

THE BELL NEWS

AND RINGERS' RECORD:

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

No. 6.—VOL. I.

JULY, 1881.

[ONE PENNY.]

ON A RING OF BELLS IN PERFECT TUNE.

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

To these two bodies, one of which is sounding the octave of the other, and is yielding exactly double the number of vibrations of the first, let us add a third body, and let this last yield just three times as many vibrations per second as the first. The resulting combination of tones, although now containing an element which immediately proves itself to be not so near akin to either of the two previous tones, or to both of them taken together, as they were to each other, is still perfectly harmonious.

The simplest manner in which to describe the tones that we have now instituted is to say that they are in the ratio 1 : 2 : 3. I have said that whatever name we choose for the first must be that of the second also. Let us name them both C. The third we will call G.

To these three tones we can add others with numbers of vibrations in a continually increasing proportion, the extent of which at first sight, and theoretically speaking, seems to be bounded only by our capabilities of hearing. But then we shall find that we can go but a very short distance beyond that which we have already reached without encountering an unwelcome element in the form of discord.

To the vibrating bodies above mentioned let us add three more yielding respectively four, five, and six times as many vibrations per second as the first. Up to this point the harmony is perfect; but the moment we go a step farther and add another body with seven times the number of vibrations, our ears receive a sensation that contains a trace of roughness.

It was observed above that we should find that there is, with regard to music, as with regard to other things, a principle in our nature which often, unknown to ourselves, is a lover of simplicity.

Now the ratio of 1 : 2 is the simplest possible; and accordingly the most perfect combination of musical tones is a note and its octave. The ratios of 1 : 3 or 2 : 3, although simple, are not so, to so great a degree as that of 1 : 2, and so forth, up to 6 inclusive. But when 7 is admitted, the ratios that result therefrom, although certainly not very complicated in themselves, are so far so, that their presence in unpleasant to the ear. Our natural instinct therefore bids us rest content with the six tones which we now have. The ratio of these is 1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5 : 6.

Now, because 2 was the octave of 1, we gave to them both the same name; therefore 4, being the double or octave of 2, will also be called by the same name as the two first; that is, 1 and 2 being called C, 4 will also be C. The octave of 1 is 2, and the octave of 2 is 4; therefore 4 is two octaves higher than 1. Likewise 6 is the octave of 3, and 3 was called G, therefore 6 is also G. All our six are now accounted for except 5. To this let the name E be applied.

The whole is then as follows:—

$$1 : 2 : 3 : 4 : 5 : 6.$$

$$C, C, G, C, E, G.$$

In the next place let us eliminate the first three of the six. By so doing, it will be noticed, we do not lose any denomination of note. The first three contain only notes denominated C and G, and we find both of these in the last three; therefore the last three contain in themselves every denomination of note hitherto acquired. We have now arrived at the three notes C, E, G, the number of whose vibrations is as 4 : 5 : 6. Three notes in this ratio are called a *major triad*.

Starting now with G, the last of the above three notes, we will make it the foundation of another major triad. Let the ratio of the number of vibrations of G be still represented by 6. Then 4 : 5 :: 6 : the number which will represent the next component of the triad; thus 4 : 5 :: 6 : $\frac{15}{2}$, which last is therefore the number representing the second component of the new triad.

In like manner we obtain the third component; 4 : 6 :: 6 : 9. This shows that the third must be represented by 9. Let the two components now acquired be denominated respectively B and D.

We must here bear in mind that we have now altogether two triads:—

$$C : E : G :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: 4 : 5 : 6$$

$$G : B : D :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: 6 : \frac{15}{2} : 9.$$

To these two one more must be added.

In building this we will begin at the top and work downwards. Let the highest note of this be the octave of the lowest of our first triad, C, E, G. Now in this latter we represented C by 4. Its octave is double of this, and will therefore be 8. We have to work backwards from 8, and determine what two numbers bear the same proportion to 8 that 5 and 4 bear to six. This we get immediately by the two following simple calculations:— $6 : 5 :: 8 : \frac{20}{3}$, and $6 : 4 :: 8 : \frac{16}{3}$. We will call our two new notes A and F, the triad being as follows:—F : A : C :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: $\frac{16}{3} : \frac{20}{3} : 8$.

Again to recapitulate: We have altogether the three following triads, with the accompanying ratios:—

$$C : E : G :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: 4 : 5 : 6$$

$$F : A : C :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: \frac{16}{3} : \frac{20}{3} : 8$$

$$G : B : D :: 4 : 5 : 6 :: 6 : \frac{15}{2} : 9$$

These three triads or, as they are sometimes called, *chords*, contain seven notes called C, D, E, F, G, A, B. Arranging the numbers which we have acquired by calculation according to their numerical value, beginning with the lowest, we have as follows:—

$$4, 5, \frac{16}{3}, 6, \frac{20}{3}, \frac{15}{2}, 8, 9$$

$$C, E, F, G, A, B, C, D$$

Of these 4 and 8 are both C, and are the octaves of one another. Between these two all the others fall, with the single exception of D, represented by 9. Now, whether we halve or double the number 9, it will still represent D; only in the first case it will represent that D which is an octave lower, and in the second, that which is an octave higher, than the D we now have. Let it be halved—that is, let D be represented by the value $\frac{9}{2}$, or $4\frac{1}{2}$. This, of course, causes D to fall between 4 and 5—that is, between C and E. We now have seven different notes all comprised within the compass of an octave above the lowest of the seven, and, by doubling this latter—that is, by adding its octave, we have made up our number to eight, thus—

$$C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C$$

$$4, \frac{9}{2}, 5, \frac{16}{3}, 6, \frac{20}{3}, \frac{15}{2}, 8$$

From this we proceed one step further for greater convenience—we reduce these ratios to their simplest form by dividing them throughout by 4, which gives—

$$C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C$$

$$1, \frac{9}{8}, \frac{5}{4}, \frac{4}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, \frac{5}{2}, \frac{15}{8}, 2$$

This is the *perfect major scale*, and by these ratios it is usual to represent the relations of the numbers of the vibrations of the notes which compose it.

Having now established one of the points proposed in the beginning of this article—namely, the true physical relation to one another of the notes in a perfect octave, let me make one or two remarks thereon.

First: We have seen that the sole base of the major scale is the major triad. Three of such triads were found requisite; C, E, G, and G, B, D, and F, A, C. Second: Some of the technical terms connected with these. To the fundamental note of each a name has been given—C, the lowest of the first triad, being called the *tonic*, or *key note*; G, the lowest of the second triad, the *dominant*; and F, the lowest of the third triad, the *sub-dominant*. Thus in a ring of eight bells the tenor is the tonic or key note, the fourth is the dominant, and the fifth is the sub-dominant. Third—It may be well to give here an example of the method in which the ratios above given for the notes should be employed. Suppose a bell intended for the tenor of a ring of eight to have been cast, and that it be found to yield 313 vibrations per second: required, the number of vibrations which the seventh must yield in order to be in perfect tune. Now, the number of vibrations of the tenor being represented by 1, and those of the seventh by $\frac{9}{8}$, all that is necessary is to multiply 313 by 9, and then divide the product by 8, which gives $352\frac{1}{8}$ as the number required to be yielded by the seventh. The number for the sixth will be $391\frac{1}{2}$, and so forth.

We now proceed to consider the *intervals*, or distances between each note and its successor in the scale. If we are told that one place is five miles distant on a certain road, and another place eight miles distant on the same road, we naturally and rightly conclude, by *subtracting* five from eight, that the two places are three miles from each other. But, when we come to deal with numbers that express *ratios*, this process will be found to fail. Instead of employing subtraction, we must here employ *division*. Therefore, to find the interval between the keynote and the next above it, we divide $\frac{8}{5}$ by 1, which gives $\frac{8}{5}$. In the same way $\frac{9}{4} \div \frac{8}{5} = \frac{45}{32}$; also $\frac{10}{3} \div \frac{9}{4} = \frac{40}{27}$; also $\frac{11}{2} \div \frac{10}{3} = \frac{33}{20}$; also $\frac{12}{1} \div \frac{11}{2} = \frac{24}{11}$. Thus we discover that in a perfect octave there is an interval of $\frac{8}{5}$ between the lowest note and the lowest but one, or, to return to our old names, between C and D, also between F and G, and between A and B. There is an interval of $\frac{9}{4}$ between D and E, and between G and A. Lastly—there is an interval of $\frac{10}{3}$ between E and F, and between B and the higher C.

We have now made out a point upon which it is absolutely impossible to lay too much stress, and it is this—that the intervals between the successive notes composing the perfect major scale are of THREE different values.

Now, why is this so important? Simply for the following reason:—In the organ, the harmonium, the piano, and all other instruments with fixed notes, we find intervals of only TWO values provided. Hence it necessarily follows that all instruments of this description are imperfect.

The plan upon which most of them are tuned is called that of "equal temperament." The whole interval, from the keynote to its octave, is divided into twelve equal portions. Each of these is called a *semitone*; omitting one and passing to the next, we have what is called a *tone*. The major scale is made up as follows:—two tones and a semitone, three more tones and a semitone at the end.

The cause of the application of the principle of equal temperament is this: Supposing that one key, say that of C, were set in perfect tune throughout, then the notes would be so far out of tune for playing in other keys as to cause an unpleasant sensation, which could not be remedied otherwise than by an almost infinite number of notes; but, with the system of equal temperament, all the notes are only slightly out of tune, and that to an equal amount; therefore, all are equally available as key-notes for a scale, and all the notes in that scale are as suitable for the place they have to occupy as they would be in another place in any other scale.

The result of this system is that those who have experience with these instruments gradually lose their natural predilection for the true scale, becoming first of all indifferent as to which of the two they hear; finally, however, actually preferring that which is wrong, or rather, being apt to think that the wrong one is right, and the right one wrong.

From the comparative ease with which execution is accomplished on an instrument with fixed notes, and from the consequent widespread use of such imperfect instruments, especially of the pianoforte, the ears of a great part of the community, and above all of musicians, are spoiled.

Of course, I am aware that the scale of equal temperament varies but slightly from the true one, but still the fact remains, that one is true, the other false. One is the scale of nature, the other merely that of art.

[To be continued.]

THE MONTH. THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday the second anniversary in connection with this Association was celebrated at Writtle, in which picturesque little village the Association may be said to have been virtually founded some two years ago under the auspices of the Rev. J. B. Seaman, who has since acted as its Treasurer and Secretary. Though the weather was unfavourable, a goodly muster assembled from various parts of the county. The ringing in the morning, which comprised Grandsire and Stedman Triples, and Bob Major, was followed by a short service in the Church, conducted by the Rev. J. B. Seaman, and consisting of the Litany, the Collect for the day, and a short form of prayer: an appropriate sermon being preached by the Rev. G. St. A. Godson, Vicar of St. John's, Moulsham, from I. Cor. xii. 6. At the close an adjournment was made to the School-room, where the company sat down to an excellent dinner, presided over by the Rev. J. B. Seaman, and among those present were the Rev. George St. A. Godson, Messrs. H. A. Cockey and H. De Lisle (Galleywood), R. Sewell (Barking), T. Bunting (Colchester), W. Alps (Waltham Abby), E. Durrant (Chelmsford), J. Young (Boreham), J. Dyer (Great Tey), A. J. Perkins (Romford), W. J. Philips (West Ham), H. Sayers (Witham), &c., &c. After a few complimentary toasts had been given and responded to, the annual business meeting was held in the Infant school-room. The chairman submitted for inspection a new peal book, which gave great satisfaction. He had received letters from the Rev. H. Frank Johnson (Rector of Chelmsford), Canon Carey, the Rev. H. E. Hulton, and others, as well as from several ringing members, who would have liked to have been with them but could not. The Association, said Mr. Seaman, had originated in a meeting

held at Writtle Vicarage on May 9th, 1879, at which several parishes were represented, and they held their first meeting on Whit-Monday, 1879. At their first annual meeting they had 39 honorary members and 80 ringing members and probationers; and there were now 46 honorary and life members, and 150 ringing members, so that they might fairly congratulate the Society on its success. It was a question whether assistance was not wanted in the way of teaching the members. He believed there were many competent men who would be glad to teach them if their expenses were paid to and fro. Mr. Bunting thought they should try to get information from every belfry in the county as to when their nights of practice were, and they should then know when to go round to different places and pick up a wrinkle from their friends. That would be better than paying persons to go round and teach.

The Bishop of St. Albans was re-elected President; and the Vice-Presidents were also re-elected, with the omission of the name of the Rev. Sir J. C. Hawkins, Bart., who is about leaving Essex. The Committee were also re-elected, with the substitution of the Rev. H. Frank Johnson for that of the Rev. Sir J. C. Hawkins. Several ringing members and probationers were also admitted into the Association.

The chairman thought that the time had arrived when he could be released of his duties as Treasurer and Secretary, but a strong wish was expressed that he should continue in office, with Mr. Herbert Cockey as assistant secretary. This Mr. Cockey agreed to.

Mr. Alps congratulated the Society on the progress that had been made. They had in their Secretary an able-bodied Seaman who two years ago unfurled his sails, and had been cruising about from port to port, and whatever storms and waves had arisen he had passed safely over them all. He hoped that by their next meeting he would be able to say that he was in a position to keep the ship going with increased power and reputation. A cordial vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the members of this Association took place in this city on Monday, June 20th (the anniversary of the Queen's accession). This Association was founded on Jan. 8th, 1878, for the promotion of belfry reform and the cultivation of change-ringing, and as to the former laudable object, the circular says:—"The belfry is part of the church, and is consecrated to the service of Almighty God. The bells are instruments of sacred music. The office, therefore, of a ringer is a holy office, and should ever be performed in a reverent manner." The Lord Bishop of the Diocese is president of the Association; the vice-presidents are the Venerable Sir George Prevost, Bart., late Archdeacon of Gloucester, the Venerable Henry G. Randall, Archdeacon of Bristol, the Right Hon. Sir Michael Edward Hicks-Beach, Bart., M.P., and Colonel Kingscote, C.B., M.P.; master, Mr. John Drinkwater, Sandhurst; hon. sec., Rev. Pitt Eykyn, France Lynch, Stroud; hon. treasurer, Rev. Mowbray Trotter, St. Mary de Crypt, Gloucester. The day's proceedings were observed by a band ringing at the Cathedral a touch of Grandsire Triples, 640 changes, conducted by Mr. G. Wanklin. Other members visited several churches, where the bells were rung. They afterwards attended divine service in the Cathedral. The first lesson was read by the Rev. Canon Harvey, and the second by Canon Lyttelton, the prayers being read by the Rev. J. P. Clark, precentor. The latter also read the Epistle. The Gospel was read by Canon Harvey, who also preached the sermon. The rev. gentleman based his remarks upon the 122nd Psalm, the 6th to 9th verses, and commencing with the words "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." He was as glad to say as they were to listen to anything in reference to the annual meeting of those who rang the merry peals throughout the length and breadth of the land on the celebration of the 44th year of her Majesty's reign, and it was the general wish and prayer for its continuation. He could only welcome those gathered together in the walls of the Cathedral who were engaged to cheer every loyal Englishman with their calling, and he felt that much good had been done by the Association, which tended to the formation of higher moral character in the House of God. His ideas of bell-ringers were formerly very different to those he possessed at the present day, and he had often thought of those in his own parish, who were in the habit of ringing people into church, but who never entered it themselves. Their meeting that day was to honour our gracious Queen, and to ring what would elevate the heart and raise the soul. Let them also ring to the praise of Him who sitteth on the throne, with the Lamb by His side. At the close of the rev. gentleman's remarks, the National Anthem was played in an inspiring manner upon the grand organ, by Mr. C. H. Lloyd.

The business meeting afterwards took place in the chapter-room, Canon Lyttelton presiding. In opening the proceedings the rev. Canon said he was not very conversant with the Association, as in the diocese of Worcester he did not believe such a society existed. They should not feel they belonged to the Church simply because they did belong to it, but should endeavour to act up to its principles. He wished them success and prosperity. The hon. secretary, the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, rector of France Lynch, then read the minutes of the last meeting, which were confirmed. The lay vice-presidents and officers were re-elected, and several new performing members were elected, including G. T. Coleridge, Esq., and the Rev. W. S. Willett. A discussion then ensued with regard to a suggestion

NEW AND ORIGINAL COMPOSITIONS.

Great then are the mysteries of bell-ringing.—*Southey.*

PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

COMPILED BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
36452	2-12	36452	2-12
34562	12	46532	21
54632	21	64235	22
45236	22	45236	12
34256	1-2	34256	1-2

D. PRENTICE.

5184			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
46532	2-22	32654	-12
52364	112	56234	1-2
45623	212	34625	122
54326	-12	65243	112
42356	1-	42356	2-2

D. PRENTICE.

5088			
23456	MWH	23456	MWH
25634	211	26354	21
34562	122	23564	12
63425	222	62345	222
54326	11	64523	211
42356	2	42356	12

W. HARRISON.

If the alternative calling is used in the first and last courses of the following peal another one of the same length is produced.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
52364	-2	23564	221
45623	212	65324	22
26543	22	56423	22
23645	21	23645	122
34256	22	34256	-

W. HARRISON.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
62534	212	32654	-12
36245	-2	36524	1-22
65243	2-12	35264	1-22
53246	2-12	63542	-2
34256	1-	34256	12

D. PRENTICE.

PEALS WITH SIX COURSES IN EACH PART.

Among the ordinary class of peals there are a few which have the sixth bell two course-ends each way in each part. Such is the 5184 by W. Harrison (P. II., p. 23). Mr. Dains has, however, obtained these qualities in 5088 changes as shown below. Mr. Pitstow has also composed peals with this peculiarity.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	35264	-
63542	-2	53462	-12
53462	21	53624	-1
43652	21	54326	21
54326	-2	45623	22
42356	1-	52436	-

H. DAINS.

First rung on November 13th, 1880, by the Cumberland Youths at the Chapel of Base, Islington. Conducted by G. Newson, being the first peal ever rung with these qualities in this number of changes.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
23564	221	35264	22
43265	-1	34562	21
36452	-	63425	-2
53624	-2	32654	-
53246	-1	25346	-
34256	2	35426	1-1

N. J. PITSTOW.

First rung on January 11th, 1881, by the Norwich Association, at St. Mary's, Kenninghall. Conducted by J. Mordey.

5184			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	54632	2-2
56342	-	43526	-
43265	2-2	32465	-
43652	221	23564	-12
54326	-2	23645	-1
42356	1-	34256	22

H. DAINS.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	32654	-12
63542	-2	65324	1-21
63425	-1	35264	1-1
65324	-11	63542	-2
54326	2-12	34625	-
42356	1-	42356	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

First rung on December 9th, 1881, by the Norwich Association at St. Mary's, Kenninghall. Conducted by J. Mordey.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
23564	-1	32654	-12
36524	1-	65324	11
63425	-12	23564	1-2
65324	-11	36524	1-
54326	12	34625	-11
42356	1-	42356	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
23564	-1	32654	-12
62534	1	62534	1-1
36245	-2	35264	22
35642	21	56342	-
53246	-12	23645	11
34256	1-	34256	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
23564	-1	32654	-12
36245	-	36524	1-22
56342	-1	62534	1-
65243	-12	23564	1-
53246	2-12	23645	-1
34256	1-	34256	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
23564	-1	35264	-
25634	1-22	53462	-12
53624	1-	36524	-
32654	1-	46325	-1
53246	-2	64523	-12
34256	1-	35426	2-11

G. NEWSON.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
56342	2-2	36452	2-12
36452	1-1	65324	-
65324	-	52643	-
52643	-	52436	-1
45236	-2	25634	-12
34256	1-2	34256	-2

N. J. PITSTOW.

PEALS WITH SEVEN COURSES IN EACH PART.

5088			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	35264	-
56342	-	35642	-1
26543	-1	54263	2-
64235	-	46532	-
63542	-21	63542	1-
34625	-	34625	-
42356	-	42356	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

First rung on September 21st, 1880, by the Norwich Association at St. Mary's, Kenninghall. Conducted by J. Mordey.

5280			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	63254	-1
56342	-	65432	-21
64523	-	45362	1-1
64235	-1	56423	-
65432	-11	62534	-
53246	2-	23645	-
34256	1-	34256	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

First rung on November 19th, 1880, by the Norwich Association at St. Mary's, Diss. Conducted by J. Mordey.

6048			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
32654	-12		
53624	1		
26435	11		
34562	11		
65243	11		
53246	12		
34256	1-		

Reverses to the same peal.

N. J. PITSTOW.

PEALS WITH EIGHT COURSES IN EACH PART.

6144			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	23564	-1
56342	-	36245	-
43652	1-2	43652	-2
35642	1-	35642	1-
53246	-12	53246	-12
34562	-	63542	-1
34625	-1	34625	-
42356	-	42356	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

6144			
23456	MBWH	23456	MBWH
35264	-	23564	-1
56342	-	26435	-21
64352	1-	32654	-2
45623	-	25634	1-
54326	-12	53246	-
54263	-1	63542	-1
34625	2-1	34625	-
42356	-	42356	-

N. J. PITSTOW.

All communications respecting advertisements must be addressed to Mr. A. F. Phelps, 12a, Paternoster Row, London, E.C.

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

J. W. C.—We cannot say positively, but think it lies between Mr. Matt. A. Wood, of the College Youths, and Mr. John Cox, of the Cumberlands. In reply to your second question we have no hesitation in saying that the individual you refer to has been most unsuccessful in the pursuit indicated.

The Bell News.

JULY, 1881.

WITH the topics now before the country—political and otherwise—it may naturally be assumed that newspapers of every conceivable shade of opinion have plenty of subjects and to spare, with which to entertain, if not instruct, their manifold readers. The Irish Land Bill, the Oaths Bill, Army Re-organisation, the Cloture, Capital Punishment Abolition, Postal Employés' Grievances, Women's Rights, Home Rule, the state of Ireland, and a host of other burning questions, afford an immense scope for the exercise of the fertile brains of those writers who affect to provide literary food for the million. Such an inexhaustible list of subjects are at hand just now upon which any irresponsible scribe may essay the enlightenment of his countrymen, that it is certainly surprising a writer in one of the dailies has taken such a subject as bells for his theme, and bell-ringing for wholesale condemnation. With all the matters just enumerated, and many more, on which this intelligent (?) gentleman could have exercised his talent, it is to be feared he must have suffered from a poverty of resource to fulfil his quota to the organ upon whose staff he is engaged. In consonance with this article, there has also appeared, in the same paper, letters from supposititious correspondents, agreeing in the main with it. One of these effusions certainly shows remarkable ingenuity and research. It is now discovered that bell-ringing is illegal! We should not be surprised to hear from the same quarter that the strains of the church organ, or rather the organist's vocation, was contrary to statute; and that reading the lessons or preaching, or, in fact, there being any Church in existence at all, if not positively unlawful, was most undesirable. Such irresponsible, frivolous, and puny objectors will not, we apprehend, trouble the minds of those who hallow "the bells and chimes of Motherland"—whose legends and traditions are part of an Englishman's nature—or disturb the repose of those whose privilege it is to officiate in the steeples of the Church.

These strictures upon bells and ringing, which in the "big-gooseberry" season now and then come to the front, display an unpardonable want of ignorance on the part of those who write upon such subjects. But the attempt to bring bells and the practice of ringing into

disrepute is by no means novel. We recollect some years ago a respectable morning paper, which certainly ought to have known better, in an article condemning bells and ringers, making pointed allusions to the church of St. Clement Danes, Strand. The writer therein actually stated that the ringers at this church were, on each night they practised, bountifully regaled with beef and beer, *ad libitum!* Happy and fortunate *scruffe!* We do not recollect reading from what source such munitions (which were said to be gratuitous) were supplied, but the interpretation to be drawn from this rodomontade was—"Stop the beef; cut off the beer; and thus we shall not be annoyed by bells any more, but smoke our calumets in peace and quietude."

From well-authenticated sources we hear now and then something of the mould and make of individuals who have the effrontery to lay claim to influence public opinion: what shall we say of the assurance of these persons who pen such buffoonery as that above quoted? Beef and beer! Our experience (by no means limited) is, that amongst ringers the time and place for the enjoyment of such comestibles is that suggested by the dictates and teaching of refined manners; and these self-dubbed "gentlemen" of the press would do well to imitate the deportment and bearing of many of those at whom they do not hesitate to cast a sneer. One thing to be said, that though the remuneration to ringers for work done and time lost is often infinitesimal, yet when the hour for innocent festivity arrives, they know how to enjoy themselves in a rational manner, and that without becoming mendicants for the *materiel* for such festivals.

THE case, *STAINBANK v. BECKETT*—an action by the eminent Whitechapel firm against Sir EDMUND BECKETT for alleged libel which the defendant had published is, while we write, proceeding at the Lords Justices' Court at Westminster, before Mr. BARON HUDDLESTON and a special jury. It is anticipated that the case will take some days in hearing; we shall therefore, defer an account of it till our next number. Some well-known ringers have been subpoenaed to give evidence on behalf of the plaintiff.

WE again direct the attention of the Exercise to the forthcoming new edition of the "Change Ringers' Guide"—or Directory—as it is most essential that such a publication, in order to be useful, should be made as complete as possible. Amongst our Correspondence will be found a letter from the compilers, who, from the trouble and expense they incur in bringing out such a useful handbook, should certainly receive the assistance of all, especially those who desire to establish or maintain an already-existing connection with the whole of their ringing brethren.

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.".]

** We beg our correspondents to address all communications for insertion in this journal as follows:—The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London. This will add greatly to our convenience.

THE METROPOLIS.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

HOUNSLOW (Middlesex).—NEW RING OF EIGHT BELLS.—On Thursday, June 23rd, eight members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang upon a new ring of bells, at St. Paul's, Heston, Hounslow, Holt's ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes, in 2 hrs and 47 mins. H. Haley, sen. (conductor), 1; J. Pettit, 2; H. Haley, jun., 3; W. Cooter, 4; M. A. Wood, 5; E. Horrex, 6; J. M. Hayes, 7; W. Greenleaf, 8. These bells are the gift of W. H. Taylor, Esq., an old and esteemed resident of Hounslow, and were cast by Messrs. Warner and Sons, of London. Tenor 8 cwt, 2 qrs. in A flat.

ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

ST. GEORGE'S, CAMBERWELL.—On Whit-Monday, eight members of the above Society rang a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major containing 5088 changes in 3 hrs. J. Leach (first peal), 1; G. Newson (conductor), 2; W. Hovord, 3; N. J. Pitstow, 4; F. Bate, 5; D. Stackwood, 6; R. Stackwood, 7; J. Barrett, 8. The peal, which contains the 5th and 6th their extent in 5-6, also each five times home, was never previously performed is the first on the plan rang in London, and was composed by N. J. Pitstow of Saffron Walden, Essex.

THE PROVINCES.

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Whit-Monday, June 6th, eight members of the above Society rang on the parish church bells of Longney, Gloucestershire, a peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 50 mins. The following took part: G. Acocks (Cheltenham), 1; G. H. Phillott, Esq. (Cheltenham), 2; H. Karn (Cheltenham), 3; T. Brown (Quedgeley), 4; G. Wanklin (Gloucester), conductor, 5; J. Clark (Maisemore), 6; J. Gough (Churcham), 7; H. Hodges (Cheltenham), 8.

NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, the 13th June, eight members of the Kenninghall branch rang upon the bells of St. Mary's Church, 5056 Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 1 min. W. Oxe, 1; H. Eagling, 2; G. Edwards, 3; R. Nudds, 4; J. Woods, 5; J. Cunningham, 6; R. Hutton, 7; J. Mordey (conductor), 8. Tenor 16½ cwt. The peal, a two-part composition by H. Dains, of the Royal Cumberland Youths, has the 6th the extent in 5-6; home at the last three course-ends of each part, and contains all the 8-6-7's; and is said to be the first peal ever rung upon the plan in Norfolk.

KENNINGHALL.—On Tuesday, 31st May, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, in three parts, containing the 6th its extent home in 6144 changes, was rung by the Kenninghall branch of the Norwich Diocesan Association, in 3 hrs. 48 mins. J. Wade, 1; H. Eagling, 2; G. Edwards, 3; C. Everett, 4; J. Cunningham, 5; J. Woods, 6; R. Hutton, 7; J. Mordey, 8. Tenor 16½ cwt. The above peal was now rung for the first time, and was composed by N. J. Pitstow.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

PUDSEY.—On Saturday, June 4th, eight members of the above Association rang at St. Lawrence Church, 5088 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major in 3 hrs. 8 mins. George Thornton (Birstal), 1; Henry Oddy (Tong), 2; William Sugden (Pudsey), 3; William Bolland (Tong), 4; Ezra Heighley (Calverley), 5; William Stainthorpe (Birstal), 6; Benjamin A. Dodson (Birstal), 7; George Bolland (Tong), 8. The peal was composed by D. Prentice (of Ipswich), and conducted by George Bolland. Tenor 16 cwt.

ASHLEWORTH (Gloucestershire).—On Thursday, June 2nd, a mixed company rang thirty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles with extremes, and ten without, the whole comprising 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 45 mins. G. Wanklin (Gloucester), 1; A. Holford (Sandhurst), 2; J. Clarke (Maisemore), 3; W. Pugh (Minsterworth), 4; B. Etheridge (Maisemore, conductor), 5; J. West (Sandhurst), 6. Tenor about 20 cwt.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Wednesday, June 23rd, 1881, the following members of the St. Martin's Society, rung on the bells of St. John's, Perry Barr, a muffled peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 3 hrs. 11 mins. A. Cresser, Treble; Thomas Miller, 2; William Small, 3; H. Johnson, sen., 4; W. Kent, 5; J. Buffery, 6; H. Johnson, 7; T. Reynolds, tenor. Composed by the late T. Day. Conducted by J. Buffery, and rung as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Rev. C. B. Snapp, many years vicar of the above church.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Monday, June 6th, the following members of the St. Martin's Society, rang at St. Peter's, Harborne, Staffordshire, the late T. Day's six-part peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 5040 changes, in 2 hrs. 48 mins.: Amos Cresser, 1; H. Hopkins (London), 2; T. Miller, 3; C. Hopkins (London), 4; J. Dunn, 5; J. Buffery (conductor), 6; S. Reeves (West Bromwich), 7; J. W. Cattle, 8. Tenor 12 cwt.

DATE TOUCHES.

ASHLEWORTH (Gloucestershire).—On Wednesday, June 1st, four of the local Society, with Messrs. C. and B. Etheridge (of Maisemore, in the same county), rang 1881 changes in the Grandsire method in 63 mins. J. Davis, 1; W. Wadley, 2; C. Etheridge, 3; B. Etheridge (conductor), 4; W. Roberts, 5; H. Clarke, 6. Tenor about 20 cwt.

BARTON (Yorks).—On Saturday, June 18th, the following company from Hull paid a visit to the above place, and rang at St. Peter's a date touch, 1881 changes, in 1 hr. 8 mins., in three methods, viz.: 441 Bob Minor; 720 Grandsire Minor; and 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor. G. A. Taylor, 1; A. Taylor, 2; R. Chaffer, 3; T. Stockdale, 4; C. Jackson (composer), 5; J. W. Stickney (conductor), 6. Tenor 12 cwt. Touches of Caters, Major, and Triples, were afterwards rung upon handbells, and a very agreeable evening was spent with the Barton company.

OXFORD.—On May 28th, 1881, the Oxford Society rang a date touch of Stedman Triples (composed by Mr. J. Field), at Christ Church, in 1 hr. 17 mins. G. Lapworth, 1; H. Janaway, 2; E. Harrison, 3; F. Williamson, 4; S. Hounslow, 5; C. Hounslow, 6; G. F. Coleridge, Esq. (conductor), 7; A. Strange, 8. Tenor 42 cwt.

[This composition appeared in our March number.]

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION (Stockport).—On Sunday, the 29th of May, the local Company rang at the Parish Church, for morning service, a date touch of Grandsire Triples, 1881 changes, arranged and conducted by W. Albinson. J. Booth, Treble; W. Albinson, 2; E. B. Lee, 3; R. A. Davies, 4; J. Buck, 5; R. Bardsley, 6; W. H. Albinson, 7; G. Eytoven, Tenor. Time, 1 hour 7 min. Tenor, 25 cwt. The conductor of the above, Mr. Albinson, is President of this Association, and both he and his son, W. H. Albinson, are members of the Ancient Society of College Youths.

TIPTON (Staffordshire).—On Saturday, May 28th, a mixed company rang a date touch, 1881 changes, containing Queens, Tittums, and the twenty-four 6-7's, in 1 hr. 5 mins. S. Attins (Willenhall), 1; B. Dalton (Tettenhall), 2; E. Nicholls (Wolverhampton), 3; T. Horton (West-bromwich), 4; J. Fowler (Wolverhampton), 5; J. Fullwood (West-bromwich, composer and conductor, 6; J. Devonport (Sedgeley), 7; T. Anson (Tettenhall) 8. Tenor 14 cwt.

[What method?—Ed.]

MISCELLANEOUS.

(Comprising performances under 5000 changes.)

CITY OF LONDON SOCIETY.

On Wednesday, June 15th, the bells of St. Dunstan's-in-the-West were muffled, and rung by eight members of the above Society as a mark of respect to the late Mr. Frederick Smee, who had been a member of the Society since its formation. D. Lovett (conductor), 1; J. T. Knight, 2; G. P. Watkin, 3; A. W. Vincent, 4; C. J. Clarkson, 5; J. H. Wheeler, 6; H. A. Hopkins, 7; W. D. Matthews, 8.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

RUNCORN (Cheshire).—On Whit-Monday, eight members of the above Association rang at All Saints a half-peal of Grandsire Triples, 2520 changes (Holt's ten-part), in 1 hr. 30 mins. S. Gough, 1; J. Davison, 2; W. Beacall, 3; J. Large, 4; H. Turner, 5; G. W. Hughes, 6; J. Aspinwall (conductor) 7; J. Leadbeater, 8. Also on the same day, upon the same bells, a 720 of Bob Minor. J. Large, 1; J. Aspinwall, 2; T. Turner, 3; P. Hamblett (Daresbury), 4; G. W. Hughes (conductor), 5; T. Houghton (Daresbury), 6. Also a 720 Grandsire Minor. S. Hopworth, 1; W. Beacall, 2; J. Large (conductor), 3; G. Thistlewood, 4; T. Turner, 5; G. W. Hughes, 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

ALDINGTON (Kent).—On Thursday Evening, June 2nd, at St. Martin's Church, a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, with 18 Bobs and 2 Singles, in 28½ mins. C. Slingsby, 1; T. Hodgkin, 2; T. Post, 3; E. Hyder, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. Also June 9th, 720 Bob Minor in 27½ mins., with 18 Bobs and 2 Singles. C. Slingsby, 1; T. Post, 2; E. Hyder, 3; F. Slingsby, 4; W. Hyder (conductor), 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. Also on June 11th, a 720 of Bob Minor, with 18 Singles and 3 Bobs, in 27½ mins. C. Slingsby, 1; J. Post, 2; W. Hyder, 3; F. Slingsby, 4; E. Hyder (conductor), 5; P. Hodgkin, 6. Tenor 14 cwt. in G.

BARTON (Yorks).—On Sunday, June 19th, for evening service, at St. Peter's, a 720 Bob Minor, in 26 mins. J. Robinson (Barton), 1; G. A. Taylor, 2; S. Slingsby, 3; C. Jackson (conductor), 4; T. Stockdale, 5; R. Chaffer, 6.

BOROUGHBRIDGE (Yorks).—On Sunday, June 19th, a mixed band of Change Ringers rang, at the Parish Church, a 720 of plain Bob Minor. T. Clark (Sharow), conductor; G. Horsman (Aldbrough), 2; W. Pick (Sharow), 3; T. Archer (Aldbrough), 4; P. Broadbelt, 5; — Langley (Boroughbridge), 6. Tenor 16 cwt.

CASTLE DONINGTON (Leicestershire).—On Saturday, June 18th, 1881, six members of the Derby Society visited the above and by kind permission of the vicar and churchwardens rang a 720 of Bob Minor in 28 mins. J. Ridgeway, 1; R. Redgate, 2; R. Bosworth, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Also a peal of 720 Grandshire Minor in 28 mins. J. Ridgeway, 1; A. Taberer, 2; R. Bosworth, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Tenor 17 cwt. in F.

CRAYFORD (Kent).—On Monday Evening, May 16th, six members of the Crayford Company of Change Ringers rang a 720 of Bob Minor, with 18 Bobs and 2 Singles, in 27 mins. C. Hamment, 1; J. Saxby, 2; G. Conyard, 3; J. Sloper, 4; W. Reeve (conductor), 5; M. Jacobs, 6. Also, on Monday Evening, May 24th, a 720 of Bob Minor with 26 Singles, in 25 mins. C. Hamment, 1; G. Conyard, 2; W. Pringuer, 3; G. Sarall (of Dartford), 4; M. Jacobs, 5; F. French (conductor), 6. Also, on Whit-Monday, a 720 of Grandsire Minor with 34 Bobs and 2 Singles, in 26 mins. G. Conyard, 1; W. Weatherston (of Lewisham), 2; W. Pringuer, 3; F. French, 4; H. Freeman (of Lewisham), 5; G. Freeman (of Lewisham), 6; conducted by W. Weatherston. Also, on Sunday, June 12th, for evening service, a 720 of Bob Minor with 26 Singles, in 27 mins. C. Hamment, 1; J. Saxby, 2; W. Pringuer, 3; G. Conyard, 4; M. Jacobs, 5; F. French (conductor), 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

DARESBUURY (Cheshire).—On Sunday, May 29th, the Daresbury Society rang for morning service 360 Oxford Treble Bob in 13 mins.—Also for evening service 720 Oxford Treble Bob in 27 mins. T. Houghton, jun., conductor.

On Whit-Sunday, June 5th, for morning service, 360 London Single in 13½ mins.; for evening service 720 Woodbine Treble Bob, in 27 mins. P. Johnson, conductor.

On Sunday, June 12th, for morning service, 360 College Single, in 13 mins.; for evening service, 720 College Single, in 26 mins. P. Hamblett, conductor.

On Sunday, June 19th, for morning service, 720 Plain Bob, in 26 mins. T. Houghton, sen. conductor; for evening service 720 Kent Treble Bob, in 27 mins. J. Ellison, conductor.

On Monday, June 20th, being the anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne, 720 College Single, P. Hamblett, conductor, and 720 Oxford Treble Bob. T. Houghton, jun., conductor, in 53 mins. T. Houghton, sen., 1; P. Johnson, 2; T. Ellison, 3; P. Hamblett, 4; J. Ellison, 5; T. Houghton, jun., 6. Tenor 12 cwt. in G.

DERBY.—On Friday, May 27th, 1881, six members of the Derby Society rang on the back six bells of St. Werburgh's a 720 of Plain Bob Minor with 18 Bobs and 2 Singles in 28 mins. J. Ridgeway, 1; G. Lee, 2; R. Redgate, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. This is the first 720 Bob of Minor rung in Derby for upwards of twenty years, and the first in the method by the present Society. Also on Thursday, June 9th, on the same bells, a 720 Grandsire Minor, 34 Bobs and 2 Singles, in 27 mins. A. Taberer, 1; R. Bosworth, 2; R. Redgate, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Also on Tuesday, June 21st, the Derby Society rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, in 45 mins. (the bells being half muffled) in memory of the late William C. Watson, Esq., for many years churchwarden of the above parish. G. Neal, 1; R. Bosworth, 2; A. Taberer, 3; J. Newbold, 4; R. Redgate, 5; H. C. Woodward, 6; J. Howe (conductor), 7; G. Slack, 8. Tenor 17 cwt. in E.

And on Friday, June 3rd, 1881, six members of the same Society rang on the back six bells of All Saints a 720 of Plain Bob Minor in 30 mins. J. Ridgeway, 1; A. Taberer, 2; R. Bosworth, 3; H. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Tenor about 30 cwt. in D.

DUFFIELD (Derbyshire).—On Saturday, June 11th, 1881, six members of the Derby Society visited the above, and rang at All Saints a 720 of Plain Bob Minor with 18 Bobs and 2 Singles in 26 mins. J. Ridgeway, 1; A. Taberer, 2; R. Bosworth, 3; A. C. Woodward, 4; J. Newbold, 5; J. Howe (conductor), 6. Tenor about 16 cwt.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Monday, June 6th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor in two parts, in 25 mins. C. Clark, 1; J. Parker (conductor), 2; J. Dart, 3; W. Wilder, 4; A. Batten, 5; H. Egby, 6.—Also one containing 44 Bobs and 4 singles, in 25 mins. E. Rogers, 1; J. Parker (composer and conductor), 2; J. Dart, 3; W. Wilder, 4; A. Batten, 5; H. Egby, 6.—Also one in six parts in 27 mins. F. Fells, 1; R. Flaxman, 2; J. Parker (conductor), 3; J. Dart, 4; E. Rogers, 5; H. Egby, 6. And another in two parts, in 26 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Parker (conductor), 2; W. Fussell, 3; W. Wilder, 4; E. Rogers, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

HAVERSTOCK HILL (Middlesex).—On Sunday morning the 12th June, at St. Martin's, for divine service a 720 of Plain Bob Minor in 25 mins., 14 Singles and 4 Bobs. T. Philips, 1; J. Barrett, 2; J. Nixon, 3; T. Titchener, 4; J. Hannington (conductor), 5; T. Monks, 6. Tenor 12¼ cwt.

HULL (Yorks).—On Monday, May 13th, five members of St. Mary's, assisted by Mr. T. Stockdale of St. James's, rang a 720 of Oxford Bob Minor in 30 mins. F. Drabble [first 720], 1; W. T. Verity, 2; W. Jackson, 3; T. Stockdale, 4; H. Eastwood, 5; W. Southwick (conductor), 6. Tenor 14 cwt. Several of the above are members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, London, and of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers.

LEIGH (Essex).—On Whit-Monday, June 6th, 1881, the following ringers from Gravesend visited the above place, and rang at St. Clement's, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, containing 38 bobs and 22 singles, in 26 mins. This is the first time a 720 in this method has been rung on these bells, which were augmented to a ring of six about 12 years ago, and were opened by a company of College Youths from London. *H. Weeks, 1; *W. Loft, 2; M. Lambert, 3; *W. King, 4; *B. Spinner, 5; S. Hayes (conductor), 6. Also a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, Pitstow's, in 27 mins., containing 18 bobs and 18 singles. *J. N. Chapman, 1; W. Loft, 2; M. Lambert, 3; W. King, 4; B. Spinner, 5; S. Hayes (conductor), 6. Tenor about 16 cwt. The above band also paid a visit to St. Mary's, Prittlewell, Essex, on the same day, and by permission of the vicar and churchwardens rang some Plain Bob Minor and Grandsire Doubles. Tenor 20 cwt. [Marked thus * are members of the Society of College Youths.]

PIMLICO.—On Thursday, May 26th, (Ascension Day), the following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths rang at the church of St. John, Wilton Road, Pimlico, a quarter peal of 1260 changes of Grandsire Triples in 44 mins. R. French, 1; F. T. Gover, 2; C. F. Winny, 3; W. Collings, 4; W. Weatherstone, 5; W. Warne, 6; F. E. Dawe (conductor), 7; E. Wright, 8. Tenor 10½ cwt. in G.

RIPON.—The Society connected with the Cathedral rung, on Sunday, June 19th, for morning service, a touch of 832 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, composed by Sottanstill. John Strodden, sen., 1; William Orton, 2; W. Pick, 3; T. Clark (conductor), 4; John Strodder, jun., 5; F. Strodder, 6; James Trevor, 7; H. Rumbold, 8. The treble, fourth, and seventh bell ringers are members of the Yorkshire Association.

SCARBOROUGH.—On Friday, June 17, on the occasion of the excursion of Messrs. Bass & Co.'s employes to Scarborough, by the kind permission of the vicar and churchwardens, touches of 252 Stedman Triples and 262 Kent Treble Bob Major were rung on the bells of the Parish Church by the following members of the St. Paul's (Burton-on-Trent) Society of Change Ringers:—J. Griffin, 1; E. I. Stone, 2; G. Appleby, 3; A. Wakley, 4; J. Jaggard, 5; F. W. Appleby, 6; W. Wakely, 7; R. Joice, 8. Conducted by J. Griffin and W. Wakely. Tenor, about 20 cwt.

BELL FOUNDING OPERATIONS.

Messrs. TAYLOR & Co.—Blakenall Heath, near Walsall, a ring of five, tenor 8½ cwt., with fittings and framework complete.—Yaxley, near Peterborough, a new treble to make six, and recasting 2nd, 3rd, and 5th.—Stourton, Wilts, a new treble to make six; also new fittings and framework for the ring.—Cheadle, Cheshire, new hanging the ring of six.—We may add that this firm has received the order for a 14-ton bell for St. Paul's Cathedral, London.

Messrs. MOORE, HOLMES AND MACKENZIE, the Redenhall Foundry. Three bells for Westmeston, Sussex. Another successful cast upon the scientific principles this firm has adopted. Tenor 7 cwt.

PRIZE ESSAY.—We are requested to state that a Prize of £100 will be given by "The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States" (London Office, 81, Cheapside, E.C.), to the author of the best Essay, and £25 to the author of the second best Essay on the subject of Life Assurance: with special reference to its influence in promoting habits of economy, thrift, and sobriety; and its influence upon our social surroundings, in strengthening family ties, and in rendering sacred the home. The Essay (not to exceed, when printed, the length of 32 octavo pages of long primer type) to be sent to S. G. Goodrich (Director of the above Society), 81, Cheapside, London, E.C., not later than October 1, 1881, unsigned, but marked with a *nom de plume* or number, by means of which identity may be secured, endorsed outside "Prize Essay Contest." The following gentlemen have consented to adjudicate upon the essays sent in: S. C. Hall, F.S.A.; Cornelius Walford, F.I.A., F.S.S.; Thomas Hughes ("Tom Brown"), Q.C., F.S.A., umpire. Their award in writing, and the accepted essay, will be made public. The names of authors will not be published without their assent. The Society reserves the right of awarding a third prize, of £10, to any writer recommended by the selection committee, as having produced an essay of merit, although it may not have conformed entirely to the preceding conditions.

that a certificate of membership should be obtained, and it was decided that the form of it should be left to the discretion of the committee. On the motion of the Rev. M. Trotter, a vote of thanks was passed to the Dean and Chapter for the use of the room; to Canon Harvey for preaching the sermon; and to the chairman for presiding. It was decided to hold the next quarterly district meeting at Chippenham, on the invitation of the Rev. R. C. Lynch, of Christian Malford.

The annual dinner was held at the "Spread Eagle" Hotel in the afternoon, when about 100 guests sat down to a repast of a *recherché* character. The Rev. C. P. D. Davies, of Pembroke College, Oxford, occupied the chair, supported by the Rev. E. Eardley Wilman, vicar of Sherborne; Rev. F. E. B. Witts, Norton; Rev. A. Nash, Quedgley; W. S. Willett, Burton-on-Trent; W. Coleridge, Esq., Oxford; W. Mills, Esq., Bisley; F. Cardew, Esq., Oxford; Rev. R. P. Davies, Fairford; Rev. W. H. Phillott, Staunton-on-Wye; Rev. M. Trotter, Rev. P. Eykyn, &c. After the repast, the chairman said they intended to have no speeches, but he asked them for a performance on the handbells. A band then played a selection upon the same, and were loudly applauded. The ringers afterwards dispersed to several towers in the city, including St. Michael's, St. Nicholas, and St. Mary de Lode, where the six bell ringers rang peals in Grandsire Doubles, Grandsire Minor, and Bob Minor methods. The eight-bell ringers proceeded to the Cathedral and St. Mary de Crypt towers, and rang touches of Grandsire Triples, Stedman Triples, and Treble Bob Major.

THE NORTH WILTS GUILD.

This Guild of Ringers held their annual meeting on Monday, June 6th, at Corsham. The tenor at the parish church is locally estimated at 32 cwt. It is probably about 25 cwt. The bells all go well, but the ringers are too near the bells, the sallies going on to the wheels, which causes them to slip rope sometimes. Another fault in the ringing chamber is that no windows open. The Corsham ringers welcomed the visitors with some round ringing, the striking of which was very good. At 10.30 a mixed band of change-ringers rang Grandsire Doubles till 11 o'clock, when divine service was held, the sermon being preached by the Rev. H. F. J. Cope-Arnold, from Exod. xxi. 25, in which he gave some advice both to those who *hear* the sound of the bells, and to those whose part it is to produce the sound. The offertory, amounting to £1 3s. 8d., was given to the Guild towards meeting the expenses of the day. From 12 till 1 o'clock several six-scores of Grandsire Doubles were rung by the Trowbridge Ringers, and others. At 1 o'clock about thirty sat down to dinner at the "Methuen Arms," the Rev. G. Linton presiding. After dinner, six of the company went to St. Paul's Church, Chippenham, and rang Doubles till 3. The Trowbridge men went again to the Corsham tower till 4, when they were regaled with tea by the vicar, after which they also proceeded to Chippenham, and several touches of Triples were rung. A good deal of time was unfortunately lost, owing to the breaking of the seventh rope. The going of the bells and the general convenience of the ringing chamber now is all that can be desired, except that Sir G. Scott here, as Mr. Street at Corsham, ignored the fact that ringers sometimes want a little *fresh* air. The company dispersed at 8 o'clock, after spending a pleasant day.

DURHAM DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

The Whit-Monday meeting of this association was held for the second time at Barnard Castle, and was attended by contingents from that place, Darlington, Newcastle, North Shields, South Shields, Staindrop and Stockton. The ringing consisted of touches of Kent Treble Bob Major, Bob Major, Grandsire Triples, and various other performances adapted to the abilities of the less proficient members. One feature in the day's programme was a course of Grandsire Cinques upon hand-bells by Messrs. W. Newton, T. Burdon, G. J. Clarkson, T. Stephenson and J. Clarkson of Stockton; assisted by Mr. E. Wallis of Newcastle, being the first course of Cinques at an Association Meeting. At two o'clock the Company sat down to dinner at the Golden Lion, the Vicar of Barnard in the chair, the vice-chair being occupied by W. Reed, Esq. of North Shields, president of the association. The toasts of the Queen, Bishop and Clergy of the diocese and President of the Association, were duly honoured, and several new members elected, some of them being from the new society of St. Stephen's, Newcastle. The annual meeting will be held at Durham on the last Monday in October.

UNVEILING THE MONUMENT ERECTED TO THE MEMORY OF THE LATE MR. WILLIAM HARRISON.

The arrangements agreed upon by the United Committee, to be observed upon the above occasion, which will take place on Saturday, July 2nd, 1881, are that all ringers, friends, and the members of the Mottram District of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, M. U., will meet in the Market-place, opposite the "White Hart" Inn, Mottram, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and will be placed in order by Mr. Ralph Royle (of Saddleworth), the appointed marshal, and walk in procession, headed by the Mottram brass band, to the parish church, by the following route: Tollemache Inn, Police Station, and Mile End House; when a short service, conducted by the Rev. J. R. C. Miller, the vicar, will be held, and at which the Right Reverend Bishop Kelly, Archdeacon of

Macclesfield, is expected to deliver an address. A collection will be made at the close of the service, the proceeds to be devoted to the Memorial Fund. An adjournment will then be made to the site of the Monument, and the same will be unveiled by Jasper W. Snowdon, Esq., of Leeds. The following gentlemen have also promised to take part in the proceedings, viz.: Messrs. L. Broadbent, Uppermill (chairman of the committee); J. Lawton, Uppermill; J. Pye, Glossop; T. J. Wild, Uppermill; W. Taylor, Mottram. Before dispersing the procession will be re-formed, and march back to the Market-place, when the band will play the National Anthem. A Sandwich Tea will be provided in the National School-room, at 5 o'clock, price 1s. 3d. each. The order of procession will be: the Band; then Ringers and Friends; followed by the District Officers of the Mottram District I. O. O. F., M. U., and the Officers and Brothers of the various Lodges in the district. We shall in our next issue give a full report of the proceedings.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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

To the Editor of THE BELL NEWS AND RINGERS' RECORD.
NEW EDITION OF "THE CHANGE-RINGERS GUIDE."

SIR,—The paragraph you kindly inserted in your last issue on the above subject has anticipated us in the appeal we had intended making to your readers, but which was unfortunately delayed until too late for the June number of your journal. We beg now to thank you for having drawn attention to the fact that we are engaged on a 2nd Edition of "The Guide," and we express a hope that we shall be assisted by the Exercise with accurate information; for without that help we cannot hope to be successful in producing a really useful book of reference.

The details we require were correctly stated on page 39 of THE BELL NEWS, but it may be as well to repeat them here. (1.) Name of Society or parish, stating the county, where real change-ringing is practised. (2.) Number of Bells. (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 to Rev. R. Acland-Troyte, Winterbourne Down, Bristol.

THE COMPILERS OF THE CHANGE-RINGERS GUIDE.

COMPETENT JUDGES.

SIR,—Referring to an extract from the *City Press* and comment thereon which appeared in your last, under the heading "Proposed large Bell for St. Paul's Cathedral," there are one or two points which seem to merit consideration.

First, the writer of the comment says: "We should hesitate to attempt a 5000 on moderately heavy ring, cast and hung by any foreign firm." Quite right. First: because foreign bells are not designed for ringing, but for tune-playing only; Secondly: because foreigners have no experience in hanging bells for ringing, and would therefore, in all probability, so arrange matters that the last 1000 would involve more work than would be quite agreeable.

But it is the latter part of this paper to which I would more particularly refer, namely to the suggestion that "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 of *competent* persons." This seems rather like putting the cart before the horse. If I wanted a house built, I should not say to a builder, "build me a house of a certain size, and when it is finished, I will have an architect examine it, and if approved, will accept, and pay for it." No. Let the plans be first approved, then executed; not executed first, and argued afterwards. If there is to be discussion by examination, let it be of the design: this approved and agreed to, let the bell be run, then examined as to soundness of casting, and lastly, tone; this latter, if all the first steps are correct, cannot well fail, provided of course, proper metal is used.

The designs for two bells of the same diameter will sometimes vary so little, that to the eye, at least, the curves appear almost identical, yet one of these bells may produce (even by design alone) a harsh uncertain sound, the other a clear musical note. The calculation required to design a bell is so complete, that none but those who have actually engaged in such work know the difficulties to be overcome. To call therefore upon a bell founder to run, say 20 tons of metal into a mould, and expect him then to take all the risk of acceptance or the reverse, not knowing beforehand the taste of the "competent persons" to whose judgment he is to submit, seems hard, if not unreasonable. As to the necessary qualifications of the "competent persons," they must be in a position to work out for themselves the calculations involved in the production of the design submitted to them, and to judge of the intended quality of tone from the drawing they must have some practical knowledge of founding, in order that they may not insist upon those impossibilities and absurdities which amateurs who write books generally indulge in more or less. In fact they should know as much, or even more, than the bell founder, else, can their opinion and dictum be trusted?

M. K.

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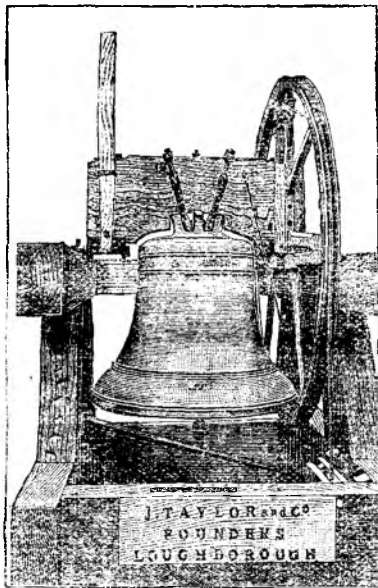
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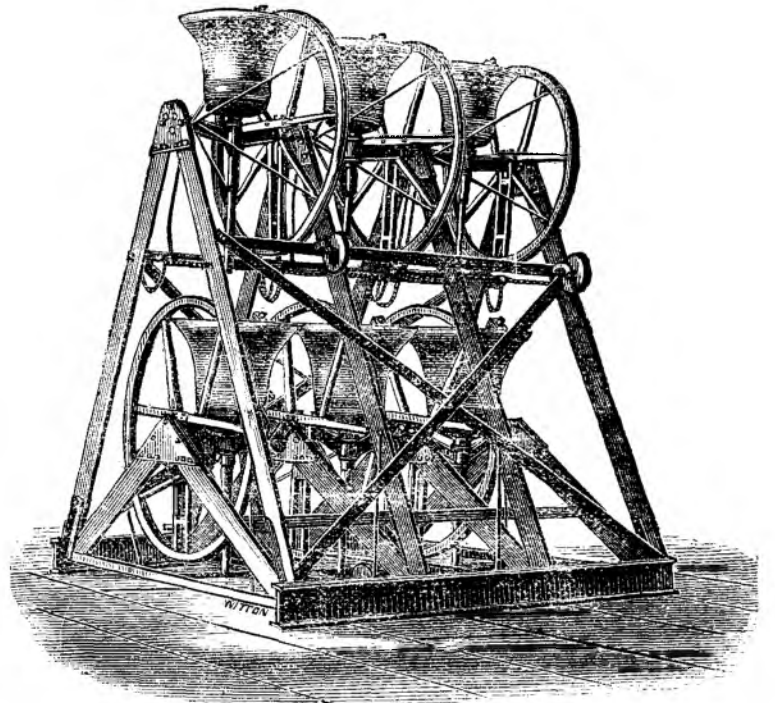
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JULY 1st, 1881.