the organ? Or what would be thought of a pulpit, which, for architectural effect, was so arranged that the preacher could scarcely get into it, or when there find himself so curiously placed as not to know what he was doing? Our forefathers were much better in that respect, and allowed the ringers to have a belfry at a proper distance below the bells. One great advantage of our meetings must be to draw the people's attention to bell-ringing as a work of skill. I believe that the very great majority of people, from the Bishop of the diocese to the village schoolboy, like the sound of church bells; but how few know anything of change-ringing, or of the skill that must be called into requisition before it can be produced? In listening to the strains of an organ, or to a band of instrumentalists, while enjoying the pleasing effect produced by the sweetness of the music, we seldom fail to appreciate it a great deal the more from a perception of the admirable skill by which it is produced; and so, when we admire the beauty of a picture, the skill of the artist is at once present to mind, and the picture is doubly beautiful. If the members of this association can make the public at all sensible of the skill they exercise, they will never lack encouragement, or their change-ringing admiration. When it is remembered that in twelve bell ringing an error of time to the extent of 1-16th of a second is distinctly heard and felt, and that bells varying in weight from 8 cwt. to 52 cwt., as in the case of St. Saviour's, Southwark, are rung to such precision as this, each man ascertaining his position in each successive change by a method which he has learned and trained himself to apply, who can refuse to acknowledge the great skill of this noble art? . . . With the change-ringer, ringing is a science involving intricate and beautiful problems, which, applied to bells, produces a musical and constant succession of changes until the whole number is run out; or as this is impossible on any number above seven, until the number selected by the conductor has been rung through, the concluding change bringing the bells back to the position of rounds which they had left some hundreds of changes previously.

SIR,—Having received a copy of *Standard Methods*, I have great pleasure in recommending it. This work meets the requirements of young ringers who, with the aid of *Rope-Sight*, have made themselves masters of the Plain Bob system, and desire to become efficient in other methods. Unlike all other treatises I have yet seen, it gives elaborate (yet easily to be understood) instructions to ring the most complex method practised at the present time, and particularly so in Stedman's principle. Mr. Snowdon may be said to have surpassed himself in his instructions upon this favourite system, and there is no doubt that his remarks will be interesting and instructive as well to the adept as to the learner.

On page 32 two evident misprints occur, which should be marked in their copies by learners. In the seventh line from the bottom for "sixth" read "fifth," and in the third line from the bottom for "fourth" read "fifth." In your March issue, Mr. Bulwer, in a letter upon this matter, mentions the "A.B. trick," which he states will assist one in knowing whether to go in slow or quick, and says he thinks Mr. Snowdon has overlooked this help. Mr. Snowdon, however, in the sentence (page 34) beginning "There is also another observation, &c.," describes what is equivalent to the A.B. trick, and as

these observations can be made at the last moment, and are, in my opinion, more favourable for striking, I think that Mr. Snowdon was right to prefer such a description of the observations to be made, rather than simply to describe the A.B. trick alluded to by Mr. Bulwer. The whole matter may be summed up thus: Mr. Snowdon recommends the observation of the two bells at the lead when the ringer may have to strike into second or third places. Mr. Bulwer recommends the observation of one bell which may either lead or strike into second place. Mr. Snowdon does not pretend that this last observation can be productive of good striking, especially to the ringer of a heavy bell, and I strongly recommend all young ringers to take Mr. Snowdon's advice, and endeavour in every case to learn, when in doubt, as to which way they will enter the sizes at the commencement of their dodging in 4-5.

There is one point to which I should like to draw the attention of your readers, and that is Mr. Snowdon's way of making the single in Double Court Bob Minor. For more than a century past, and the invariable custom at the present time, is that the bells in second's and third's places should be still, and the others should be undisturbed in their work; but Mr. Snowdon recommends fourth's, fifth's, and sixth's places to be made instead. I object to this for two or three reasons: first, that the single must be made at some treble's lead other than at the half-peal end; secondly, that the three bells lying still behind is monotonous even for two changes, while the work of the bell making the single is less interesting than the mode now used. I shall be glad to see ringers who practise this method express their opinions upon this alteration. The diagrams are beautifully done. Mr. Snowdon has contributed another very valuable work in ringing literature, and I trust his efforts will be appreciated and recognised by a quick and ready sale of *Standard Methods*.

N. J. PIRROW.

Saffron Walden.

SIR,—As a churchwarden and practical ringer (though but a learner), I hail the appearance of *THE BELL NEWS* with uncommon satisfaction, and shall be glad to become a subscriber. Accordingly I send stamps.

Sir Edmund Beckett has written a very good book on clocks and watches, but I quite concur in the opinion expressed by your correspondent, "A Young Ringer," that the worthy baronet knows mighty little about bells. I do hope, however, that London may at last possess a really good bell of respectable size—Big Ben is surely the worst that ever was or will be heard. If the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's go the right way about it, they will be able to show Englishmen what a good large bell can do.

Terrington Lodge, King's Lynn.

JOHN T. SECOCOMBE, M.D.

SIR,—It is often remarked that the weights of tenors are variously estimated. Allow me to suggest to bell-founders that they should always put the weight of tenor on the bell when it is cast.

[A very sensible suggestion.—Ed.]

C. W. HONY.

SIR,—On looking at the two peals of Bob Minor inserted in your April issue, p. 24, from Mr. W. Jarvis, I find the three-part one to be false. I have upwards of 50 one-part peals with 42 calls (among which I find the other peal sent by him), and many three-part ones with the same number.

In your May issue, p. 30, appear two peals by Mr. C. Jackson. The first of these is to be found in Mr. Snowdon's instructive work, *Rope-Sight*, p. 72. Perhaps the best way of giving this peal is by omitting singles at leads 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, and 15.

I am not aware that it is mentioned in any work on Ringing that any touch of Plain Bob Minor without singles will produce the same number of leads of Treble Bob, by calling bobs at the same leads. Thus any half-peals of Plain produces a peal of Treble Bob.

Example: By comparing the peal by Mr. Annable in the above work, at p. 70, with the Treble Bob peal of 15 bobs in Mr. Snowdon's *Treble Bob Treatise*, they will be found to have calls at corresponding leads. The peal with nine bobs has calls at the same leads as the peal of plain with 18 bobs and 2 singles. The peal with 12 bobs will produce one of plain with 24 bobs and 2 singles.

JOHN F. PENNING.

CHANGE-RINGERS' GUIDE.—We note that the compilers of this useful work have in view the production of a new edition. It is certainly desirable that the Exercise should assist, by forwarding to the editors the required information, in making the *Guide* as complete as possible. Though we have not received any direct information concerning the projected re-issue, we shall not, perhaps, be out of order in acquainting our readers with the details wanted:—1. Name of society or parish (stating the county) where real change-ringing is practised; 2. Number of bells in ring; 3. Weight of tenor; 4. Methods practised; 5. The regular practice nights; 6. Name and address of secretary or head ringer; 7. Nearest railway station and distance. Answers can be sent on a post-card. Address—Rev. E. Acland Troyte, Winterbourne Down, near Bristol.

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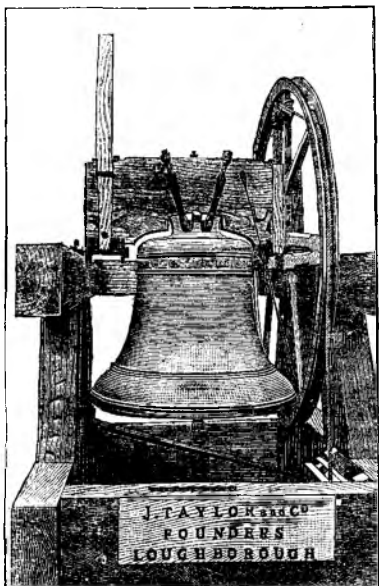
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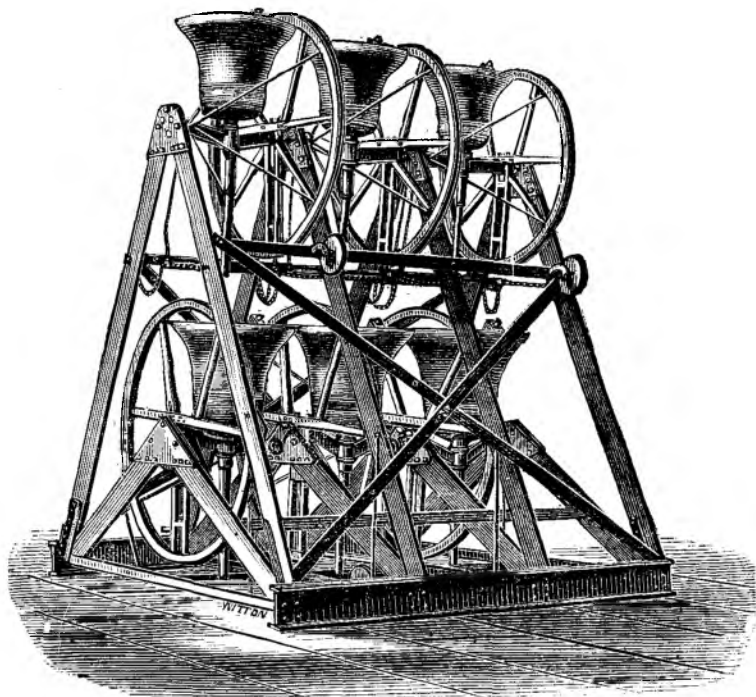
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