

# THE BELL NEWS

## AND RINGERS' RECORD:

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

No. 9.—VOL. I.

OCTOBER, 1881.

[ONE PENNY.]

### WILLIAM HARRISON.—A MEMOIR.

BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

In a former issue of this paper a list was given showing the number of peals in which William Harrison, whose name is so well known to the Exercise in connection with some of the best compositions in the Treble Bob method, took part. One generation of ringers so quickly succeeds another that in many cases the performances accomplished in one generation are lost sight of by the next, and it may thus be that, although known as a composer, but few of the practitioners of the present day have been fully aware of the close acquaintance which William Harrison had with the practical art of ringing. Not many ringers have left behind them such a record of peals accomplished, and, indeed, such a record, compiled between the years 1840-60, means a much greater undertaking than it would do to equal or even to exceed it at the present time, when the increased number of churches which contain bells and the increase of facilities for travelling from place to place are taken into consideration. William Harrison was born at Mottram-in-Longdendale, Cheshire, on September 26th, 1820, and at the age of six years, being left an orphan, was taken into the care of his uncle, Robert Shaw, of Mottram. Mr. Shaw being a ringer and composer, his nephew was thus, doubtless at a very early age, brought into contact with the art of which he proved such a devoted admirer and to the study of which he devoted abilities and an amount of perseverance, that his name will ever be remembered in connection with the "Art of Change-ringing." By a reference to the list of peals given, it will be seen that William Harrison accomplished his first on November 4th, 1838, when in his nineteenth year, and that the last peal on the list, the eighty-fifth in which he took part, was rung at Ashton-under-Lyne, on February 28th, 1874. These eighty-five performances consisted of the following different peals, and varied in number from 5,000 to 9600 changes:—

One of Kent Treble Bob Maximus.	Fifty-eight of Kent Treble Bob Major.
One of Grandsire Cinques.	Two of Bob Major.
Five of Kent Treble Bob Royal.	Three of Grandsire Major.
Two of Grandsire Caters.	One of Stedman's Triples.
	Twelve of Grandsire Triples.

It will thus be seen that the list comprises peals upon seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven and twelve bells. Of these, Mr. Harrison conducted twenty-eight of the peals of Treble Bob Major, both those of Bob Major, and the one of Stedman's Triples. The eight-five peals were rung at nineteen different churches. Twenty-six were accomplished at Mottram, twenty at the neighbouring town of Hyde, nine at Staleybridge, seven at Ashton, and six at Glossop. To the kind assistance of William Harrison the first bands of change-ringers at Hyde and Staleybridge were indebted for their instructions; the teaching of young hands was indeed with him a labour of love, as for the many hours spent in the instruction of beginners he never would accept the slightest pecuniary remuneration. For his kind offices at Hyde the ringers however insisted on presenting him with a watch and guard.

After living at Mottram until 1864, William Harrison, who was brought up and continued all his life to work as a shoemaker, removed to Saddleworth, where he continued to reside until the day of his death. With this change, and an alteration in the state of his health, his career as a practical ringer may almost be said to have come to an end, as in the years from 1865 to 1874 he only took part in six more peals.

Although the number is about to be augmented to eight, the tower of Saddleworth church only contained six bells, and, although very friendly with the ringers, William Harrison was never much given to practise as a six-bell ringer, the only performance worth noting in which he took part at this church being a "Crown Bob" in seven different variations, which length (composed by James Platt, of Saddleworth), he conducted.

A "Crown Bob" is the performance of the 720 true changes on six bells, composed in a variety of methods, the ringers leaving one method and taking up another at a signal from the conductor.

After suffering a good deal during the latter years of his life from illness, William Harrison was seized with a fit when returning from his work on the evening of January 21st, 1880, never rallied, and died on the

following day, January 22nd. He was interred in Mottram churchyard on Saturday, January 24th. On July 9th, 1881, as will be known to the readers of this journal, a monument which had been erected over his grave in Mottram churchyard by the voluntary contributions of his brother ringers and friends, was duly dedicated to his memory.

Having thus briefly described the ringing career of William Harrison, it may now be said that it will, doubtless, be as a composer that his claims to remembrance will be recognized by future generations. Appearing first as a composer at the age of eighteen years, the spare moments of a lifetime were afterwards given to the pursuit of this science, with the result that in the art of composition in his favourite system of Treble Bob he obtained a greater variety of excellent peals in different systems than have hitherto been attained by any other composer. Besides a variety of peals of various lengths up to and including several of 10,000 changes in the ordinary method of Treble Bob, he obtained a large number of peals of 5000 changes in the same method, upon entirely new plans and with distinctly different peculiarities to any already composed. In 1876 he was fortunate enough to surpass the greatest length until then obtained in this method with the tenors together, and until this length is surpassed it may be said, without hesitation, that the name of William Harrison can never be forgotten. He it was who first obtained the full extent with the tenors together (6720 changes), in the critical method of London Surprise Major; he also first obtained similar peals in the methods of Violet and Cumberland's Exercise Major, and in the less-known method of Merchant's Return Major. Besides these peals, he obtained the extent with the tenors together (13,440 changes), of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, and composed several peals of Grandsire Cinques, Grandsire Major, &c.

Having already alluded to the willingness of William Harrison to assist young hands in their practical difficulties, a harder task remains in the endeavour to do justice to his endeavours to assist those who were making the proof or composition of peals their study. To such he was indeed of the greatest assistance, ever ready to spend any amount of his time in the investigation or explanation of their difficulties, and always willing to communicate to others the full extent of his own knowledge on any subject whatever. If any man ever shewed an entire absence of that jealous fear of benefitting others, by imparting information to them, which is so often displayed by those whose acquaintance with such matters is of so much less value, it was the subject of this memoir. For his assistance and communicativeness to others, all generations, through the present, will ever remain indebted to the "genius and skill" of William Harrison.

DEDICATION SERVICE.—The dedication of the two bells in memory of the Earl of Beaconsfield, K.G., which have been presented by Robert Warner, Esq. (a notice of which appeared in our last issue), took place on Saturday afternoon. The service was held in the porch, and was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. H. Blagden). The Lord's Prayer was intoned, some versicles read, and the 150th Psalm sung. Some special prayers were then read, among them being the following:—"O Lord, who of old didst stir up the hearts of thy people and make their spirits willing to bring the Lord's offering to the work of the tabernacle, we humbly thank thee that thou hast put it into the mind of thy servant, Robert Warner, to make this offering for the service of the church which we dedicate to thee to-day. Accept it, we pray thee, at our hands, and grant that it may go up before thee for a memorial for his salvation; and as he has added to the glory and beauty of thy house so do thou add to him thy spiritual gifts and grace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen."—The bells were rung for a few seconds, and a hymn from the collection of the Rev. J. M. Neale, D.D., which had been specially prepared for the occasion, was sung, the service being then brought to a conclusion.—During the afternoon the capabilities of the new bells were tested by the ringers, with the result that they proved perfectly satisfactory and a most welcome addition to the peal. Merry peals were rung throughout the afternoon, and the ringers subsequently adjourned to the Vicarage lawn, where through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Blagden they were entertained to a substantial tea.—*South Bucks Free Press.*

## THE MONTH.

## UPHOLLAND CHURCH, LANCASHIRE.

A correspondent sends us the following interesting particulars relative to this ancient edifice:—"This church, dedicated to St. Thomas à Becket, the Martyr, was the church of the priory. It was transferred at the dissolution to the inhabitants of Upholland, Orrell, Billinge Higher End, Winstanley and Dalton, and has since been the parochial chapel of those townships, which are liable to keep it in repair. The present incumbent is the Rev. C. Creamer. It is the finest ecclesiastical building in the old parish of Wigan. It consists of a tower, nave, side aisles, and chancel. The tower is strong, but low, and contains a ring of six new bells. The northern wall of the body appears comparatively modern; the three windows on the south side are large, pointed, and divided into oriels. The great glory of the structure was its noble east window, which fell in 1840. All the window contained stained glass irregularly jumbled together; here and there shields, probably of the de Hollands, and in one pane the mitre of an abbot. The western arch in the tower is semicircular, and has many internal mouldings. Instead of buttresses there are on the north and south sides of the tower small perpendicular round columns, now partly broken, ascending along edges to the top. The stately interior, with its lofty arches on each side of the nave, is spoiled by the galleries erected there. The niche where holy water was preserved, and large rude stones, the vestiges of the steps to the high altar, remain. Several meetings of the parishioners have recently been held to consider the best means of restoring this ancient church, and a committee appointed to carry out the proposals. The propositions were comprehensive, and would include, if fully carried out, the substantial repair of the external wall and windows of the church and tower; the lowering of the floor to the ancient level, and re-arrangement of the sittings on the ground floor; the introduction of proper warming apparatus; the enlargement of the church eastward, and a continuation of the arcades and roof, with an arrangement for organ chamber. The total cost will be about £3,500. The Earl of Lathom, who is the Lord of the Manor, is assisting in the undertaking."

In our records will be found an account of a recent performance upon the new bells above alluded to.

VISIT TO OXFORD BY MEMBERS OF THE  
CHELTENHAM SOCIETY.

On Monday, September 5th, a party of ringers from the queen of inland watering-places, Cheltenham, visited Oxford, and with five members of the Oxford Society rang at Magdalene College a touch of Grandsire Caters on the fine ring of ten bells, also a quarter peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by J. Belcher, of Cheltenham. After which the Cheltonians were invited to Christ's Church College, and on that fine ring of ten bells, tenor 40 cwt, rang a touch of Grandsire Caters, a touch of Stedman Triples and a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, conducted by G. Hounslow, of Oxford. The party from Cheltenham comprised G. H. Phillott, Esq., J. Belcher, J. Lawrence, W. Morris and G. Acocks, all members of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Guild of ringers.

## HIGHER WALTON RINGERS' FESTIVITY.

On Thursday, August 4th, the parish ringers of All Saints' church, had the first of their intended annual pic-nics. They first drove to Ribchester, a distance of about 16 miles, and on the bells of St. Andrew's church rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor, in a little under 27 mins. Tenor 13½ cwt. From there to Milton, and on the bells of All Hallows rang a 720 of Plain Bob Minor. Tenor 11 cwt. Thence to Whalley, and rang another 720 of the same method, on the bells of St. Mary's. Tenor 17 cwt., after which they sat down to, and thoroughly enjoyed the excellent dinner provided for them by Mrs. Slater of the Shoulder of Mutton Inn. After spending a few hours in this ancient village, they made their way home, and so delighted were they with their day's performances, that on their arrival they rang another good 720 on their own bells before parting. G. Thornley (conductor), 1; J. Walmsley, 2; H. Hunt, 3; H. Brewer, 4; J. Eccles, 5; J. Mathers, 6.

THE GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL DIOCESAN  
ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, September 18th, a meeting of the Association was held at Chippenham, the Gloucester Company being the one selected to represent the Association on this occasion. The following were the effective members who attended from that place:—Mr. John Drinkwater, master of the association; Mr. G. Wanklyn, conductor; Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. W. Bowers, Mr. J. Gough, Mr. B. Etheridge, Mr. J. Clark, Mr. H. Akett, Mr. J. Meaton, and Mr. H. Wheeler. From Bristol came Mr. G. Morgan, Mr. R. Knill, and Mr. H. Portch. G. H. Phillott, Esq., Cheltenham, H. G. Gardiner, Esq., Upton St. Leonards, the Rev. Pitt Eykyn, France Lynch, Stroud, and the Rev. A. Law Dauntsey, performing members, and the Rev. R. C. Lynch Blossie, Christian Malford, hon. member, were also present. The party attended morning prayer in the parish church, when

the Rev. J. Rich, vicar, delivered an address. The company, after the service, adjourned to the tower and rang several touches of Grandsire Triples and Stedman Triples. Later on the company assembled at Messrs. Fisher's, in High Street, where an excellent dinner was provided. The Rev. J. Rich, vicar of Chippenham, took the chair, and the Rev. Pitt Eykyn (secretary) the vice-chair, and in addition to those already mentioned the Rev. C. W. Hone, vicar of Bishops Cannings, was present.

THE WALTHAMSTOW BRANCH OF THE ANCIENT  
SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.

On Monday, September 5th, the members of this branch of the above society, with a few friends, had their annual excursion and dinner. The place selected for a visit was the Royal borough of Windsor, at which place the company arrived about ten o'clock a.m. The parish church of Windsor (St. John's), has a fair ring of eight bells, tenor about 20 cwt., and they were in a much better condition than was anticipated. Some Grandsire and Stedman Triples were rung; also a touch or two of Grandsire Major. After this the company visited Windsor Castle and went through the famed St. George's Chapel and over the state apartments, where everything required for comfort and elegance was in wondrous profusion. However, the wonders of this royal seat are, no doubt, familiar to our readers, and therefore we will spare them any further description. But the curfew tower, known also as the "Julius Cæsar" tower, must be alluded to. This structure, with nothing to recommend but its ugliness and its dungeon-like interior, contains a ring of eight heavy bells. One would imagine that anything connected with such a royal residence as Windsor Castle would be in apple-pie order; but nothing, we were told, could be in worse condition than these bells. If the miserable aspect of the ringing chamber was any criterion, the prospect of a pull was anything but inviting, and permission having to be gained for the purpose from the Dean, who was absent from home, it was no great disappointment to come away from the curfew tower as we went, without ringing upon the bells. By this time the dinner-hour had approached, and at the New Inn we sat down to a substantial refection of choice viands. The repast, indeed, was of a rather superior order, consisting of the usual joints, with second courses of poultry, etc. The table was adorned with magnificent glass stands laden on each tier with choice fruits, peaches, nectarines, luscious hot-house grapes, which at the conclusion of the repast served admirably as dessert. After dinner, the feeling for enjoyment being rife, we did not sit listlessly over empty tables, but resolved to have a survey, as far as the inclement weather would permit, of Her Majesty's demesne. Accordingly, one of those vehicular articles, yclept a break, was chartered, and behind two splendid chestnuts we had a spin round the Great Park and the noble expanse of Virginia Water, about 14 miles. The avenue is literally a "long" walk—three miles in a straight line, we were told. At the end farthest from the castle is a copper equestrian statue of George III., of colossal dimensions, which one of the company had serious thoughts—by way of variety to the day's proceedings—of ascending, but was induced to defer the feat to a more seasonable opportunity. The hostelry was reached in time for tea; and after another touch or two upon St. John's we wended our way home, everyone arriving at his destination at an early hour.

We should be glad to again hear of the movement which was broached some time ago, for augmenting the Walthamstow parish church bells to a peal of ten. We believe that some money is in trust for this purpose, and we should be pleased to hear that the vicar and churchwardens had taken serious steps in the matter. Before long something must be done with the present frame, which is indeed slight, and it will be much better to anticipate what must eventually be done, and that at no distant date. Such a work as the augmentation of this ring of bells to ten, will effect a far more enduring memorial of the vicariate of the present respected vicar, and the churchwardens, than any other; and we hope before we chronicle the next anniversary of the Walthamstow Society to be able to announce that so desirable a movement has advanced considerably towards a satisfactory consummation.

## THE ST. JOHN'S (HACKNEY) SOCIETY.

On Tuesday, September 13th, the above Society of Change-ringers paid a visit to the ancient town of Waltham, rendered famous by its historical Abbey, and rang upon the bells of the Abbey Church several touches of Stedman Triples, Treble Bob Major and Grandsire Triplee. After ringing some time they adjourned to the Three Tuns Inn, where they sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mr. Powell, the Rev. Arthur Brook, Rector of Hackney, presided. After dinner some very good double-handed ringing was performed, and among the number of touches was an excellent one of Stedman Triples on hand-bells retained in hand and rung, by the following. J. Cox (conductor), 1 and 2; T. Powell, 3 and 4; W. A. Alps, 5 and 6; W. Smith, 7 and 8. Afterwards some tunes were rung and altogether the first visit of the Hackney party to Waltham Abbey was a very pleasant one, the company returning home highly pleased with their visit.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

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

## A RING OF BELLS IN PERFECT TUNE.

SIR.—I have been greatly interested in the series of articles in THE BELL NEWS on A Ring of Bells in Perfect Tune by the Rev. C. D. P. Davies. His explanation of the formation of the perfect Major scale is to my mind the clearest I have ever read. I thoroughly agree with him as to the desirability and feasibility of a scientific test of the tune of a peal of bells before they are hung. I, however, think that the scale usual on instruments with fixed notes, viz: "the scale of equal temperament" would be the best in the case of a peal of bells for the following reasons. 1st.—In a peal of twelve the top eight are constantly rung and also the six omitting the two trebles. If the peal is tuned in the perfect Major scale these peals would not be in tune. 2nd.—A peal of six is often first put up in a tower and then others are added: It is often desirable to add a bell heavier than the tenor, and add other bells so as to have several distinct rings. This could not be done if the original six were in the perfect scale. 3rd.—While fully agreeing with him as to the great advantage of a perfect ring of, say, twelve, when all rung, I think that the top ring of eight would so often be rung that any advantage in educating the ears of the neighbourhood by the full ring in perfect tune would be altogether done away with by the imperfect ring, and the result would be that the neighbours would be educated in the incorrect octave. 4th.—Large rings are frequently used for clock tunes and chiming tunes by the Ellacombe hammers, and are thus practically musical instruments similar to the piano. The experience of skilled musicians for centuries has resulted in the universal adoption of the scale of equal temperament for such instruments. There is no doubt that the advantages and disadvantages of each scale were fully understood and carefully weighed by those who adopted this system, and it would, in my opinion, only cause any effort to have our rings in tune to be fruitless, if the leaders of the movement insisted on the adoption of a theoretically perfect scale, which the experience of those best qualified to judge—with all respect to Mr. Davies—has decided to be practically unattainable.

I am sure that Mr. Davies will agree with me that if all rings could be in tune "in the ordinary scale," people with musical ears ought to be satisfied. It is a standing disgrace to English musical taste that not one in fifty of our rings are in even tolerable tune. I have rung on about twelve English rings, and on seven in Ireland, and have tapped and heard as many more rung, but out of them all, as well as I can recollect, only three were in good tune, and about half very much out of tune. Two of those in tune were by Mears, and the other I think by Rudhall of Gloucester. Without doubt Mr. Davis has a far larger experience than I have, as living in Ireland I have not many opportunities of examining rings. As an instance of the utter indifference of people in general, whether bells are in tune or not, I may state what occurred on the occasion of adding to, and re-hanging the bells in Christ's Church Cathedral in Dublin (a most musical city). The old ring was one of eight by Rudhall, and with the exception of one bell it was in very fair tune. This bell, however, was shockingly false, and in every way an exceedingly bad bell. A statement having been made in the newspapers that the bells were about to be re-hung and added to, a letter appeared in one paper suggesting that this bell should be broken up and re-cast. The only notice taken by anyone was an abusive letter in reply, by one of the ringers, charging the writer of the letter with an attack on Mr. Murphey of Dublin, who had the contract for adding to the ring, and the bell was replaced in the tower, and is still there. With reference to the concluding portion of Mr. Davies's able article I should like to make a few remarks.

Mr. Haweis in "Music and Morals" mentions (I only quote from memory as I have not the book by me), that the Belgian founders adopted the following rule in tuning the bells, viz: They divided the bell vertically into three equal parts. The lip when struck gave of course the note of the bell when struck: one third up, the third of that note; two-thirds up the fifth; and just at the crown, the octave. Since seeing that statement, whenever I have had an opportunity I have examined bells on that system, and I have found that the bells that were generally considered good bells always obeyed the rule, while bells were generally bad in proportion to their divergence from it. I have also never observed any attempt to tune the third or the fifth, and they were often sharp and therefore capable of being tuned. In tuning bells it would be therefore desirable to examine them on this point, and in the table suggested by Mr. Davis it would be well to add two additional columns showing the vibrations at the second and third points, and a column of observations mentioning whether the bell gave a true third and fifth at any point near the fixed points. To practically carry out this desirable object I would suggest that an Association be formed for the purpose. The Association to provide the necessary instruments and to appoint one or more skilled persons to examine and report on the tune of

new rings. Advertisements should be inserted from time to time in all the bell papers, and in *The Times*, calling the attention of all persons about getting rings of bells to the advantages offered by the society, and inviting them to communicate with it before entering into any contract. A form of contract could be easily drawn up, which would satisfy the bell-founders and secure the attainment of the object in view. One or one and a half per cent. on the price of the bells might be charged, and would not be felt, and would, I think, pay most of the expense, and the society could defray the remainder, if any. A CHANGE-RINGER.

## THE NON-PATRONAGE OF SCIENTIFIC RINGING.

DEAR SIR.—Having read the announcement in your last issue, that two trebles have been added to complete the ring of eight at Hughenden, I beg to enclose a slip from one of our local journals containing a report of the opening. The ringing I am told consisted of *Rounds* and (what we term) *Churchyard Bob*. In reply to your remark that you hope soon to hear of a peal being rung on them, I cannot give you much encouragement, for the following reason: The Secretary of our Oxford Diocesan Guild asked permission to send a band of change-ringers to open them *free of expense*, and the following was the reply from the vicar: "I am no bell ringer myself, and no judge, but I believe my own men are quite capable of ringing their own bells."

I regret to say that this kind of prejudice exists in many places in our Diocese, and is a great hindrance to the spread of scientific ringing.

Maidenhead, September 8th, 1881.

EDWIN ROGERS.

[We cannot altogether blame the Rev. Vicar of Hughenden for preferring the claims of his own ringers, though it is greatly to be wished they understood and practised *real* ringing. He evidently is unaware of the vast distinction between ringing a bell scientifically and hauling a rope about, and thus errs through pure ignorance of what actual scientific ringing may be like. We have urged upon the rev. gentleman the great desirability that the ringers of the augmented peal at Hughenden should become practical, and we shall be happy at any time to give him any assistance in our power towards furthering such an aim. But nevertheless, it would have been advisable that a talented company should have been engaged to open the bells by some ringing worth the name. Our readers will find a notice of the opening ceremony in another column.—Ed.]

SIR.—Seeing in the September issue of THE BELL NEWS that at the General Meeting of the St. Phillip's Society of Change-ringers I am put down as having seconded the resolution, Coleman *v.* late President, I beg leave to contradict the statement. By inserting this letter, you will oblige, yours respectfully,

25, Fisher St., Birmingham,  
Sept. 19th, 1881.

GEO. RUSSAM,  
(Secretary of Bishop Ryders and  
St. Chad's Society of Change-ringers).

## MUFFLED PEALS.

SIR.—Allow me to bring before your notice a method of ringing a funeral peal which I do not think is generally known. The bells are all full muffled, except the tenor, which is left open on the back stroke. I say the back stroke, because, if a muffled bell follows too closely on the open stroke of the tenor, the sound is lost. This slight variation will, I fancy, be found to have a fine effect. E. K.

AN ANCIENT HANDBILL.—While turning over some old papers, a resident in the city of Norwich came across an interesting and curious handbill, relative to the opening peal on the eight bells in St. Michael's Coslany church tower. We subjoin the text, which is headed by a copperplate engraving of the city arms, surrounded by the ribbon motto of the "St. Peter Mancroft Ringers." The handbill runs as follows:—"St. Michael Coslany, Norwich.—Whereas, by public contributions, two small bells were hung up in this steeple, making therein a peal of eight bells, on the 5th day of February, Anno Domini 1725: a remarkable peal was rung by the eight persons as under, called the Quarter Peal of Oxford Treble Bob all Eight, or the Union Bob, consisting of 10,080 changes, which they rang in six hours and twenty-eight minutes, on the 1st day of April, 1727; there was no bell out of course, no change alike. Performed by R. Barnham, *treble*; Thomas Melchoir, 2; John Harvey, 3; John Webster, 4; Thomas Gardiner, 5; Thomas Barrett, 6; Edward Crane, 7; Robert Crane, *tenor*."

FALL OF AN OLD CHURCH TOWER.—On Thursday, September 22nd, the tower of St. Helen's Church, West Keal, Lincolnshire, collapsed and fell with an alarming crash. Fortunately no lives were lost, though the rector had just left the church. While there he was alarmed by portions of the stonework falling and ominous crackings. He hastened outside, when the tower showed widening breaches in the walls, tottered, and fell, bringing with it the ring of five bells. The church is built at the top of a hill, and the tower was undoubtedly a landmark and beacon tower for the Fens in bygone days. It was built of sandstone, and was one of the most ancient in the district.

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

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

S. SLATER.—We have not been able to obtain any satisfactory data upon which to found a trustworthy answer to your question.

P. H. ELSTOW.—Had you sent earlier we would have procured the information you require from those who know more about these matters than ourselves, but we will give you our opinion. The governing body of a cathedral is the Dean and Chapter, as a rule consisting of the Dean and four Canons, who are usually appointed by the Crown. There are also Honorary Canons to each cathedral, who in most instances are appointed by the Bishop of the diocese. It is quite right and usual to prefix to the names of all these gentlemen the word "Canon." There are also Minor Canons to each cathedral, generally appointed, we believe, by the Dean and Chapter, and perhaps it is considered a stretch of courtesy to call these gentlemen Canons, as they are not usually so termed. We think the Honorary Canons of St. Paul's and one or two other cathedrals are called Prebendaries. According to custom, and we do not know if there exists any hard and fast rule to define their respective status—we should say "the Rev. H. C. Shuttleworth," not the Rev. "Canon" Shuttleworth. The Rev. "Canon" Gregory would be correct. The Rev. Canon Cattley a Honorary Canon of Worcester, and of course it is correct to address him as the Rev. Canon Cattley.

## The Bell News.

OCTOBER, 1881.

If ever the production of a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples without a single becomes an established fact, and victory is thus secured to the composer's art after a long and protracted struggle, it will be found an interesting if not humorous proceeding to take in review all the attempts that are known to have been made to obtain this at present much-desired composition. In such an inquiry the most recent attempts, which have been published in the columns of our respected contemporary, would upon such an examination be productive of hilarity to the future investigation of this question.

To aspire to eminence as a composer is perfectly legitimate, praiseworthy, and commendable. But it would be well for those entering the lists to correctly estimate the powers that work against them in such an undertaking. It is important that young composers should ever bear in mind that whatever they attempt has been essayed long before their day, and in all probability by men of superior attainments to themselves. We fear that in this Grandsire Triples controversy, this has, to a certain extent, been lost sight of. Before the effusions of Messrs. OTTLEY and PAYNE appeared, or, in fact, before either of those gentlemen saw the light, the production of a peal in the above method without a single was practically an old subject of discussion. Who doubts that the names of JOHNSON, HALEY, COX, HARRISON, THORP, and other celebrated composers may not have been mixed up in connection with this matter at some period of their lives? But it seems in the minds of some to be quite a new-broached idea. There is scarcely any, nay we will say there is not one unsolved problem in the art of composition that the above-named gentlemen have not tried their best, at some time or other, to elucidate, and this "without-a-single" business has therefore been among their failures. We would have it clearly understood, therefore, that this question is not by any means new—the idea that a peal may thus be obtained is not at all novel, the ground has been well trodden ages ago, only to lie fallow till the proper hand shall be applied.

But in all enterprises, the greater the difficulty in attaining excellence, the greater the honour in arriving at success. Though the attempt to obtain such a peal as the one we are alluding to bristles with difficulties, we should be sorry upon that account to discourage any one who at the present time

may be working upon such a subject. And also, though we may lay stress upon the possibility of its attainment being quite an ancient idea, that is no reason why anyone should be deterred from attempting the solution of the problem. Rather let it be an inducement to increased efforts; but at the same time the practitioner should be conscious that after good men have failed, if it is to be done at all it must be drawn out and conceived on a good solid plan, and not upon any flimsy unsubstantial basis which at first sight denotes inexperience and want of sufficient acquaintance with the subject to be able to deal with it in a scientific manner.

It is to be feared that even at the present day many so-called "peals" are rung, the composition of which would not stand the test of skilled examination. We owe something to one of the readers of this journal for a recent exposure which in all probability may never have been heard of, and the performance would have remained unquestioned perhaps for ever, and been foisted on the Exercise as a true peal. Of course, the composition to which we are alluding could not legitimately have been claimed as the property of its sponsor had it been true. It certainly exhibits a surprising confidence in one's own merits when a composition may be presumed to be correct, and may be rung, without passing it through the ordeal of proof! That this peal could not have been proved by the lead-ends—the only safe mode—is apparent. In another composition from the same part of the country, the composer hinted that he had arrived at the much-desired goal; but this also was false, as was plainly to be seen by the most superficial eye. One of these recent attempts in ten equal parts possessed certainly a remarkable novelty in having 37 leads in each part!

We hope we have seen and heard the last of these displays. One advantage, however, of these pseudo-peals is that they teach a salutary lesson. We recollect writing to one gentleman, asking him to forward us a copy of a peal that he had composed, the character the composition was said to bear being to us interesting, but we were not favoured even with a brief acknowledgment of our communication. Perhaps had we been permitted the opportunity of examining it we might, before it was too late, have discovered its errors, and then our duty would have been clear. The composer would at any rate have been spared the obloquy of composing and ringing a false peal.

The grand attainment of a peal without a single appears to be as far off as ever, and none of the latest published peals, even where true, come any nearer the desired end. The Exercise is pretty equally balanced in opinion as to whether it is possible of attainment or not, some holding that its accomplishment is only a question of time, others as stoutly averring that it is practically impossible. Our opinions upon the matter we expressed in a former number, so that we need not repeat them; but there is one important feature connected with this discussion which should not be lost sight of, and that is that those who maintain the utter impossibility of its accomplishment cannot or do not lay down any substantial reasons of the faith which is in them. Before the Exercise accepts as final and conclusive that the thing is impossible, some satisfactory condition to that effect will have to be advanced. Some good reasons will have to be shewn—in fact, no dictum of this nature will be entertained without some such reasons. We have much pleasure in stating, however, for the satisfaction of our readers, that a gentleman who is associated with us in the conduct of this journal is confident, from his researches into this interesting portion of the science, of his being able, in default of his producing the complete peal, to explain the reasons at no distant date which militate against its production.

## The Ringers' Record.

\* \* We beg our correspondents to address all communications for insertion in this Journal as follows:—The Editor of THE BELL NEWS, Walthamstow, London. No other address will reach us.

### THE METROPOLIS.

#### ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

On Saturday evening, September 10th, ten members of the above society rang at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, 5040 changes of Kent Treble Bob Royal, in 3 hrs. 24 mins. J. Cox, 1; C. Hopkins, 2; H. Dains, 3; W. Hoverd, 4; G. Newson, 5; N. J. Pitstow, 6; F. Bate, 7; H. Hopkins, 8; W. Baron, 9; F. Pitstow, 10. Tenor 28 cwt. The peal, which has the sixth bell the extent in 5-6, was composed by Mr. Cox, who also conducted upon this occasion. It is noteworthy that this is the first peal of Royal by the Brothers Pitstow, of Saffron Walden, and also of C. Hopkins.

### THE PROVINCES.

#### THE DURHAM DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

**NORTH SHIELDS.**—On Tuesday, September 20th, eight members of the North Shields branch of the above association, rang at Christ Church Holt's Ten-part peal of Grandsire Triples, in 2 hrs. 30 mins. \*G. Ross, 1; W. Reed, 2; \*J. Rossiter, 3; \*W. Waugh, 4; \*R. Willans, 5; R. Smith, 6; J. Hern, 7; S. Nott, 8. Tenor 19 cwt. Conducted by W. Reed. \*First peal.

#### THE NORWICH DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

**CODDENHAM (Suffolk).**—On Thursday, September 1st, the following members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Change-ringers rang at St. Mary's, a peal of 5024 Kent Treble Bob Major, in 2 hrs. 55 mins. D. Prentice (composer and conductor), 1; W. Meadows, 2; I. S. Alexander, 3; H. Bowell, 4; N. J. Pitstow, 5; E. Pemberton, 6; R. Brundle, 7; F. Pitstow, 8. Tenor 16½ cwt.

**KENNINGHALL (Norfolk).**—On Tuesday evening, September 20th, at St. Mary's, the following members of this branch of the above Association, rang 5120 changes of Oxford Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. J. Wade, 1; C. Everett, 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, has the sixth the extent in 5-6, home at last three course-ends of each part, had never been previously rung, and was composed by Henry Dains of London.

#### THE YOPKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

**GUISELEY (Yorks).**—On Saturday, September 10th, the following members rang at St. Oswald's, 5024 of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 2 hrs. 29 mins. C. Ralph (Otley), 1; D. E. Rhodes (Guiseley), 2; W. Whitaker (Ilkley), 3; R. Tuke (Ilkley), 4; J. Barraclough (Otley), 5; L. Cawood (Otley), 6; J. Baldwin (Guiseley), 7; J. W. Snowden (Leeds), 8. The peal, which has the sixth the extent each way in 5-6, four course-ends wrong and eight right, and had never been previously performed, was composed by N. J. Pitstow and conducted by Jasper W. Snowden. Tenor 10½ cwt.

**OTLEY (Yorks).**—On Saturday, September 17th, the following members rang 5184 changes of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 3 hrs. 4 mins. C. Ralph (Otley), 1; W. Whitaker (Ilkley), 2; F. Maston (Otley), 3; J. Barraclough (Otley), 4; D. E. Rhodes (Guiseley), 5; L. Cawood (Otley), 6; J. Baldwin (Guiseley), 7; J. W. Snowden (Leeds), 8. Tenor 16 cwt. The peal (in two parts) has the sixth the extent home and four course-ends in that position in each part, without a bob at the wrong being used, and is the first ever obtained or rung with these properties. It was composed by the late W. Harrison, of Motttram, and conducted by Jasper W. Snowden.

**BARKING (Essex).** On Saturday, September 17th, the following members of the Ancient Society of College Youths (established A. D. 1637), rang at St. Margaret's, Barking, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Major, containing 6048 changes, in 3 hrs. 50 mins. R. Sewell, 1; W. Collings, 2; G. Mash, 3; J. W. Rowbottom, 4; R. French, 5; E. Horrex, 6; S. Hayes, 7; J. M. Hayes, 8. Tenor 22 cwt. 1 qr., in E. Composed by H. Johnson, sen., of Birmingham. Conducted by J. M. Hayes.

**MITCHAM (Surrey).**—On Saturday, September 3rd, the following members of the Waterloo Society rang at the parish church, Holt's Original One-part peal of Grandsire Triples, 5040 changes in 2 hrs. 54 mins. S. Greenwood, 1; T. G. Deule, 2; W. Pead, 3; D. Springall, 4; G. Pell, 5; I. G. Shade, 6; H. J. Shade (conductor), 7; J. Barry, 8. Tenor 16 cwt.

**ROMFORD (Essex).**—On Saturday, September 3rd, the following members of the Royal Cumberland Society (late London Scholars), rang at St. Edward's, Holt's original One-part peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples in 3 hrs. 14 mins. G. Newson (conductor), 1; J. Gobbett, 2; J. Nunn (first peal inside), 3; H. Randall (first peal in this method), 4; A. J. Perkins, 5; J. Hannington, 6; W. Doran, 7; S. Jarman, 8. It is sixty-eight years (in 1813) since the last peal of 5040 Bob Major was rung in the old church; and this is the first peal since the present church was built. Tenor 17 cwt.

### DATE TOUCHES.

**CHELTHENHAM.**—On Wednesday, September 21st, at St. Mary's, a date touch of Stedman Triples, 1881 changes, was rung in 1 hr. 9 mins. J. Lawrence, 1; H. Karn, 2; H. Hodges, 3; G. Phillott, Esq., 4; W. Morris, 5; J. Belcher (conductor), 6; G. Acocks, 7; F. Musty, 8. Tenor 23 cwt. This was rung to commemorate the anniversaries of two old members, both of whom rang in the touch. The combined ages of the ringers of the treble and the fifth amount to 143 years. The touch was composed by Mr. J. Field, of Oxford, and appeared in our issue of last March.

**DERBY.**—On Wednesday, August 17th, the Derby Society rang at St. Alkmund's, a date touch of 1881 Grandsire Triples, in 1 hr. 12 mins. J. Ridgeway, 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 F.

**ILKLEY.**—On Sunday, September 11th, the Ilkley Amateur Society rang for evening service, at All Saints', a touch of 1881 changes of Bob Triples, in 1 hr. 7 mins. C. J. Howson, 1; R. Tuke, 2; J. F. Boater, 3; I. Dean, 4; J. Wood, 5; W. Whitaker, 6; J. W. Snowden, 7; E. Snowden, 8. Tenor 18 cwt. The touch was composed by T. Lockwood and conducted by Jasper W. Snowden.

### MISCELLANEOUS.

(Comprising performances under 5000 changes.)

#### THE DURHAM DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

**MIDDLESBOROUGH-ON-TREES.**—On Friday, September 9th, six members of the Stockton branch of the above association rang at St. Hilda's, a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. G. J. Clarkson (conductor), 1; T. Burdon, 2; J. Clarkson, 3; R. Alcock, 4; T. Stephenson, 5; W. Newton, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. This is supposed to be the first 720 of Treble Bob Minor ever completed in this tower.

#### OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

**HURST (Berks).**—on Saturday, September 3rd, a 720 of Grandsire Minor was rung in 27 mins. C. Clark, 1; J. Parker, 2; W. Fussell, 3; W. Wilder, 4; \*R. Smith, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Tenor 17 cwt. \*First 720. At Wargrave (Berks), on the same day, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, containing 34 singles and 26 bobs, in 26½ mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Parker, 2; W. Wilder, 3; W. Fussell, 4; R. Smith, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Also a 720, in two parts, containing 30 bobs and 30 singles, in 25 mins. C. Clark, 1; W. Fussell, 2; J. Parker, 3; W. Wilder, R. Smith, 5; H. Egby, 6. Tenor 16 cwt. At Shiplake (Oxon), on the same day, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins. R. Allen, 1; J. Parker, 2; W. Wilder, 3; H. Costiff, 4; R. Flaxman, 5; H. Egby, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. At Farnham Royal (Bucks), on Saturday, September 10th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in three parts, containing 30 bobs and 30 singles, in 25 mins. F. Fells, 1; J. Parker, 2; J. Basden, 3; W. Wilder, 4; E. Rogers, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Also another 720, in six parts, in 26½ mins. J. Parker, 1; J. Basden, 2; G. Basden, 3; A. Batten, 4; W. Wilder, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Tenor 12 cwt. All the above were conducted, and all except the last composed by J. Parker.

**ACCRINGTON (Lancashire).**—On Sunday, September 11th, a mixed band of ringers rang for morning service at St. James's, a 720 of College Exercise Minor; and for evening service a 720 of Violet Treble Bob Minor, in 27½ mins. A. Scholes (conductor), 1; H. Hayes, 2; T. Newhall, 3; J. Hindle, 4; J. H. Fish, 5; C. D. Pierce, 6. Tenor 9¾ cwt.

**BLACKROD (Lancashire).**—On Friday, August 9th, the Blackrod Society rang a 720 of Bob Minor, containing 42 singles, in 27 mins. R. Watnough (conductor), 1; J. Rawlinson, 2; John Higson, 3; W. Croston, 4; G. Higson, 5; James Higson, 6. Tenor 12 cwt.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—On Sunday, September 18th, a 720 of Grandsire Minor, was rung in 26 mins. on the St. Chad's bells by the following members of the Amalgamated Society of Bishop Ryder's and St. Chad's Societies. W. Saniger, 1; G. Leech (aged 72), 2; W. Kenncy, 3; F. James, 4; B. Stevens, 5; T. Miller (conductor), 6. Tenor 15 cwt. in F.

**BOLTON (Bradford, Yorks.).**—On Tuesday, August 30th, at St. James', a 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 26 mins. R. S. Ambler, 1;

\*G. A. O. Nettleton (Shipley), 2; B. Sugden, 3; J. Broadley, 4; B. T. Copley, 5; J. B. Jennings, 6. \*His first 720. Also on Tuesday, September 6th, another 720 of the same method, in 27 mins. \*B. Lamb, jun., 1; B. T. Copley, 2; B. Sugden, 3; J. Broadley, 4; J. B. Jennings, 5; W. Barraclough, 6. Tenor 15 cwt. \*His first 720 in this method. Both were conducted by J. B. Jennings.

CAMBERWELL (Surrey).—On Tuesday evening, September 6th, a muffled peal was rung on the bells of St. George's Church, Camberwell, as a mark of respect to the late Mr. C. Hyrons, aged 40 years, late secretary of the St. George's society. T. Windley (conductor), 1; H. Windley, 2; H. Langdon, 3; W. Roberts, 4; W. Pinsent, 5; H. Flower, 6; H. Drury, 7; W. Prime, 8.

CHURCH, near ACCRINGTON (Lancashire).—On Sunday, September 18th, a mixed band rang for evening service, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 28 mins. A. Scholes (conductor) 1; H. Hayes, 2; T. Newhall, 3; J. Hindle, 4; J. H. Fish, 5; C. D. Pierce, 6. Tenor 15 cwt.

DARLINGTON (Durham).—On Saturday, September 17th, three of the Staindrop ringers visited St. John's, Darlington, and with the assistance of some of their members rang two six-scores of Bob Doubles, 360 Bob Minor, and 360 Grandsire Minor. Bob Doubles:—J. W. Shipp (aged 13 years), 1; W. Patton, 2; J. H. Blakiston, 3; D. Shipp (conductor), 4; W. Johnson, 5; R. Moncaster, 6. Bob Minor:—\*J. W. Shipp (aged 13 years), 1; J. H. Blakiston, 2; W. Patton, 3; J. H. Whitfield, 4; D. Shipp, 5; G. Overton (conductor), 6. \*First attempt at this method; Grandsire Minor:—W. Patton, 1; J. H. Blakiston, 2; R. Moncaster, 3; J. H. Whitfield, 4; D. Shipp, 5; G. Overton (conductor), 6. Tenor 10 cwt.

FARNHAM ROYAL (Bucks).—On Saturday, September 24th, two 360's Bob Minor was rung in 13 mins. each. C. Clarke, 1; J. Parker, (conductor), 2; W. Fussell, 3; A. Botton, 4; G. Buckland, 5; R. Flaxman, 6. Second 360: F. Fells, 1; W. Wilder, 4.

LIGHTCLIFFE (Yorks).—On Friday evening, September 16th, the following members of the Brighouse company rang (by permission of Mr. Pearson, the Minister of Lightcliffe Congregational Church), 720 of Kent Treble Bob Minor, upon the bells of the above church. F. Crossley, 1; J. F. Pearson, 2; J. Robnett, 3; J. Cockroft, 4; C. Nield, 5; F. Prince (conductor), 6. This ring of six bells, we are informed, has been lying silent for the past three years, but exertions are being made towards the formation of a company for regular practice.

LITTLE HEATH (Essex).—On Saturday evening, July 30th, six 6-scores in the following methods, with the bells half-muffled, were rung at St. James's Church, to the memory of George Porter, who was formerly a ringer at the above church, and who was accidentally killed the previous week, upon the Great Eastern Railway: Grandsire, Old Doubles, The Dream, London Doubles, Gog and Magog, Hudibras. A. Gillingham, 1; A. Pye, 2; A. J. Perkins, 3; B. Keeble (conductor), 4; J. Pye, 5. Tenor 5 cwt.

MITCHAM (Surrey).—On Wednesday evening, September 7th, at the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, the following members rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, 1260 changes, containing the twelve 7-4s and the twelve 6-7s. W. Turner (Mitcham), 1; D. Springall (Streatham), 2; S. Greenwood (Streatham), 3; \*G. Weldon, (Mitcham), 4; S. Hayes (Gravesend), 5; J. Fayers (Mitcham), 6; C. Pell (Streatham), conductor, 7; H. Pates (Mitcham), 8. Tenor 16 cwt. \*First quarter-peal.

NORWICH.—On Saturday, September 3rd, the following members of the Norwich Diocesan Association (with T. Houghton, jun., of Daresbury, Cheshire), rang at St. John's Maddermarket, Norwich, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob. J. Youngs, 1; J. Thorpe, 2; Rev. G. H. Harris (Tunstead), 3; J. Spratt, 4; J. Skinner, 5; T. Houghton (Daresbury), 6. Also 360 of Kent Treble Bob. J. Youngs, 1; J. Thorpe, 2; P. Sadler, 3; J. Spratt, 4; G. Holmes, Esq. (Redenhall), 5; T. Houghton (Daresbury), 6. Conducted by J. Youngs. Tenor 12 cwt.

OSWALDTWISTLE (Lancashire).—On Sunday, September 18th, a mixed band rang for morning service at the Church of The Immanuel, a 720 of Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins. A. Scholes (conductor), 1; H. Hayes, 2; T. Newhall, 3; J. Hindle, 4; J. H. Fish, 5; C. D. Pierce, 6. Tenor 12½ cwt.

ROMFORD (Essex).—On Sunday morning, August 21st, for divine service at St. Edward's, Romford, a 720 of Bob Minor, in 30 mins. A. J. Perkins, 1; A. Pye, 2; B. Keeble, 3; G. Galley, 4; A. Porter (conductor), 5; J. Smith, 6. Tenor 17 cwt.—*Hand-bell Ringing*.—On Friday evening, September 9th, a 720 of Plain Bob, with 9 bobs and 6 singles, was rung in 21 mins. (bells retained in hand). B. Keeble, 1-2; A. J. Perkins, (conductor), 3-4; J. Smith, 5-6.

SLOUGH (Bucks).—On Sunday, September 25th, it being the occasion of the harvest thanksgiving, 10 six-scores of Grandsire Doubles was rung in 38 mins., each called different. W. Leader, 1; W. Fussell, 2; R. Flaxman, (conductor), 3; J. Parker, 4; J. Persey, 5; F. Sinkins, 6. Tenor 9½ cwt. in A.

SPALDING (Lincolnshire).—On Thursday, September 1st, at St. Paul's, Fulney, on the back six bells a 720 Oxford Treble Bob with 9 bobs, in 25 mins. T. Blackburn, 1; J. R. Jerram, 2; A. Walker (his first 720

in this method), 3; J. S. Wright, 4; J. W. Creasey, aged 14 years (his first peal in this method on an inside bell), 5; R. Creasey (conductor) 6. Also on Tuesday, September 6th, a 720 Bob Minor with 18 bobs and 2 singles, in 26 mins. T. J. Sindall, Esq. (his first 720 in a six bell method), 1; A. Hayes, 2; E. Mason, C.V., Boston, 3; J. W. Creasey, 4; Rev. R. G. Ash, (Vicar), 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6. Also on Sunday, September 11th, a 720 Bob Minor, in 26 mins. J. Croxford, 1; A. Hayes, 2; A. Walker, 3; E. Quinton, 4; J. W. Creasey, 5; R. Creasey (conductor), 6. The last 720 rang here by the St. Paul's company.

STAINDROP (Durham).—The ringers of St. Mary's belfry rang their first six-score of Bob Doubles on Saturday, August 27th and repeated it on September 3rd. J. W. Shipp (aged 13 years), 1; W. McLean, 2; D. Shipp (conductor), 3; T. Leonard, 4; W. Johnson, 5; J. Brown, 6. Tenor 13 cwt. This young band of ringers have only been about twelve months at work, and their progress reflects credit on their conductor.

SUDBURY (Suffolk).—On Tuesday, September 6th, at All Saints' Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, containing 1260 changes, in 55 mins. N. W. Taylor, 1; M. Silvester, 2; W. Bacon, 3; W. Griggs, 4; W. Howell, 5; H. Harper, 6; A. Scott (conductor), and W. Cross, 7; G. Gooch, 8. Tenor 28 cwt. Owing to the seventh bell going badly it had to be doubled. The same touch was also rung at St. Peter's, on Thursday, September 18th, in 52 mins. N. W. Taylor, 1; J. Campin, 2; A. Scott (conductor), 3; C. Sillitoe, 4th; W. Howell, 5; W. Griggs, 6; H. Harper, 7; H. Griggs, 8. Tenor 22 cwt.

TYDD (Lincolnshire).—On Thursday, September 8th, at St. Mary's, 2200 changes, comprising 6 six-scores of Grandsire, 6½ of Plain Bob, and 6 of Old Doubles, in 1 hr. 25 mins. E. Coulson, 1; E. A. Pritheroe, 2; R. J. Key, 3; R. Tibbrook, 4; J. R. Jerram, 5.

UPHOLLAND (Lancashire).—On Saturday afternoon, September 10th, the following ringers belonging to the parish church, Ormskirk, rang a 720 of Grandsire Minor, in 26 mins., on the new ring of bells which have been placed in the tower by Messrs. Warner and Sons, London. J. Prescott, 1; J. Eastham, 2; N. Spencer (conductor), 3; J. Leatherbarrow, 4; James Prescott, 5; R. Clayton, 6. Tenor 8½ cwt. In another column will be found a short but interesting account of this ancient edifice.

#### BELL FOUNDING OPERATIONS.

MESSRS. GILLET, BLAND & Co.—This firm are casting a ring of eight for Brasted Church, Kent.—A ring of eight, tenor 14 cwt., for St. Mary's, Windermere.—Five bells for the Town Hall, Maldon, and five bells for the town clock at Lewes.

#### THE ROYAL CUMBERLAND SOCIETY.

The Annual Election of Officers took place on Friday, September 16th, when the following gentlemen were unanimously re-elected for the ensuing year. Mr. G. Newson, Master; Mr. W. Baron, Treasurer; Mr. J. Hannington, Secretary. Mr. Barry was elected as junior Steward in the place of Mr. Strange, who takes office as senior Steward for the ensuing year. J. HANNINGTON, *Hon. Sec.*

#### SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

The next ordinary meeting of the above will be held at Heckington, on Saturday, October 8th, all members intending being present must send in their names to the Secretary, on or before October 1st, or the allowance of 2s. will not be allowed to them. J. R. JERRAM, *Hon. Sec.*

BOW CHURCH.—Bow Church, in the spire of which are the famous "Bow Bells," so dear to the heart of every London-born youth, stands in the middle of the south-side of Cheapside. The proper name of the church is St. Mary-le-Bow, and the present edifice is considered to be one of Sir Christopher Wren's masterpieces. The name is derived from the arches of the original structure, or of its crypt, which still exists, though so buried under the dust of eight centuries as to form only the foundation of the present fabric. The "Court of Arches," an ecclesiastical court so-called, derives its name from this circumstance, the original meetings having been held under the arched vault of Bow Church. About 1190, Longbeard, ringleader of a furious mob, sought refuge in the spire of Bow Church, and refused to surrender himself to the authorities until compelled to do so by their setting fire to his place of retreat. In 1271 part of the steeple fell, and, says Stow, "slew manie people, men and women, that then were in the church, or dwelled neere there or about." A few years afterwards a goldsmith named Duckett fled to the church for sanctuary, but was followed by his assailants and murdered. The old steeple was entirely rebuilt about 1460, when the Common Council of the City of London ordered that "Bow Bell" should be rung nightly at nine o'clock in order "to release the London 'prentices." This bell, says Stow, "being usually rung somewhat late, as seemed to the young men 'prentices and others in Cheap, they made and set up a rhyme against the clerk as followeth:—

"Clerke of the Bow Bell, with the yellow locks,  
For thy late ringing thy head shall have knockes."

Whereunto the clerk replying, wrote:—

"Children of Cheape, hold you all still,  
For you shall have the Bow Bell rung at your will."

PEALS OF TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

COMPILED BY JASPER W. SNOWDON.

FIVE-PART PEALS.

The following peal is one first used by J. Lockwood in his 9120 and other long lengths, and also by W. Harrison in his 8896, and thus, although consisting of 5280 changes, is worthy of notice. It will be seen that it reverses to the same peal.

5280

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

J. LOCKWOOD.

TWO-PART PEALS.

PEALS WITH THE SIXTH THE EXTENT IN 5-6.

5056

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

D. PRENTICE.

The following peal is the same as the previous one with the alternative calling used in the first and fifth courses.

5120

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

D. PRENTICE.

5120

2	3	4	5	6	M	B	W	H
6	4	3	5	2	I	1		
3	2	5	4	6	2	-	2	
4	6	2	5	3	2	-	2	
4	2	5	6	3	I	-	2	
2	3	5	4	6	2	-	2	
5	4	2	6	3	2	-	2	
4	5	2	3	6	-	I	2	

D. PRENTICE.

The reverse of the following peal is the same as the original, with the alternative calling used in the second and last courses.

5248

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

D. PRENTICE.

In the following peals the sixth is three courses one way and two the other, in 5-6, in each part. If the first course in either part of the 5120 is called I M, I W, 2 H, the number will be reduced to 5056. The 5376 contains the sixth, the extent in all positions.

5056

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

H. DAINS.

5120

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

H. DAINS.

5376

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

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"The Moon behind the Hill" ... ..	1/6
"Weel may the Keel Row" ... ..	1/6
"March of the Men of Harlech" ... ..	1/6
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"The Harp that once," Irish Air, ... ..	1/0
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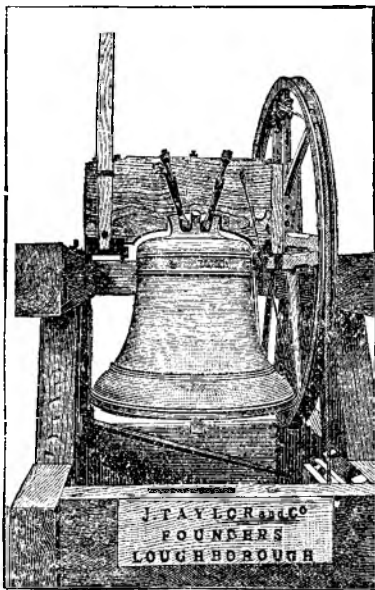
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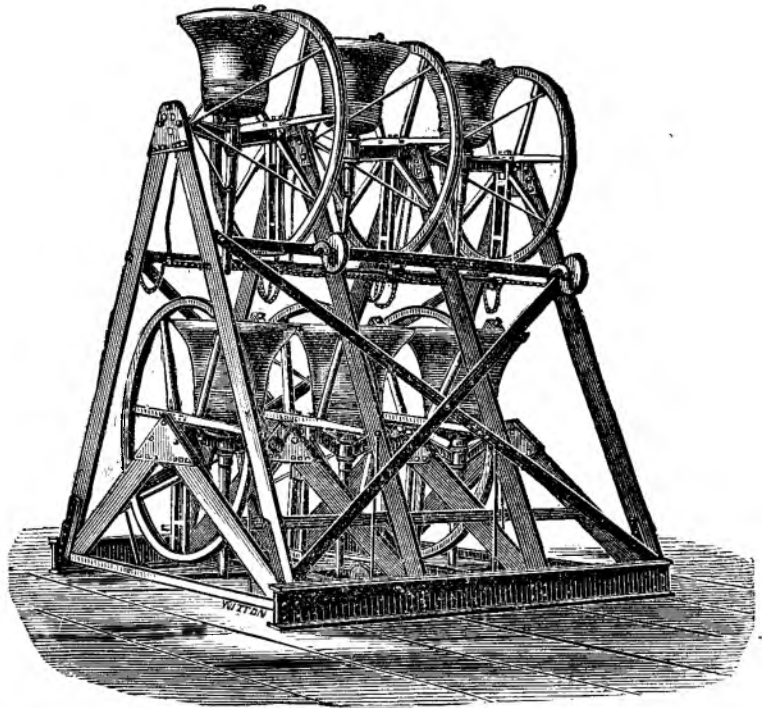
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