

THE RINGING WORLD

No. 233. Vol. IX.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd, 1915.

[Registered at the G.P.O. for transmission as a newspaper.]

Price 1d.

GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey. BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.
Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

WULFRUN CHAMBERS, WOLVERHAMPTON,
MESSRS. GILLET and JOHNSTON, CROYDON, 4th March, 1912.
Gentlemen,

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two now ones in the tower of St. Peter's Collegiate Church, Wolverhampton, recently carried out by you has proved most successful, and given general satisfaction.

I am authorised by the Rector and Wardens to say how pleased they are with the result. In the opinion of those well qualified to judge, we have now, undoubtedly, one of the best peals in the Kingdom.

Yours faithfully, F. T. BECK,
Architect, Diocesan Surveyor.

MODERN WORK.

A HINT TO YOUNG COMPOSERS.

Some few months ago there was discussed in these columns the question of the future of the Exercise, so far as it was likely to rest upon the shoulders of new men, who would take up the task of scientific investigation when those who now enjoy the reputation of being experts are no longer with us. We pointed out then that while there are still among us numerous very able composers who may still be looked to to supply the needs of ringers, there is, nevertheless, ample room for more devotees to probe the mysteries of composition. Apart from the actual practice of ringing there is a wonderful fascination in its theoretical side, and figures have a marvellous drawing power for those who will take the pains to sit down and study them for a while. The man who takes up this side of our art seriously will find it gives him endless pleasure and interest, even though there are now many directions in which composition has been worn almost threadbare.

What we want to urge upon those who take up composing, however, is that they should first of all make themselves perfectly acquainted with the subject, before they begin to compose peals. A mere knowledge of the transpositions of course ends, and the ability to put together a sufficient number of them to make up five thousand changes is not all that is necessary. Composition goes far deeper than this. Even in simple methods like Bob Major, to say nothing of those more intricate ones which have false course-ends, the tyro must remember that course-ends alone are not sufficient to prove a peal. The man who would be a composer must learn to ascertain for himself the truth of his compositions, otherwise he is not only wasting his own time but he may also waste the time of other people. The composer should make himself independent by thoroughly mastering his subject, and should not be content with stringing together a certain number of figures and leaving other people to ascertain their truth either before or after their publication in print. The man who leaves to chance the discovery as to whether a peal is true or false does not deserve well of the Exercise, yet there are not a few who do this. To publish figures merely in the hope of getting somebody else to prove them is a course which deserves condemnation. True, many of the most able composers have published false peals, but this has not been due to the fact that they have merely left the investigation of the figures to others, it is because of an error or oversight which they have made. Indeed, we have known instances of one eminent composer submitting a peal for verification to another equally able authority, who has passed it as correct, and yet the figures have turned out false.

(Continued on page 98.)

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

I have great pleasure in stating that we are perfectly satisfied with the manner in which you have carried out the work entrusted to you of re-arranging and re-hanging the Broomfield Church Bells.

We consider that the work reflects great credit upon your firm, and believe that your system of hanging the bells reduces the vibration of the steel frame supplied by you to a minimum.

The CHURCHWARDENS unite with ME in this expression of opinion. The BELLRINGERS are also unanimous in their praise of the alterations effected by you.

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,

Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs C. CARR, LTD,
Smethwick.

Kindly ask us to Inspect, Report and Tender before deciding your Contract,—we may be able to assist you.

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BIRMINGHAM**

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and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

(Continued from Page 97.)

These remarks are prompted by recent experiences which have come under our notice, and for that reason, while beginners in composition ought to be encouraged in every way, we feel it is not out of place to point out the importance of their going sufficiently into the subject, before they start producing peals, so that they may be able to say with tolerable certainty whether or not their compositions are correct before they send them forth to the world, either publicly or privately. With the man who endeavours to construct a method and then wants somebody else to get out a table of false course-ends and to prove a five thousand of the stuff we have little patience. He is one of the folk who are trying to run before they can walk.

HANDBELL PEALS.

MONKSHEATON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Friday, August 27, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty-nine Minutes.

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5005 CHANGES;

R. ALDER GOFTON ... 1-2	JOSEPH A. GOFTON ... 5-6
WILLIAM H. BARBER ... 3-4	JOSEPH E. R. KEEN ... 7-8
*BERT HORTON... .. 9-10	

Composed by JAMES GEORGE, and
Conducted by WILLIAM H. BARBER.

* First peal on handbells.

TEWKESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.

(SOUTHERN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, August 28, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty-three Minutes.

At Southwood House, the Residence of Mr. F. S. WILSON,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVE'S VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

MISS ELLEN M. JOHNSON ... 1-2	FREDERICK J. JOHNSON... 5-6
JOSEPH D. JOHNSON ... 3-4	FRANCIS S. WILSON ... 7-8

Conducted by JOSEPH D. JOHNSON.

Umpire: FRANK SMITH.

Witnesses: MRS. and MISS WILSON and MRS. ELDER.

The visitors wish, through the medium of "The Ringing World," to thank Mrs. Wilson, who kindly entertained them before and after the peal.

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following ringers are serving in His Majesty's Forces:—

From Aldenham, Herts:—

Pte H. Green, London Electrical Engineers.

Pte H. Gilks, A.S.C., now in France.

From the Blewbury belfry:—

Wm. J. Grace, Royal Berks Regt., N.R., at Tring.

Richard G. James, H.A.C., on foreign service.

Walter V. Webb, Royal Berks (T.F.), in France.

Chas. Greenough, Royal Berks, N.R., at Chelmsford.

Montague G. Green, Berks Yeomanry, in Egypt.

Montague H. Aldridge, Berks Yeomanry, in Egypt.

Raymond Greenough, Royal Berks Regt., at Aldermaston.

Pte W. Blackledge, of Chorley Parish Church, Lancs, R.A.M.C.

Mr. E. Maurice Atkins, of the 104th Field Co., Royal Engineers, has been promoted to full lieutenant's rank. He has left for the front this week.

RINGER AT 84.

Not infrequently one sees instances of the advanced age at which a man may still actively engage in bell ringing, and one such example was provided on Sunday week at Wednesbury, when members of the Society of the Archdeaconry of Stafford rang a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters for evensong, the ringer of the 7th being Mr. J. Bate, who is in his 85th year. Despite his advancing years, he rang well, and showed that he had not lost any of his interest and love for the art. The band was: S. Summerhill 1. T. H. Burkitt 2. H. Pratt (first quarter-peal in the method) 3. T. Hughes 4. W. E. Brittain 5. J. Barber 6. J. Bate 7. G. Hughes (conductor) 8. W. A. Cooper 9. T. Myatt 10. The touch was arranged for Mr. H. Pratt, of Harborne.

ROCHESTER RINGERS' MOTOR TRIP.

Owing to the war and the fact that most of the members are employed on Government work, the Rochester Cathedral Society contented themselves this year with a half-day's outing instead of the usual full day. A party of 33 met at the Town Hall, Chatham, soon after mid-day, the members of the Cathedral band being joined by ringers from Rainham, Chatham and Gillingham, with a few friends. A start was made by motor char-a-banc in not very promising weather, for Staplehurst via Maidstone. All went well until things became rather uncomfortable for an old friend, who is very fond of dogs. He found his feet rather warm, so a halt was called to investigate, and it was found the car was on fire. This, however, was soon extinguished, and after another start, and a long pull, the party arrived at the Upper Bell, overlooking the Medway Valley. Passing through Maidstone, and the pretty valley of Loose, they arrived about 2 p.m. at Staplehurst, where they had permission to ring. After an inspection of the village and the fine old church, a couple of touches of Grandsire Triples were much enjoyed on the fine old bells.

Biddenden was the next objective, but here the party were very much disappointed at not been allowed to ring, as this fine peal has recently been rehung. After refreshments and a look round the interesting village, the party made their way to Lenham, through the villages of Smarden, Pluckley and Charing. This destination was reached about 5.30, and here they were welcomed by the Vicar, the Rev. Elberington. Tea was waiting for the visitors, and was much appreciated by all after the long ride. The Vicar joined the party at tea, and afterwards expressed his pleasure at their visit to Lenham not only by giving them permission to ring, but by allowing them to look over the Vicarage gardens and undertaking to bear the expense of the tea. Needless to say, his hospitality was gratefully accepted, and thanks expressed to the Vicar for his kindness. Adjourning to the church for a pull, the party found things rather difficult owing to new ropes making good ringing out of the question, but a couple of touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples were brought round. The last stopping place on the trip was Leeds, where the excursionists had permission to ring on this historical peal of ten. They found the bells going to perfection, and several of the party tried their hand on ten for the first time. A course of Grandsire Caters and Stedman and Grandsire Triples brought the ringing to a close. Chatham was eventually reached again at 10.55 p.m., after a delightful half-day. The party wish to thank the various Vicars for their kindness in allowing them to ring, and the steeple keepers for having everything in readiness.

W. H.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

There was a somewhat disappointing attendance at the annual meeting of the Preston Branch of the Lanes Association, held at Croston on Saturday week, only about 20 ringers turning up out of a membership of over 100, many towers being unrepresented. The ringing also left room for improvement.

At the business meeting, the Bishop of Whalley presided.—The report and balance sheet were adopted.

The Hon. Secretary reported that 19 members of the branch had joined His Majesty's Forces, one having been accidentally drowned during training.

Mr. J. R. Taylor and Mr. A. E. Woodhouse were re-elected to represent the branch on the general committee, and Mr. A. E. Woodhouse was re-elected hon. branch secretary (pro tem.) during the permanent secretary's service with the colours.

The next meeting is to be held at Walton-Le-Dale on October 9th.

Thanks to the Bishop for presiding and for the use of bells closed the meeting.

MANCHESTER BRANCH.

On Saturday last the above branch held their monthly meeting at Christ Church, Barlow Moor, when members from the following towers attended: Ashton-under-Lyne, Pendleton, Birch, Hyde, Reddish, Elixton, Miles Platting, Prestwick, Worsley, etc.

Mr. Ryder presided over the business meeting, and gave a hearty welcome to the ringers. The following were nominated for the offices of the Association: Mr. Joseph Ridyard, of Worsley, vice-president; Mr. J. H. Banks, of Helmshore, ringing secretary; Mr. A. Barnes, of Reddish, and Mr. B. Gill, of Ashton-under-Lyne, auditors.

Mr. W. W. Wolstencroft was unanimously re-elected branch secretary, and Prestwick was chosen as the next place of meeting on Oct. 9th.—Several matters of interest were also discussed.

Votes of thanks to the Rector, branch secretary and local ringers were unanimously accorded, on the motion of Mr. J. Ridyard.

Ringing in various methods, including Plain Bob, Grandsire, Kent Treble Bob, Stedman and Double Norwich were indulged in by the ringers, who included Miss E. R. Barnes, of Reddish.

BELLS FOR CANADA.

Messrs. Mears and Stainbank are erecting a peal of ten bells, tenor 32 cwt., at Branford, Ontario. Mr. Bert Hughes, who is this year Master of the College Youths, is over in the Dominion superintending the hanging of the bells.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.**DEVIZES BRANCH AT RE-OPENING OF BELLS.**

A monthly meeting of the Devizes Branch was held on Saturday, at St. Mary's Church, Devizes, and, being the occasion of the re-opening of St. Mary's bells, which have been silent for some long time past, a fairly good company of ringers and other friends assembled. A service was held in the church at three o'clock, conducted by the Rev. Colin Cameron, temporary curate of St. Mary's, assisted by the Rev. E. Conway King, temporary curate of St. John's, and the Rev. J. A. Sturton, Vicar of Market Lavington (chairman of the branch). The first lesson was read by the Rev. F. Phipps, Vicar of St. Peter's, and the second one by the Rev. Canon Gardiner, R.D., Vicar of St. James', Southbroom. The address was given by Archdeacon Bodington, Vicar of Calne, who took for his text a portion of the inscription on the tenor bell, "Fear God and honour the King."

The bells have not been recast, but rehung in an entirely new iron frame of the II pattern with all new stocks and fittings, and the fact of their having all new clappers and being quarter turned and the louveres in the bell chamber blocked up to a considerable height, has very much improved and modified the sound of them.

After the service, tea was very kindly provided at "Hazlands" by the generosity of Mrs. Llewellyn, churchwarden of St. Mary's, on the lawn at the rear of her house, to which several lady visitors and 23 ringers sat down and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. The Rev. H. E. Tilney-Bassett, Rector of Beechingslake (Master of the Guild) and Mr. H. Brownlee West, honorary branch secretary, were also present, the other ringers coming from the towers of Westbury, Trowbridge, Seend, Southbroom, Chilton, St. John's, Devizes, Bath Abbey, Holt, and Twerton-on-Avon. Some good handbell ringing was given on the lawn by several of the members.

After a very hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Llewellyn for her kindness in entertaining the party, which she graciously acknowledged, the ringers dispersed, some to St. Mary's, some to St. John's, and others to St. James' towers, where they enjoyed touches of Grandsire Doubles, Stedman, Plain Bob, and Grandsire Triples until about eight o'clock, when the company dispersed to their various homes.

WREXHAM RINGERS AT SHREWSBURY.

On Wednesday week the Wrexham ringers had their annual outing, when Shrewsbury was visited. Leaving Wrexham about 1 p.m. in two motor-cars, they enjoyed a very pleasant run via Ruabon, Chirk, and Gobowen, Shrewsbury being reached shortly after three o'clock. Here they were met by Mr. C. R. Lilley, at whose residence they partook of tea, very kindly supplied by Mr. and Mrs. Lilley. After tea a visit was paid to St. Alkmund's Church, where they met Mr. G. Byolin, of Shrewsbury, and Mr. J. W. Jones, hon. secretary of the Llandaff Association, who was on a visit to the town. Touches of Stedman and Kent Treble Bob were successfully brought round, the "go" of the bells being much admired. St. Chad's was the next place visited, and at this twelve-bell tower the party were met by Major E. R. T. Corbett, who motor cycled over to meet the band, and by Messrs. Bullock, Brooks and Archdale. Touches of Stedman Caters and Cinques were brought round on the magnificent peal, the "go" and tone of which, the visitors found, was all that could be desired. The best thanks of the Wrexham ringers are due to those gentlemen who so kindly met them, and they also desire, through these columns, to thank the respective Vicars of the churches for granting the use of the bells. Mr. Lilley, too, must not be forgotten for the excellent arrangements he made for the programme he provided. The Wrexham band were accompanied by Mr. J. Kerrierson Jones, a churchwarden of Wrexham Parish Church. After ringing, the party had a look round the ancient town, and left for home about 8.30 p.m., travelling via Ellesmere. Wrexham was reached about half-past ten, after a very enjoyable day.

CENTRAL NORTHANTS ASSOCIATION.

A very successful ringing meeting of the Wellingboro' district was held at Meats Ashby, on Saturday last, and was attended by about 30 members and friends. The bells, a peal of six, were available during the afternoon and evening, and good use was made of them, the methods rung including Cambridge Surprise, Woodbine, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob Plain Bob, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles.

Tea was served on the lawn belonging to the post office. This being a meeting for practice and social intercourse no business was transacted. Amongst those present were Messrs. F. Wilford (general secretary), F. Stubbs (Raunds district secretary), and T. Law (Northampton district secretary).

A hearty vote of thanks were accorded the Vicar for the use of the bells, also to the ladies who provided tea. In the absence of the Vicar, Mr. Goosey suitably replied. After tea the ringers were shown round the hall garden by Capt. Stockdale.

The following towers were represented: Irthlingborough, Wellingboro', Finedon, Isham, Higham Ferrers, Northampton, Raunds, Earl's Barton, Burlon Latimer, Weston Favel, and Kingshorpe.

SEXTON'S LONG SERVICE.

The sexton of New Alresford, Hants, Mr. James Sart, has rung in the New Year for 57 consecutive years, and to mark his long services the Rector (the Rev. F. G. G. Jellicoe), who is brother of Sir John Jellicoe, has made him a presentation.

SUSSEX BELLS.

A BOOK FOR BELL LOVERS.

Many ringers, as well as antiquarians, have a deep interest in ancient bells. There is something peculiarly attractive about them. "I could sit and look at an old bell like this for hours," said a well-known ringer to me on one occasion, as he sat upon the frame admiring a Pre-Reformation casting, and there is no doubt that, quite apart from the science of ringing, there is, among many members of the Exercise, a great interest in the bells themselves, particularly when they date back five or six centuries. What vicissitudes of national and parochial life have these old bells witnessed, what joys and sorrows have they proclaimed with their brazen voices! They are a link with the dim ages of the past, and in their modellings they tell the history of a very ancient English craft. With their quaint letterings and their curious medallions, these relics of bygone centuries are, in these modern days when easy transit has rendered investigation a comparatively simple task, as an open book to those who have made bell archaeology a study, and from the inscriptions and the decorations which adorn these old bells, their founders and their dates can be very approximately fixed, even though neither the name of the one nor an intimation of the other appears upon the casting. And not only the name, but something of the history of the bell maker can be traced, as the result of the systematic research which numerous eminent antiquarians have made among the bells in various parts of the country.

A NOTEWORTHY JUBILEE.

Fifty years ago exactly, Amherst Daniel Tyssen, of Merton College, Oxford, published in Vol. xvi. of the *Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections*, "the inscriptions on all the bells of Sussex then existing and a disquisition concerning them," which was the very first complete county bell history ever published, and which was also produced in volume form. At that time there were many unsolved mysteries about the Pre-Reformation bells, which, in contrast to the method, introduced when bell founding revived after the Reformation, of putting the founder's name and the date upon the castings, contained no such information. Mr. Tyssen's early work did something to elucidate the puzzles, but it has only been by the gradual extension of the investigations to numerous other counties by other men, such as the Rev. H. T. Ellacombe, Canon Raven, Mr. J. C. L. Stahlschmidt and Mr. H. B. Walters—to mention but a few of the best known—that the history of these ancient bells and their founders have been pieced together with anything like certainty. Mr. A. D. Tyssen began the work fifty years ago, and since then about two dozen other counties have had their bells systematically surveyed, while books of a more comprehensive nature, covering the whole country generally, have also been issued. Mr. Tyssen has lived to re-publish his original work upon its jubilee, not merely in the old and, necessarily, somewhat limited form, but as a volume expanded by a wealth of new information gleaned from the discoveries of more recent years in other parts of England. The fact that Mr. Tyssen should have been spared to undertake, at an age of more than four-score years, the publication of another volume of this kind, is more than noteworthy, and in this connection, also, one may be permitted a personal note. On the desk before me lies the new book side by side with a copy of the original issue of half a century ago. The older volume was a gift to writer's grandfather by the author, as is testified on the fly-leaf, and this time-stained book has been a cherished possession to three generations of ringers.

What Mr. Tyssen's new book does is to gather up the threads, scattered through the history of bell founding, which have come to light in the past half-century, and draw them together so that we may have, as nearly complete as possible, the story of the ancient bells of Sussex. By an analysis of their inscriptions and decorations, and a comparison with bells in other parts of the country, there are few Pre-Reformation bells in the county which are not accurately identified, both as to date and founder, and in this Mr. Tyssen does bell lovers good service. In this respect, too, the volume is of much wider interest than to merely Sussex readers. The analysis deals with a large number of bells outside the county as well as those within its borders, and the volume is illustrated by numerous plates of the stops and medallions as well as the lettering found on the ancient bells. The concluding portion of the volume, which covers more than 200 pages in all, is devoted to a reproduction of the original book, with additional explanatory notes.

THE OLDEST DATED BELL IN ENGLAND.

Although for this new volume the author had much of the material ready to hand, the work shows prodigious pains in its preparation, and much care in the analysis of conflicting evidence, the result being that, in general, the conclusions, arrived at are convincing. There is only one thing in which a sense of disappointment strikes me. For the purposes of his work, Mr. Tyssen treats the condition of affairs in 1864 in the present tense. For the purpose of his consideration of the history of ancient bells this is perfectly satisfactory, but, during the 50 years which have elapsed since the information was originally collected, the bells in over 50 of the towers in Sussex at that time have been increased in number. Augmentation, as we know, is often accompanied by the recasting of some of the existing bells, while there are, of course, numerous cases in which the recasting of cracked bells

or bells out of time takes place without any increase being made in the number. Whether any of the very old bells in the county of Sussex have disappeared since 1864 through this means I do not know, and I am sorry that Mr. Tyssen has not told us which of the bells, catalogued in his original volume, still remain. In 1864 there were in Sussex 106 bells cast prior to 1570, 29 belonging to the period 1570—1599, 239 from 1600—1699, 371 from 1700—1799, and 205 to the 19th century.

English bell founders prior to 1570 (which date, it is interesting to note, is that which is believed to be the date of the establishment of the Whitechapel Foundry by Robert Mott) seldom put the date on their bells, although foreign founders appear to have done so. The fact that the little church of Duncton contains a bell cast in Holland in 1369, gives it the possession of the oldest dated bell in the county, and very likely in the whole of England. In Mr. Tyssen's opinion the spoliation of the churches which took place in the middle of the 16th century was not so extensive in Sussex as to much affect the present rarity of ancient bells in the county, and, as accidents destroying the towers and everything in them are fortunately of rare occurrence, the chief part of the blame for their disappearance is attributable to the remodelling of old peals to suit them for change ringing and the ordinary wear and tear of the bells themselves. It is a well known fact that many churches in former times had fewer bells, but heavier than at present.

INTERESTING FACTS.

Many interesting facts and conjectures are contained in the volume. For instance, we find the Reformation marking the period of a distinct change in the methods of founders. To those before the Reformation Mr. Tyssen gives a word of praise for the spirit exhibited by their inscriptions. "We find," he says, "an almost complete abnegation of self. We see neither churchwardens recording their names, nor bell-founders advertising their business. There is merely a little expression of religious sentiment. It may not be made in the way in which we should manifest our feelings, but still it was well meant; it was according to what our ancestors believed to be the right method of serving God. We could wish to see all modern bell founders putting pretty mottoes on their bells and making them works of art, pleasing to the eye as well as the ear. And I may mention that I believe one secret of making bells pleasant both to the ear and eye is to heat the mould before the metal is poured into it."

Then, too, we learn that this same period—the middle of the sixteenth century—saw a noticeable removal of bell founders from London. "Possibly," says Mr. Tyssen, "they thought that the exercise of their trade exposed them to charges of heresy or idolatry, and that such charges were more likely to be preferred in the ferment of the Metropolis than in the less excited atmosphere of the provincial towns. Certain it is that the business of bell founding fell to a very low ebb in London at the time of the Reformation. The uncertainty as to the outcome of the religious controversies, and the sale of old bells from the suppressed monasteries, doubtless affected the trade in bells all over the country, but London appears to have suffered most from these adverse influences. Hardly any bells exist which have been recognised as cast in London between the years 1530 and 1570, and there are hardly any unidentified bells which can by any possibility be attributed to London founders between those two dates. The effects of this loss of business were felt for a century and a half. In Post-Reformation times many provincial foundries sprang up, and it was not until after the year 1700 that London regained the pre-eminence which it formerly possessed as a centre of bell founding."

BELL HISTORY.

Sketching the history of bells after the Reformation, Mr. Tyssen points out that the change from ancient to modern bells is surprising. "The character and lettering of the inscriptions," the author informs us, "are completely changed, and to a slight extent the form of the bells themselves. For the character of the inscription, we nearly always find the date and generally the name or initials of the founder; we still find some sacred inscriptions, but more often modern rhymes, and the names of rectors and churchwardens. And for the lettering, we find few 'black letter,' and those few very poor imitations, the majority of the inscriptions, in the early part of the modern period, being in low, flat Roman letters, without any attempt at ornamentation; whereas the ancient 'black letter' was bold and regular, and the capitals graceful in form, and often ornamental, as in illuminations. Most of the ancient foundries seem to have died out, and their stamps, with a few exceptions, were lost. This period—that is to say, the beginning of Queen Elizabeth's reign—was the great epoch in the history of bell founding.

"As regards the change, part was probably due to the change in religion, and part was a change to which everything in the country was subject—the introduction of Roman letters and Arabic numerals. Part was also caused by the spoliation of which we may enumerate three distinct periods, in the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI. and Elizabeth. That in the reign of Henry VIII. consisted chiefly in the dissolution of the monasteries, and what can have become of the hundreds of bells that came from them? Many, it is said, were sold and exported out of the country, but many more must have been sold in England. And this, coupled with the great diminution of the demand for bells, caused by the dissolution, must have been ruinous to the bell founders of the time. . . . Reading and London are the only two places, in this quarter of England, at which there appear to

have been bell foundries during the reigns of Edward VI, and Philip and Mary. And we lose sight of both of these for a few years in the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This was the third period of spoliation, and there was then a strong feeling against all such things as 'noryshe any kinde of superstition.'

A REVIVAL IN FOUNDING.

"But on the 19th of September, 1560, a royal proclamation was issued, forbidding monuments to be defaced or bells to be stolen. This tells us that 'the covetousness of certain persons is such that, as patrons of churches or owners of the parsonages unappropriated, or by some other colour or pretence, they do persuade with the parson or parishioners to take, or throw downe the bells of the churches and chapels, and the lead of the same, to their private gain, and to the spoils of the said places,' and adds that, 'Her Majesty doth expressly forbid any manner of person to take away any bells, or lead of any church, or chapel now used, or that ought to be used, with public and divine service.'"

It was not until ten years after this, however, that there was any revival in the art of bell founding, and even then it was not a time at which bell founders were likely to make fortunes. Mr. Tyssen quotes from papers in the Record Office, showing that there were two petitions by Robert Mott, of Whitechapel, Bell Founder, to the Lord High Treasurer, in 1578, in which he petitions for the payment of a debt of £10 10s. due to him for eight years past, from Henry Howard, Esq., adding that "your said poor orator is greatly impoverished and come into decay, and is likely every day to be arrested for such debts as he oweth." A great movement in favour of bells, Mr. Tyssen reminds us, began before the end of the 16th century which, with a break during the Civil War and the Commonwealth has continued to the present day, and it is interesting to note, as a tribute from an outside investigator, that the author attributes the revival in large measure to the introduction of the modern system of ringing.

Enough has been said, I think, to show that Mr. Tyssen's book, although dealing primarily with Sussex bells, has an interest very much wider than the county itself, and, while it is a publication that all lovers of bell archæology will welcome, it is just the right kind of book to whet the appetite of those ringers who, hitherto, have failed to realise the fascination there is in the history of the ancient bells they ring. Indeed, it is a volume that should be in the possession of every lover of bells.

"The Church Bells of Sussex" is published by Messrs. Farncombe and Co., Ltd., Lewes, at 5s. net (post free 5s. 4d.).

J. S. G.

RINGING AT SHREWSBURY.

Among many touches rung recently at Shrewsbury Churches have been the following by members of the Salop Archidiaconal Guild and the St. Chad's Society:—

On August 8th, at St. Chad's Church, 287 Grandsire Caters: J. T. Wall 1, J. Tudor 2, G. Byolin 3, W. Brookes 4, G. Scarratt 5, G. Jones 6, W. R. Stockdale 7, A. Fullick 8, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 9, H. F. Turner 10.—On August 13th, 207 Stedman Caters: C. R. Lilley (conductor) 1, G. Scarratt 2, G. Byolin 3, J. Tudor 4, W. Brookes 5, G. Jones 6, W. R. Stockdale 7, E. V. Rodenhurst (first touch of Stedman Caters) 8, A. Fullick 9, H. Jones 10. Also 224 Kent Treble Bob Major. Recently, at St. Alkmund's, 576 Kent Treble Bob Major: J. Tudor 1, W. Brookes 2, G. Byolin 3, G. Jones 4, W. R. Stockdale 5, W. J. Taylor 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 8.—At St. Mary's, on August 1st, 560 Bob Major: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brookes 3, G. Jones 4, W. R. Stockdale 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley (cond.) 8. Also 252 Stedman Triples: C. R. Lilley (cond.) 1, J. Tudor 2, G. Scarratt 3, G. Jones 4, W. R. Stockdale 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, A. Fullick 7, J. Wynn 8.—At St. Chad's, on Friday, August 20th, the society met Mr. A. Sidebottom, of Rochdale, and rang a touch of 180 Bob Royal: G. Scarratt 1, T. Peel 2, G. Byolin 3, W. Brookes 4, C. R. Lilley 5, W. Weatherby 6, G. Jones 7, E. V. Rodenhurst 8, A. Fullick 9, A. Sidebottom 10. Also 160 Bob Major: W. Brookes 1, G. Byolin 2, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 3, W. Weatherby 4, G. Jones 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, A. Fullick 7, A. Sidebottom 8. Also 224 Kent Treble Bob Major: C. Scarratt 1, W. Brookes 2, G. Byolin 3, W. Weatherby 4, G. Jones 5, E. V. Rodenhurst 6, A. Fullick 7, C. R. Lilley 8.—On August 22nd, Mr. J. W. Jones, of Newport, Mon., paid a visit to St. Chad's, and the following touches were rung: 160 of Bob Major and 504 Stedman Triples. In the evening, 360 Bob Royal: J. Tudor 1, J. W. Jones 2, W. Brookes 3, G. Jones 4, E. R. T. Corbett 5, W. Weatherby 6, W. Stockdale 7, E. V. Rodenhurst 8, A. Fullick 9, C. R. Lilley (conductor) 10. Also 198 Grandsire Cinques: J. Tudor 1, J. W. Jones 2, C. R. Lilley 3, W. Brookes 4, G. Byolin 5, G. Scarratt 6, E. R. Trevor-Corbett 7, W. Weatherby 8, W. Stockdale 9, G. Jones 10, A. Fullick 11, H. Jones 12. Also 264 Bob Maximus: G. Scarratt 1, J. Tudor 2, W. Brookes 3, J. W. Jones 4, G. Byolin 5, G. Jones 6, E. R. T. Corbett 7, W. Weatherby 8, W. R. Stockdale 9, E. V. Rodenhurst 10, A. Fullick 11, C. R. Lilley 12. First course of Maximus by all the band except the ringer of the tenor; also the first course of Bob Maximus on the bells, and by the Guild.

DEATH OF MR. RICHARD FRENCH.

On Sunday, August 15th, at his native Exeter, there passed away, after a prolonged illness, the well-known ringer, Mr. Richard French, at the age of 64 years.

Coming to London in March, 1874, Mr. French soon afterwards joined the College Youths, the St. James's and Waterloo Societies, and with his keen enthusiasm for change-ringing, he became one of the celebrities of the Metropolis.

For many years he was a member of the St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey bands, and he also rang at St. Lawrence Jewry and most of the other City churches on festive occasions.

Mr. French was also a member of the Devonshire Guild and the Yorkshire Association. The exact number of his peals, which is a very considerable one both in the tower and on handbells, and in a variety of methods on from eight to twelve bells, is, unfortunately, at present unknown, but for the Yorks Association he had rung six peals, and for the Devon Guild 10, of which he had conducted seven.

Mr. French was one of the band of College Youths who, in the early eighties, did a good deal to popularise the ringing of Double Norwich Major in London, the first of the peals by this particular band being at St. Giles-in-the-Fields on March 25th, 1882. A footnote to the record in the society's books states that: "It is upwards of 40 years since a peal in this method was rung by this society," while Mr. Jasper Snowdon, in his history of Double Norwich, says, of the peal that "the performance may be said to mark a new era in the Double Norwich Court method."

The funeral took place at Exeter on Wednesday, the 18th ult., and on Saturday, August 21st, the "whole pull and stand" was rung at Southwark Cathedral by E. Horrex, E. Gibbs, H. Springall, C. F. Winney (conductor), A. W. Grimes, C. Lee, S. E. Joyce, R. W. Green, T. Langdon, W. Prime, W. T. Cockerill and A. S. Pettett, followed by three courses of Stedman Cinques, in which W. Langdon and S. Southby took part.—R.I.P.

THE OPENING AT CHRIST CHURCH, ERITH.

To the Editor.

Sir,—I must apologise for breaking my word, by writing again, but I think Mr. Barnett's concoction of personalities and evasions require an answer.

Mr. Barnett plainly shows by his letter that he cherishes some feeling against me, which he has not had the principle to tell me face to face, but uses an occasion like this to let it out. But so far from hurting my feelings, I must thank him for enlightening me as to the methods pursued by himself and some of his circle, and I can assure him I shall have no cause to hang my head, whatever disclosures he makes about "Swanscombe" (three and a half years ago), or he can go back still further if he wishes to thoroughly blacken me in the ringing world, and I have no fear of results.

I can tell Mr. Barnett this much, that I have for some time been aware of an undercurrent in which he was involved, but I have been a ringer long enough to know that these things will occur. At the same time, when men in the district, for whom I have done my best during the time I have held office, vent their feelings as he has done over this, it only confirms in my mind that my action at the last meeting was justified, for while I have always been prepared to do my best, I fail to see reason in doing it for such repayment as this.

This is my answer to Mr. Barnett and any further personalities he cares to bring up will be treated with the contempt they deserve, as mud-throwing is hardly the favourite hobby of Yours truly,

Chislehurst.

T. GROOMBRIDGE, Senr.

A CORRECTION.

A slight error crept into our report of Mr. J. E. Whouldon's ringing career, which appeared in our last issue. We spoke of the first non-conducted peal in the district on August 25th, 1896; this should have been the first "hand-conducted" peal. The ringer of the tenor called the first and last 720, and the other ringers called a 720 each.

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RINGERS WHO HOLD COMMISSIONS.

We give this week the photographs of two well known members of the Exercise who are serving in the Army, in which they hold commissions.



LIEUT. CYRIL F. JOHNSTON,
Royal Fusiliers.



LIEUT. E. MAURICE ATKINS,
Royal Engineers.

Lieut. Cyril Johnston, who is best known to ringers from his connection with the Croydon Bell Foundry, joined the Army soon after the outbreak of war as a subaltern in the Public Schools Battalions of the Royal Fusiliers. The battalions during the year have been a training ground for officers, Lieut. Johnston's battalion alone having supplied about one thousand to the new Army. In this respect it has done splendid work, and Lieut. Johnston would like to get into its ranks sufficient ringers to form a Ringers' Platoon. Those ringers who would like to be associated with other members of the Exercise in their military duties should communicate with Lieut. Johnston, at the 98th Infantry Brigade Depot, Farm Camp, Epsom.

Lieut. E. Maurice Atkins, whose home is at Isham, Northants, holds a commission in the Royal Engineers, for which his previous training eminently fitted him. Only this week his company joined the British Expeditionary Force in France. Lieut. Atkins' name first came prominently before the Exercise from his association with the Cambridge University Guild, being one of the band which a year or two ago achieved many capital handbell performances, and revived the activities of the Guild after a period of comparative quiescence. But Lieut. Atkins has, in addition, done much for ringing in Northamptonshire, and his peals have been spread from end to end of the country.

A FAREWELL TO SOLDIERS.

As a farewell to the ringer-soldiers who have been for some few weeks stationed at Woking, and who have since left on active service, an evening's ringing was arranged on Saturday at the neighbouring church of Horsell, by kind permission of the Vicar (the Rev N. Pates, R.D.), who visited the tower to wish the soldiers "God-speed and a safe return." A 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor was rung by J. S. Goldsmith (Woking), conductor, 1, Pte F. Kilborn (7th Northants Regt.) 2, Lce.-Cpl. C. H. Clarke (7th Northants Regt.) 3, A. H. Pulling (Guildford) 4, Lance-Corpl. C. S. Faulkner (7th Northants Regt.) 5, Sergt. E. Attwater (9th Royal Sussex Regt.) 6. Afterwards 120 Stedman Doubles and touches of Plain Bob and Double Court were rung, and the party subsequently had supper together.

RINGERS' HOLIDAYS IN HARVEST FIELD.

The Secretary of the Oxford Guild (Mr. A. E. Reeves) and the lady member of the Guild Committee (Miss M. E. Chillingworth) have spent their holidays by working in the harvest fields at Bradfield. They have been putting the corn into shocks, and Miss Chillingworth has alone shocked no less than 40 acres, including 15 acres of bearded wheat. Those who know anything of harvest work will readily understand what a task Miss Chillingworth set herself, for the long prickles of the bearded wheat get into one's skin and make one feel all of a creep. Although the days were tiring and hands felt something like they do after ringing a peal with a bad going bell, the amateur harvesters felt pleased that they had been able to "do their bit."

BELLS OF ENGLISH CHURCHES.

ST. DUNSTAN, STEPNEY.

By J. R. JERRAM.

"When will that be? say the bells of Stepney."

At the present time the tower contains a peal of ten bells, tenor 56½ inches in diameter, weight 31 cwt. 1 qr. 7 lbs.; also a clock-bell. They were cast from a former peal of eight with additional metal. Their history is so fully described in the inscriptions that it is needless to say more about it here.

The inscriptions are all in plain large and small Roman capitals; but they are given below in ordinary type; as to imitate the original would take up too much space.

Treble.

"Geo^e Harper D.D. Rector, Matthew Easum, Robt Turner, Wm Wade, Wm Thompson, Geo^e Everitt, Church Wardens. T. Mears & Son, London, Fecit, 1806
~~~~~"

#### Second, Third, Fourth, and Fifth.

"Geo<sup>e</sup> Harper D.D. Rector, Matthew Easum, Robt Turner, Wm Wade, Wm Thompson, Geo<sup>e</sup> Everitt, Church Wardens. T. Mears & Son of Whitechapel Fecit 1806  
~~~~~"

Sixth.

"To the pious memory of Mrs. Prisca Coborn a liberal Benefactress to the Seamens Widows of this Parish. FFFF T. Mears & Son Fecit 1806~~~~~"

Seventh

"The following Inscription was upon the 6th Bell of the late Peal. ~~~~~ VIRGINIS EGREGIAE VOCOR CAMPANA MARIAE 1603. T. Mears & Son fecit 1806."

Eighth.

"To the Honour of the Volunteers of the Parish of St. Dunstan Stepney, the Ratcliff Corps Commanded by John Boulcott Esq^r Major, the M.E.O.T. by Wm Thompson Esq^r Lt. Colonel, Poplar & Blackwall by John Wells Esq^r Lt. Colonel, 1806."

[N.B. M.E.O.T. in this inscription stands for "Mile End Old Town."]

Ninth.

"To the Honour of St Charles Wager Knt. First Lord of the Admiralty 1729. Patron of Stepney or Cockney's Feast Instituted at Ratcliff in the year 1674. And discontinued 1784. John Matthews Esq^r Treasurer. T. Mears & Son Fecit 1806 FFFFF"

Tenor.

"The late Tenor wt. 49 cwts. was given to the Priory of the Holy Trinity Dukes Place Aldgate by Nicholas Chadworth and: renewed by Thomas Marsow 1386 was sold with three others by St Thomas Audley to the Parish of St Dunstons Stepney: about the year 1540. Recast 1602. 1764 & 1799. The late Peal of Eight Bells were Recast into Ten by Thomas Mears & Son, 1806, in the presence of Geo Harper D.D. Rector. Revd Thos Thirlwall Lecturer. Mr. Mattw Easum Robt Turner: Wm Wade Wm Thompson Geo Everitt Church Wardens. Jno. Curtis Esq^r Jno. Edwards Esq^r Jeremh Snow Esq^r Jno. Paulin Esq^r Mr. James Barnfield Wm. Simons Mattw Warton Surveyor Jno. Salter Vestry Clerk."

Clock-bell.

"C. & G. Mears founders, London."

The inscription on the tenor is the longest I know of, and occupies six lines round the bell. It comprises 118 words and 518 letters.

The following are among the early peals that were rung on these bells by the Junior Cumberland Youths, 5039 Grandsire Caters March 8th, 1807; also 5075 Grandsire Caters, Feb. 1st, 1824; also by the Junior College Youths, 5200 Oxford Treble Bob Royal, Feb. 24th, 1808; and 5079 Stedman Caters, Feb. 15th, 1834. Many other peals have, of course, been rung on the bells.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING AT HOWDEN.

The quarterly meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association was held at Howden on Saturday. About 50 ringers turned up from all parts of the district, and the bells were set going early in the afternoon. About 3.30, however, a stop was made on account of a public meeting, which was being held in the Market Place, and during this interval in the ringing an inspection of the historic old church was made.

In the unavoidable absence of the Vicar of Howden, the Rev. C. C. Potts, Vicar of Laxton, pointed out some of the main points of interest in the church, which undoubtedly ranks amongst the finest and most beautiful of all the Yorkshire Churches. No traces of the original Norman Church, mentioned in Domesday Book, remain. The church, which is cruciform, was made Collegiate in the 13th century, probably by Robert, Bishop of Durham, in 1268. The dimensions of the church are as follows: Nave 107ft., choir 109ft., total length of transept 112ft. The nave is a beautiful specimen of decorated work, with a simple but remarkably beautiful west front, surmounted by exquisite open work turrets. Adjoining this front is the "Perpendicular" Grammar School. The nave consists of six bays, covered by a modern waggon roof, under which the "weather moulding" of an earlier roof is plainly seen against the west wall of the lower. Above the decorated south porch, now used as a vestry, is a parvise-chamber, with a blocked door into the church. The transepts are the earliest part of the church, and both the south and north doors are said to be Early English. In the south transept are a carving of the Annunciation, an altar tomb, and the carved figure of a priest, and railed in, what is known as the Saltmarsh Chapel, with three piscinas, a stone altar slab, a beautiful altar tomb, a recumbent effigy in chain armour, and the arms of Metham, Saltmarsh, etc., in the windows. The chancel is blocked in from the tower by the former rood-screen, now used as a reredos, of late Perpendicular work. The chancel is in a state of ruin, but enough remains in the ornate decorated style to denote its former magnificence, and especially of the glorious east window. The lovely ruined Chapter House is reached from the south of the chancel by an ogee headed doorway, giving access to a short vaulted Perpendicular passage, to the east of which is a small chantry. The choir is said to have fallen into ruins about 1700.

At Howden the Bishop of Durham formerly had a palace, of which there are still some slight remains, built at some date unknown, but largely improved by Bishop Skirlaugh, c. 1388-1406: while in the market place are the relics of the old stone cross.

The visitors afterwards partook of tea at the Mission Hall, 55 ringers doing full justice to a splendid repast. The business meeting was subsequently held, Mr. A. E. West, the vice-president, presiding.

The Secretary announced that during the year eight new members had joined the Association in the eastern district, and the result of the new members elected that day would be the beginning of a branch at Thorne. The new tower would start with three new members of the Association, and he hoped before the next meeting to have the pleasure of journeying to Thorne to witness the other recruits in the art of change ringing being put through their first 720.

It was decided to ask permission to hold the next meeting at Sherburn-in-Elmet. This was another tower where no members of the Association at present existed, but it was felt the holding of a meeting there would do good, and it was hoped would be the means of another tower being opened.

A vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of the bells and to all those who had assisted to make the meeting a success was carried, and the meeting was brought to a close.

The bells were again set going, and several touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob, and Stedman Triples were well struck. Some amusement was caused by the seemingly difficult handling of the bells, and the missing of the salices, the real cause of which, however, was the enormous length of rope.

The bells were lowered about 7.30, and a most enjoyable, instructive, and successful meeting was brought to a close.

MELBOURN, CAMBS.—For evening service on August 8th. 720 Bob Minor: F. Wall 1, H. B. Day (composer and conductor) 2. C. S. Gouldthorp 3. J. W. Ward 4, W. J. Winter 5, F. C. Harper 6.

PLYMOUTH.—On Sunday, August 8th, at H.M. Chapel the Dockyard, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: E. W. Marsh 1, W. Ford 2, W. G. Hiscott 3, W. Richards 4, J. Woodley 5, W. Rundle (conductor) 6, Private W. White (Somerset L.I.) 7, G. Kerswill 8.

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX.—On August 8th, at All Saints' Church, for morning service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor in 25 mins.: F. Ward 1, A. Speller (Widford) 2, W. Hawkes 3, H. E. Parker (Barking) 4, M. Windley 5, H. Sharpington (conductor) 6.

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NOTICES.

The EDITORIAL OFFICE of "THE RINGING WORLD," to which all communications should be sent, is 9, COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.—Ringing for Divine service at St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, the third Sunday, at 10 o'clock. Meetings for practice at Shoreditch every Monday at 8 p.m.—H. J. Bradley, Parish Church, Shoreditch.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South Western Division.—A bye meeting will be held at Dagenham on Saturday, September 4th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5 o'clock. Tea, for which a small charge will be made, in Church Hall after service.—H. Rumens, Honorary District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. John's, Hackney, on September 7th and 21st; and for service on the 12th at 6 p.m. At the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for handbell practice on the 9th and 23rd, and for business on the 14th and 28th. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m. The others at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (10) available from 3.30. Tea at 5.30, 6d. to those members who inform me by September 9th of their intention to be present. Members and friends cordially invited.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Secretary, 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION (South Eastern Division).—The annual meeting will be held at Prittlewell on Saturday, September 11th. Will all those intending to be present please notify F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle, Chelmsford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next meeting will be held at Brighouse on Saturday, September 11th. Bells (8) available from 2 p.m. Tea, 1s. per head, at 5 p.m., in Schools, to all giving notice to G. Drake, 3, Empsall Row, Bonegate Road, Brighouse, not later than 7th prox. All ringers welcome.—P. L. Cooper, Hon. District Secretary, 12, Willoughby Avenue, Holbeck.

BEDFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The summer festival will be held at Leighton Buzzard on September 11th. The Leighton bells will be available at 2.30 and the Linsdale bells at 6.30. Tea at Woods and Co., High Street, at 5. Service at Leighton Church at 6, with an address by the Rev. J. J. A. Stockton. — A. Rust, Hon. Secretary.

BATH AND WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Bridgwater Deanery Branch.—The quarterly meeting of the above will be held at Stockland on Saturday, September 11th. Bells available at 2 p.m.; service at 4 p.m.; tea 5 p.m.; meeting to follow. Cannington bells will be available from 6 p.m.—A. E. Moulton, Hon. Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. Bartholomew's, on Saturday, September 11th. Bells available at 5 p.m., meeting 7 p.m.—G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.—A cycle run to Trysull will take place on Saturday, September 11th. Meet at 3 o'clock.—H. Knight, Hon. Secretary.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Eastern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Prittlewell on Saturday, September 11th. Service 5 o'clock at St. Mary's Church. Tea 9d. each to members, and meeting at Blue Boar. Will all those intending to be present please notify me not later than Wednesday, September 8th. — F. W. Edwards, Clifton Villas, Writtle, Chelmsford.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Moor-side on Saturday, September 18th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting 6.30.—T. K. Driver, Secretary, 12, Union Street, Middleton.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Liverpool Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Nicholas', Liverpool, on Saturday, September 18th. Bells ready at 4 p.m. — Walter Hughes.

WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATIONS.—Northern Branch.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Alvechurch on Saturday, September 18th. The bells (8) will be available for ringing from 3 p.m. Service in the church at 4.45. Business meeting in the schools at 5.30. The election of officers for this branch takes place at this meeting. Tea in the schools, 10d. each, will be provided for all who let me know on or before Wednesday, September 15th.—E. J. Dowler, 11, Edward Road, Bournbrook, Birmingham, Branch Secretary.

PEAL BOOKS.—Price 3s., post free 3/6. Peals written in at 3d. per page. Prices for entering peals in Association official peal books upon application.—J. Beams, West Ewell, Epsom.

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS.

RINGERS and visitors to Matlock will find every comfort and convenience at Mrs. H. Paulson's, Beech House.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

FARNHAM ROYAL, BUCKS.—At St. Mary's Church, on June 16th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins.: J. J. Parker 1, E. Harding 2, W. Walden 3, J. Elderfield 4, J. Walden 5, W. H. Fussell (conductor) 6.

COCKERMOUTH, CUMBERLAND.—At All Saints' Church, on August 1st, for service, 360 Bob Minor: R. Potts 1, J. Casson 2, J. Tickle 3, J. Winthrop 4, W. Holmes (conductor) 5, T. Casson 6, G. Martin 7 (covering). Also 360 Bob Minor by the same band, with J. Tickle (conductor).

NORTHAMPTON.—At St. Giles' Church, for evening service, on August 8th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1260 changes): R. Rogers 1, A. W. Coles 2, A. Andrews 3, H. Key 4, F. Wiltford 5, A. Moore 6, S. Millwood 7, W. Rogers (conductor) 8, G. Flavell 9, E. James 10. Arranged for Messrs. A. Moore and A. Andrews, of Daventry.

WRENTHAM, SUFFOLK.—On August 1st, for morning service, 480 Oxford Treble Bob, and 240 Bob Minor.—Evening service, 480 Kent Treble Bob, and 360 Oxford Treble Bob, the following taking part: G. Bertram, A. J. Naunton, J. Spencer, W. H. P. Mellin, L. Naunton, E. Chatten, Private T. King, N. R. Bailey, F. W. Naunton (conductor).

PORTSEA.—At the Parish Church on Sunday, August 1st, 504 Stedman Triples, conducted by F. W. Thornton (Greenwich) and 360 Bob Major, conducted by E. J. Harding: H. Hoptrough 1, C. Groves 2, F. Burrow 3, A. Collins 4, J. Symonds 5, C. Creasy 6, F. W. Thornton 7, E. J. Harding 8.—On August 8th, 504 Stedman Triples: J. Harris 1, J. Symonds 2, C. Groves 3, H. Hoptrough 4, E. Reynolds 5, F. Burrow 6, E. J. Harding (conductor) 7, G. Holloway 8.

BRAY, BERKS.—At St. Michael's Church, on August 5th, 720 Bob Minor, in 32 mins.: W. Garraway 1, W. Welling 2, T. S. Smith (1st 720) 3, T. Goodchild 4, W. Henley 5, G. Martin (conductor) 6.

CHILVERS COTTON.—On August 7th, by kind permission of the Vicar, touches of Cambridge, Superlative, Double Norwich, Treble Bob, Stedman and Grandsire were rung by Nuneaton, Cotton and Coventry ringers. Arranged for Mr. Balcombe (of Coventry) and Mr. Dexter (Leicester).

NUNEATON.—On August 8th, for morning service, at the Parish Church, 704 Cambridge Surprise Major: H. Argyle 1, R. Pollard 2, W. Horton 3, F. Dexter (Leicester) 4, G. Stoneley 5, J. Clarke 6, J. F. Clarke, senr., 7, T. W. Chapman 8. For evening service, two courses of Cambridge and three courses of Superlative: W. Martin 1, R. Pollard 2, H. Argyle 3, F. Dexter 4, E. Stone 5, J. Clarke 6, J. F. Clarke 7, T. W. Chapman 8. Rung as a farewell to E. Stone, who left Nuneaton the following day with the 216th Fortress Company for Cosham, Portsmouth.

BLACKPOOL.—At St. John's Parish Church, for the thanksgiving service, on August 9th, terminating the successful mission of the Bishop of Manchester, 504 Grandsire Triples: L. Green 1, H. Bentley 2, W. Wilkinson 3, T. H. Parkin (Scunthorpe) 4, H. Threlfall 5, F. Greenwood (conductor) 6, J. Smith 7, J. Winter 8. On Sunday evening, August 8th, 504 Grandsire Triples, conducted by Mr. T. H. Parkin, as above.

GORSEINON.—West Wales Association.—On Saturday, August 14th, at St. Catherine's Church, 720 Grandsire Doubles, in 21 mins.: G. Ellicott 1, S. Perry 2, A. Hoare 3, W. Dobbins 4, J. Hoare (conductor) 5, F. Webber 6. First 720 on the bells, also the longest touch by the ringers of the treble and tenor. The ringers of the 2, 3 and 5 hail from Swansea.

SPRINGFIELD, ESSEX.—On August 15th, at All Saints' Church, for morning service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 24 mins.: F. Ward 1, A. Speller (Widford) 2, W. Hawkes 3, H. E. Parker (Barking) 4, E. Clarke (Broomfield) 5, H. Sharpington (conductor) 6.

KELSEA, SUFFOLK.—On August 15th, for morning service, 1344 Supulative Surprise Major: G. Hardy 1, W. Drew 2, E. S. Bailey 3, E. H. Bailey 4, J. M. Bailey 5, W. Stredwick 6, G. Rumsey 7, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 8.

LEISTON, SUFFOLK.—On August 15th, for evening service, 1008 Stedman Triples: J. G. Rumsey 1, E. S. Bailey 2, E. H. Bailey 3, A. Keeble 4, W. Stredwick 5, J. M. Bailey 6, C. F. Bailey (conductor) 7, J. Titterton 8. The above touches were rung to oblige Mr. W. Stredwick, of Brighton.

RICHMOND, YORKS.—On Sunday evening, August 15th, at St. Mary's belfry, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: Signaller Robson 1, J. T. Frenchum 2, G. Holmes 3, T. Watkin 4, J. Watkin 5, R. Willis (conductor) 6. The conductor is 17 years of age, the ringer of the 5th is 17 years of age, and the ringer of the 4th 16 years of age. The last-named rang his first 720 on August 1st, this being also 720 Kent Treble Bob: H. Thorpe 1, J. Watkin 2, J. T. Frenchum 3, T. Watkin 4, R. Willis 5, G. Holmes (conductor) 6. The ringing was good from such a young band.

SCUNTHORPE.—On Sunday evening, August 15th, 504 changes Grandsire Triples: H. Parkin 1, C. H. Bird 2, W. A. Miller 3, T. H. Parkin (conductor) 4, T. P. Hocknell 5, H. Strickland 6, G. Vamplen 7, G. Ella 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect for the late Mr. H. Dickinson, who was for many years a member of St. John's Parish Church Choir.

ACTON.—At St. Mary's Church, for men's service, on August 15th, a quarter-peal (1280 changes) of Kent Treble Bob Major, in 44 mins.: Robt. Holloway (first in the method) 1, A. W. Davis (first in the method away from treble) 2, G. Iles 3, A. W. Darlington 4, C. Hunt 5, A. Harding 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, J. Armiger Trollope 8.

STANSTED.—Essex Association.—On August 19th, at the Parish Church, 720 Plain Bob Minor: W. W. Watts 1, T. J. Watts 2, R. Law 3, G. Gray 4, H. W. Watts 5, W. Watts (conductor) 6, F. Potter 8.—On Sunday, August 22nd, for morning service, 280 Grandsire Triples, and for evening service, 182 Grandsire Triples: W. W. Watts 1, G. Gray 2, T. J. Watts 3, R. Law 4, A. Jordan 5, H. W. Watts 6, W. Watts (conductor) 7, F. Potter 8.

LONG BATON.—On August 20th, prior to a memorial service for those fallen in the war, held in St. Saviour's Church, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), with bells half-muffled: R. Senehall 1, R. A. H. Hickton 2, J. Hall 3, W. R. Drage 6, T. Hutchinson 5, H. E. Green 6, J. Bailey (conductor) 7, H. Turner 8. The ringers of the 3rd and tenor hail from Sandiacre.

GUILDFORD.—At Holy Trinity Church, on August 22nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples in 47 mins.: B. Chorley 1, W. E. Jelley 2, J. Harlow 3, H. Hulton 4, C. N. Burdock 5, H. Burdock 6, O. Hazelden (conductor) 7, H. Harris 8. Arranged for Gunner J. Harlow, of St. Edward's Parish Church Company, Leek, Staffs.

EASTON NESTON, NORTHANTS.—On Sunday, August 22nd, for divine service, and also to commemorate the 88th birthday of the Vicar, the Rev. R. C. Collings, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: J. Sharke 1, R. Christian 2, F. Hopper 3, W. J. Allen 4, Lce.-Corpl. C. Sharke 5, Lce.-Corpl. C. Faulkner 6, W. Sharp (conductor) 7, T. Law 8. Mr. R. Christian hails from Yarmouth, and Lce.-Cpls. Sharke and Faulkner, of the 7th Northamptonshire Regiment, were home on leave prior to leaving England.

NORTHAMPTON.—At All Saints' Church, for evening service, on August 22nd, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major: H. Blundell 1, A. P. Hensman 2, J. C. Dean 3, J. White 4, H. Rainbow 5, J. T. Hensman 6, W. Farey 7, W. J. Allen (conductor) 8.

BRIDGEND.—At St. Iltyd's Church, on August 22nd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 45 mins.: R. Gregory 1, T. J. Evans 2, W. J. Nulton 3, A. J. Stanley 4, C. J. Perry 5, R. Evans 6, A. J. Pitman (conductor) 7, B. Toby 8.

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