



CAPTAIN JOHN EDWARD ACLAND-TROYTE, M.A.

CAPTAIN ACLAND-TROYTE, the second son of the late Mr. Arthur Dyke Acland, was born in 1848. He is younger brother of Mr. Troyte of Huntsham Court, Devonshire, of whom an illustration was given some time back in *Church Bells*. Captain Acland-Troyte was educated at Harrow, and at Christ Church, Oxford. For many years his name has been prominent in the world of change-ringing. When a boy at school he was fond of handling a bell-rope, but he knew nothing of scientific changes till about the time of his going to the University. Just then the ring of six at Huntsham was augmented to eight, and as a con-

sequence of this Captain Acland-Troyte and his elder brother addressed themselves with vigour to the study of the science. At home and at Oxford, where he was much helped by the City Society, he made rapid progress in change-ringing.

Before taking his degree he founded in 1872 the Oxford University Society of Change-ringers. By this step he has put not only the ringing world but the Church itself under a lasting obligation; for in this Society it is that the great majority of ringing clergymen obtain their first glimpse of the art, and thus prepare themselves to exercise that influence, which so many have

already nobly done, in the belfries of their parishes in all parts of England.

After leaving Oxford he entered the army. Being too old to enter in the usual manner he enlisted in the ranks, gaining his commission in the brief space of little more than a year. It is an open secret that the well-known book, *Through the Ranks to a Commission*, owes its existence to this portion of his life. After only two or three years' service he contracted a severe illness, which has left him unable to attempt ringing at any considerable length. But previous to this he rang many peals, including one of 6000 Grandsire Caters. Some of these he conducted. With his brother, Mr. Troyte, he is joint-author of a much-used work on change-ringing; and with his younger brother, Rev. R. Acland-Troyte, of the *Change-Ringers' Guide*. He is also the author of a paper recently read at the Royal Society of Antiquaries, dealing with the Harmony of the four Evangelists, and of other parts of Holy Scripture, which were made by Nicholas Ferrar and the Misses Collet at Little Gidding about 1640. It need scarcely be added that Captain Acland-Troyte is a devout and earnest Churchman. Long ago his companions used to say that his most fitting attire would be a soldier's coat with a surplice over it. (Our illustration is from a photograph by La Fayette of Dublin.)





**THE WORSHIPFUL SIR EDMUND BECKETT, BART., Q.C., LL.D.**

*Chancellor of the Diocese of York.*

**SIR EDMUND BECKETT**, fifth baronet, son of Sir Edmund Beckett, fourth baronet, and grandson of Sir John Beckett, M.P., the first holder of the title, was born on the 12th of May, 1816, and succeeded his father in 1874. Sir Edmund was educated at Eton and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated as 28th Wrangler in 1838. Three

years later he was called to the Bar at Lincoln's Inn, and in 1854 he was appointed one of Her Majesty's Counsel. Sir Edmund has devoted himself to the study of church architecture and campanology, on which he has frequently written and lectured, one of his earliest works, *Lectures on Church Building, with some Practical Remarks on Bells and Clocks*,

(London, Bell and Sons), having passed through several editions. To the recent correspondence in the *Times* upon the bells of St. Paul's Cathedral he contributed several important letters. In promoting cathedral and church restoration Sir Edmund has taken a prominent part, and the restoration of St. Albans Cathedral more particularly owes much to his active interest and liberality. In 1877 Sir Edmund was appointed by the Archbishop of York to fill the important office of Chancellor of the diocese.



# Famous Ringers.

## VI.—MR. GEORGE BREED.

GEORGE BREED was born on December 9th, 1849, at Braintree, Essex. He first commenced to handle a bell when he was fifteen years of age, but it was not until two years later that he rang, at St. Michael and All Angels', Braintree, his first peal of 720 Bob Minor.

In April, 1873, Mr. George Breed came to London, and was



*Photo by]*

MR. GEORGE BREED.

*[Avison.*

introduced by Mr. J. M. Hayes to the Ancient Society of College Youths, who soon discovered the capacity for ringing of the new-comer. He was chosen as one of the band to ring a touch at the opening of Shoreditch Church, and was soon after elected a member of the St. James's Society. During his two years' residence in London, he took part in a large number of peals, and almost invariably was put in charge of one of the heaviest bells.

He left for York in 1875, and has resided there ever since. For the first three years his experiences of bell-ringing in Yorkshire were very satisfactory, but after that time several of the band left the city, and the younger members did not appear to be as enthusiastic as their predecessors. He has rung numerous peals at York Minster, as well as a Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Martin's, Coney Street, York, which he conducted.

Mr. Breed's heart is in the work, and he travels far and wide in order to take part in a peal. At Sheffield, Hull, Wakefield, and Newcastle, he is a welcome visitor, as well as at Durham Cathedral. In addition to the Societies mentioned above, he is a member of the London, Yorkshire, Durham, and Newcastle Associations.

Besides being a thoroughly accomplished bell-ringer, Mr. Breed is an excellent cricketer, and is Captain of the City of York

Cricket Club. Last year he won the bat with shield, both for the best average (29·1), and the largest individual score (101) in the match against Beverley.



# Famous Ringers.

## XIII.—MR. W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM.

MR WALTER H. L. BUCKINGHAM first entered a bellry in the summer of 1883 by invitation of one of the old call change-ringers at St. Albans Cathedral—a strange experience of walking through triforiums, round sundry corners and up narrow staircases, having to be gone through before the bell-ringing chamber was reached. This view so fascinated him that when Mr. N. N. Hill (a well-known change-ringer at St. Albans) undertook to teach a young band of ringers, he made application to become a probationer, and started to learn the art of change-ringing on February 29th, 1884, under that gentleman's able conductorship. Having rung 120 Grandsire Doubles in the following September (the then qualification for membership) he was made a member of the St. Albans



MR. W. H. L. BUCKINGHAM.

Cathedral Society of Change-ringers, being the first elected member after the constitution of that Society. A good deal of experience was obtained, during that and the following year, through the visits arranged to be made by Mr. Hill to different six-bell towers in villages round about St. Albans, where several 720's were rung by the band. Being brought in contact with many other enthusiastic members, who were not satisfied with one night a week for practising change-ringing, the handbells were resorted to when the church bells were not available, with the result that Messrs. Cartmel, Mitchell, and Buckingham decided to meet at five o'clock every morning and practise ringing six-bell methods double-handed. On August 24th, 1885, he rang his first peal (Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples) at St. Albans Cathedral, conducted by Mr. H. J. Tucker of Bishops Stortford.

On September 21st, 1886, the St. Albans Cathedral Society of Change-ringers rang their first peal, in which Mr. Buckingham took the 4th, conducted by Mr. N. N. Hill. For some months regular practices were had on handbells as well as on tower bells, to learn other methods, with the result that a band for Stedman Treble Bob and Bob Major was obtained. On March 11th, 1886, the first quarter-peal on handbells was rung by G. W. Cartmel, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; N. N. Hill (conductor), 5-6;

J. C. Mitchell, 7-8. During 1886 Mr. C. F. Winney came down and called the first handbell peal rung in St. Albans, in which Messrs. Hill, Lewis, and Cartmel took part. Messrs. Mitchell and Buckingham being in London every day on business, were consequently often ringing with Mr. Winney, with the result that on January 27th, 1887, after ringing at St. Paul's Cathedral, an attempt was made to ring Holt's Original peal on handbells retained in hand, which was successfully brought round by J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; C. F. Winney (conductor), 5-6; Wm. Greenleaf, 7-8. Mr. Winney, seeing that this band were in good trim, arranged to meet for practice with the intention of ringing Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples non-conducted on handbells retained in hand. After a deal of practice it was arranged to meet at Mr. Winney's residence one night with the intention of seeing how far the band could ring without making any mistake (Mr. Garrard being a witness): the result was that the peal was rung with only three slight trips in the ringing. This was thought to be sufficient proof that the band were capable of ringing a perfectly silent peal; consequently, on March 4th, an attempt was made, which came to grief after ringing 4700 changes, through the 3-4 man, when St. Paul's clock was striking eleven, trying to count thirteen. However, a further attempt was made on Friday, March 11th, 1887, which resulted in success after two hours and twenty-nine minutes' perfect ringing. The band were J. C. Mitchell, 1-2; W. H. L. Buckingham, 3-4; C. F. Winney, 5-6; G. F. McLaughlin, 7-8. Umpires—Messrs. W. Baron and G. Wild of the Royal Cumberland Society, and Mr. Rowbotham of the Ancient Society of College Youths, besides a number of other witnesses. The same band also rang Holt's Ten-part peal, non-conducted, on April 20th, 1887, and a peal of Stedman Triples, conducted by Mr. Winney, on December 30th, 1887.

Since that time Mr. Buckingham has rung fifty-five handbell peals (thirty-three of which he conducted) in the Stedman, Grandsire Bob, Canterbury and Treble Bob methods; he has also rung 152 peals in the tower in the following methods: Grandsire, Stedman Bob, Treble Bob (Oxford and Kent), Canterbury, Double Norwich, and Superlative—of which he conducted 44; a grand total of 207 peals, of which 77 were conducted by him. His longest peal was 12,097 of Double Norwich, rung at Maidenhead on December 31st, 1892, in 7 hrs. 10 mins. He represents the Middlesex Association on the Central Council of Change-ringers, and belongs to the Ancient Society of College Youths, St. James's and Waterloo Societies, the Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Yorkshire, Middlesex, and Essex Associations, and the Oxford Diocesan Guild, and is an honorary member of the St. Albans, All Saints', Fulham, and Bushey Societies.

At the latter place (Bushey) he has resided since his marriage on February 9th last.



# Famous Ringers.

## XIV.—MR. JOHN CARTER.

JOHN CARTER was born at Darlaston, Staffordshire, on April 30th, 1854. His first entry into a belfry was on Sunday,



MR. JOHN CARTER.

July 14th, 1873, at Darlaston, when he was asked if he would like to learn bell-ringing.

His maiden effort was at Willenhall-juxta-Darlaston, where he rang on December 18th, 1873, in a date touch of Stedman Triples, 1873 changes, and his first peal (5040 Grandsire Triples)

was rung at the same place, July 7th, 1874. In this year he removed from Darlaston to West Bromwich, where he called his first peal (Holt's Original one-part) at All Saints' Church, February 22nd, 1876. Mr. Carter first rang in a handbell peal at the house of the late Mr. Henry Johnson, Birmingham, on June 1st, 1876, the peal being called by Mr. H. Bastable; and he called his first peal on handbells (Holt's Original one-part) at his father's house, West Bromwich, on March 16th, 1878.

In June, 1880, Mr. Carter removed to Birmingham, and in 1881, when the Birmingham Amalgamated Society was formed, he was appointed instructor and conductor, and rang on October 16th, 1883, on handbells, what was then a record peal, 10,176 Grandsire Major, composed and conducted by himself. He took part in a silent peal of Stedman Triples, at Burton-on-Trent, November 20th, 1886. He also rang in the Anniversary peal, November 19th, 1887, which was jointly conducted, each ringer in his turn calling three courses.

Mr. Carter's longest peal is one of Grandsire Major, 10,272 changes, rung on February 25th, 1889, on the church bells at Rowley, Staffordshire, and this is still the longest in the method. He had the pleasure of conducting the first peal of Stedman ever rung on the bells at Darlaston, his native place. Mr. Carter represented the Birmingham District at the opening of the bells at the Imperial Institute, London, on May 10th, 1893. He has conducted peals in all the standard methods, and his performances range from Plain Bob to London Surprise. They also comprise twenty-nine handbell peals, from Triples to Cinques.

Mr. Carter is a member of nearly all the Associations, including the Ancient Society of College Youths and St. James's Society.

Mr. Carter is a most prolific composer, having produced peals in the standard methods for all numbers of bells, and his compositions are always well arranged for the most musical qualities. He is also the author of several new methods, notably 'Champion Surprise,' 'Burton Surprise,' 'Loughborough Surprise,' 'Forward,' and 'Darlaston Bob.'

During his few leisure hours Mr. Carter is constructing a change-ringing machine, which he hopes to be able to complete in about twelve months. This machine, when made perfect, will tap off any touch or peal on any number of bells, up to twelve, that may be called in any method. Not only will every change be distinctly heard, but every change will also be mechanically recorded in figures. A. Percival Heywood, Esq., after inspecting the machine, expressed his surprise at the ingenuity of the conception, which is, in his idea, on the same lines as Charles Babbage's calculating machine, but of course arranged to do different work.

The following is a list of Mr. Carter's performances:—

*Grandsire*—Triples, 38 (24); Major, 13 (13); Caters, 38 (30); Royal, 2 (2); Cinques, 2 (2). *New Grandsire*—Triples, 5 (1); Caters, 1. *Stedman*—Triples, 23 (18); Caters, 10 (6); Cinques, 4. *Bob*—Triples, 3 (3); Major, 18 (16); Caters, 1 (1); Royal, 4 (4). *Treble Bob*—Major, 5 (3); Royal, 5 (3); Maximus, 2 (1). *Darlaston Bob*—Triples, 13 (13); Caters, 1 (1). *Oxford Bob*—Triples, 1 (1). *College Single*—Triples, 1 (1). *Union*—Triples, 3 (2). *Forward*—Major, 3 (3); Royal, 3 (2). *Duffield*—Royal, 1. *Double Oxford Bob*—Major, 2 (1). *Double Norwich Court Bob*—Major, 2 (2). *Superlative Surprise*—Major, 1. *Cambridge Surprise*—Major, 1. *London Surprise*—Major, 1. Totals—207 (153). The numbers in parentheses indicate peals conducted by Mr. Carter.



# Famous Ringers.

No. IX.—MR. W. T. COCKERILL.

MR. WILLIAM T. COCKERILL was born at North Frodingham, Hull, on April 13th, 1859. When about ten years old his first acquaintance with bells commenced, through chiming with other-



Photo by]

MR. W. T. COCKERILL.

[Hells.

lads at the parish church of St. Elgin in that village. In 1878 he went to live at Empingham, Rutland, where shortly afterwards he learnt to ring a bell, but nothing more than call-changes were in vogue either here or in the neighbouring towers. Through seeing an early number of *Church Bells*, he procured a copy of Troyte's work on six-bell change-ringing, but no opportunity came to make any practical use of its contents. The years 1878-9 were spent at St. John's College, York, and though this building is within earshot of the Minster bells, its rules stopped any chance there might have been of finding out the ringers.

In 1880 Mr. Cockerill came to reside in London, but did not enter a belfry until Christmas, 1885, at St. Mary's, Lambeth, where call-changes were being rung, the late Messrs. Coppage and Stoneman taking part. Through Mr. Coppage, an introduction was obtained to members of the Waterloo Society, with whom, under the able tuition of Mr. Baron, the Grandsire method was mastered.

Practice in this and other methods was also obtained at St. Mary's, Lambeth, where the St. James's Society had fortnightly meetings, which were most regularly attended by Messrs. Winney, McLaughlin, Woodley, and others. The first attempt for a peal was at St. Stephen's, Westminster, on March 19th, 1887, with Messrs. Baron (conductor), Malim, H. Davies, Church, Banks, Coppage, and Wild, which came to grief after ringing 1 hr. 35 mins., but Holt's Original was scored at Putney on June 25th, 1887, conducted by Mr. McLaughlin.

Mr. Cockerill has taken part in 123 peals, being : *Grandsire*—Triples, 17 ; Major, 1 ; Caters, 7. *Stedman*—Triples, 42 ; Caters, 16 ; Cinques, 6. *Treble Bob*—Major, 8 ; Royal, 8 ; Maximus, 5. *Plain Bob*—Major, 2 ; Royal, 1. *Duffield* Major, 1. *Double Norwich* Major, 3. *Superlative Surprise* Major, 6.

Of these, 33 were conducted by Mr. F. G. Newman, 23 by Mr. Winney, 16 by Mr. Newton, 9 by Mr. Pettit, 8 by Mr. Garrard, 6 by Mr. Springall, 3 by Mr. J. M. Hayes, 3 by himself ; 2 each by Messrs. McLaughlin, J. Kelley, Driver, Dawe, W. H. L. Buckingham, and Burkin ; 1 each by Messrs. Newson, W. Partington, F. L. Davies, Baron, C. Jackson, I. G. Shade, Butler, Brice, Oxborrow, and Bayley.

Sixteen were rung at Putney, 13 at Fulham, 8 each at Lambeth and St. Clement Danes ; 7 at St. Stephen's, Westminster ; 6 at Waterloo ; 5 at Clerkenwell ; 4 each at Stepney, Southgate, and Battersea ; 3 each at Cripplegate, Greenwich, and St. Michael's, Cornhill ; 2 each at St. Andrew's, Wells Street, St. Mary's, Walthamstow, Clapton, Mortlake, Kensington, Mitcham, Waltham, and St. Paul's Cathedral ; 1 each at St. Giles-in-the-Fields, St. John's, Brixton, St. John's, Wilton Road, St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Dunstan-in-the-East, St. Magnus', London Bridge, St. Margaret's, Westminster, St. Sepulchre's, Holborn, St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, St. Bride's, Fleet Street, St. Mary-le Bow, Cheapside, St. George's, Southwark, and at Hampton, Salisbury, Beverley, Brentwood, Bromley, Streatham, Shadwell, Barking, Hammersmith, Beddington, and Bournemouth.

Mr. Cockerill is a member of the Yorkshire and Herts Associations ; St. Mary-le-Tower Society, Ipswich ; the Waterloo and St. James's Societies ; and the Ancient Society of College Youths, which he has served as Honorary Secretary since July 5th, 1892.



# THE LATE REV. F. J. COLERIDGE.

We briefly referred, last week, to the death of the Rev. F. J. Coleridge, M.A., who had been for fifty-one years Vicar of Cadbury, Devon, and have since been reminded that in May last he celebrated the jubilee of his ministry in the parish named. Prior to being appointed Vicar, he was curate of Mawgan and St. Martin from 1851 to 1852, and Chaplain Priest of Ottery St. Mary from 1852 until 1855. The jubilee in Cadbury was marked by great parochial rejoicings. Mr. Coleridge took a keen interest in bell-ringing, and the parishioners decided to commemorate the completion of fifty years' ministry by giving a new treble bell, so as to make a peal of six for the church. The new bell, a beautiful specimen of casting, bears the inscription: 'In loving thought of F. J. Coleridge, for fifty years (1855 to 1905), and still Vicar of Cadbury. *Ex imis fuimus sidera scandimus.*' At the time a brass plate commemorating the event was also placed in the tower. The inscription on it was written by the Bishop of Marlborough, a life-long friend of the late Vicar, and is as follows:—  
'To the glory of God, and in commemoration of the jubilee of Frederick John Coleridge, M.A., as Vicar of Cadbury, 1855-1905. The treble bell was given, with this tablet, by his parishioners and friends, May 10th, 1905:—

'For fifty years the faithful pastor trod  
The village bye-ways and the House of God;  
In one the Master's Holy lessons taught,  
And to the other His example brought.'

After the dedication of the new bell, Mr. Charles Fursdon, of Fursdon, senior churchwarden, presented to the Vicar, on behalf of a large number of subscribers, an engraved silver salver and an illuminated address. Mrs. Coleridge was presented with a beautiful fruit basket.

The late Vicar's eldest son is the Rev. C. F. Coleridge, Vicar of Crowthorne, Wokingham, who arrived at Cadbury on Friday; the second son, Major Coleridge, is second-in-command of the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment, stationed at Kinsale, Ireland.



# Famous Ringers.

## XV.—MR. WILLIAM COOTER.

MR. WILLIAM COOTER was born in the parish of St. George-in-the-East on the 8th of February, 1825. He began to learn the art of change-ringing in early life in the company of Messrs.



MR. W. COOTER.

Wood, Lansdell, J. Mash, Bradley, S. Austin, and others, visiting any towers wherever practice was to be had. In his twenty-first year he rang his first peal with the St. James's Society—Grandsire Triples—Messrs. Comb, Pye, and Wood scoring their first peals on the same occasion. Mr. Cooter also took part in the first peals of Double Norwich, Superlative, and Stedman Cinques, rung by the St. James's Society, of which he was elected Master in 1852. To the credit of this Society also is due a silent peal of Stedman Triples on handbells retained in hand, rung in March, 1854, by the subject of this memoir and Messrs. Haley, Cox, and Wood.

In the year 1846 Mr. Cooter was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, of which he is still a most worthy supporter. In this Society he has discharged the offices of Steward, Master, and Secretary, the latter for several years, and has been instrumental in scoring for it great performances, being in the famous bands who rang long peals of Treble Bob at Spitalfields and Bethnal Green, and conducting the first true peal of Stedman Triples on handbells on January 20th, 1854, his colleagues then being Messrs. Ferris, Wood, and Dwight.

Mr. Cooter has been an exceptionally fine exponent of change-ringing for more than fifty-one years, and, though nearly seventy-three, may still be met at St. Paul's Cathedral every Sunday, where he very ably rings the third in three courses of Stedman Cinques, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Pettit. It may be interesting to add that for more than twelve months no touch had been repeated for the Sunday ringing.

Mr. Cooter's list of performances comprises 216 peals, of which twelve have been on handbells retained in hand, viz., four Grandsire Triples, two Stedman Triples, four Stedman Caters, and two Stedman Cinques.





THE REVEREND H. T. ELLACOMBE, M.A., F.S.A.

Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon.

WE cannot give a more appropriate portrait for the opening number of our Fifth Volume than that of the venerable clergyman who has from the first edited the section of *Church Bells* which treats of 'Bells and Bell-ringing'—a portion of our paper which some of our friends regard with little interest, but which we are firmly persuaded has been of great practical value, in that it has led in many cases to much-needed belfry reform, and has called attention to the fact that 'the ringers' are

as really Church-workers as the singers, and that Change-ringing is a science which excites a genuine enthusiasm in those who cultivate its mysteries, whatever their social rank may be.

The Rev. Henry Thomas Ellacombe, son of the Rev. William Ellacombe, Rector of Alphington, Devon, was born in 1789, and took his B.A. from Oriel College, Oxford, in 1812. After which he devoted himself, till 1816, to the study of engineering in Chatham Dockyard,

under the celebrated Brunel. In 1816 he took his M.A., and was ordained Deacon by the then Bishop of Exeter, and served as Curate of Crickdale in 1816-17. He was ordained a Priest in 1817 by the Bishop of Gloucester, and entered on the Curacy of Bitton in that diocese. Of this parish he was Curate from 1817 to 1835, when he became Vicar of it, and remained so till 1850.

Church restoration and extension was not so universal in those days as it is now, yet Mr. Ellacombe, with indomitable energy, and in spite of many difficulties, restored the church of Bitton in 1822, and built three other churches in the wide district under his influence. In 1843 his parishioners presented him with a testimonial, and in doing so the churchwardens thus summed up the work accomplished by the Vicar:—(1) The large and substantial church of Holy Trinity on Kingswood Hill. (2) The increase of accommodation and other improvements in the mother church of Bitton, and the building of the neat and commodious school-house in that village. (3) The rebuilding, with enlargement, of the ancient Chapel of Oldland, and, subsequently, the erection of a large school in its immediate vicinity. And (4) The elegant and substantial works on Jefferies Hill, in the hamlet of Hanham, consisting of a church, parsonage-house, and school-rooms.

The completion of the first of these undertakings led the way to the building of a parsonage and school by the Incumbent first appointed to that church; the result being, that there were thenceforth eight services on Sundays in the parish where before there were only two; school accommodation, in connexion with the church, for 820 children, where before there was none; and additional church-room for 2285 worshippers, nearly all free. These churches have all now led to the formation of separate parishes.

In 1850 Mr. Ellacombe was preferred to the Rectory of Clyst St. George, Devon, by William Gibbs, Esq., and he was succeeded in the Vicarage of Bitton by his son, the Rev. H. N. Ellacombe, the present Incumbent. Mr. Ellacombe, sen. speedily rebuilt the body of the church at Clyst St. George, and in 1860 he opened a new school-house and master's residence.

Mr. Ellacombe's name is known far and near as being the great authority on Bells, and he has written several valuable treatises respecting them. He also invented, many years ago, an ingenious apparatus of chiming hammers, which enables one man to chime all the bells in a steeple. He is a learned antiquarian, especially in all ecclesiastical affairs, and he is noted as a skilful florist and botanist.

Mr. Ellacombe is vigorous in mind and body, despite his eighty-five years, and we sincerely trust that he may long continue so.

His principal works on the subject in which he has taken special interest are the following:—*Practical Remarks on Belfries and Ringers* (Bell & Daldy, 1850), 1s.; *The Bells of the Church*, a Sermon, 1864, 1s.; *History of Clyst St. George*, 1864, 12s.; *History of the Manor of Bitton*, 1867; *The Bells of Devonshire*, 1867, 30s.; Supplement to ditto; all privately printed, and to be had from the author.





THE REVEREND H. T. ELLACOMBE, M.A., F.S.A.

Born 1790; died 1885.

OUR readers will learn with deep regret that the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, who for many years had edited the 'Bell-ringing pages' of *Church Bells*, died on the 30th ult., aged ninety-five.

Mr. Ellacombe, son of the Rev. William Ellacombe, Rector of Apleington, Devon, was born in 1790, and took his B.A. from Oriel

College, Oxford, in 1812. After which he devoted himself till 1816, to the study of engineering in Chatham Dockyard, under the celebrated Brunel. In 1816 he took his M.A., and was ordained Deacon by the then Bishop of Exeter, and served as Curate of Crickdale in 1816-17. He was ordained a Priest in

1817 by the Bishop of Gloucester, and entered on the Curacy of Bitton in that diocese. Of this parish he was Curate from 1817 to 1835, when he became its Vicar, and remained so till 1850.

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## IN MEMORIAM.

### HENRY THOMAS ELLACOMBE, M.A., RECTOR OF CLYST ST. GEORGE, DEVON.

THE subject of this brief memoir outlived, by a long time, the term ordinarily allotted to man, and the history of the events crowded into the ninety-five years of his life would fill many volumes. Although he has but just passed away from us, he was born before the first French Revolution; he studied under the elder Brunel, the engineer who built the first great tunnel—that under the Thames. He took his degree at the Oxford of old, old days; that Oxford at which Routh could only just have entered, which as yet knew nothing of Keble, of Pusey, of Newman; and he was intimate with Oxford (the same, but how much changed! and the author of changes yet greater) throughout that mighty awakening of Church life, Church energy, and Church work, which will be associated for ever with three of the names just mentioned. Mr. Ellacombe witnessed the introduction of steam power in all its endless applications, together with the silent revolution of all society which has followed upon it; he witnessed also the passing of three Reform Bills; he lived into the time when man has learned how to employ even electricity; and even those who formed his acquaintance during only the last few years have felt inclined to say of him, ‘His eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.’

It is difficult to take in what is sketched in these few lines; the England of that day and of ours differ so widely. Mr. Ellacombe could recollect the time when this nation was fighting for its very existence against the genius of Napoleon, as he directed against us all the powers of the Continent. He was a boy of sixteen when the body of Lord Nelson was brought home from Trafalgar; a young man when Waterloo was fought; the years of his early married life were spent in times so disorderly that the doors of Bitton Vicarage had to be of iron, and the shutters defended in like manner, because of the numerous attacks upon houses in the neighbourhood by thieves. He has been known to bury his plate and send away his family while he himself went to the pit mouth to meet the miners who proposed to come and burn him out. Such were the times and such the surroundings amid which his earlier life was passed.

Thus his character was formed under very peculiar circumstances. He resided in Bitton from 1817 to 1850; and in Clyst St. George from 1850 to 1885. He knew all that was being done; he was closely associated with more than one of the men who from time to time were prominent, yet his own personal work was carried on in a quiet parish, an unnoticed corner of the land. He was a man of untiring energy, of much information, of varied pursuits—antiquarian and mechanist, ringer and botanist; well read, especially in local, in family, and in ecclesiastical history: an example of the wide influence which can be obtained by doing well each simple duty which lies next at hand.

Clyst St. George is nothing more than a secluded Devonshire village, but it has its own features which are, in their quiet way, very full of meaning. The Parish Church and the rectory stand close together, on the same lawn; and the sacred building shows in every part the degree of care bestowed upon it. The bells and their fittings are naturally a very model; the tower windows are so managed as to exclude rain, and yet to allow the sound to pass out; the circle of ropes is true, although two of them have actually been let down through the works of the clock; the ground-floor is paved with tiles inscribed with bells; and the Ellacombe chiming apparatus is fixed upon the wall. The whole interior of the church is decorated profusely, perhaps even to

excess, with Minton’s best tiles; the floor, the reredos, the arches, the splays of the windows, the panels of the pulpit; every portion is thus enriched, all of which work may be called his own.

The quaint garden of the Rectory is rich with botanical treasures, for such as can appreciate them. The rambling old house is full to the very doors with books, prints, metal-work, and curiosities; rooms, passages, and staircases, every wall is covered, every shelf crammed; and in one room at least the very ceiling is crowded, for eight or ten great circles of metal hang from it like chandeliers, each a portion of some noteworthy mediæval bell which has been melted down, but whose black-letter inscription has been thus preserved. Now, at length, we miss from his place him who has been for so long the centre of all—the earnest parish priest, the staunch Churchman, the courtly, warm-hearted, sunny old gentleman. Many are familiar with his figure, bent as he walked, for years had told their tale, but upright as a youth’s when he grasped the bell-rope, staff in hand, for his knees were failing; but well able yet to prune the vine, because he could pull himself up the ladder. Attentive to a guest with genuine kindness; full of knowledge, and with a book at hand whenever one was needed.

Mr. Ellacombe shone most, as was natural, in quiet conversation. Then it seemed as though the memories of all the Ellacombes from the time of Edward II. (to which reign he could trace his genealogy) were concentrated in his single person. He could tell you something of apparently every landed family in the county, with all their intermarriages; but especially of those who held lands in Bitton, the history of which manor he has published; and of those connected with Clyst St. George, whose armorial shields are all arranged round the tower arch. Several details of his own life were curious; as, *e.g.*, that he was very nearly being taken away from Oxford because the New River Company could pay no dividends at all. He was once nearly drowned in a dock where he was at work as an engineer, and saved by that rope the end of which was in the room. In his seventy-second and seventy-third years he ascended every church tower in Devon, excepting one; and took careful notes of their condition, and of all particulars relating to the bells—these are published. His parochial experience was, happily, exceptional. Bitton was a wild place; it included both mines and forest, and it formed a refuge for any bad men who fled from either Bath or Bristol. The law was severe; and his parishioners were hanged at the average rate of seven in every six years, for about twenty-four consecutive years. Once, a Judge at Gloucester Assize expressed his earnest wish that he could hang the whole population, beginning with the parson. One night a lonely traveller, meeting Mr. Ellacombe himself upon the Bristol road, pulled out his money immediately, saying, ‘Here is all I’ve got; please don’t hurt me.’ Such was the character of the place. But in Bitton, while Mr. Ellacombe was vicar, the mother church was restored; and there were built three district churches, and three groups of schools with their adjuncts, although when he began the first church the neighbouring farmer refused permission to draw water upon his land for building purposes.

As we stand by his grave we feel that we possess no test by which to gauge work of this kind; and that, unless we know what it means to labour on year after year single-handed against heavy discouragements, we cannot really appreciate his character. But thus much we can perceive: the priceless value of steady energy; the amount which is possible to unrelenting labour; and the good which an unpretending worker can accomplish. Perhaps also somewhat of the reason why (under God) the Oxford Church movement has succeeded so wonderfully. Work such as that at Bitton had been going on in many another parish, unnoticed but real, and in preparation for that which was to come. Thus each faithful servant has labour found for him, and the great cause is carried forward.





## IN MEMORIAM.

REV. H. T. ELLACOMBE, M.A., F.S.A.

At Rest July 30, 1885, aged 95.

LET the bell toll! nay, let the faithful band,  
Gathered from rectory, from mansion, and from mill,  
Take each his accustomed place beneath the tower,  
And with the skill they learned of him of old  
Peal forth the solemn notes of the whole ring,  
Re-echoing every one with muffled sound,—  
Because the aged Teacher is no more,—  
The Master of their art is now At Rest.  
No stream,\* or passage for men's feet beneath the stream,  
Marks his name down on Fame's long roll, but yet  
The peaceful dead lives in our memories: for where  
In city, or in lonely country vale,  
Stands there the tower, or heavenward-pointing spire,  
And they who play sweet music on its bells,  
Forget him, or his life-long work of love?  
As heralds of the Master now they stand,  
Ready almost at dawn of day to send abroad  
The clarion notes to wake the slumbering town,  
And tell them that the Heavenly† King is crowned!  
But, if unholy hands have held the ropes,  
Or strife have broken in among the band,  
Need now no longer that the bells be dumb,‡  
For he, a ringer, ne'er despised the chimes,  
But put new power into the parson's hands.  
And many a priest now climbs the belfry stair,  
Or, better still, plants his firm feet below,  
God's altar full in view, his band around,  
And wins their sympathy and love, because  
Not shamed to take the level with themselves.  
What thanks we owe him! Rather, thanks to God,  
For turning all his skill to this high art,  
And bringing honour to a work despised.  
Let the bell toll; let all the eight or twelve  
Ring out their muffled music through the land;  
For Ellacombe is dead!--hears Angels' Music now!

*Bectham, St. Bartholomew's Day, 1885.*

G. W. COLE.



ERRATUM.—By a misunderstanding on the part of the printer of the author's correction in the Rev. G. W. Cole's 'In Memoriam' of Rev. H. T. Ellacombe in our last issue, the ninth line was printed 'No *stream* or passage,' instead of 'No *bridge* or passage.'



## Proposed Memorial to the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe.

IN consequence of the suggestion of the Rev. Jno. Barrett-Lennard, rector of Crawley, Sussex, which recently appeared in the *Standard*, that a memorial to the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe be placed in the church at Clyst St. George, subscriptions are invited from all ringers and lovers of the art. When we remember how much Mr. Ellacombe has done towards the reform of, perhaps, the most neglected portion of our churches, it seems not unlikely that there may be many who would be glad to forward such a proposal.

Subscriptions and suggestions may be sent to the Rev. C. R. Chope, Clyst St. George, who has kindly consented to become Treasurer for the time being.



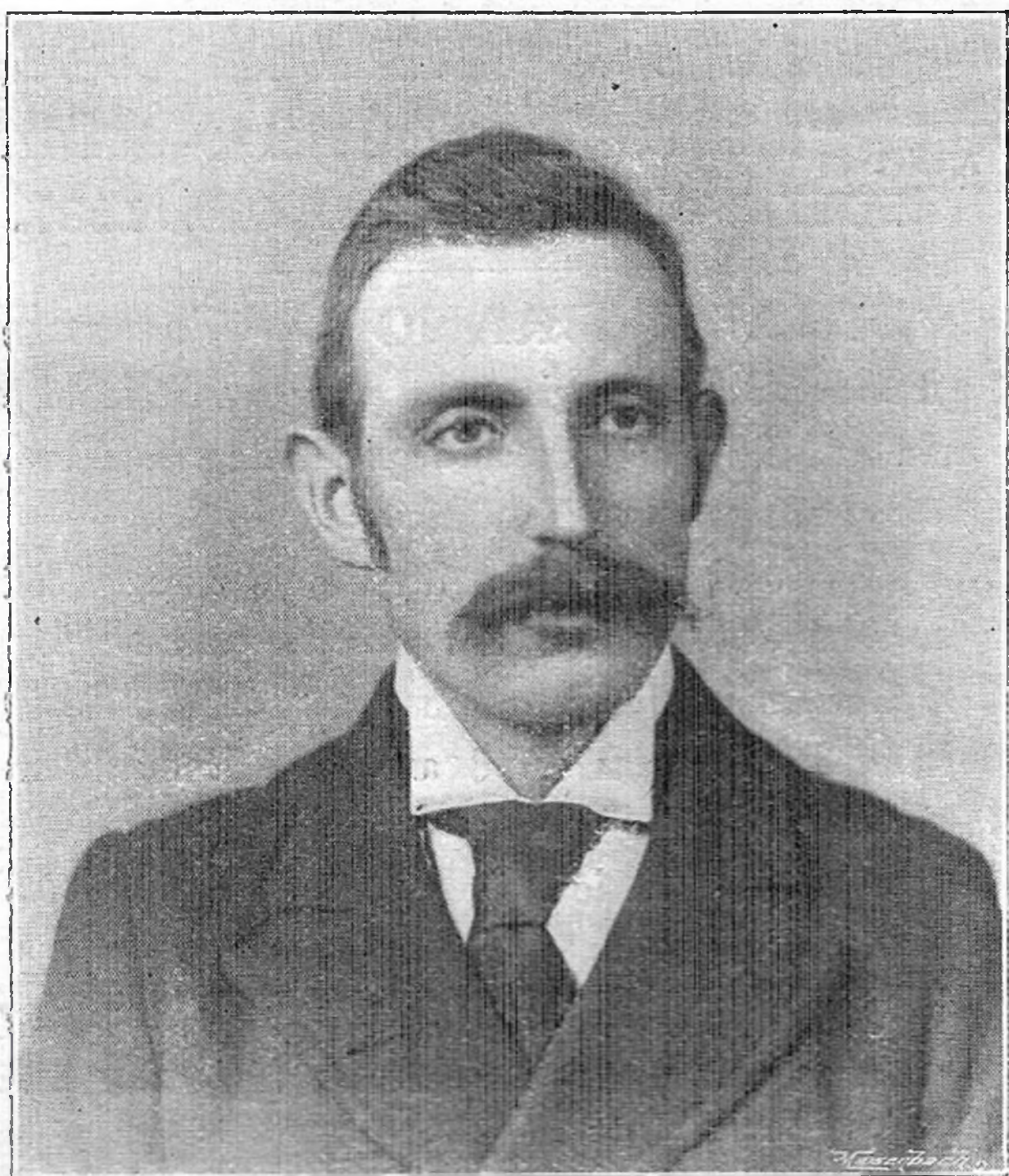
**F**LLACOMBE MEMORIAL.—Subscriptions  
received: Mr. Hems, 1*l.* 1*s.*; Mrs. Powles, 1*l.* 1*s.*;  
Mrs. Pattinson, 10*s.*; Mr. Lindesay, 1*l.* Address CLEMENT  
R. CHOPE, Hon. Treasurer, Clyst St. George, Devon.



# Famous Ringers.

## VII.—MR. W. E. GARRARD.

MR. GARRARD was born at Wickham Skeith, in Suffolk, on October 8th, 1868. From the time when he was quite a lad he began to take an interest in bells, and was often to be found in the belfry of the village church, the tower of which contained a good ring of six. At the age of fourteen he came to London, but it was not until four years later that, having been introduced to



*Photo by]*

MR. W. E. GARRARD.

*[Harris & Son.*

the St. James's Society, he began to study change-ringing, and, on February 5th, 1887, rang his first peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by J. C. Mitchell. During the past ten years he has taken part in no less than 125 peals, on eight, ten, and twelve bells, the longest being 6550 changes of Stedman Caters at All Saints', Fulham, conducted by himself. The following is a list of his achievements:—Grandsire Triples, 24 peals, of which he conducted 8; Grandsire Caters, 15 peals, of which he conducted 2; Stedman Triples, 38 peals; Stedman Caters, 19 peals, of which he conducted 3; Stedman Cinques, 2 peals; Treble Bob Major, 5 peals; Treble Bob Royal, 8 peals; Treble Bob Maximus, 4 peals; Treble Bob Major, 3 peals, of which he conducted 1; Treble Bob Royal, 1 peal; Double Norwich Major, 2 peals; and Superlative Surprise Major, 4 peals.

Among some of his most interesting performances must be mentioned a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Martin's Church, Salisbury, on June 21st, 1890; Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. Garrard, at Eye, Suffolk on December 26th, 1891; and a peal of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, at Stowmarket, on August 24th, 1895, conducted by Mr. James Motts, of Ipswich.

On November 26th last, Mr. Garrard was one of the band of twelve who rang a peal of Treble Bob Maximus at St. Paul's Cathedral, conducted by Mr. James Pettit. In this peal, which occupied 4 hours 27 minutes, Mr. W. T. Cockerill rang the tenor single-handed throughout—the first time, we believe, that such a feat has ever been accomplished.

A year ago Mr. Garrard was appointed instructor of the Bell-ringers' Guild at St. Mary Abbott's, Kensington, the members of which ring peals of Grandsire Triples for morning and evening service on Sundays.

Mr. Garrard is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. James's Society, the Waterloo Society (London), the Norwich Diocesan Association, the St. Mary-le-Tower Society (Ipswich), the Fulham Association, and the St. Mary Abbott's (Kensington) Guild. He is a welcome visitor to our church belfries, both in London and the country, and has rendered important services to the art of ringing.





THE REVEREND ALFRED GATTY, D.D.

*Vicar of Ecclesfield, Sheffield, and Sub-Dean of York Cathedral.*

THE Rev. Alfred Gatty, D.D., is a member of a Cornish family, but was born in the City of London, April 18, 1813. He was for five years at school, at Temple Grove, East Sheen; and afterwards at the Charterhouse and Eton. For a short time he prepared for the legal profession, but in April 1831 he entered at Exeter College, Oxford, and whilst an undergraduate printed a small volume of poems. In 1836 he took the degree of B.A., and in 1837 he was ordained by the Bishop

of Ripon to the Curacy of Bellerby, in the parish of Spennithorne, Yorkshire. In 1838 he graduated M.A., and in the following year married Margaret, the younger daughter of the Rev. Dr. Scott, best known as having been the friend and chaplain of Lord Nelson. In the year of his marriage he was presented to the Vicarage of Ecclesfield, near Sheffield, a very large and arduous parish, where he has ever since resided.

Mrs. Gatty, being highly accomplished, joined her husband in writing a *Life of Dr. Scott* in 1842, which was quickly out of print; they also subsequently edited a *Life of Dr. Wolff, the Missionary*, which passed through two editions; and they wrote their tour in Ireland in 1861, under the title of *The Old Folks from Home*, which had a like success. Mrs. Gatty was also assisted by her husband, during her last long illness, in the compilation of *A Book of Sundials*. Dr. Gatty's own literary works are a volume of *Sermons* in 1846; a second volume of *Sermons* in 1848; *The Bell, its Origin, History, and Uses*, second edition, 1848; *The Vicar and his Duties*, 1853; *Twenty Plain Sermons*, 1858; *The Testimony of David*, 1870; a folio edition of Hunter's *History of Hallamshire* (to which he added about one third new matter), 1869; also *Sheffield, Past and Present*, 1873. He has now in course of preparation a new edition of the *History of the Deanery of Doncaster*, by Hunter.

In 1861 he was appointed a Rural Dean by Archbishop Longley, who during the following year bestowed upon him the honorary dignity of Sub-Dean of York Cathedral. On October 4, 1873, Dr. Gatty lost his amiable and gifted wife, after ten years of suffering.



## Death of Mr. H. W. Haley.

Our readers will learn with regret that Mr. H. W. Haley died on the morning of the 29th ult. No name has been better known in the exercise for many years past than that of Mr. Haley, to whom we owe many good compositions in various methods; but whose fame rested even in a greater degree upon his exceptional powers as a practical ringer and conductor, whether in the tower or on the handbells. During the closing years of his life he laboured under the great weight of gradually increasing privation of sight, which prevented his taking any very active part among his brethren. But his name has been a power to the last, and the ringing fraternity has lost by his death both a good ringer and a good friend. He will be buried at Ilford Cemetery to-morrow, Saturday, the 6th, about 4 o'clock.



## The Late Mr. H. W. Haley.

As we announced last week, Mr. Haley was buried on Saturday, the 6th inst., at Ilford Cemetery, about seven miles from London, on the Great Eastern Railway. Many ringers and friends were present: Mr. Dunn, and others, from Messrs. Warner and Sons; Mr. Waskett, late of Messrs. Mears and Stainbank; Messrs. Marriott, Gobart, Doran, and Randall, of the Cumberland Society; and Messrs. Dwight, Haworth, Cooter, Pettit, Routh, Hayes, Horrex, Jones, Dorrington, Winny, Clarke, Sewell, and Davis (from Barking, Essex), Hayward, Davidson (who brought a beautiful wreath of flowers), Rowbotham, &c., of the College Youths. After the service, Messrs. Rowbotham, Pettit, Cooter, Winny, Haworth, and Dwight—three on each side of the grave—rang a course of GRANDSIRE CINQUES, which made a deep impression on the large assembly. In the evening a muffled peal was rung at St. Michael's, Cornhill, by Messrs. Pettit, Cecil, Dawe, Jones, Haworth, Routh, Dorrington, Winny, McLaughlin, Clarke, Hayes, and Horrex; and afterwards three courses of STEDMAN'S CINQUES. Mr. Haley was in his sixty-seventh year, having been born in February 1819.

It is a curious coincidence, considering the mutual relation for nearly fifty years between the two ringers, with regard to composing, conducting, and ringing peals, that Mr. Haley should die on the same day of the month as Mr. Cox did exactly one year ago, the 29th of January.

Usually, when Mr. Haley took part in a long peal, he preferred to be the conductor and to call a composition of his own. As an instance of this may be cited a peal of STEDMAN'S CATERS, 5079 changes (his first of any method), performed at All Saints', Fulham, in 1842, by Messrs. Haley, Fairbairne, Goozee, Mash, Stockham, Haworth, Lobb, Golding, Tolladay, and Pratt. Of this band Mr. Haworth is the sole survivor, and well remembers this and many like incidents in Mr. Haley's career.

Besides the above muffled peal the following were rung:—

*At St. Mary's, Whitechapel*, on the 6th inst., by eight members of the College Youths.

*At St. Dunstan's, Stepney*, on the 7th inst., by ten members of the College Youths.

*At St. Clement Danes, Strand*, on the 8th inst., by ten members of St. James's Society. G. T. McLaughlin (conductor), 1; W. Chew, 2; J. Comb, 3; J. Basden, 4; H. Langdon, 5; W. H. George, 6; C. F. Winny, 7; H. Dains, 8; G. R. Banks, 9; J. M. Hayes, 10. Afterwards, a touch of GRANDSIRE CATERS. The above peal was rung for Mr. Haley and Mr. D. Newton, who was the Secretary of St. James's Society, and died on Monday, the 8th inst.

*At St. Giles's, Cripplegate*, on the 9th inst., by twelve members of the College Youths. J. Pettit (conductor), 1; A. Cutmore, 2; W. Cecil, 3; S. Joyce, 4; C. F. Winny, 5; W. Cooter, 6; J. R. Haworth, 7; G. T. McLaughlin, 8; E. Vinen, 9; W. Jones, 10; J. M. Hayes, 11; E. Horrex, 12. Afterwards, one course of STEDMAN'S CINQUES, for Haley and Newton.



## FAMOUS RINGERS.

### I.—MR. ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

MR. ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD is the eldest son of Sir Thomas Percival Heywood, Bart., of Doveleys, Staffordshire, and Claremont, Lancashire. He was born on December 25th, 1849, and was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his B.A. degree in 1871, and that of M.A. in 1874. He is a magistrate for



MR. ARTHUR PERCIVAL HEYWOOD.

Staffordshire and Derbyshire, and a representative of his diocese in the House of Laymen.

Mr. Heywood learned to ring at twelve years of age, from which time he has taken a continued interest in ringers and belfry reform. On his marriage, in 1872, he went to reside at Duffield, since which date he has frequently held the office of parish churchwarden. This led to his taking up the proposition for a peal of eight bells in Duffield Church, in place of the existing bad peal of six. The new peal was dedicated by the present Archbishop of York, then Bishop of Lichfield, in February, 1884, and the Duffield ringers achieved their first peal in the July following (Bob Triples), conducted by Mr. Heywood.

Since 1884 the local company, under the same conductor, have rung peals of Bob Major and Royal, Grandsire Triples and Caters, Stedman Triples and Caters, Treble Bob Major and Royal, Double Norwich Major and Royal, Duffield Major and Royal, Double Oxford Major, Superlative, Cambridge, and London Surprise Major, most of these being Mr. Heywood's composition. The peal was increased to ten in 1887, the two additional bells being a Jubilee gift from Mr. Heywood, who, in addition to peals rung at home, has a large score to his credit in other localities, among which are peals of Stedman Cinques, one of which, on a new plan, he composed and conducted, as also was the case with the first and only peal of 'Duffield' Maximus yet rung. Altogether, he has taken part in 148 peals, of which the bulk are advanced Major methods. As a composer he has not been idle, having produced 128 peals, most of which have been rung. As a ringer, Mr. Heywood is equally at home at the light or heavy end, but he has a preference for ringing a working bell when conducting. His longest peal was an exact 10,000 of Bob Major, composed and conducted by himself.

As a composer, Mr. Heywood produced a new method, 'Duffield,' for eight, ten, or twelve bells, which is widely practised, and upon which he published a small volume. He has also

produced peals of Stedman Caters upon several novel plans with exceptionally musical characteristics. Perhaps his most important work was the reduction to definite rules of the mysteries of composition in Stedman Triples in conjunction with the Rev. H. Earle Bulwer. But from his pen have also come analyses of 'Superlatives' and 'Cambridge Surprise,' of 'the twelve course-ends with the sixth at home,' and an exhaustive inquiry into the authenticity of the Norwich peal of 'Double Norwich Maximus.'

Of late years Mr. Heywood has spent much energy in developing the 'Central Council of Church Bell-ringers,' which meets annually in varying localities, and consists of representatives from all the change-ringing societies. Of this Council Mr. Heywood has been now for six years the President. He is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, President of the Midland Counties Association, and a member of the following Associations:—The Yorkshire, Oxford, Hertford; St. James's, London; St. Martin's, Birmingham; and St. Paul's, Burton.

Many ringers have availed themselves of Mr. Heywood's frequent invitations to ringers' garden parties at Duffield, where they are entertained not only with an excellent peal of bells, but also with a small private railway which Mr. Heywood, who has been for twenty years a pioneer of light lines, has at work on his property. In days gone by, before his daughters were grown up, it was possible for visitors to take part with members of the family in ringing double-handed Grandsire and Stedman, both Triples and Caters, and various Major methods.



# Famous Ringers.

## VIII.—MR. E. HORREX.

MR. EDWIN HORREX was born at Ipswich on February 28th, 1838. As a boy he had a great love for bells, and when fifteen years old became a regular chimer at St. Margaret's, Ipswich. Here, too, he learnt to ring a bell, and three years later he was admitted to the Society of St. Mary-le-Tower, where, under the tuition of the late Mr. W. Garrard and others, he made good



MR. E. HORREX.

progress as a change-ringer. Removing to London in 1863, he became known to the members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, meeting them at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and was elected a member, ringing his first peal, 5079 Stedman Caters, at St. James's, Bermondsey, on November 28th, 1863, with that Society. Since this date, the name of E. Horrex has been continuously before the eyes of the ringing world, he having taken part in peals of great merit, not only as a College Youth, but also with the Yorkshire, Norwich, and Durham Associations, and the St. James's and Waterloo Societies.

The following is a list of peals in which Mr. Horrex has taken part up to March 31st, 1897 :—Grandsire Triples, 31 (two on hand-bells); Grandsire Major, 2; Grandsire Caters, 14; Stedman Triples, 31; Stedman Caters, 36; Stedman Cinques, 30; Kent Treble Bob Major, 36; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 22; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 14; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 1; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 1; Double Norwich Major, 7; Double Norwich Royal, 1; Superlative Surprise Major, 2; total, 228.

Of these performances, the most notable are :—8448 Kent Treble Bob Major at Christ Church, Spitalfields; 8896 Kent Treble Bob Major at St. Stephen's, Westminster; 8896 and 15,840 Kent Treble Bob Major, both at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green; 6666 and 11,111 Stedman Caters, both at All Saints', Fulham.

Mr. Horrex has rung the tenors at St. Peter Mancroft, Norwich, and St. Michael's, Cornhill, to peals of Maximus, and in the three peals so far accomplished at St. Paul's Cathedral, he rang the 10th, 11th, and 9th bells respectively. Everybody knows that to accomplish such a record of performances as the above, many failures must also have been experienced, his greatest disappointment being 7 hrs. 35 mins. at Stedman Cinques, on the 11th bell, on Whit Monday, 1887, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, a very few changes being wanted to lead to that welcome call, 'That's all.'



# Famous Ringers.

NO. X.—MR. J. R. HAWORTH.

MR. JAMES ROBERT HAWORTH was born on the 21st of April, 1821, in Whitefriars, Fleet Street, in the City of London. He learned to ring a bell at the church of St. Dunstan-in-the-West, and was initiated in the art of change-ringing at the neighbouring church of St. Clement Danes, Strand. His first 5040 (Grandsire Triples) was rung at Holy Trinity Church, Borough of Southwark, on October 1st, 1839, with Messrs. Abraham Antill, James Hughes, Thomas Reece, William Lobb (conductor), John Freeman, Thomas Tolladay, and Robert Burgess. Mr. Haworth has taken part in

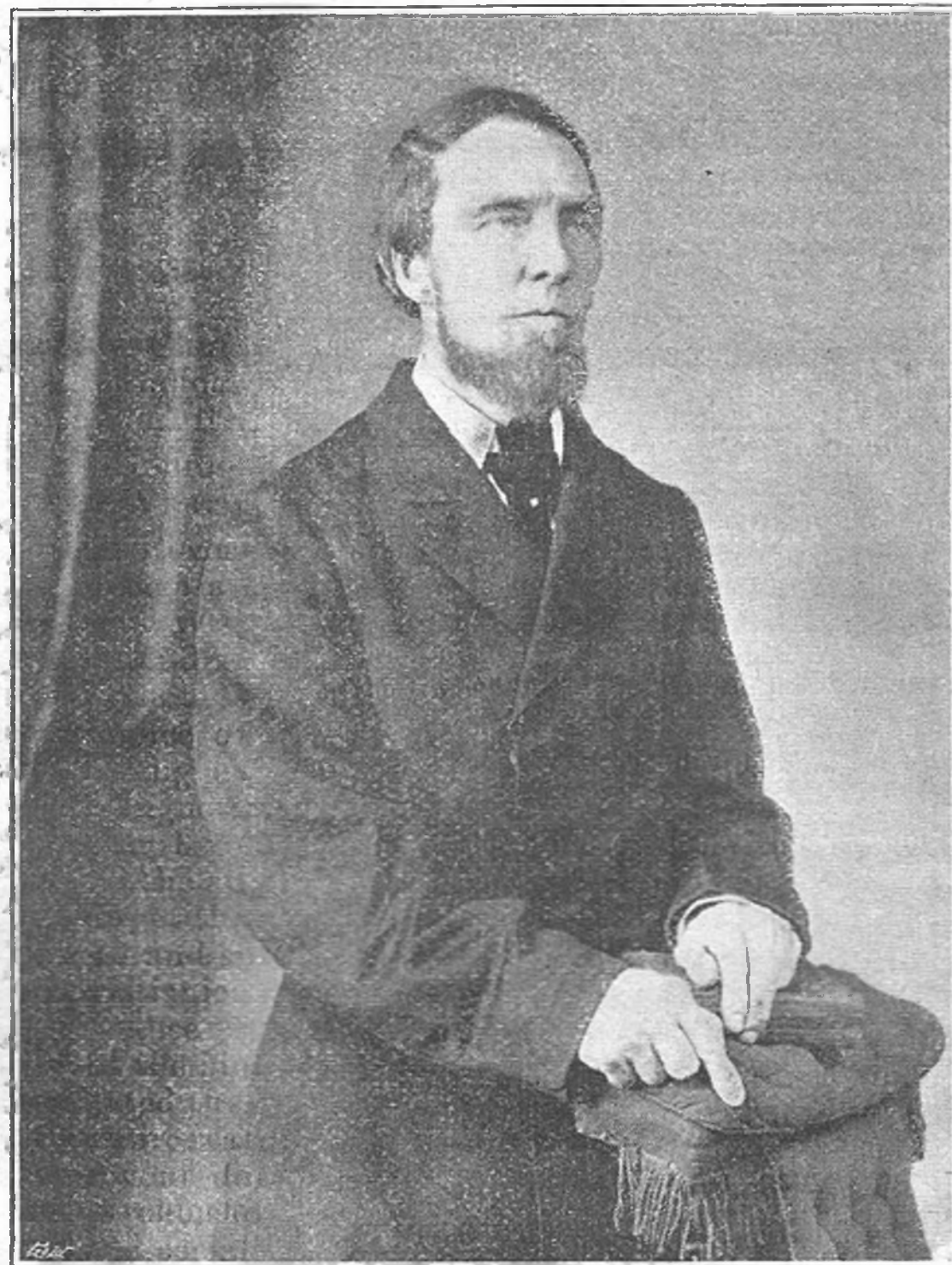


Photo by]

MR. J. R. HAWORTH.

[R. Murray.

176 peals of 5000 changes and upwards, viz., *Grandsire*—Triples, 62; Major, 3; Caters, 27; Cinques, 1. *Stedman*—Triples, 13; Caters, 20; Cinques, 15. *Bob Major*, 2. *Double Norwich Court Bob*—Major, 2. *Kent Treble Bob*—Major, 13; Royal, 10; Maximus, 6. *Oxford Treble Bob*—Major, 1; Royal, 1. The most noteworthy of these performances were—7524 *Stedman Cinques* at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, on January 6th, 1851; 8580 *Stedman Cinques* at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on April 27th, 1861; 8099 *Grandsire Caters* at St. Clement Danes, Strand, on December 9th, 1878; and 5014 *Stedman Cinques* at St. Paul's Cathedral on December 10th, 1881 (first peal on the bells). Mr. Haworth rang the 7th at St. Saviour's, Southwark, on April 5th, 1858, in an unsuccessful attempt for 8551 *Stedman Cinques*. About 8000 changes had been rung when a mistake occurred through candles being unskillfully brought into the ringing-room.

Many miles have been travelled for the accomplishment of these peals, the towers visited being scattered not only all over England, but one peal each has been rung at Dundee, Waterford,

and Llanstefan. On the Accession of Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, on June 20th, 1837, Mr. Haworth took part in the ringing at Westminster Abbey to celebrate that joyous event, where he has continued without intermission every 20th of June to loyally usher in the anniversary of that memorable day. The birthdays of the Royal children have always been proclaimed by the Abbey bells, and on these occasions Mr. Haworth has been one of the ringers—notably the 9th of November (Prince of Wales' birthday), when he has rung at various times at almost all the towers in the City of London and the suburbs.

Throughout his long ringing career, Mr. Haworth has continued a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was elected on August 13th, 1839, and is consequently the senior member of that famous body of change-ringers as regards membership. Ringers in many parts of England have been taught the rudiments of their art by Mr. Haworth, and appropriate presentations have been made to him at various places, acknowledging his untiring efforts and the esteem in which he was held by his pupils. On August 13th, 1889, after ringing at St. Saviour's, Southwark, a very pleasant meeting was held at the Society's Headquarters, where many ringers had assembled to congratulate their Jubilee member. A similar occurrence took place at St. Paul's on October 1st, 1889, the fiftieth anniversary of the completion of his first peal. This Society is indebted to Mr. Haworth for numerous gifts of framed photographs, tablets of ringing performances, a copy of his certificate of membership, and a richly engraved two-handled silver cup, which commemorates a peal at Sonning, Berkshire, on August 4th, 1883. This date was the centenary of the presentation of a silver cup to the College Youths 'by Mr. Peter Bluck, of Sonning, for the superior style in which they rang 1008 Bob Major in a contest with the Oxford and Farnham Societies on August 4th, 1783.' Mr. Haworth is also a member of the St. James's and Waterloo Societies, and also of several of the Provincial Associations.

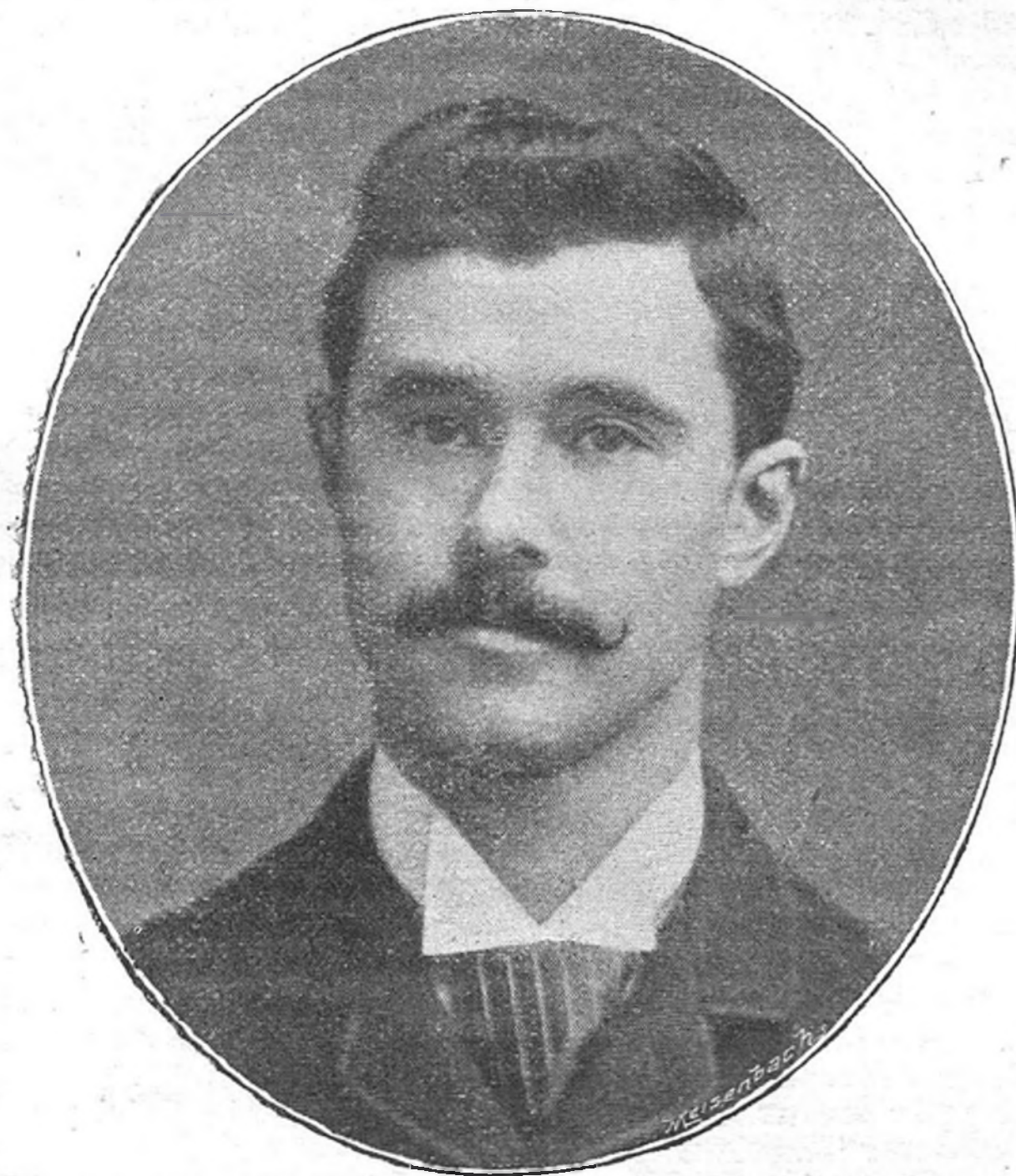
From the early days of *Church Bells* to the present time Mr. Haworth has assisted in compiling the columns devoted to 'Bells and Bell-ringing,' having commenced with the late Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, who was Rector of Clyst St. George, Devon.



# FAMOUS RINGERS.

## II.—MR. SAMUEL ELI JOYCE.

MR. JOYCE first learned to handle a bell, when sixteen years of age, at the Church of St. Mary, Whitechapel, under the tuition of Mr. Wallage. As the bells of St. Mary's could not be rung, on



[Photo. by]

MR. S. E. JOYCE.

[Ward, Brixton.

account of the unsafe condition of the tower, Mr. Wallage sent him to Mr. M. A. Wood, of St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, where he soon learned to ring the tenor behind to Triples. He then made the acquaintance of Mr. J. Pettit, who took a great interest in the young ringer, and was soon able to make him proficient in the art. Young Joyce successfully accomplished his first peal of

Grandsire Triples on February 10th, 1885, at St. Mary's, Stratford, Bow. On March 21st of the same year, on his seventeenth birthday, he rang his first peal of Stedman Triples at the same church; and a year later he acquitted himself satisfactorily in a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Giles', Cripplegate. Amongst the ringers on that occasion was Mr. A. P. Heywood, of Duffield Bank, Derbyshire (of whom an excellent portrait, with short biographical notice, appeared in *Church Bells* of September 25th). The next important ringing event in Mr. Joyce's career was a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Michael's, Cornhill. An interesting coincidence was that this was the first peal on twelve bells in which a clergyman had taken part—the Rev. H. A. Cockey being the distinguished exception.

Mr. Joyce's next noteworthy achievement was a peal of Stedman Caters at Lichfield Cathedral, composed and conducted by Mr. F. E. Dawe. This was the first peal of Stedman on those bells. Shortly afterwards Mr. Joyce rang in a 7020 of Treble Bob Major at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, conducted by Mr. I. G. Shade, and an 8896 of Kent Treble Bob Major, being the extent with the tenors together, conducted by Mr. Pettit, and occupying five and a half hours. He has also taken part in a peal of Stedman Cinques at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, composed and conducted by Mr. Dawe; and on one occasion, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, he was ringing for seven hours thirty-five minutes, only four minutes being required to complete the peal. He has also rung the first peal of Stedman upon the bells of St. Mary's, Walthamstow; St. Dunstan's-in-the-East, Tower Hill; All Saints', Edmonton; St. John's, Wilton Road; and St. George's-in-the-East, as well as first peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major upon the bells of St. Mary's, Bow; St. Paul's, Shadwell; and St. Saviour's, Walthamstow.

Mr. Joyce has taken part in ninety-nine peals, viz., Grandsire Triples 23, Stedman Triples 29, Grandsire Caters 1, Stedman Caters 4, Stedman Cinques 10, Plain Bob Major 1, Kent Treble Bob Major 19, Double Norwich Court Bob Major 4, Kent Treble Bob Royal 3, Kent Treble Bob Maximus 2, Plain Bob Royal 1, Oxford Bob Triples 1, and Union Triples 1.

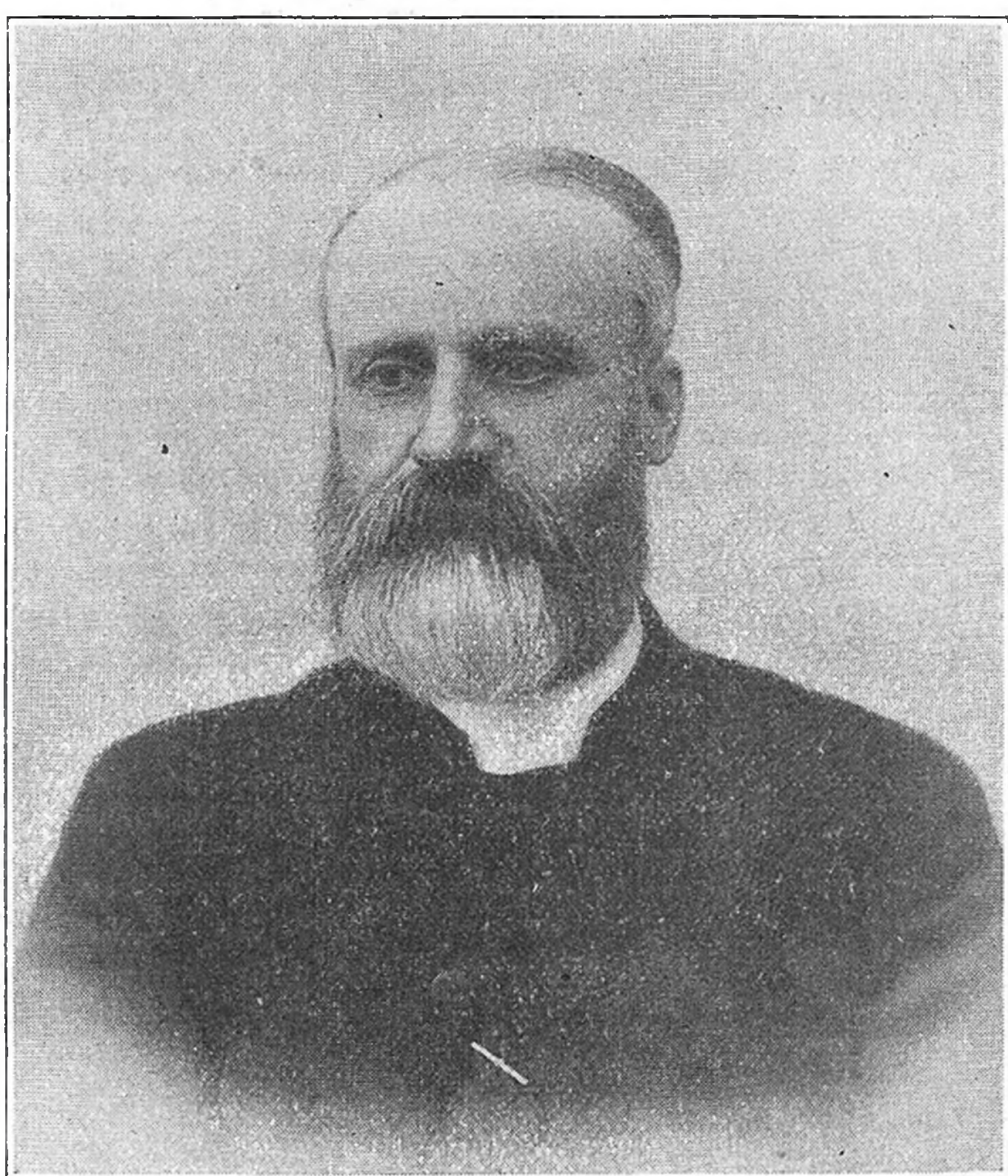
At the age of nineteen he was elected Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths, being the youngest Master ever elected to that office. He is also a member of the Essex Association and the St. James's Society.



# FAMOUS RINGERS.

## III.—REV. MAITLAND KELLY.

THE Rev. Maitland Kelly was born on August 21st, 1842, and received his education at Marlborough College, and at University College, Oxford, where he took his B.A. degree in 1869, and his M.A. in 1872. He was ordained deacon in 1868 and priest in 1870 by the Bishop of Oxford. He



*Photo by]*

THE REV. M. KELLY,  
*Vicar of Ottery St. Mary, Devon.*

*[H. D. Badcock.*

was formerly curate of Abingdon from 1868–1871, of Newton Ferrers from 1871–1873, Rector of Plympton St. Maurice, Devon, 1873–1876, Vicar of Salcombe, Devon, 1877–1890, and Rural Dean of Woodleigh 1889–1890. In 1890 he was appointed to the Vicarage of Ottery St. Mary, a post which he still holds.

His interest in bells and ringing springs from an early date. In his boyhood, he was constantly in the belfry of the church which adjoined his father's house, and it was at this time that he learnt to pull up and set a bell, though still so small that he had to stand upon a stool to do it. It was not until many years afterwards, however, that Mr. Kelly's first introduction to change-ringing took place. He was about twenty-three years old when Colonel Trelawney, his brother-in-law, first inspired him with a wish to learn half-pull ringing. Aided by his sister, and with the assistance of a set of handbells and Hubbard's *Campanology*, he set to work at Grandsire Doubles. Although his knowledge was still imperfect, he was soon able to give a certain amount of instruction to the ringers in the parishes of Calstorth and Kelly. At Calstorth the men were in a comparatively short time able to accomplish their first 120; but at Kelly, the bells were not in good order and progress was somewhat slower, but in 1867 the first 120 was rung in Devon by county men, the band consisting of: Treble, John Yole; 2, Edwin Yole; 3, Maitland Kelly; 4, Benjamin Bloomfield; 5, Frank Yole; Tenor, James Willcocks.

Meantime, the subject of our sketch had profited greatly in his knowledge of change-ringing through the assistance of Mr. William Bannister and Mr. Charles Howaston, and with the help of handbell practice he soon got an insight into Grandsire Triples, and rang his first peal at St. Mary's, Lewisham, in September, 1866. During the next two years Mr. Kelly was at Cuddesdon Theological College, where he did a good deal of handbell-ringing with his fellow-students, some of whom followed it up in after life. Their best performances were a course of Treble Bob Major, a course of Grandsire Triples, and a course of Stedman Triples. In April, 1869, he rang in a peal of Stedman Triples at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green.

Mr. Kelly formed an excellent band of ringers at Ottery St. Mary, most of whom are with him now. Though quite novices at the art when he came among them, they soon solved its mysteries, and are now good at Grandsire Triples, as well as having some knowledge of Stedman Triples. This indefatigable ringer hopes still some day to ring a touch of Double Norwich Court Bob, and not until then will his ambition be satisfied.



## Death of Mr. Thomas Mallaby.

BELL-RINGERS throughout Yorkshire—and, throughout England, many churchwardens and incumbents whom he has well served—will learn with sincere regret the death of Mr. Thomas Mallaby of Masham. He passed away, August 26th, after a painful and lingering illness, at the comparatively early age of fifty-two—early, considering the marked influence and eminent position he had obtained. The bells of York Minster, Leeds Parish Church, and many a church south of London and west of Exeter, have been satisfactorily rehung or adjusted by this admirable artist. He was a man of remarkable and unique type, whose work could always be relied upon ; a conscientious and consistent lover of the Church and Monarchy ; and thoroughly enamoured of his profession. One of Nature's own gentlemen, and well informed upon many subjects, he was a welcome guest wherever he went ; and none the less so for his quaintness of humour, of manner, and of speech. Like the master-craftsman of the Middle Ages, or his prototype in Schiller's famous *Song of the Bell*, he was never ashamed to be found at honest work among his own merry men. That such a man was a staunch Conservative need hardly be recorded. He was vicar's churchwarden of the fine church at Masham, of which he was so proud, for twenty-three years ; and his influence and example as a constant communicant, and a man always at his post, will, it is hoped, be felt for years to come. A memorial brass and window will be erected at Masham to commemorate his worth and work. If any who knew and respected him desire to unite their efforts, contributions, *however small*, will be gladly accepted (postal drafts or otherwise) by the vicar or churchwardens.





## IN MEMORIAM.



**T**HOMAS MALLABY, Church Bellhanger  
and Churchwarden of Masham for 22 years.

Subscriptions are being raised to erect a Stained Window  
in Masham Church to the memory of the late Thomas  
Mallaby. Friends desirous of subscribing will kindly address  
the Rev. S. CRAWLEY, Masham.





## IN MEMORIAM—THOMAS NORTH, F.S.A.

It will probably be found in the resurrection of the just that many true and humble Christians, though little known on earth, were known to Him Who searcheth the hearts, amongst those whom He especially approves. Mr. Thomas North, who at Llanfairfechan passed away from us on Ash Wednesday last, will, one rejoices humbly to believe, be found in this category. A most humble-minded, unpretending man, he had thought, and read, and studied much, and was a man of unusually sound judgment and discretion. An honest, straightforward Churchman, his influence for good was very much greater than it appeared to be, for no one could listen to his humble, kind, and withal uncompromising way of stating any matter without being affected by it.

He was born, I believe, at Melton Mowbray, and resided for many years at Leicester. During my four years' ministry there he was one of the churchwardens of St. Matthew's. It has been my great privilege elsewhere to enjoy the kindness of very able churchwardens, and I am glad to testify to their zealous labours. But I must adhere to the title which I once gave to Mr. Thomas North, and call him 'the model Churchwarden.' He taught me much, and his gentle manner, admirable tact, assiduous attention, and quiet way of looking out for anything that could be used advantageously, were really wonderful and beautiful. St. Matthew's during my time owed much to him, for which possibly I got most of the credit. A severe illness removed him, to my great sorrow, from Leicester, and since then he has become more widely known by some admirable works upon the Church Bells of Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland, Lincolnshire, and Bedfordshire. While living at Leicester he completed *A Chronicle of the Church of St. Martin's in Leicester*, which met with cordial approval from all competent critics. And wherever he has gone, whether in the Isle of Wight or in Wales, he has invariably proved himself in some way to be the good Churchman which he was in every sense by furthering Church work, and always in the same loving, gentle spirit which marked the working of his really determined mind. The last proof of this consisted in a printed statement of Church work at Llanfairfechan, which<sup>e</sup> he must have addressed to the writer not more than an hour or two before he was seized with the illness which terminated within two days by our losing him; and it is a curious incident that I had just read in *Church Bells* a review of his last work on *Bells*, in which it was stated that the bells of another county were in hand, when a private letter announced his death. There are very many in Leicester, clergymen and others, who deeply valued and esteemed him, and I doubt not there are many in the Isle of Wight and in Wales who greatly esteemed him also. Mr. Thomas North will have secured for his widow and for their only child and son much sympathy and regard. Few men under the same condition of circumstances have done as much good solid work for the Church of God as he, and in this particular one feels persuaded that his light has so shone before men that his example will encourage many more, and so glorify his Father God. He gave the impression of a man who desired to be good, and whose delight was to do good.

G. V.



# Famous Ringers.

## XVII.—MR. WILLIAM THOMAS PATES.

W. T. PATES was born at Charlton Kings, near Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, on February 28th, 1853. He remembers being carried on his father's shoulders to the Charlton belfry when peace was proclaimed with Russia. His father was Captain of the Charlton Company for a number of years. The peal consisted of six bells (tenor, 22 cwt.), but was augmented to eight in 1893.

Mr. Pates rang his first six-score of Grandsire Doubles about the year 1869. Like many other young men, he was for seeing the country, and did not follow up ringing until his return home. It was not long before Mr. Pates was introduced by Mr. Musty to the Cheltenham Company, with whom he rang his first peal of



MR. WILLIAM THOMAS PATES.

Grandsire Triples, Holt's Original, on July 21st, 1876, ringing the fifth bell. In 1878 Mr. Pates left the Cheltenham Company and joined the Prestbury Society, where he conducted the forty-two six-scores of Grandsire Doubles, ringing the tenor bell—this being the first time the above had been conducted from the tenor. In 1883, by the kind invitation of Mr. Phillott, he again joined the Cheltenham Society. Unfortunately for Mr. Pates there was no one at Cheltenham who could give him much advice in the art beyond what he had learnt. About this time Mr. Phillott gave him Troyte's book, and on May 24th, 1884, he called Holt's Original One-part peal of Grandsire Triples, ringing the seventh bell. After this peal, one might say Mr. Pates' name began to be prominent in the ringing world, for on May 22nd, 1887, he conducted Holt's Original One-part peal of Grandsire Triples, ringing tenor; and on May 22nd, 1887, he conducted the longest peal of Stedman Caters at that time ever rung, 13,054 changes in 8 hrs. 16 mins., ringing the eighth bell. He also conducted the longest peal of Grandsire Caters ever rung up to date, 15,227 changes, occupying 9 hrs. 43 mins. It is worthy of note, the two long peals were the first on ten bells he had conducted, and as regards the long peal of Grandsire Caters, he had never called a bob in the method in Caters before the day the peal was rung.

The following are the peals in which Mr. Pates has taken part : *Grandsire*—Triples 22, conducted 7; Caters 7, conducted 3, composed 3. *Stedman*—Triples 7, conducted 1; Caters 22, conducted 6, composed 10. *Treble Bob*—Major 4, conducted 1; Royal 4, conducted 1, composed 1. *Double Norwich Court Bob*—Major 1. *Plain Bob*—Major 1. 68 peals in all.

Mr. Pates has composed a peal of Grandsire Triples with the least calls possible. He has often shown his skill upon the hand-bells, ringing in touches of various methods.

Mr. Pates is a member of a great many associations, including the Ancient Society of College Youths. He was elected Master of the Cheltenham Society in 1891, which office he still holds.



# Famous Ringers.

## XVIII.—MR. EDGAR PEMBERTON.

MR. EDGAR PEMBERTON was born at Charsfield, Suffolk, on August 6th, 1851. The parish church of St. Peter in that village contains an ancient ring of five bells, and it was through chiming here when a youth that the subject of our notice became first interested in bells and imbued with hopes of acquiring a knowledge of ringing, but it was not until 1868, at Framlingham, that he found himself in the company of a band of change-ringers.



MR. EDGAR PEMBERTON.

On his removal to Ipswich, Mr. Pemberton became acquainted with Mr. Robert Hawes at St. Margaret's Church in that town, and it was to this gentleman that Mr. Pemberton was indebted for an introduction to the chief Society in Ipswich, the St. Mary-le-Tower Society. This event occurred on the Thanksgiving Day of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales in 1872, when Mr. Pemberton had the pleasure of hearing a course of Grandsire Cinques on the bells of St. Mary-le-Tower.

After this, frequent visits were made to the belfry of that church, where, amongst others, such veterans as the late John Naunton, William Garrard, John Bateman, and William Leach still rang, they also having taken part in peals in the old tower during the years 1824-50.

Mr. Pemberton learnt to ring Doubles at St. Matthew's in 1874, and in 1876, on the re-forming of the St. Mary-le-Tower Society, he and several other young men were enrolled as members. From that time his career in the ringing world has been one of steady, regular progress, and whether the method be simple or intricate, his motto is, like that of the other members of the Ipswich band, 'Good striking.'

Mr. Pemberton scored his first peal at St. John's, Waterloo Road, London, on May 22nd, 1878, Holt's Original peal of Grandsire Triples, conducted by the late George Newson.

He took part in the first peal on the twelve bells at Ipswich, and in the first peal of Maximus there in 1881. On a visit to London the same year, he rang the tenor at St. Saviour's, Southwark, to a course of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and accomplished his first peal of Stedman at St. Stephen's, Westminster, conducted by John M. Hayes.

Included in the list below are peals of 8896, 7296, 10,176, and 10,272 of Treble Bob Major; and 6608 and 8064 of Double Norwich Court Bob Major. These, however, are eclipsed by the grand performances of the two peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus.

LIST OF PERFORMANCES.—Seven 720's of *Minor*, 1. *Grandsire*—Triples 9, Caters 4, Cinques 3. *Bob*—Major 1, Royal 1. *Stedman*—Triples 4, Caters 5, Cinques 6. *Kent Treble Bob*—Major 14, Royal 8, Maximus 18. *Oxford Treble Bob*—Major 11, Royal 2, Maximus 2. *Double Norwich Court Bob*—Major 9, Royal 3, Maximus 2. Total, 103.



# Famous Ringers.

## XVI.—MR. WALTER PRIME.

MR. WALTER PRIME was born at Harleston, Norfolk, on December 27th, 1854. He learnt to handle a bell at Redenhall under the tuition of the late Captain A. P. Moore. In 1875 he



MR. WALTER PRIME.

came to reside in London, but did little ringing until he was elected a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths in 1882. That year, on February 2nd, he rang his first peal Grandsire Triples, at St. Peter's, Walworth, conducted by Mr. R' French. In addition to this tower, he frequently visited St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, and Christ Church, Spitalfields, where he received further instruction from Mr. M. A. Wood and Mr. J. Pettit. Mr. Prime in his ringing career has always been associated with the heavy end, having rung the tenors at St. Saviour's, Southwark; St. Giles's, Cripplegate; St. Michael's, Cornhill; and St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside (twice), to peals of Stedman Cinques.

He took part in the two peals of Treble Bob at St. Paul's, strapping the tenor to the first on November 24th, 1894, and ringing the eleventh on November 28th, 1896. He also rang in the 5555, 6666, and 11,111 of Stedman Caters at St. Giles's, Camberwell, and All Saints', Fulham, and a 7040 of Kent Treble Bob Major at Bethnal Green. In all he has rung 56 peals:—*Grandsire*—Triples 18, Caters 2; *Stedman*—Triples 9, Caters 5, Cinques 10; *Kent Treble Bob*—Major 10, Maximus 2.

On November 16th, 1897, Mr. Prime was elected Master of the Ancient Society of College Youths for the ensuing year, having previously filled the offices of Junior and Senior Stewards.





LEONARD PROCTOR, ESQ., J.P., BENINGTON, HERTS.

*Member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, &c. &c.*

**M**R. PROCTOR, the head of a family which has been seated at Benington for nearly three centuries, was born in January 1816. From a very early age he has taken an interest in bells, as he could ring a bell in 1829, when he went to Eton, where he rang the bell at the death of George IV. After spending his school days at Eton College he went in 1834 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in January, 1838. It was at Cambridge that he first entered on the study of the science and art of change-ringing, practising chiefly on the fine ring of

twelve contained in the tower of Great St. Mary's, the University Church.

Here was laid the foundation of that proficiency which has rendered Mr. Proctor's name so deservedly famous for nearly half a century in ringing circles. After taking up his abode in the home of his fathers at Benington Mr. Proctor added two trebles, thus making a ring of eight, to the tower of his parish church; and here, together with a band of his own men, he made himself master of all the best known and most admired crank methods.

The Benington band was for many years the leading band in England, being proficient in Double Norwich Court, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise, ringing a peal of each; one of London Surprise still retaining its place as the longest yet accomplished in that intricate method. These feats are seen to be all the more remarkable when it is remembered that they were all achieved by ringers resident in one and the same small country parish. As may easily be imagined, Benington has always been a favourite spot with ringers. Nowhere does a ringer meet with a more cordial, hearty welcome, or with more generous hospitality, than at the house of 'The Squire.' Mr. Proctor has always been an ardent huntsman, and still retains his love of the chase equally with that of ringing. He has never been married.



## THE LATE LEONARD PROCTOR, ESQ., J.P.

MR. PROCTOR, the head of a family which has been seated at Benington for nearly three centuries, was born in January, 1816. From a very early age he took an interest in bells, as he could ring a bell in 1829, when he went to Eton, where he rang the bell at the death of George IV. After spending his school-days at Eton College, he went in 1834 to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he graduated in January, 1838. It was at Cambridge that he first entered on the study of the science and art of change-ringing, practising chiefly on the fine ring of twelve contained in the tower of Great St. Mary's, the University Church.

Here was laid the foundation of that proficiency which has rendered Mr. Proctor's name so deservedly famous for nearly sixty years in ringing circles. After taking up his abode in the home of his fathers at Benington, Mr. Proctor added to the ring of bells in the tower of his parish church; and here, together with a band of his own men, he made himself master of all the best-known and most-admired crank methods. The Benington band was for many years the leading band in England, being proficient in Double Norwich Court, Superlative, Cambridge and London Surprise, ringing a peal of each. These feats are seen to be all the more remarkable when it is remembered that they were all achieved by ringers resident in one and the same small country parish. As may easily be imagined, Benington has always been a favourite spot with ringers. Nowhere did a ringer meet with a more cordial, hearty welcome, or with more generous hospitality, than at the house of 'The Squire.'

The Squire and his men grew old together. After he discontinued ringing, little was done in that way by them. The band were almost entirely his own servants and dependants. Benington was Mr. Proctor's world. He had few pursuits outside, and left it very seldom. Latterly he lived almost alone: he became more and more feeble, although adhering pretty much to the old routine of life, and was out of doors within two days of his death. He passed away so quietly that even intimate friends and neighbours never heard of his being ill until they were told of his funeral.

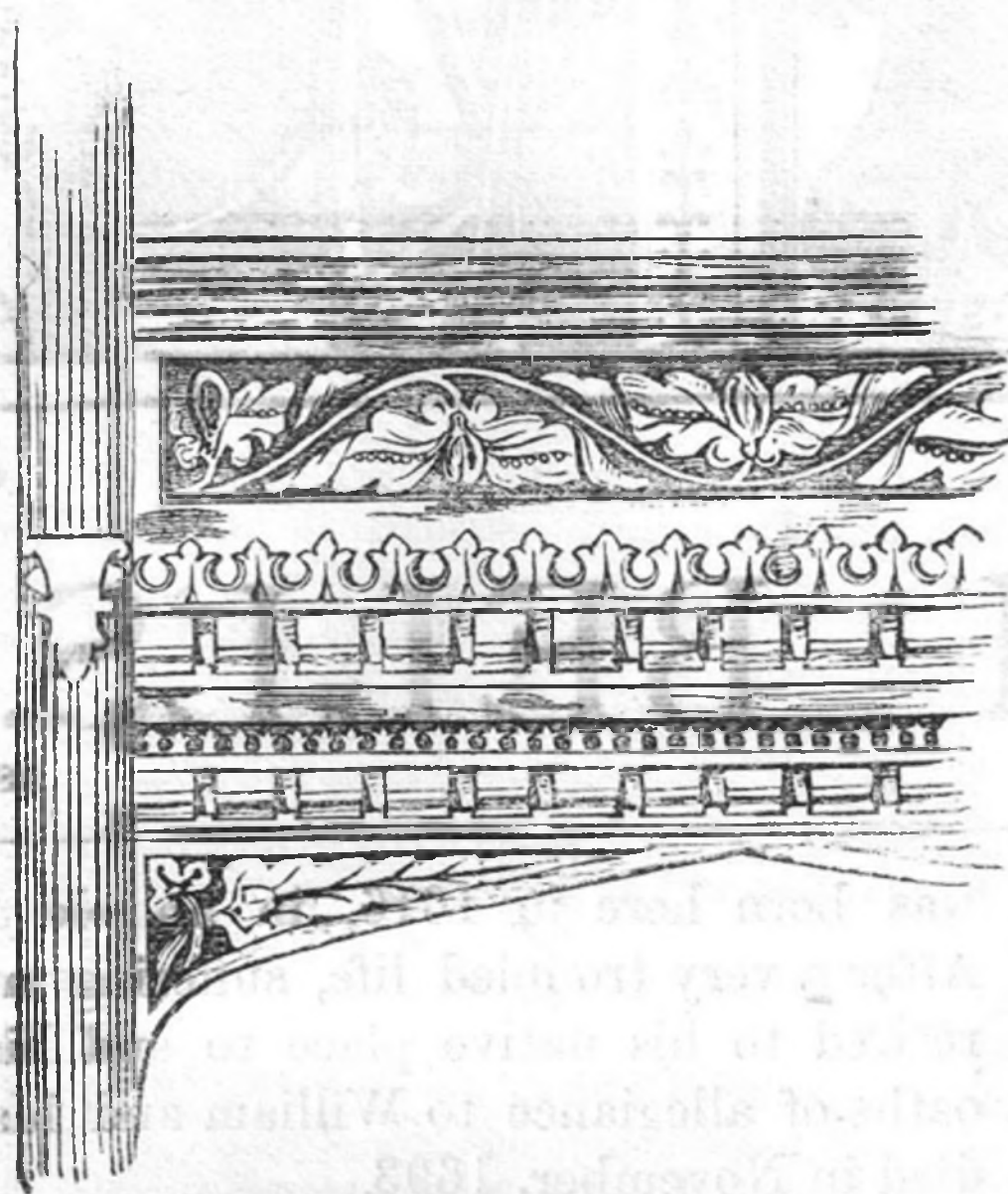


The Rev. J. J. Raven, vicar of Fressingfield-with-Withersdale since 1885, and hon. canon of Norwich since 1888, is the eldest son of the Rev. John Hardy Raven, rector of Worlington, Suffolk. He was born at Boston in 1833, and was

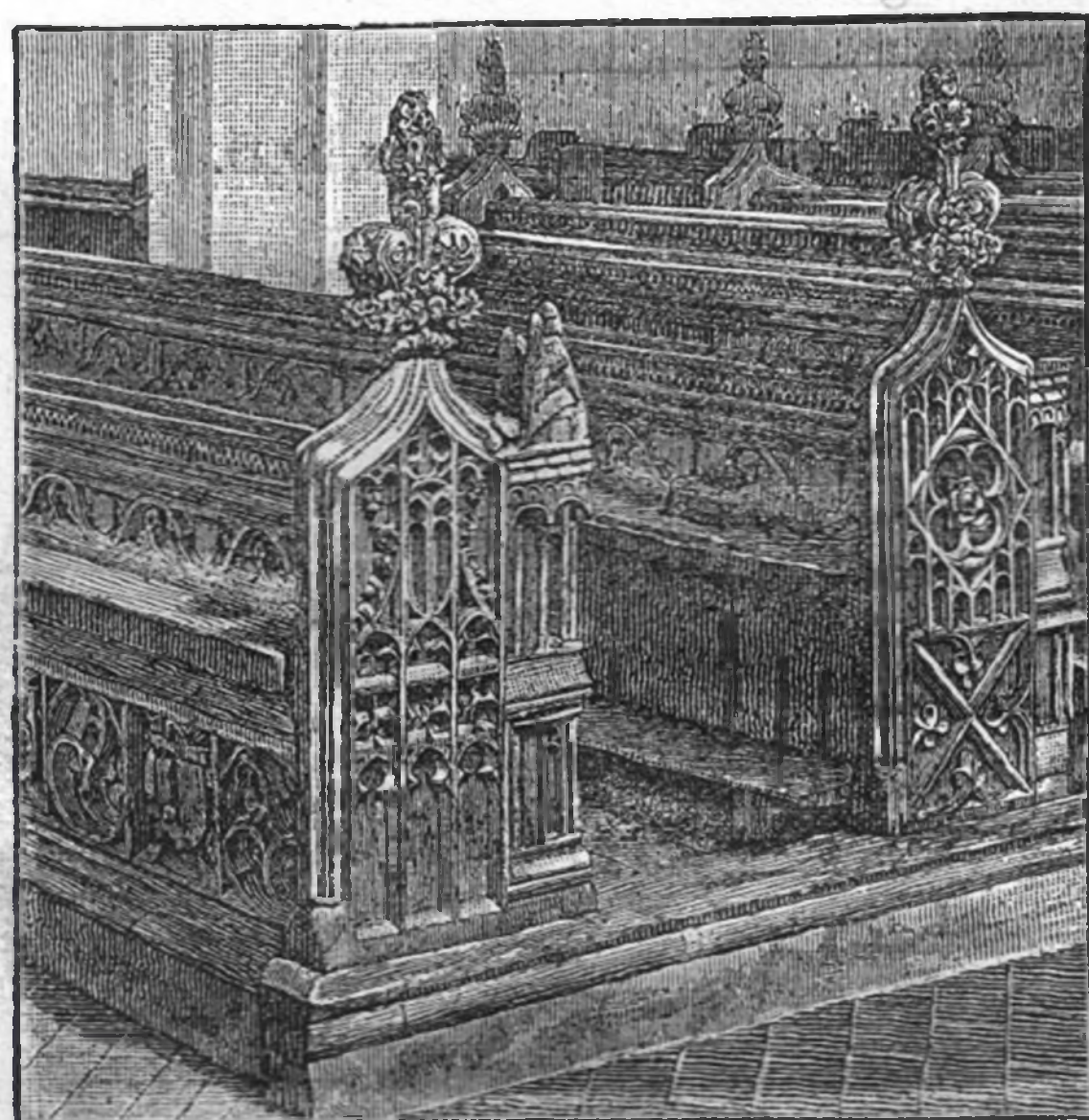


Ash Exhibitioner of Emmanuel College, Cambridge, whence he graduated with distinction (Senior Optime) in 1857. In the same year he was ordained by Archbishop Sumner, of Canterbury, to the curacy of Sevenoaks, where he remained for two years. In 1859 the Archbishop advanced him to priest's orders, and in the following year he proceeded to his M.A. degree. He was afterwards Curate of Ellingham, Norfolk,

for four years, and later, in 1857, became the Second Master of Sevenoaks Grammar School, a position which he retained for two years. In 1859 he was appointed Head Master of Bungay Grammar School,



and held that post until 1866. In 1867 he took the degree of B.D. at his University, and his D.D. in 1872. Dr. Raven was afterwards successively Curate of the Parish Church, Great Yarmouth, and of St. George's, Great Yarmouth. In 1881 he became Vicar of the latter parish, and held this incumbency conjointly with the Headmastership of

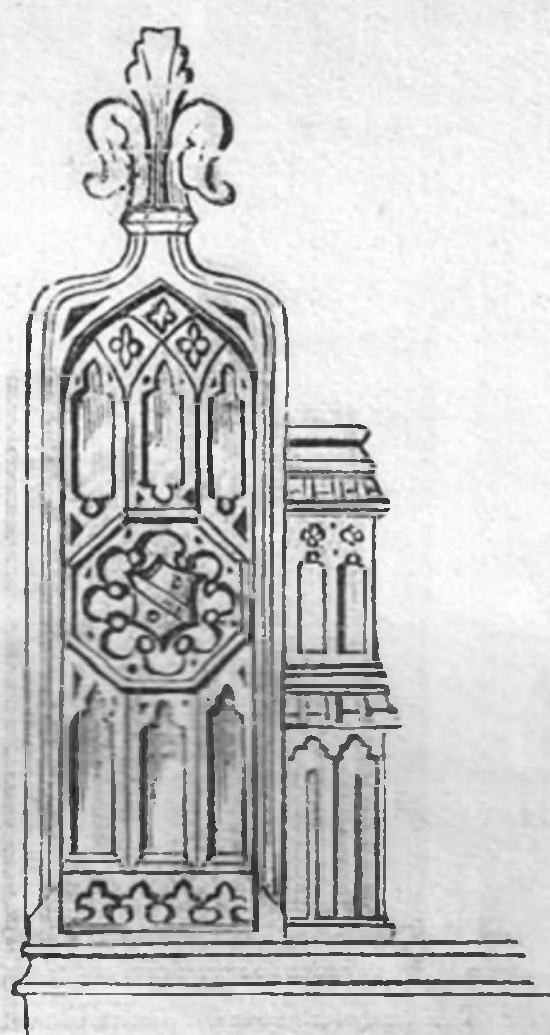


(Reproduced by permission of Messrs. W. & R. Chambers.)

the Grammar School at that place until 1885, when he was preferred to his present charge.

Dr. Raven is the author of a variety of works, among them being monographs on the *Church Bells of Cambridgeshire*, and *Suffolk*, and *Norfolk*. He has always taken much interest in campanology, and is President of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Change-ringers.

Dr. Raven has had, it will be seen, a varied experience of parochial and educational work. He is distinguished for his energy and scholarly attainments, and belongs to a type of clergymen of which Church people have every reason to be proud.







THE REVEREND FRANCIS EDWARD ROBINSON, M.A.

*Vicar of Drayton, Berks; Member of the Ancient Society of College Youths of London; Master of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, &c.*

MR. ROBINSON, who was born at Begbrook, Oxon, in 1833, was educated at Winchester College, and Exeter College, Oxford, taking his B.A. degree (Hon. Fourth Class in Mathematics) in 1853, and proceeding to his M.A. in 1857. From 1853 to 1867 he was one of the partners in the Old Bank, Oxford. After resigning this post, he was in 1868 ordained Deacon to the curacy of Tubney, Berks, and in the following year Priest, by Bishop Wilberforce of Oxford. In 1878 he was presented by Lord

Wantage to the Vicarage of Drayton, Berks, which he still holds, having also filled since 1872 the office of Diocesan Inspector of Schools. He is likewise a J.P. for the County. In the Change-ringing world Mr. Robinson is deservedly famous, being a member of no less than fourteen Societies, Guilds, or Associations, in different parts of England. The existence of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, of which he is the first Master, is largely due to him. From his early years Mr. Robinson has been an ardent change-ringer,

and when speaking of his undergraduate days describes himself as having been 'the ringing unit' of the University. At that time his friends thought him infatuated for engaging in a pursuit, reports of which were only to be found in the columns of *Bell's Life*, between those of Nurr and Spell and Pigeon-shooting. His first peal was one of Grandsire Triples, in October 1859, since which time he has gone steadily on, his peals now numbering ninety-one, the longest of which was one of 6264 Stedman Caters conducted by himself. He also conducted at his own church, in 1882, the first peal in which all eight performers were members of the University of Oxford; and two years later the first clerical peal. Mr. Robinson has not rested content with the three methods at which most ringers make a halt, but has rung a peal of Union Triples, a peal of Double Oxford Bob Major, eight peals of Double Norwich Court Bob Major, four peals of Superlative Surprise, and one of Cambridge Surprise, some of those in the three last-named methods having been conducted by him. It will thus be seen that he is in the foremost rank in the ringing world. Among bells presented by him are the two tenors at Appleton and the treble and tenor at Drayton, while he has kindly promised the gift of a new treble to St. Cross, Holywell, Oxford.



## Drayton, Berks, and its Famous Bell-ringing Vicar.

THE pretty village of Drayton, with its population of five hundred souls, or thereabouts, is not very far from the ancient town of Abingden, which, it is recorded, sprang up, in the seventh and some following centuries, round a great abbey.



THE REV. FRANCIS E. ROBINSON, M.A.

In the change-ringing world Mr. Robinson is deservedly famous, being a member of many societies, guilds or associations all over England. The existence of the Oxford Diocesan Guild, of which he is the first Master, is largely due to him. He has, in fact, been an ardent change-ringer from his earliest years, being accustomed, when speaking of his undergraduate days, to describe himself as having been the 'ringing unit' of the University.

His first peal was one of Grandsire Triples, in October, 1859. He conducted at his own church, 1882, the first peal in which all eight performers were members of the University of Oxford; and two years later the first clerical peal. Among bells presented by him are two tenors at Appleton, the treble and tenor at Drayton, and a treble at Stonesfield, Oxon. He is certainly one of the most skilful and enthusiastic bell-ringers in the country, and is regarded as one of the best authorities on the subject.

In January, 1888, he rang 10,080 changes of Double Norwich in six hours less two minutes, and five weeks later, 12,041 changes of Stedman Caters in seven hours twenty-six minutes. In April of the same year he rang 13,265 changes of Grandsire Caters in eight hours five minutes, and in the following December, on the last day of the year, 15,041 changes of Stedman Caters in nine hours and sixteen minutes.

Other remarkable feats of bell-ringing skill by Mr. Robinson have been 12,096 changes of Double Norwich in seven hours ten minutes on the last day of 1897; and 11,328 changes of London Surprise in six hours six minutes on September 17th, 1896. Mr. Robinson rang in Thurstons' peal of Stedman Triples unconducted on August 7th, 1899, and the only peal of 5040 changes ever rung by clergymen was conducted by him. Mr. Robinson has rung altogether 764 peals of five thousand changes or more.

He has also conducted peals of 5000 changes and upwards of Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge, and London Surprise on his bells, which no other incumbent has ever done.





JASPER W. SNOWDON, ESQ.

*President of the Yorkshire Association of Change-Ringers.*

JASPER W. SNOWDON, the second son of the Rev. John Snowdon, M.A., Cantab., the late Vicar of Ilkley, was born at Ilkley, Yorkshire, on June 18, 1844, and educated at Rossall. In 1871, owing to the want of a satisfactory band of ringers at Ilkley, Mr. Snowdon turned his attention to ringing, and formed the Ilkley Amateur Society of Change-

ringers; which Society has, since that time, rung the bells at Ilkley for the Sunday services without any remuneration, and is, we believe, the only Society in Yorkshire whose services for the customary hour's ringing before each of the Sunday services, are entirely gratuitous.

On the foundation of the Yorkshire Association of Change-ringers in

1870 Mr. Snowdon was elected the first President, and has since retained the same office. As a contributor to our columns, Mr. Snowdon will be well known to those of our readers who take an interest in ringing. Besides having endeavoured to call attention to this subject by contributing to newspapers and periodicals articles treating on Change-ringing in a more popular form, Mr. Snowdon has published a *Treatise on Treble Bob*, the second part of which is just completed. This treatise deals more clearly with the mathematical side of change-ringing than any other work which has previously been issued on the subject.



## Death of Mr. Jasper W. Snowdon of Leeds.

ON 'Tuesday, the 17th inst., the Ancient Society of College Youths met, as usual, for practice at St. Giles's Church, Cripplegate, but just as they were about to raise the bells Mr. F. E. Dawe arrived with a letter he had received from Mr. Whitaker of Leeds, conveying the sad intelligence that Mr. Snowdon had died at 11.30 the previous day of fever, and would be buried at Ilkley at 3 o'clock the next day (Wednesday). All idea of ringing was immediately suspended, and at a meeting held shortly afterwards it was unanimously agreed, that as Mr. Dawe was a personal friend of the deceased, he should be empowered to write a letter of condolence to the relatives on behalf of the Company, conveying their heartfelt sympathy at the loss which they and the ringing world had sustained in the almost sudden death of so dear a friend, who was always so energetic and earnest in all he undertook and carried out with an interest, zeal, and ability, that were rarely, if ever, to be met with.

We understand that, independently of the usual Funeral Peal, which will take place at St. Thomas's, Southwark, on 'Tuesday evening, at 8 p.m., a muffled 5000 will be rung by the College Youths, as a last mark of respect to the deceased.

A portrait of Mr. Snowdon appeared in No. 441 of *Church Bells*.



## Famous Ringers.

V.—MR. HENRY S. THOMAS.

MR. HENRY S. THOMAS, who is one of the most skilful and popular ringers of the day, was born at Old Battersea, in 1851. When hardly out of his teens he entered the employment of the famous publishing firm of Ward, Lock, & Co., and by steady work and ability has risen to the responsible position of advertisement



Photo by]

MR. HENRY S. THOMAS.

[Soper & Stedman.

manager, the duties of which he discharges to the entire satisfaction of those whom he has now served for upwards of twenty-four years.

Mr. Thomas evinced an interest in campanology from an early age, although his opportunities of handling the bells were few and far between. His thoroughness in mastering the art, however, was such that, in 1872, the Rev. J. Erskine Clarke, the beloved Vicar of Battersea, who for nearly a quarter of a century owned and directed the policy of *Church Bells*, invited Mr. Thomas to take entire charge of the belfry, and make all the arrangements for the ringing, and this responsible post he still holds. It was not until 1884 that he rang his first peal. The occasion was the 19th of February of that year, the place was the belfry of Battersea Church, and the conductor was Mr. W. Baron.

For more than twenty years Mr. Thomas has been a member of the Royal Cumberland Society, and he has been instrumental in advancing its interests. He was Master of the Society during the Jubilee year, and, in commemoration of that event, he organized a grand dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, followed by a peal on the bells of St. Martin's Church. The event is commemorated by a tablet in the church. Among other ringing associations with which he is connected may be mentioned the

Waterloo Society, the St. James's Society, and the Amateur Society of Old Battersea.

Mr. Thomas has taken part successfully in upwards of twenty peals of Grandsire Triples and Caters; but perhaps the most noteworthy of all his achievements was the 'Henry' peal, rung in his own belfry. The late Mr. Henry Haley conducted on the first occasion, but several attempts were made without success. There is a pathetic interest attaching to the accomplishment of the effort, which took place, with half-muffled bells, on the day of Mr. Haley's funeral. The eight 'Henries' who handled the bells were: Henry Bright, 1; Henry Hopkins, 2; Henry Langdon, 3; Henry Davis, 4; Henry Swain, 5; Henry Thomas, 6; Henry Tucker, 7; Henry Dains, 8. Mr. Tucker was conductor.

Mr. Thomas has exerted himself, with marked success, to benefit the body of ringers, among whom he is a great favourite. It is owing to him that many of the railway companies have arranged special reduced fares for bands of ringers on their excursions. A favourite resort of the fraternity is the Waterloo Tower, in Quex Park (the seat of Mr. Powell Cotton), near Birchington, and it was here Mr. Thomas completed his first peal of Caters. His geniality and good nature on these expeditions are unrivalled, and no band is considered complete without him.

His merits have been recognised on several occasions. In 1884, a handsome marble clock, together with an illuminated address, was presented to Mr. Thomas by Canon Erskine Clarke, on behalf of the members and friends of the Ringing Society of Battersea Church. In January, 1886, he received from the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths the gift of a picture in a gold frame, as a mark of their esteem; while in the Jubilee year (1887) his friends subscribed to present to the 'Cumberlands' a portrait of their esteemed Master.

Mr. Thomas is a striking example of the success which accompanies earnestness and thoroughness in every undertaking. In his life-work he holds a deservedly high position, while in the more recreative employment of ringing he has shown a determination to excel, combined with a thoughtfulness for the interests of others, that few men can equal or eclipse.





LIEUT.-COLONEL HARRY REGINALD TRELAWNY,

*Commandant Royal Cornwall Rangers.*

COLONEL TRELAWNY, who was born at Harewood, in the parish of Calstock, in the county of Cornwall, on December 12, 1826, is the second son of the late Sir William Salusbury Trelawny, Bart. He was educated at Ottery St. Mary, Devon, at Westminster, and at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, whence he entered the army in 1845, and served in the 36th Regiment and in the 6th Inniskillen

Dragoons. Having retired from the army in 1853, he was in the same year appointed Adjutant of the Royal Cornwall Rangers, and in 1872 he was nominated to the Colonelcy of that regiment, a post which he still holds.

In boyhood Col. Trelawny showed love for bells and bell-ringing, spending many an hour of his playtime in the old steeple of St. Mary's,

Ottery, and so very early in life he learnt to be proficient in handling bells; as he proved one day, when his regiment was quartered at York, by going into the belfry of the Minster and raising the tenor single-handed. His knowledge of ringing, however, was confined to that which was possessed by the ringers of his native county, viz. 'ups and downs, and rounds,' until, about the year 1863, his attention was called to scientific change-ringing, and seeing at once the superiority of this method over the ordinary style of call changes, he at once set to work to master the art. Although he had only Hubbard's *Campanology* to assist him, by sheer perseverance he soon acquired sufficient knowledge of the mysteries of the half-pull method to train a band of parish ringers to ring 120 Grandsire Doubles on the bells of Calstock Church. (This was the first known instance of scientific change-ringing in the county of Cornwall.)

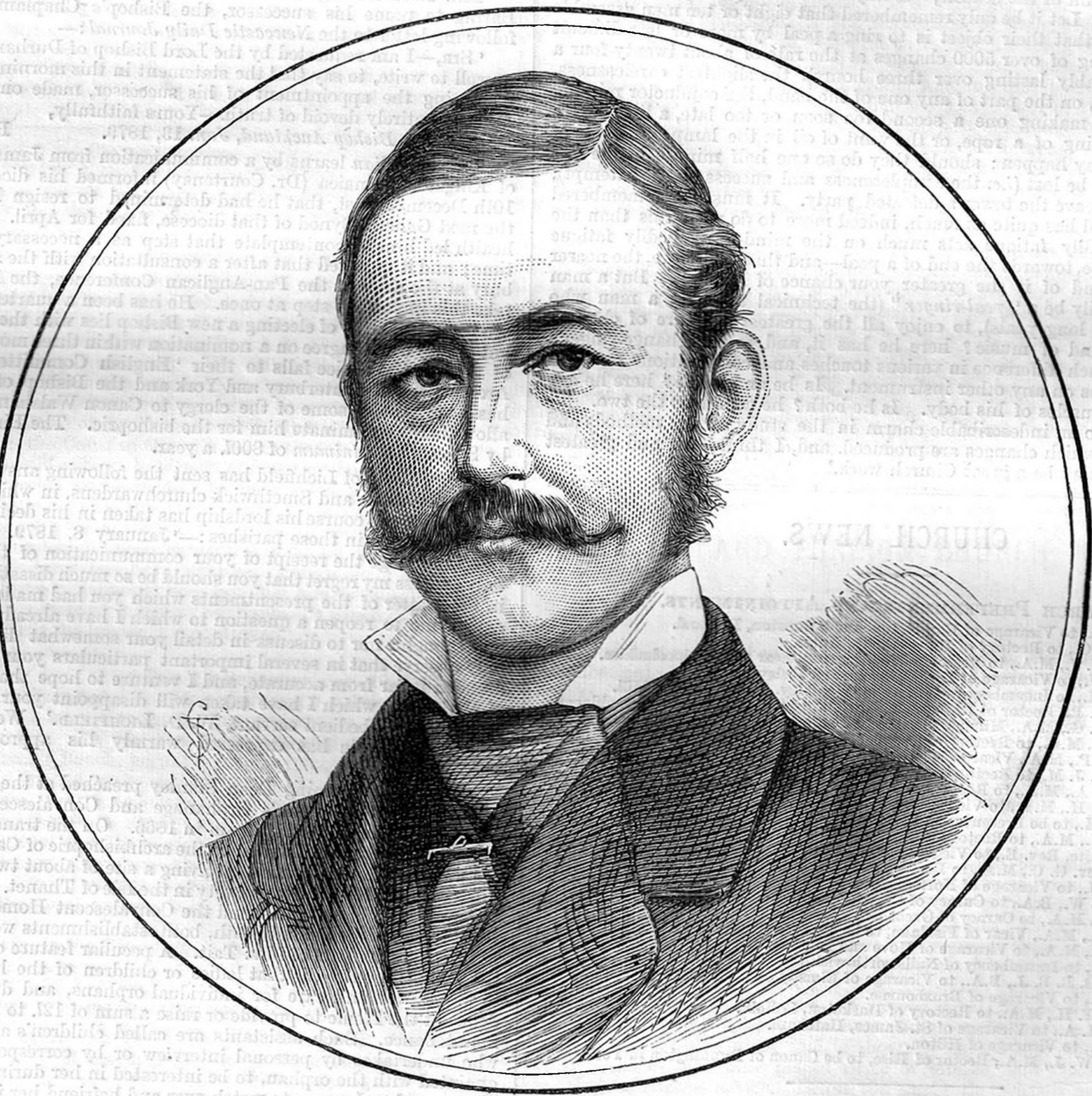
By regular practice he soon made the band steady and proficient ringers, and on June 24th, 1866, we find the first peal of Grandsire Minor was rung on Calstock bells: the band on that occasion was assisted by Mr. W. Banister.

During the time he was training this steeple band, Col. Trelawny increased his own knowledge by instructing the members of his own family to ring scientific changes on hand-bells; and in this he was very materially assisted by Mrs. Trelawny, who soon proved herself a very skilled ringer.

The family band consisted, in addition to the parents, of three daughters and one son, and so by each taking two bells the whole twelve were able to be rung. They met every morning for half an hour, and by this regular practice reached at last such a state of proficiency that we find in the year 1869, on 28th January, 'The Harewood Band' illustrating a lecture on Bells and Ringing, delivered by Rev. H. T. Ellacombe at the Athenæum, Exeter (Sir Stafford Northcote in the chair), before a crowded audience, by giving the following touches:—168 Grandsire Triples, plain course of Stedman's Triples, plain course of Grandsire Cinques, 198 changes. To fully appreciate this performance, the ages of the performers and their positions at the bells should be noted:—Treb'le and 2nd, Miss Eleanor Trelawny, 12 years; 3rd and 4th, Miss Edith, 13 years; 5th and 6th, Miss Beatrice, 14 years; 7th and 8th, Mrs. H. R. T.; 9th and 10th, Col. H. R. T.; 11th and 12th, Master Harry, 10 years.

In the year 1870 Col. Trelawny went to reside at Poltair, near Penzance, and on the new ring of bells at St. Mary's, Penzance, he was able to continue his ringing; and we find, in 1873, a band of Penzance ringers sufficiently advanced in scientific change-ringing to accomplish on these bells a half-peal of Grandsire Triples. Col. Trelawny never had many opportunities of joining with experienced ringers, and so has not rung many peals of 5000. On September 13th, 1866, however, we find him ringing the 6th in a peal of 5040 Grandsire Triples, in company with several members of the Banister family, and other College Youths, at St. Mary's, Lewisham.





CHARLES ARTHUR WILLIAMS ACLAND TROYTE, ESQ.

*Of Huntsham Park, Devon; President of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers.*

**M**R. TROYTE born May 11, 1842, is eldest son of the late Arthur Henry Dyke Acland, so well known to many friends of the Church, and to the readers of *Daily Steps towards Heaven*, and his wife Fanny, daughter of R. Williams, Esq. of Bridehead, Dorset

His late father was second son of the late Sir T. D. Acland, Bart., of Killerton, Exeter, and he assumed the name of Troyte under the will of the late Rev. E. B. Troyte, Rector of the parish of Huntsham, Devon. The Rev. E. B. Troyte was an eccentric character, and his will was the

subject of a private Act of Parliament in 1866, under which the tenant for life of Huntsham Court is obliged to reside in the house for 183 days in each year.

Mr. C. A. W. Troyte was educated at Radley College, near Oxford, and at Trinity Hall, Cambridge. He married in 1864 the eldest daughter of Sir J. W. Walrond, Bart. He is a most active and energetic officer both of the Volunteer and Yeomanry forces. He is a Magistrate for the county, and Chairman of the local Board of Guardians. He is a co-secretary of an important County School, and patron of every good work within his reach. He is well known as an enthusiastic ringer, and has helped many Devon belfries, both with money and by actual teaching. He has published a book on *Change-ringing*, now in its third edition. His enthusiasm has infected his younger brothers, two of whom issued the *Bell-ringing Guide*, and one of whom, Mr. John Troyte, promoted the movement in favour of bell-ringing amongst the University Men at Oxford.

Mr. Charles Troyte is President of the Devonshire Guild of Ringers; and at the Plymouth Church Congress in 1876, in a paper in the section on 'Church Bells and how to use them,' he thus spoke of bell-ringing:—

'I may say, I trust, without being charged with egotism, that I have enjoyed, and been proficient in many sports and pastimes; I am at least a keen sportsman, and, for the encouragement of would-be change-ringers, I may say that some of my happiest and most exciting moments have been in the church tower. The excitement lest a "crab" should be caught in a boat-race, a catch sent at the end of a cricket-match, a shoe thrown towards the end of "the best run of the season;" to any of these may be fairly compared the end of a peal. Let it be only remembered that eight or ten men assemble in the tower, and that their object is to ring a peal by more or less difficult methods (consisting of over 5000 changes at the rate of about twenty-four a minute, and probably lasting over three hours), the slightest carelessness, manual or mental, on the part of any one of the band, the conductor missing a call, or perhaps making one a second too soon or too late, a little extra fatigue, the breaking of a rope, or the want of oil in the lamp; any one of these accidents may happen; should they do so one half minute before the end, the peal may be lost (i.e. the completeness and success of the attempt), and the ringers leave the tower a defeated party. It must be remembered also that the mind has quite as much, indeed more to do with this than the muscles, that bodily fatigue acts much on the mind—any bodily fatigue increases, of course, towards the end of a peal—and that, therefore, the nearer you get to the end of it the greater your chance of losing it. But a man need not necessarily be a "peal-ringer" (the technical term for a man who goes in for these long peals), to enjoy all the greatest pleasure of change-ringing. Is he fond of music? here he has it, and to the change-ringer's ear there is as much difference in various touches and compositions on bells as in various tunes on any other instrument. Is he an athlete? here he can exercise all the muscles of his body. Is he both? he combines the two. To many there is also an indescribable charm in the study for the methods and compositions by which changes are produced, and, I think, last and greatest of its charms, it may be a great Church work.'



# Famous Ringers.

## XII.—MR. H. J. TUCKER.

MR. HENRY JAMES TUCKER was born at Bishop Stortford on August 22nd, 1858, at which place he commenced to learn change-



Photo by]

MR. H. J. TUCKER.

[A. Maxwell.

ringing in November, 1876. Under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Hayes, who was working for some time at All Saints' Church in 1878, Grandsire Triples was soon mastered, practice being obtained at St. Michael's, Bishop Stortford, and at Stansted and Sawbridge-worth.

In 1879 Mr. Tucker removed to Hanwell, Middlesex, and in

August of that year scored his first peal (Holt's Ten-part), conducted by Mr. J. M. Hayes, at St. Mary's, Ealing.

Returning to Bishop Stortford at the end of the year, further progress was made, and on December 27th, 1880, he succeeded in conducting a peal of Bob Major. For some time after this Mr. Tucker resided in London and took part in several peals, the most noteworthy being one of Kent Treble Bob Maximus at St. Saviour's, Southwark, and one of Oxford Treble Bob Royal at St. James's, Bermondsey, both conducted by Mr. J. M. Hayes. In May, 1886, he was appointed instructor to the Hereford Diocesan Guild, but in the following December he returned to his native town and entered on the duties which he still carries out, as superintendent of the cemetery and sexton of St. Michael's Church, a post which has been held by members of his family for many years. Mr. Tucker is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. James's Society, the Essex, Gloucester and Bristol, Durham and Newcastle, and Lancashire Associations.

He is a very safe ringer and conductor, having called Holt's Original many times, including twice from the tenor. Below is a list of Mr. Tucker's performances.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Seven methods on six bells .....	1	1
Darlaston Bob Triples .....	3	3
Grandsire Triples .....	42	31
„ Major .....	1	1
„ Caters .....	7	6
Oxford Bob Triples .....	2	2
Stedman „ .....	4	—
„ Caters .....	1	—
„ Cinques .....	1	—
Bob Major .....	7	6
Canterbury Pleasure Major .....	1	1
Double Norwich Court Bob Major .....	7	—
Kent Treble Bob Major .....	8	6
„ „ „ Royal .....	3	2
„ „ „ Maximus .....	1	—
Oxford Treble Bob Royal .....	1	—
Totals .....	90	59

Mr. Tucker has charge of the ten bells at St. Michael's, Bishop Stortford, and under his care they are always in capital going order. A hearty welcome is always accorded ringing friends who may pay a visit to this town.



On Thursday last, the 28th ult., the death occurred at Pudsey, near Leeds, of Mr. Samuel Webster, in his seventy-ninth year. He was well known as a musician, and for some time was choirmaster and also a ringer at Tong Church, where he was interred on Sunday, the 1st inst. : the bells were muffled for the occasion.





# THE REVEREND WOOLMORE WIGRAM, M.A.

*Rector of St. Andrew, Hertford; and Rural Dean of Hertford.*

**M**R. WIGRAM is the son of Mr. Money Wigram, ship-builder and owner, who established the first line of passenger-ships to Australia. He was born in 1831; educated at Rugby; and graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, 1854. He held a curacy at Hampstead Parish Church, 1856-64, and the Rectory of Brent with Furneaux Pelham,

1864-76. Evidences of Mr. Wigram's tenure of the Pelhams are shown in the restoration of the church at Furneaux Pelham, the nave being re-roofed under his direction; the rebuilding of the schools; and the erection of a mission chapel; and under his auspices the school at Brent Pelham was enlarged and the parsonage-house rebuilt. In 1876 Mr. Wigram was

appointed to the benefice which he now holds. Mr. Wigram is an ardent lover of bells, and an expert in the belfry. In the early numbers of *Church Bells* a series of chapters, entitled *Change-ringing Disentangled*, proceeded from his pen, which, while possessing no new feature, nor affording any further insight into the mysterious problem of this occult study, helped to carry the principles and practice of this science into regions where it was unknown and unrecognised.\* Mr. Wigram is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, and at the Anniversary Festival of this Society held a few years ago at Sawbridgeworth, Herts, he officiated as vice-president, Mr. James Dwight being the president on that occasion.

In addition to the above essays on Change-ringing, Mr. Wigram has written and published *A Sermon to the Odd Fellows*, 1863; and *Report on the Provident Societies in the Union of Bishop Stortford*, 1872.

\* *Change-ringing Disentangled* was afterwards published in book-form by Mr. Wells Gardner, and a second edition is now in preparation.



# Famous Ringers.

## XI.—MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS was born at Coombe Cross, Eastmeon, Hants, on May 7th, 1857. In 1866 his parents removed to Brockbridge, and at the adjoining village of Droxford he was first introduced to a belfry, chiming for the Sunday services, and afterwards learning to ring a bell in company with his uncle and two cousins. While serving an apprenticeship at the neighbouring



*Photo by]*

MR. GEORGE WILLIAMS.

*[Moran.*

flourmills, he learnt to ring Grandsire Doubles at Soberton, but as no further progress appeared likely in that tower, for some years he sought recreation in cricket, bicycling, and as a rifle volunteer. With the birth of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, Mr. Williams returned to his former pastime, and becoming acquainted with Mr. James Hewett, of Gosport, an old member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, he was, with this gentleman's tuition, soon making rapid strides in the art, ringing his first peal at Soberton on January 17th, 1884. On the anniversary of this date he was successful in calling his first peal, several local men whom he had taught taking part. Other peals followed, and in 1885, Mr. Williams became a resident of Reigate. Here change-ringing was at a low ebb, but neighbouring towns were regularly visited in company with the late Mr. Edward Moses, and 5040's of Minor were rung both at Bletchworth and Capel. On August Bank Holiday, 1885, Mr. Williams first conducted Holt's

Original at Arundel, previous to which he was elected a member of the Royal Cumberland Youths, Messrs. Hewett and Dains being included in the band. Since this time he has conducted first peals by the Winchester Guild in various methods, notably Double Norwich and Superlative, and four peals at All Saints', Ryde, Isle of Wight. Removing to Midhurst, Sussex, in 1887, Mr. Williams became tutor to the local ringers, and soon got them proficient in Doubles and Minors, several 5040's being accomplished. A very suitable presentation was made by the ringers of Midhurst and Fareham in the form of a handsome peal-book and a well-bound copy of Shipway's reprint, when Mr. Williams made another move, this time to Brighton, where he still flourishes. This took place in 1889, since which date with the St. Peter's Society in that town, peals have been rung in the most intricate methods.

Mr. Williams rang his first peal on handbells on March 24th, 1892, a very pleasant reminiscence of which is that Mrs. Williams also rang 1-2, a feat which she has twice repeated during the present year.

As a conductor, Mr. Williams holds a very high position, having called peals of Stedman from all working bells, and Double Norwich, Superlative, Cambridge and London, from non-observation bells. He is, in addition to the above-mentioned societies, a member of the Sussex and Midland Counties Associations, and the Oxford and Salisbury Diocesan Guilds. For the Sussex Association he has been a representative on the Central Council since its formation, and Honorary Divisional Secretary.

Below is a list of Mr. Williams's performances.

	Rung.	Conducted.	First Peals on Bells.
5040's on six bells .....	13	10	—
Bob Triples.....	6	4	—
„ Major .....	16	13	—
„ Royal .....	1	1	—
Grandsire Triples .....	48	39	—
„ Triples on handbells.....	4	4	—
„ Major.....	1	1	—
„ Caters.....	5	3	—
Union Triples.....	1	1	—
Stedman Triples.....	74	52	28
„ Caters .....	7	5	—
„ Cinques .....	1	—	—
Kent Treble Bob Major.....	22	19	—
„ „ „ Royal.....	4	2	—
„ „ „ Maximus .....	1	—	—
Oxford Treble Bob Major .....	1	1	—
College Exercise Major .....	1	—	—
Champion Major.....	1	—	—
Double Norwich Court Bob Major ...	41	32	24
Superlative Surprise Major .....	38	30	17
New Cumberland Surprise Major .....	2	2	—
Cambridge Surprise Major.....	10	8	6
London Surprise Major .....	10	9	5
Totals .....	308	236	

These peals have been rung in sixty-two different towers and in eight counties.



# Famous Ringers.

## IV.—MR. MATTHEW ALFRED WOOD.

MR. M. A. WOOD was born on September 22nd, 1826, in the parish of St. Matthew, Bethnal Green, London, in which he has



Photo by]

M. A. MATTHEW ALFRED WOOD.

[Pitt & Son.

resided ever since. His father was steeple-keeper at St. Matthew's Church, and Matthew, when about eight years old, used to toll

the bell for funerals, of which there were a great number in those days. In 1837 he tolled the bell for the death and funeral of King William IV., and in 1861 for the death of the Prince Consort. In 1837, when only just eleven years of age, he was able, under his father's guidance, to ring a single bell; but so rapidly did he learn that, three years later, he took part in ringing set changes with the old parochial ringers. In 1845, together with Messrs. Cooter and Comb, he commenced the science of change-ringing, under the tuition of the late Mr. John Cox; and rang his first peal (Grandsire Triples) at St. Giles's-in-the-Fields on February 18th, 1846, when only twenty years old.

Mr. Wood has taken part in no less than 342 peals:—

Grandsire Triples, 97, of which he conducted 40, while one peal was rung without being conducted; Grandsire Caters, 9, of which he conducted one; Grandsire Cinques, 1; Stedman Triples, 66, of which he conducted 11; Stedman Caters, 42; Stedman Cinques, 24; Kent Treble Bob Major, 53, of which he conducted 6; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 17, of which he conducted 2; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 1; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 11, of which he conducted 1; Grandsire Major, 5; Grandsire Royal, 1; Norwich Court Bob Major, 3; and Superlative Surprise Major, 1 (the first ever rung in London, 1850).

Among Mr. Wood's various handbell performances may be mentioned the following: Grandsire Triples, 4; Stedman Triples, 2; Stedman Caters, 4; and Stedman Cinques, 2.

The earliest peals of Stedman Triples, Stedman Caters, and Stedman Cinques, in which he took part were the first ever rung; while the second Stedman Triples peal was the first ever rung without calling.

In addition to his work in the belfry, Mr. Wood has composed several peals of Grandsire Caters. He has been steeple-keeper at St. Matthew's Church since his father's death, on January 7th, 1843, and he is one of the parochial ringers at St. Paul's Cathedral and St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside; while he rings occasionally at St. Saviour's, Southwark; St. Michael's, Cornhill; and several other churches. Among his most notable performances may be included the following peals:—

STEDMAN CINQUES.—7524 changes, at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, on January 6th, 1851, conducted by the late Mr. John Cox (Mr. Wood ringing the 6th bell).

(Continued on page 116.)

GRANDSIRE TRIPLES.—(Rung without calling) at Carist Church, Spitalfields, on January 31st, 1851 (7th bell).

KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.—5088 changes, at St. Giles's, Cripplegate, on February 7th, 1853 (tenor), conducted by Mr. W. Cooter.

KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.—5232 changes, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on April 11th, 1853 (tenor), conducted by the late Mr. W. Lobb.

STEDMAN CATERS.—5081 changes, at St. Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, on December 19th, 1863 (tenor).

KENT TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.—5088 changes, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on March 17th, 1866 (rang tenor and conducted peal).

STEDMAN CINQUES.—8580 changes, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, on April 27th, 1861 (9th bell), conducted by the late Mr. H. Haley.

KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR.—15,840 changes, in 9 hrs. 12 mins., at St. Matthew's, Bethnal Green, on April 27th, 1868 (7th bell).

Mr. Wood is a member of the Ancient Society of College Youths, the St. James's Society, and the Yorkshire Association. It is interesting to mention that his grandfather and great-uncle were both great ringers, each having rung over fifty peals. They were French Huguenots, having come from France when quite young, their surname being Du Bois.

Mr. Wood is one of the most skilful and respected of the present generation of bell-ringers, and, in spite of his seventy years, we trust that he will yet take part in many another peal.