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FRIDAY, MARCH 5th, 1926.

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

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GILLETT AND JOHNSTON

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The Recast Ring of 10 (Tenor 23 cwt.) for
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL, Nov., 1925

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A USEFUL PROPOSAL.

A step towards the better upkeep of some of our belfries would be made if the resolution, which it is suggested the Chester Diocesan Guild should bring to the notice of the Central Council, should be passed by the latter body. The duty of inspecting church bells, as of all other church property, lies with the Rural Dean, who has to present a report to the Bishop. In the case of the bells the Rural Dean, more often than not, we imagine, takes the 'inspection' as completed without climbing the belfry stairs to see for himself what is the condition of affairs up aloft, and, unless he is a ringer, like the Rural Dean who is also president of the Central Council, he probably learns as much by stopping down in the church as he would by adventuring up into the steeple. The consequence is the belfry and its contents do not always come in for that criticism of their condition which they need, and which might lead to improvement in those cases where improvement is not only desirable but a long delayed necessity, if the efficiency of the bells and their fittings is to be maintained.

The Chester Guild proposal, which was discussed last year, and has been again revived in order that it may come before the next Central Council meeting, is that steps be taken with a view to a competent, practical man being appointed in each rural deanery where the Rural Dean has not himself the requisite technical knowledge, to advise as to the condition of bells and belfries. The scheme, if it is found to be practicable, would, we believe, be most valuable in bringing about improvements in the condition of many of our rings of bells, now in a dilapidated condition. Rural Deans and Bishops have no power to enforce restorations of bells, but recommendations coming from this quarter naturally carry great weight with church authorities. At the present time there are many neglected belfries of which Rural Deans and Bishops really know nothing, but given the appointment of a competent and independent advisor for the former, it would not be long before dilapidations in the belfry would be systematically and regularly brought to the notice of those responsible. Such a course, also, would probably in the long run mean a saving of money to the churches, for early notification of defects would enable them to have overhauls carried out at comparatively small cost, where, at present, cumulative neglect eventually results in a big outlay upon a large restoration scheme. The Chester Guild proposal has much to recommend it, and it will be for the Central Council, if they approve of it, to devise the best means of securing its adoption by the Rural Deans.

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TWELVE BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON
DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifty-Six Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY-LE-BOW, CHEAPSIDE.

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAXIMUS, 5280 CHANGES;
Tenor 53 cwt.

WILLIAM H. HEWETT 2	WILLIAM J. NEDDS 7
GEORGE R. PYE 2	ERNEST MORRIS 8
GEORGE STEDMAN MORRIS ... 3	CHARLES W. R. GRIMWOOD ... 9
CHARLES T. COLES 4	HAROLD W. CLARK 10
ALBERT W. COLES 5	REDDEN SANDERS 11
WILLIAM A. CAVE 6	WILLIAM PYE Tenor

Composed by CHARLES J. SEDGLEY. Conducted by WILLIAM PYE

TEN BELL PEAL.

WALTHAMSTOW, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Fourteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERS, 5030 CHANGES;

Tenor 19½ cwt.

R. W. T. MAYNARD, JUN. Treble	JAMES C. ADAMS 6
THOMAS H. TAFFENDER ... 2	GEORGE HAYDEN 7
JOHN H. WILKIN 3	EDWARD D. SMITH 8
EDWARD WALLAGE 4	JAMES GEORGE 9
FREDERICK C. MAYNARD ... 5	ROBERT J. MAYNARD, SEN. Tenor

Composed by JOHN CARTER. Conducted by THOMAS H. TAFFENDER

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 6, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

GROVES' VARIATION OF PARKER'S TWELVE-PART.

*GEORGE A. BAKER Treble	EDWARD F. MITCHELL ... 5
JOHN PERRY 2	WILLIAM H. LAWLEY ... 6
ROBERT PICKERING 3	ALFRED FALLON 7
CHRISTOPHER WALLATER ... 4	J. D. GEORGE HARRIS ... Tenor

Conducted by ALFRED FALLON.

* First peal at first attempt.

ASHTED, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Monday, February 15, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

*WILLIAM COOK Treble	GEORGE COOK 5
JOHN HOYLE 2	JOHN GALYER 6
JOHN BEAMS 3	ALBERT HARMAN 7
GEORGE MARRINER 4	CHARLES H. KIPPIN ... Tenor

Composed by GEORGE WILLIAMS. Conducted by ALBERT HARMAN.

Rung as a birthday compliment to the ringer of the 5th. * First peal in the method.

OXFORD.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(OXFORD SOCIETY.)

On Monday, February 22, 1926, in Three Hours & Thirty-Seven and a Half Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EBBE,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

THURSTANS' FOUR-PART.

Tenor 4 cwt. 3 qr. 19 lb.

CHARLES COLES Treble	VICTOR BENNETT 5
HARRY TOLLEY 2	FREDERICK CLINKARD ... 6
FRANCIS TAYLOR 3	HARRY MILES 7
*WILLIAM COLLETT 4	WILLIAM HARRIS ... Tenor

Conducted by HARRY MILES.

* First peal on eight bells, and in the method. First peal on these bells since their augmentation to eight as a memorial to the late James W. Washbrook.

LONDON.

THE LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

(LATE THE ST. JAMES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 20, 1926, in Three Hours and Twenty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DONSTAN-IN-THE-EAST, CITY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5950 CHANGES,

Miss Elsie E. Chapman ... Treble	George A. Card ... 5
Thomas H. Taffender ... 2	Isaac Emery ... 6
George M. Kilby ... 3	Jeffery R. Gammon ... 7
Leonard H. Baybutt ... 4	Edward D. Smith ... Tenor

Conducted by Thomas H. Taffender.

HORLEY, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Sunday, February 21, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF KENT AND OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR (SPICED), 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 12½ cwt. in G.

George Ellis ... Treble	John F. Galyer ... 5
Daniel Cooper ... 2	Frank E. Darby ... 6
Alfred J. Bull ... 3	Frederick E. Collins ... 7
Thomas G. Bannister ... 4	Chas. H. Kippin ... Tenor

Composed by J. W. Parker. Conducted by Chas. H. Kippin.

First peal of 'Spiced' Treble Bob by all the band except ringers of treble and 3rd. * First peal of Treble Bob. Assumed to be the quickest peal on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. Lucas, vergor and one of the local ringers.

WILLESDEN, MIDDLESEX.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Eight Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES,

Tenor 10 cwt.

Edward Lankester ... Treble	George M. Kilby ... 5
Isaac G. Shade ... 2	J. Armiger Trollope ... 6
Cecil V. Ebberson ... 3	Harry Kilby ... 7
*Miss Ruby Hawkesworth ... 4	James E. Davis ... Tenor

Composed by the late Edgar Wightman.

Conducted by James E. Davis.

* First peal of Double Norwich.

WOLVERHAMPTON.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LUKE,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Original.

Tenor 10 cwt.

*Herbert R. Pickering ... Treble	Alfred Fallon ... 5
Herbert Knight ... 2	William H. Lawley ... 6
Christopher Wallater ... 3	Edward F. Mitchell ... 7
Harry A. Farlow ... 4	Robert Pickering ... Tenor

Conducted by Robert Pickering.

* First peal. E. F. Mitchell has now rung a peal on each of these bells. The conductor has rung this peal in eight different towers, and called it from treble to tenor, and also rung it unconducted.

READING, BERKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(READING BRANCH, ST. GILES' SOCIETY.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 15 cwt.

*Leslie Baker ... Treble	Arthur Bailey ... 5
Ambrose W. Osborne ... 2	Henry Simmonds ... 6
Leonard T. Osborne ... 3	† Alfred Jeffery ... 7
Edgar Humphrey ... 4	Horace Osborne ... Tenor

Composed by F. W. Hopwood. Conducted by A. W. Osborne.

Rung in honour of the appointment of the Rev. Canon F. J. C. Gilmor (Vicar of St. Giles') as Deputy Provincial Grand Master (Freemasons). * First peal and first attempt. † First peal of Major.

ROMFORD, ESSEX.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 15½ cwt.

*Harry Turner ... Treble	William H. Theobald ... 5
George R. Pye ... 2	Ernest J. Butler ... 6
Edwin F. Pike ... 3	*Edward D. Smith ... 7
Arthur C. Chaplin ... 4	*William Leggett ... Tenor

Composed by W. Willson.

Conducted by G. R. Pye.

* First peal in the method, and first attempt.

SUNDERLAND, DURHAM.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 25, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS-THE-MARTYR,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB & BOB MAJOR (SPICED), 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 13 cwt.

Frank Ainsley ... Treble	Thomas W. Ditchburn ... 3
Harold B. Ditchburn ... 2	Thomas H. Naisby ... 6
George S. Taylor ... 3	Joseph W. Parker ... 7
Michael F. Harrison ... 4	Robert L. Patterson ... Tenor

Composed and Conducted by Joseph W. Parker.

These two methods are now rung spiced for the first time, and this peal contains 2,528 changes of each. Rung to commemorate the 13th anniversary of the augmentation of the bells to eight, and also as a birthday compliment to T. Stephenson and R. L. Patterson, all three events occurring on the 23rd inst.

SLEAFORD, LINCOLNSHIRE.

THE LINCOLN DIOCESAN GUILD.

(NORTHERN BRANCH, SLEAFORD DISTRICT.)

On Thursday, February 25, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. DENYS,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Holt's Original.

Tenor 21 cwt.

William Townsend ... Treble	Corpl. H. W. Moody, R.A.F. 5
F/Sgt. F. Holden, R.A.F. 2	Arthur R. Dixon ... 6
*Harry Musson ... 3	Reginald Scott ... 7
Walter H. Wood ... 4	† R. Richard Dixon ... Tenor

Conducted by Fred A. Holden.

* First attempt for a peal. † First peal, and elected a member before the attempt. ‡ First attempt for a peal on eight bells. This peal was specially arranged and rung as a welcome to the new Vicar (the Rev. Norton Howe).

ROWLEY REGIS, STAFFORDSHIRE.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Twelve Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. GILES,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5008 CHANGES;

Tenor 13½ cwt.

*Edward Reeves ... Treble	Benjamin Gough ... 5
Abraham Greenfield ... 2	Jesse Screen ... 6
Samuel Baker ... 3	Reuben Hall ... 7
Samuel J. Hughes ... 4	Alfred Rowley ... Tenor

Composed by G. Hughes.

Conducted by Abraham Greenfield.

* First peal in the method. First peal of Major on the bells since they were rehung by Mr. James E. Groves, Handsworth. This composition is now rung for the first time.

ALMONDBURY, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours,

AT THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt.

James Barraclough ... Treble	Harry Roberts ... 5
Harry Richards ... 2	Joe Broadley ... 6
Tom Shaw ... 3	Willie B. Frith ... 7
Harry Armitage ... 4	James E. Carter ... Tenor

Composed by D. Prentice.

Conducted by J. E. Carter.

ERDINGTON, BIRMINGHAM.

THE ANTIEN T FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF ENGLAND.
THE ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF
BIRMINGHAM.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

SIR A. P. HEYWOOD'S VARIATION OF THURSTANS'. Tenor 15 cwt.
BRO. THOMAS H. REEVES, Arts and Crafts Lodge, 4134 Treble
BRO. FRANK W. PERRENS, Arts and Crafts Lodge, 4134 2
WOR. BRO. HARRY ARGYLE, Abbey Lodge, 432 3
WOR. BRO. JOHN S. PRITCHETT, Alma Mater Lodge, No. 1644,
Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire 4
BRO. BERT HORTON, St. Peter's Lodge, 481 5
BRO. JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON, Birchfield Lodge, 4549 6
BRO. GEORGE H. ROBINSON, Chatsworth Lodge, 3430 7
BRO. JAMES H. SHEPHERD, Sussex Lodge of Emulation, 355 ... Tenor

Conducted by Bro. JOSEPH W. PEMBERTON.

This is the first peal in the City of Birmingham rung entirely by members of the Masonic craft. After the peal the members were kindly entertained to tea at the Yenton Masonic Rooms, Erdington, by Worshipful Bro. Matthew H. Clarke, Deputy Provincial Mark Master of Warwickshire.

CRAWLEY, SUSSEX.

THE WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Seven Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN-THE-BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BRISTOL SURPRISE MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

JOHN H. B. HESSE Treble	JOHN A. COLE 5
CHARLES N. BURDOCK 2	C. Q. M. S. G. GILBERT R.E. 6
OLIVER SIFFETTS 3	CLARENCE H. DOBBIE ... 7
WILLIAM T. BEESON, JUN. ... 4	ALFRED H. PULLING ... Tenor

Composed by REV. E. BANKES JAMES. Conducted by A. H. PULLING
First peal in the method on the bells.

DARTFORD, KENT.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Eight Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

PARKER'S REVERSE. Tenor 18½ cwt.
ROBERT BRETT SMITH ... Treble THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, JUN. ... 5
ISAAC G. SHADE 2 FRANK TERRY 6
ISAAC EMERY 3 HERBERT E. AUDSLEY ... 7
JOHN H. CHEESMAN 4 THOS. GROOMBRIDGE, SEN. Tenor

Conducted by THOMAS GROOMBRIDGE, JUN.

First attempt for a 'touch' of Surprise by F. Terry.

HINDLEY, LANCASHIRE.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

(WIGAN BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Three Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF STEDMAN TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

JAMES MARSH Treble	JOHN BOOTH 5
JOHN LUNHAM 2	JAMES WM. GROUNDS ... 6
JAMES TAYLOR 3	JOSEPH RIDYARD 7
WILLIAM E. AUSTIN 4	JOHN ALLRED Tenor

Composed by H. W. WILDE. Conducted by JAMES MARSH.

First peal of Stedman on the bells, and first peal on the bells for 25 years.

LONDON.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY, ROTTERHITHE,

A PEAL OF KENT TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 18 cwt. 1 qr. 20 lb. in F.

GEORGE ELLIS Treble	WILLIAM ESSERY 5
CHARLES W. ROBERTS 2	FREDERICK E. COLLINS ... 6
ALFRED J. BULL 3	CHARLES H. CHAPMAN ... 7
ERNEST J. TRIMMER 4	FRANK E. DARBY Tenor

Composed by FREDERICK ROBINSON. Conducted by F. E. DARBY.

Arranged and rung as a 20th birthday compliment to the conductor.

OLDHAM.

THE LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Three Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS, LEESFIELD,

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5024 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

JOHN P. FIDLER Treble	WALTER W. WOLSTENCROFT 5
WILLIAM CRABTREE 2	*WILLIAM H. SHUKER ... 6
TOM WILDE 3	HERBERT DAVENPORT ... 7
WILLIAM HOREN 4	ALLEN F. BAILEY Tenor

Composed by T. B. WORSLEY.

Conducted by A. F. BAILEY.

* First peal in the method, and first attempt. First peal of Double Norwich in Oldham.

EARL SHILTON, LEICESTERSHIRE.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

(HINCKLEY DISTRICT.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF SS. SIMON AND JUDE,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 12 cwt.

GEORGE A. NEWTON Treble	CHARLES H. BELTON 5
HENRY WRIGHT 2	JOSIAH MORRIS 6
THOMAS K. DEACON 3	FRED COTTON 7
CHARLES H. BRIGGS 4	GEORGE P. GARNER Tenor

Composed by W. WILLSON.

Conducted by F. COTTON.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Thomas K. Deacon, a member of the Earl Shilton band.

QUORNDON, Near LOUGHBOROUGH.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Fifteen Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BARTHOLOMEW,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

Tenor 14½ cwt.

LEONARD H. WHITEHEAD ... Treble	WALTER P. WHITEHEAD ... 5
WILLIAM JOHNSON 2	WILLIAM H. CLARKER ... 6
ALBAN DISNEY 3	*ARTHUR J. CHAMBERLAIN ... 7
THOMAS ATKINS 4	J. FREDERICK MILNER ... Tenor

Composed by W. H. INGLESANT. Conducted by W. P. WHITEHEAD.

* First peal of Major. First peal of Major in the method on the bells for 27 years. This composition is now rung for the first time.

TURNER'S HILL, SUSSEX.

THE SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and Five Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. LEONARD,

A PEAL OF SUPERLATIVE SURPRISE MAJOR, 5088 CHANGES;

Tenor 14 cwt.

ALFRED J. TURNER Treble	FRANK BENNETT 5
JOHN T. RICKMAN 2	ROBERT J. DAWES 6
WILLIAM WATTS 3	ALBERT D. STONE 7
ALFRED W. GROVES 4	KEITH HART Tenor

Composed by NATHAN J. PITSTOW. Conducted by KEITH HART.

The two trebles added to this recently new peal of six were dedicated on February 20th.

IRTHLINGBOROUGH, NORTHANTS.

THE PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

(WELLINGBOROUGH BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Three Hours and One Minute,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER,

A PEAL OF OXFORD TREBLE BOB MAJOR, 5184 CHANGES;

Tenor 10½ cwt.

ANDERSON Y. TYLER Treble	JOHN R. MAIN 5
*HARRY S. CHAMBERS 2	*JAMES T. WARD 6
LEONARD WYMAN 3	*JOHN J. MAWBY 7
*JOHN KING 4	*ARTHUR BELLAMY Tenor

Composed by J. S. WILDE. Conducted by ANDERSON Y. TYLER.

* First peal in the method. This was the conductor's 200th peal on tower bells.

HENDON.—At the Church of St. Mary, on Friday evening, Feb. 26th, was rung, for practice, 720 Plain Bob Minor: A. E. Bonfield 1, D. M. Findley 2, R. Bullen 3, R. Bevan 4, E. Prachett 5, C. Martin (conductor) 6.

SIX BELL PEALS.

LAUNTON, OXFORDSHIRE.
THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Thursday, February 18, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Nine Minutes,
At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF BOB MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Tenor 7 cwt. 5 lb. in B flat.

* JACK EVANS... .. Treble	* HARRY HATFIELD 4
EDWIN HIMS } 2	FRED NEALE 5
... .. 3	FREDERICK SHARPE Tenor

Conducted by E. HIMS.

* First peal in the method. The first four ringers come from Bicester, and the tenor from Launton. The peal was perfectly struck, and critics outside did not know which two bells Mr. Hims was ringing.

LIMPSFIELD CHART, SURREY.

THE SURREY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, February 20, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Andrew,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

In seven methods, viz., Westminster, College Exercise, Cambridge Surprise, Oxford and Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Bob and Plain Bob.

Tenor 10½ cwt. in G sharp.

JAMES KNIGHT Treble	LEONARD A. TIDY 4
HYLTON TIDY 2	GEORGE W. TOOTH 5
CHARLES CLINCH... .. 3	CHARLES H. KIPPIN Tenor

Conducted by CHARLES H. KIPPIN.

The conductor's first peal in more than one method.

TILSTON, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Mary,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being 720 of Double Oxford and two 720's each of Kent Treble Bob, Oxford Treble Bob and Plain Bob. Tenor 9 cwt. 3 qr. 26 lb.

WALTER THOMAS... .. Treble	GEORGE JONES 4
ALBERT E. RICHARDS... .. 2	WILLIAM CLARKE 5
HENRY W. WILDE 3	JAMES MORGAN Tenor

Conducted by JAMES MORGAN.

First peal on the bells. Rung on the Eve of St. Matthias's Day.

STOKE POGES, BUCKS.

THE OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

(EAST BERKS & SOUTH BUCKS BRANCH.)

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Fifty-One Minutes,

At the Church of St. Giles,

A PEAL OF CAMBRIDGE SURPRISE MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Seven different 720's. Tenor 13 cwt. 2 qr. 3 lb. in F sharp.

MISS PHYLLIS MOSS... .. Treble	GEORGE H. GUTTERIDGE... .. 4
* MRS. ARTHUR D. BARKER 2	* GEORGE MARTIN 5
* ARTHUR D. BARKER 3	* WILLIAM WELLING Tenor

Conducted by ARTHUR D. BARKER.

* First peal of Surprise Minor. First peal of Surprise on the bells.

DAVENHAM, CHESHIRE.

THE CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Saturday, February 27, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-Five Minutes,

At the Church of St. Wilfred,

A PEAL OF MINOR, 5040 CHANGES;

Being two extents each of Kent and Oxford Treble Bob, and three extents of Plain Bob. Tenor 14 cwt.

* FREDERICK H. CRAWLEY... Treble	† THOMAS WILKINSON... .. 4
JOHN S. ROYLE 2	ALBERT CRAWLEY 5
ALBERT H. BOOTH 3	HARRY PARKER Tenor

Conducted by H. PARKER.

* 25th peal. † First peal in three methods. First peal in three methods on the bells. Rung as a birthday compliment to the daughter of the ringer of the fourth.

BURTON-ON-STATHER, Lincs.—On Tuesday, Feb. 23rd, a quarter-peal of Doubles (1,260 changes), St. Simon's, Grandsire and Plain Bob: J. Bray 1, A. Thornton 2, Miss N. Grassby 3, J. Coles 4, G. Hobbins (conductor) 5, B. Gillatt 6. First quarter-peal in three methods for ringers of 2nd and 4th.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LEEDS, YORKSHIRE.

THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Tuesday, February 23, 1926, in Two Hours and Nine Minutes,
At 39C, MEANWOOD ROAD.

A PEAL OF DOUBLE NORWICH COURT BOB MAJOR, 5040 CHANGES;

JOHN AMBLER 1-2	WILLIAM BARTON 3-6
PERCY J. JOHNSON 3-4	H. STANLEY ROBINSON 7-8

Composed by SIR A. P. HEYWOOD, BART.

Conducted by PERCY J. JOHNSON.

First handbell peal in the method by the ringer of 7-8, and first handbell peal in the method away from 7-8 by the ringer of 1-2.

MONKSEATON, NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE DURHAM & NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

On Thursday, February 25, 1926, in Two Hours and Forty-One Minutes,
At 19, DENEHOLM,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5039 CHANGES;

Tenor, size 17 in A.

† WILLIAM L. GOFTON... .. 1-2	WILLIAM H. BARBER 5-6
† THOMAS T. GOFTON 3-4	† JAMES E. GOFTON 7-8
* OSWALD SIMM 9-10	

Composed by C. LINDOFF.

Conducted by W. H. BARBER.

* First peal on handbells. † First in the method on handbells.

BATH & WELLS DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.

DUNSTER DEANERY BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Dunster Deanery Branch of the Bath and Wells Diocesan Association was held at Dunster, on Saturday, Feb. 20th, when there was a large attendance from Minehead, Carhampton, Old Cleeve, St. Decuman's, Stoqumber, Chipstable, Milverton, Selworthy, St. Audries', Dulverton, Timberscombe, and Dunster. At the service, which was conducted by the Rev. J. C. L. Isard, of Minehead, the lesson was read by the Rev. H. W. Milward (Dunster) and the address given by Preb. W. T. Reeder, Rural Dean, Dunster. The Rev. T. S. Dawson, chairman of the branch, presided at the organ.

Prebendary Reeder entertained the members to tea in the Memorial Hall, the company numbering 55. The Rev. T. S. Dawson occupied the chair at the subsequent business meeting, at which Mr. G. Stacey (hon. secretary) gave a report on the branch activities during the year. There had been, he said, an average of 57 in the attendances at the quarterly meetings. Two new honorary members and nineteen ordinary members had been elected, and there had been one re-election. Two members had died, nine left the district, and the total membership was now 161. The statement of accounts for the year showed that after paying expenses there would be £7 ls. 6d. to be sent to the general secretary, leaving a balance in hand of £4 13s.—The accounts were passed.

After deciding to hold the next meeting at Selworthy, the meeting elected the following new members: Messrs. D. Bates and V. Stevens, Old Cleeve; A. N. Williams, Dulverton; L. Ferris, Minehead; and Jas. Hunt, Minehead. Messrs. C. Thrush, Dunster, and Jas. Cridland, Carhampton, were re-elected on the membership roll.

The services rendered by the Rev. T. S. Dawson as chairman were warmly eulogised when he was re-elected to office on the motion of Mr. Stacey, seconded by Mr. F. Arscott.—The Chairman, in proposing the re-election of Mr. Stacey as hon. secretary, alluded in appreciative terms to his work for the branch, and this motion was seconded, and carried by acclamation.

Mr. W. A. Hawkins was re-elected hon. auditor, and Mr. H. A. Phillips was added to the management committee.—Mr. I. Farmer, Carhampton, was elected Ringing Master, in the place of Mr. Wm. Hoyle, Minehead. Mr. Hoyle, who has been Ringing Master for several years, and has done good service for the movement in the instruction of younger members, had expressed his wish to resign. His resignation was accepted with much regret, and the Chairman, in moving a vote of thanks to him, expressed the regret they all felt that he was unable to take office again, but the members would sympathise with him in his present trouble, and remember him in the tower and in church.

Votes of thanks were heartily accorded to Preb. Reeder for his kindness in allowing the use of the tower, and for the tea provided, and to all others who had helped to make the occasion a pleasant one.

The Rev. M. L. Winterton (Trull) addressed a few words to the meeting, in which he voiced the pleasure he felt at seeing such a good attendance, and wished that he might see as many at the meetings in his deanery.

Preb. Reeder also referred to the pleasure given him by such a large gathering, and especially on seeing so many young ringers, who would, he hoped, keep the bells going for many years to come.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

AN OLD LAW ACTION RECALLED.—SIR EDMUND BECKETT'S LIBEL.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Stainbank v. Beckett was tried on June 27th, 1881, and following days, by Baron Huddleston and a special jury. The action was for libel, arising out of certain letters written by the defendant in 'The Times.' The counsel engaged in the case were: For the plaintiff, Mr. Charles Russell, Q.C., M.P., Mr. W. G. Harrison, Q.C., and Mr. Hilbery; for the defendant, Sir J. Holker, Q.C., M.P., and Mr. Jeune. These were among the leading lawyers of the day, and three of them at least were afterwards judges. Russell is recognised as being among the leading English advocates of all time. He was Attorney-General in Gladstone's Government, of 1886, when he was knighted; in 1894 he became a Lord of Appeal with the title of Lord Russell of Killowen; and in the same year Lord Chief Justice of England. He would have been Lord Chancellor, but that the law forbade a Roman Catholic to hold that office. Among the many famous cases he appeared in were the trial of Mrs. Maybrick for poisoning her husband, the Parnell Commission, and the Behring Sea arbitration.

The alleged libels were contained in the following letters to 'The Times.' On October 31st, 1878, the defendant wrote, 'Though I do not profess to write about dominants and minor thirds, or to guess how a Belgian bell founder would probably begin to rebuke this peal, I have no hesitation in saying that no modern Belgian bells which have come over here, and been heard in public, are superior or equal to the best English ones, though they are superior to such as used to be made by the English firm which had a practical monopoly of the business until about 20 years ago. Of course, I agree with Mr. Haweis about the present condition of Big Ben of Westminster, which is a disgrace to the nation, as it was to its founders, and as their York bell was still more, and as the clock bells of St. Paul's were to their predecessors, and Tom of Oxford to its maker, which is the worst of all the great ones.'

And again in 'The Times' of November 20th, 1878: 'Bells without number, which moreover were never cast for it with a properly adapted crown, have been ringing for years and centuries with bolts in their crowns to hold in the clappers when the bells have been turned in the stock, before I introduced the now common practice (except, I believe, at the oldest and worst of the foundries in England) of having the clapper bolt independent of the bell.'

Mr. Charles Russell, in opening the case, first expressed his regret in having to appear against so distinguished a member of his own profession. He went on to state that the defendant had largely interested himself in bells and clocks, especially the bells and clock of the Houses of Parliament. Twenty years ago, his criticisms of Big Ben had resulted in an action brought against him by the late Mr. Mears, who cast the bell. The defendant at first justified, but afterwards withdrew his plea of justification, and the case was withdrawn from the jury upon the terms of the defendant withdrawing all charges against Mr. Mears, and paying all the costs incurred. Now, when Mr. Mears was dead and gone, the defamatory statements were repeated and reiterated without regard to charity or common sense. The plaintiff's foundry was started in 1570, and was the oldest in the kingdom. A business of that sort had a continuous identity. When the firm sent out a peal of bells they had the name of Mears on them.

The learned counsel then gave a history of the first Big Ben which was cast by Warner's, and cracked before she was hung, and went on to say that a contract was made with the firm of Mears for a new bell. The defendant designed it, and it had to be made to his approval and that of the Rev. W. Taylor. The bell was cast on the 18th of April, 1858. It had an indent on its surface, which, by order of a Government official, was filled up. Soon after it developed a crack on the sound bow, opposite to that struck by the hammer at a point where witnesses would explain the two currents of vibration attained their greatest force. The hammer used with which the founders had nothing to do, was one of 7 cwt., and it was the opinion of some experts that the excessive weight of the hammer was the cause of the crack. However, on the discovery of the crack the 7 cwt. hammer was replaced by one of 4 cwt., which was still in use. On the discovery of the crack the defendant was attacked in the newspapers, and defended himself through the same medium. The strictures then passed by the defendant on Mr. Mears led to the action mentioned above. An inquiry was instituted into the state of the bell, and as a result the hammer was reduced in weight, and the bell turned round so that the crack was no longer opposite to the point where the hammer struck. Years passed, and in 1878 the controversy was re-opened. In a letter to 'The Times' the defendant used the phrase, 'the oldest and worst foundry in England,' which undoubtedly referred to the plaintiff's foundry, as he believed would be admitted by the defendant in the witness-box.

Mr. John Mears was the first witness. He said that he had been manager for his brother, but had had nothing to do with the foundry for many years. He described the casting of the bell. The propor-

tions of metal were according to contract, viz., 22 of copper to 7 of tin. It was run into ingots, and submitted to the defendant. The metal used was the best that could be obtained. The melting was done in three furnaces by a wood fire, and the molten metal was run into one reservoir. The defendant had said that the bell was a freer toned bell than the old one.

In cross-examination by Sir John Holker, witness said that he never heard of any holes being stopped up. If there were any, they would have been noticed when the bell was hung up.

Mr. Edward Thomas Loseby, a clock and watch maker, of Leicester, said he had seen Big Ben before the cracks were discovered, and had closely examined it afterwards. He took casts of the holes or cavities, which he now produced. The cracks were discovered by covering the bell with acid; when the bell was struck a stream of air bubbles showed themselves along the line of the cracks. There were three cracks of 6in., 7½in. and 18in. in length respectively. They would not have been noticed without wetting the bell. The hammer struck exactly opposite to the 7½in. crack. He said that bells were never of the same thickness all round. There was a difference of at least 1-20th of an inch, and in comparison with that the small holes or cavities were of no importance whatever.

Cross-examined by Mr. Jeune, the witness admitted that he had had a dispute with the defendant in 1851. The defendant was chairman of the Horological jury at the exhibition of 1851, and gave satisfaction to no one.

Mr. John Ismay, consulting engineer and founder, was examined as to the composition of bell metal, and the porosity and want of homogeneity described in the official report on the bell by Dr. Percy. He said the proportions of 22 of copper to 7 of tin would make a hard brittle bell metal, and in the course of setting the tin, being the lighter metal, would be found in greater quantity on the upper surface, especially on the surface of the sound bow. He examined the bell in 1851 and again in 1881. As far as he could see the cracks were unchanged. He considered the casting an excellent one.

In cross-examination, he said it was physically impossible that the metal in this case could be otherwise than porous, unless the metal cracked.

Mr. J. Jones, the contractor, who raised the bell in the tower, said the casting was an excellent one, but he considered the proportions of copper and tin were dangerous, and told defendant so.

Several other witnesses gave evidence that in their opinions the casting was a good one, and then followed a number of ringers whose names at least are familiar to readers of 'The Ringing World.'

Mr. Matthew A. Wood, examined by Mr. Russell, said that he had rung at St. Paul's, Bow, St. Michael's and All Hallows', London; also at Yarmouth, St. Gabriel's, Pimlico, St. Peter's, Norwich, and St. Stephen's, Rochester Row. He had assisted at the opening of many peals of bells, many of them coming from the Whitechapel Foundry. He had also rung on Warner's bells and Taylor's bells, and decidedly gave Mears the preference, big or little.

Cross-examined, he said he thought the words 'the oldest and worst' were intended to apply to the Whitechapel foundry. He had no doubt that Mears' was the best foundry, not the worst. He thought that many of the others were not in it at all. They might make a good bell, but casting a peal was another matter. It was very difficult for some of them to cast a peal.

Mr. Jeune: They are much the best?—Yes.

Of Warner's and Taylor's, which is the best of the two?—Warner's. Messrs. Taylor's are the worst?—I did not say that. You asked me which was the better of the two.

The Rev. F. E. Robinson and Mr. James Dwight also gave similar evidence.

Mr. William Reed, the president of the Durham and Newcastle Association of Change Ringers, testified to the excellence of Messrs. Mears' bells. In his opinion they had a distinctness of tone possessed by no other bells.

Mr. Goslin said he was manager to Messrs. Warner's when the first Big Ben was cast. He explained the process of casting, and said that the rising of the tin during cooling could be prevented, but how he preferred not to say. He thought the present Big Ben had not been properly cooled.

The plaintiff, in his evidence, said that the proportion of tin to copper in the bell was higher than he thought right, but was fixed by the contract.

Sir J. Holker, in his address to the jury, denied that it was the case that his client had waited till Mr. Mears was dead before renewing the attacks on him. He called Dr. Percy, who said that he had, at the request of the Government, made several reports on the condition of Big Ben. He had no practical experience, but expected that there was a great difficulty in preventing porosity, especially in a large casting where some of the metal cooled before the rest.—Cross-examined, he said it was a common thing to fill up holes left in casting, as could be seen in the lions in Trafalgar Square.

Mr. Taylor, of Loughborough, said that he had cast bells of 8½ tons without any difficulty, and was now preparing to cast one of 14

tions for St. Paul's Cathedral. It was quite possible to cast a homogeneous bell. Porosity was very prejudicial to tone. In cross-examination, he admitted that the Manchester hour bell was cracked. That was due to the weight of the hammer, and to no fault in casting. It was possible to conceal holes unless they were suspected and searched for.

Sir Edmund Beckett, the defendant, gave evidence. He said he had great experience of bells, and was entrusted, with Mr. Taylor (the Rev. W. Taylor, not the bell founder), with the oversight of the casting of the Westminster bells. Without their approval no payment was to be made to the contractors. He had made many experiments to find out the best proportions of copper and tin, and had analysed portions of Tom of Lincoln and other big bells. Finally, 7 of tin to 22 of copper was fixed on as most likely to give sufficient softness to prevent cracking, and sufficient hardness to give a good tone. In old bells there was more tin in proportion. He examined the bell at the foundry, and at Westminster, and was satisfied with it, especially with its tone. When he saw the bell in November, 1859, the holes were visible. There were 40 of them, and some had been stopped with zinc. If he had known what was disclosed in Dr. Percy's report he would not have withdrawn his plea of justification in the former action; He did so under advice, not understanding the dodges of common law pleadings.

In their verdict the jury found that one letter was libellous, and applied to plaintiff; the other was libellous, but did not apply to plaintiff, and that the plaintiff was entitled to £200 damages.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff accordingly.

ODD AND EVEN PEALS OF STEDMAN TRIPLES.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I observe by Mr. Parker's letter that the five-part peal he recently published, and which I also claimed, goes back to the year 1907, when it appeared in the 'Bell News,' so I presume we must both abandon our claim to it. I see that it is in my Stedman book, under the year 1913. My 'odd-bob' peal has the date 1898, and was first rung at Harborne in December of that year, and conducted by me. The 'odd and even' is, of course, much later, and bears the date 1922, when it was rung at St. George's, Southwark.

In regard to Mr. Parker's statement that the peal with only two singles and the 7th undisturbed will never be obtained, I am inclined to agree with him. I have myself tried to get it but without success.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN CARTER.

GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION. CIRENCESTER BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Cirencester Branch was held at Cirencester, and was well attended, over 40 members and friends, including the Master (Mr. A. Wright, of Painswick), representatives from Cirencester, Northleach, Fairford, Coin St. Aldwyns, Swindon and Minchenhampton being present. Watermoor bells were rung during the afternoon to Grandsire and Stedman Doubles and Triples and Bob Major, and a well-struck course of Cambridge Surprise Major was brought round.

Service was conducted at Watermoor by the Rev. A. H. Longley (curate-in-charge). Tea was followed by the business meeting, the chairman of the branch, Mr. F. Edwards, presiding. The following officers were re-elected: Chairman, Mr. F. Edwards; secretary, Mr. F. J. Lewis; member on management committee, Mr. J. Hope. Coin St. Aldwyns was chosen as the place for the next meeting.—Three honorary, two performing and two probationary members were elected.

The Parish Church bells were rung during the evening to Grandsire and Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques.

SWINDON BRANCH.

The annual meeting of the Swindon Branch was held at Swindon. Ringing took place at Christ Church and St. Mark's during the afternoon, and tea was partaken of at the Midland Temperance Hotel, after which the business meeting was held. Mr. E. Bishop was elected to the chair, and welcomed the visitors, especially Mr. Albert Wright, of Painswick (Master of the Association).

The Branch Committee was re-elected en bloc, and Mr. E. Bishop was elected representative on the management committee.

Three new members from St. Mark's tower were elected—the two next meeting-places were chosen, viz., Brinkworth and Highworth, for February and March respectively.

Other branches are asked to note that the Swindon branch have made a rule to keep to the third Saturday in every month for their meetings, and to advertise them in 'The Ringing World.'

This concluded the business, and a return was made to the towers, where Grandsire and Stedman Caters, Kent Treble Bob, Plain Bob and Double Norwich were practised.

The following towers were represented: Blunsdon, Cirencester, Chippenham, Farrington, Fairford, Stratton St. Margaret's, Painswick, Wootton Bassett, and the two local towers.

John Taylor & Co.

LOUGHBOROUGH.

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LEADING BELL FOUNDERS

MEARS & STAINBANK,

**Foundry
Established
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In Sets of any number.

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BELFRY GOSSIP.

In a peal at Launton, Oxfordshire, Mr. Edwin Hims, of Bicester, rang the 2nd and 3rd. Very few men have rung two tower bells to a peal, Mr. J. E. Groves (Birmingham), the late Mr. J. W. Washbrook and Mr. W. Lawrence (Little Munden) being, we believe, the only others to accomplish this feat, although there are one or two ringers, in addition, who have rung touches with a rope in each hand.

Mr. C. H. Kippin writes: 'You ask, "What is a-bello without a clapper?" We rang three hours and three minutes of Double Norwich last Saturday at the Parish Church, Croydon (tenor 31 cwt.), when the tenor clapper flew out. I am, therefore, instructed by the band to inform you.—N.B.G.'

Saturday, June 26th, has been fixed as the date for the unveiling of the war memorial of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, together with a tablet recording the muffled peal of Stedman Cinques rung for the death of Queen Alexandra. Both will hang on the north wall in the porch at Shoreditch Church. There will be a special service in the church, and it is hoped to have two or three towers available for ringing.

In the evening a social and musical evening is to be held at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden Lane, Strand, to which all members and ringers, both London and provincial ladies and gentlemen, will be heartily welcome. Detailed particulars will be given later. In the meantime ringers are asked to make a note of the date.

Having missed his last train, after ringing a peal at Linpsfield Chart, Surrey, on Saturday week, the conductor walked home—15 miles!

They did not always get their peals in the old days without labour. A peal of 'Double Bob Royal Ten-in' was called by W. D. Crofts at St. Mary's, Nottingham, on March 7th, 1791. The bells required two men on the 9th, and two on the tenor. By the way, will St. Mary's become the next peal of twelve?

One of the outstanding long lengths of the early days of ringing was the 12,602 Grandsire Caters at Norwich, rung on March 8th, 1737. Mr. Trollope has recently thrown an interesting light on this and the history of Norwich ringing in his 'Notes by the Way.'

The first peal of Grandsire Caters rung at Slepney was scored on March 8th, 1807, by the Junior Cumberlands, and exactly a year later George Gross called the first peal of Stedman Caters, at Bow, Chemp-side, then only a peal of ten.

A peal of Richmond Triples was rung by the Richmond Society at Richmond, Surrey, on March 10th, 1741, or 1742—the actual year is uncertain. What method was Richmond Triples, we wonder?

The peal of Grandsire Caters at Ashton-under-Lyne last week should not have been published as a Lancashire Association peal; it should have been credited to the Ashton-under-Lyne Society only. It was the first peal of Caters by S. Holt and Miss C. Thorp.

Wireless listeners to the London Broadcasting Station on Sunday night heard some splendidly struck Stedman Triples rung at Bark- ing.

Tickets for the Johnson Dinner on Saturday have been going 'like hot cakes,' and a splendid company is expected for this gathering. The week-end promises all its customary enthusiasm and attractions.

THE PENANCE OF AN ABSENTEE.

AFTER MANCHURIA—PARIS.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—The hour approaches when all good followers of the Prophet turn their faces towards Mecca—the Johnson Dinner. I regret that on this occasion I shall again be an absentee. Like the small boy on the postcards—nobody loves me, so on the day of days I will go out into the garden and eat worms, in effect that is to say, as there is no garden to this caravansary. I will, however, go into the salle à manger and eat snails!! As penance for non-attendance.

On the last occasion that I dined in the 'Cedar Room' a certain Mancunian, the Lord Mayor's adgrandvizier, I believe, was collecting brass to buy two new 'hoss-shoes' to add to the eight existing 'hoss-shoes' which still hang in Eccles steeple. I had always thought that Eccles folk preferred cakes to bells, but, on reflection, I remembered that Eccles bells certainly did sound a bit like Eccles cakes, with the currants shaken out of them, and I should not be a bit surprised if they didn't cast that set of bells in one of their famous bakeries, out of the dough they had left over from the day before, and tuned 'em with candied peal!! Nuff said! But all the cakes are not at Eccles; that prince of cakes, Amos, found not a few cakes of the first baking at 'Brum.' I know—as I tasted some of 'em. Should he again be collecting 'currants,' please bestow upon the fund my benison, and a wish that those ten 'hoss-shoes' will eventuate some day.—Yours sincerely,

Yvett's Hotel, 41, Rue Alain Chartier, Paris.

CHANTICLER.

IPSWICH VETERANS. FAMOUS PEALS RECALLED.

Forty-five years ago last Monday—namely, on March 1st, 1881—the first twelve-bell peal at the famous Church of St. Mary-le-Tower, Ipswich, was rung. It was a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus, and was the first in the method for the old Norwich Diocesan Association. Of the band that took part in this peal there are now only two survivors, Robert Brundle, who rang the 7th, and Edgar Pemberton, who rang the 11th. The others of the company, who have all passed away, were Daniel Prentice (composer and conductor) Henry Bevan, Isaac Alexander, Thomas Sadler, John Fosdike, William Meadows, Henry Bowell, William Catchpole, Robert Hawes and Edward Reeve. The first attempt made for the peal was on Boxing Day, 1880, and it came to an untimely end for a curious reason. An old five-bell call-change ringer was sitting in the belfry, and, when things were going well, he jumped up and remarked, 'Two hours gone, gentlemen.' All eyes turned to him in astonishment at his interruption, and the peal collapsed. The next attempt was also a failure. The bells had been going for a considerable time, when the second and fifth changed course. The conductor put them back after a lead or two, and went on to the end, but some of the band very rightly objected to its being published as a peal, and said if they could ring a false one they could also ring a true one, so, after a successful peal of Royal a fortnight later, a further attempt for the Maximus was made, and the result was a peal of which all the band were proud.

Ringing history has been made at Ipswich since then but one by one the old band have passed on their way. Robert Brundle, still hale and hearty, and able to take his share in ringing, remains, with, as his sole companion of those early days, Edgar Pemberton, who,



Mr. EDGAR PEMBERTON.

we are sorry to say, is no longer able to climb the belfry stair or handle a bell rope. At 74 years of age, Mr. Pemberton is crippled with arthritis, which prevents him going out, except in a bath chair. But while active participation in the art he loves so well is now denied him, he is still keenly interested in it, and he has many happy recollections and memorable performances to look back upon. He has kept a careful record of his peals, which, beginning with Grandsire Triples at St. John's, Waterloo Road, London, on May 22nd, 1878, number 270. That peal was nearly fifty years ago, but there are still two or three of the company left to us, the band, it is interesting to recall, being George Newson, Thomas Sadler, David Stockwood, William Coppage, Edwin Gibbs, William Baron, Edgar Pemberton and George Isley.

Mr. Pemberton rang in the first peals of Stedman Triples, Caters and Cinques in Suffolk; the first peals of Double Norwich Major, Royal and Maximus in that county, and the first peals of Cambridge Surprise Major, Royal and Maximus in Suffolk. The Cambridge Maximus was the first peal in the method ever rung, and in this, as in all the Surprise peals in which he took part, Mr. Pemberton rang the treble. In 1880 he rang in 7,296 and 10,272 Kent Treble Bob Major at Debenham, and he also rang in an 8,896 in the same method at Rochester Row, Westminster. He took part in a 10,176 Oxford Treble Bob Major at Ufford in 1894, but he was not in the 16,608 at Debenham in 1892, although he was in two previous attempts for it at that tower, and in two others at Leiston. In each of the latter they rang over 10,000 changes and broke down. When, eventually, the peal was rung, Mr. Pemberton, whose trade is that of a carpenter, was working at Bury St. Edmund's, and was unable to take part. In long lengths of Double Norwich, Mr. Pemberton rang 6,608, 8,064 and 10,080. Thus he had a great share in the ringing which the Suffolk men of those days—men like Daniel Prentice, William Ireland, James Molts and William Catchpole, and the enthusiasts who comprised their band—made memorable.

Mr. Pemberton's peals are as follow: Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 38; Oxford Treble Bob Maximus, 3; Cambridge Surprise Maximus, 2; Double Norwich Court Bob Maximus 3; Bob Maximus 1; Stedman Cinques, 25; Grandsire Cinques, 3; Kent Treble Bob Royal, 11; Oxford Treble Bob Royal, 3; Cambridge Surprise Royal, 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Royal, 6; Bob Royal, 1; Stedman Caters, 18; Grandsire Caters, 7; Kent Treble Bob Major, 23; Oxford Treble Bob Major, 17; Bob Major, 2; Superlative Surprise Major, 9; Cambridge Surprise

Major, 9; London Surprise Major, 4; Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 38; Stedman Triples, 26; Grandsire Triples, 17; Plain Bob Triples, 1; Minor, 2—Total, 270.

Mr. Robert Brundle, while sharing in many of the peals in which Mr. Pemberton rang, has not kept such an accurate record, and he is still adding to his list. His total is now round about 280, and he hopes to reach the 300 mark. That Mr. Brundle will be spared to realise this ambition will be the wish of all his many friends.

SIMPSON TUNING.

'THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING.'

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—In connection with Mr. Walker's suggestion, I should like to state our recent experience at King's Norton. We had undoubtedly the best old peal of eight in the Birmingham district, and most ringers about here agreed on that point. On the other side of the city, we had at Erdington a modern peal of Taylor's. Living there for five years, and at King's Norton ten years, I had every opportunity of judging both peals. To my ear, Erdington were very much more musical and uniform in tone, and the tower was not one that would do them full justice. The King's Norton ringers naturally thought their old bells the finest peal in existence, but after visiting such peals as Leicester, Loughborough, Burton, Warwick, Shrewsbury, and numerous others with modern bells, they soon altered their opinions. On these outings, various officials of the church who were interested in bells accompanied us, and the question was always arising, 'Why don't our bells sound like these?' and 'These sound more like an organ than bells.' After this there was not much trouble in having our bells recast on modern principles. Certain of my Birmingham friends were very pessimistic as to the result, but now they congratulate us on what they consider the finest restoration in the district. Some of them have openly stated that they did not think such an improvement possible. If these are the class of bells that Mr. Barnett says sound like tin cans, I am surprised, and would suggest to him that he visits some of the peals mentioned, and listen to them: not ring a peal on them. Then, if he is of the same opinion, his is indeed a very sad case.

The complaints against modern tuning come chiefly from those ringers who do not happen to have such bells, and from those interested in the bell business who cannot produce them. When good old bells and peals are alluded to, we are taken from the tenor at Bow, to the eleventh at Exeter, then to Newcastle and home by Norwich, and I am convinced that it is just as far as you must go to get anything on the old system worth mentioning. The majority of the old bells are a real public nuisance, and only an ear like H. W.'s could tell which possessed the most tone, the bell or the clapper. Our old friend, 'Marble Arch,' or 'Cloches de l'Arche,' has butted in again, and I am surprised to find he is still at large. I would remind him that Simpson tuning will not do away with change ringing half so quickly as those peal-scoring fanatics who fall over each other to ring a peal on the same bells once a fortnight. To those who are contemplating having their bells recast on the modern tuning system I would say, 'Don't let these dear old gentlemen who went to Coventry influence you at all, as they were born a good many years ago.'—Yours truly,

PERCY O. LAFLIN.

SIMPSON TUNING WILL POPULARISE CHANGE RINGING.

Dear Sir,—From your correspondence on Simpson tuning it seems probable that some of the first peals cast and tuned on the principle may have been guilty of 'howling'; modern peals are not. Having rung on two peals tuned on this principle, the bells, though more resonant, offer no difficulty to good striking. A curious fact is the disagreeable flatness and deadness of an ordinary peal after becoming used to hearing Simpson-tuned bells; it is a matter of use. Contrary to some of your correspondents, I think these new bells will do more to popularise change ringing with the public than anything else.—Yours faithfully,

E. CORNER.

Hanley.

STOKE POGES' 'YOUNG ARABS.'

The team of young 'Arabs' who carry on the Sunday Service ringing at St. Giles' Church, Stoke Poges, made a valiant attempt for a peal of Cambridge Surprise Minor on Saturday, Feb. 20th, which ended, after 2 hours and 24 minutes' good ringing, owing to an error in the work of the last lead of the sixth 720. Each 720 was called differently, and this was the first attempt of the bob caller at the helm.

Owing to the illness of Willie Hartley, the 'boys' were much obliged to W. Henley on the 5th for making up their team at 24 hours' notice, and they hope to complete the undertaking in the near future.

The ringers were Messrs. Stevenson (treble), Skuter, Hawkins, Albrow, Henley, and Gutteridge (conductor).

WORDS AND QUOTATIONS.

STEDMAN AND THE 'TINTINNALOGIA.'

There is one thing that Mr. Trollope is most anxious just now to impress upon the Exercise. That is that he, and not the Nomenclature Committee chosen for that purpose, is the only authority who always uses the correct word, and who alone can select the name which fits perfectly.

In order to show us how well he can do this, he selects from my article which appeared on January 8th some words that I wrote; many more which I did not write (as no one is likely to look up the article and compare it with his article on February 19th, this does not matter much); and out of them he makes a sentence which he puts in inverted commas, and says that I ask you to believe it.

After this exhibition of his correctness in quotation, he calls this concoction (which is due, it is to be noted, to his imagination—not mine), not unreasonably, a 'tale.' As I have before had occasion to point out, Mr. Trollope has a little weakness in the way he repeats himself. And this reminds us of the last time he called what I wrote a 'tale.'

It was in your issue for December 11th, in which he wrote a long article to show how absurd it was for me to state that in the early days of ringing there were Bob Methods, as well as Plain Changes and Cross Penals. As I pointed out on February 12th, Mr. Trollope has already had to eat those words of his. My description of Bob Methods on November 20th, was that they were 'methods that were all dodges, or as nearly so as possible.' On December 11th, in order to wallop me, Mr. Trollope makes unmerciful fun of this. But on January 15th, in describing Imperial Bob, the first Bob method, he says that besides the hunt, 'the other bells move only sufficiently to let her pass, but instead of lying still, as in plain changes, they dodge in pairs.' I do not know whether your readers will prefer my wording or Mr. Trollope's, but I can assure them that they mean the same thing. It will be noticed, however, that in order to make the eating of his words the more palatable, he omits to mention the fact that I had already drawn attention to this point, and calmly states it as if it were his own discovery.

This is not the only instance; for he does the very same thing again in the same paragraph. On December 11th he asks, 'Does Mr. Drake seriously say that Double Norwich has "shortened" dodging?' On January 15th he says that very early attempts were made to improve the Bob methods, by 'shortening the dodging.' This is exactly my argument, but he is not honest enough to admit it. Some people want to get the credit for everything.

Nothing of all this has anything to do with my statement. Even Mr. Trollope cannot disprove a theory by attempting to show that a suggested reconstruction is a 'likely tale.' My statement was that there is no evidence that Stedman wrote the 'Tintinnalogia.' That is a plain straightforward statement, and it cannot be controverted by any wriggling and squirming, such as Mr. Trollope indulges in. It can be controverted, and controverted entirely in one way, and one way only, and that is by producing such evidence. If Mr. Trollope can produce such evidence, there is nothing more to be said. I am wrong. If he cannot produce such evidence, again there is nothing more to be said. I am right.

There is only one sentence in the long article with which Mr. Trollope has inflicted us that bears on the point, and these are the words of it: 'I say that it is most certainly the work of one man.' Never was a more brilliant instance of an ipse dixit. No matter how impossible it may be, Mr. Trollope has said it, and, therefore, it must be so.

Still, it may be that even here he will eat his words, as on the occasion of the other 'likely tale.' Let him look at the title page again, and he will find three persons referred to. The author is called 'A lover of that Art.' The printer is 'W. G. at his shop in St. Dunstan's Churchyard in Fleet Street.' The publisher is 'Fabian Stedman.'

Mr. Trollope believes Stedman to have been a printer. Now, printers do not usually publish one another's books (even if ringers publish one another's discoveries). So that these three designations are, we must suppose, intended to deceive us, and really are only referring to one person. But why this foolish deception? Before Mr. Trollope can maintain that Stedman was falsely assuming either of these other designations, he must assign some reason for such an improbable suggestion. On the first page of the book is the dedication, signed by 'Campanista.' Is this a third deception? If so, why? If 'Campanista' is not intended to represent Stedman, Mr. Trollope says that this page 'simply told a lie.' The ordinary person would have said just the opposite. But then some people are so clever you can never tell what they will be saying.

Moreover, the writer of that page says distinctly that he is not a ringer, but a 'well-wisher to your recreation'; also that in writing about ringing he is 'over-bellied,' by which he evidently means

that he is trying to do something that he cannot manage. Mr. Trollope says that Stedman wrote this, and that he was the most brilliant and clever ringer that ever lived. I do not deny this latter statement, but if so, there are here two more deceptions. We turn a couple of pages, and we find two pages signed by 'R. R.,' who also claims the authorship of 'Grandsire Bob,' that is, a large part of the book. Is 'R. R.' also Stedman? If so, here are two more deceptions. So far we have looked at six pages only, yet if Mr. Trollope's statement is true, there are already seven deliberate, meaningless, and stupid deceptions in this book—'certainly the work of one man'!

I need not repeat my arguments any further; nor does one blame Mr. Trollope for not being able to appreciate literary criticism. But I can assure him that it is capable of quite as certain conclusions as the study of changes. Still, in order not to take an unfair advantage of him, I will let him get any competent literary critic to examine what I have written, and I am content to abide by the result.

Mr. Trollope has praised Shipway though hardly sufficiently, to my thinking. Now Shipway says that Fabian Stedman presented the College Youths, when they visited Cambridge in 1657, with his principle—rung first at St. Benet's, Cambridge, and College Hill, London. Yet Mr. Trollope declares that it was not yet composed in 1668. Why?

As for the last paragraph, I will only say that probably when he reads it again, Mr. Trollope will be ashamed of it. In my article on November 20th there was a slip of the pen which caused one sentence to be ungrammatical. Mr. Trollope quoted this sentence, and, as he thought, corrected it. Unfortunately he corrected it in the wrong place. I apologised for the slip, and I think your readers will agree that the apology was an ample one. One hates teaching people good manners in public, but one must point out that it was up to Mr. Trollope to acknowledge this courtesy; and on his part to apologise for his own misquotation, on which he had founded so much invective. Instead he writes this—which is not even true!

HERBERT DRAKE.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

SOUTH AND WEST DISTRICT AND ISLEWORTH BELLS' FUND.

The annual meeting of the South and West District of the Middlesex County Association and London Diocesan Guild was held at Isleworth on Saturday, Feb. 13th. The bells were set going soon after 3 p.m., and under the management of the Ringing Master (Mr. R. Holloway) members had an opportunity of ringing a variety of methods from Grandsire to Cambridge. A ringers' service was conducted by the Vicar, after which tea was provided in the Church Hall by the Vicar and churchwardens. The Vicar occupied the chair during the tea and business meeting that followed, supported by Mr. Edgley (churchwarden) and Mr. C. S. Bird (president). Messrs. W. Pickworth (vice-president), C. T. Coles (hon. secretary), and N. A. Tomlinson (Ringing Master of the North and East District) were among the welcome members present.

A satisfactory report for the year recorded eleven meetings held with good results, and 37 ringing members and three honorary members elected. About the same number ceased to be members owing to the non-payment of subscriptions, etc.

A vote of thanks was accorded to the officers for their services rendered during 1925, and they were re-elected for the ensuing year, viz., Messrs. J. A. Trollope, hon. treasurer; R. Holloway, Ringing Master; and W. H. Hollier, hon. secretary. Messrs. J. H. Hunnisett, H. W. Lidbetter and F. Cooke were elected on the Central Committee.

The secretary made a statement on the Isleworth Bells' Fund to augment the peal to ten; £60 has been collected or promised, but over £100 is needed before the task of collecting is over. The secretary, therefore, suggested that a committee be appointed to decide ways and means of raising the sum required, 'or otherwise.' At this point, the Vicar and churchwardens became greatly interested, and congratulated the association on raising about one-third of the amount needed, and promised to co-operate, as they were in a better position to help than a year ago. The committee appointed were: Messrs. F. Edgley (churchwarden), C. S. Bird, J. A. Trollope, R. Holloway, J. R. Mackman, T. Beadle, and the hon. secretary (Mr. W. H. Hollier). The committee earnestly appeal to all members and ringing friends to help, and, however large or small the amount may be, it will be thankfully received.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and churchwardens for their kind hospitality, which was much appreciated; also to the organist, hostess and lady assistants, and Mr. T. Beadle. The Ringing Master and Hon. Secretary wish to offer their very best thanks to all members for their loyal support during the year.

RESTORATION OF BELLS AT ACTON, SUFFOLK. THANKOFFERING FOR FAMILY'S ESCAPE FROM TOKIO EARTHQUAKE.

Saturday, February 13th, was a notable day in the history of the little village of Acton, for it saw the consummation of a work which, for many months past, had been the main interest of every one of the parishioners. Every seat in the church was occupied when the Ven. Archdeacon of Sudbury dedicated the peal of five bells. Owing to its unsafe condition, the tower was pulled down in 1885, and, according to the memory of old parishioners, change ringing had ceased at this tower some twenty years before. Three years ago, Mr. J. K. Rodwell, a descendant of the well-known local family of Kerington, whose memorial is to be seen in the church, paid a visit to the parish, and during his stay offered to supply the timber needed for a bell frame from his Acton estate. The first movement was to raise funds for the rebuilding of the tower. The required sum was soon to hand, and the tower was completed, and dedicated by the Archdeacon of Sudbury on All Saints' Day, 1924. Mr. Rodwell, so impressed with the success attained, generously renewed a previous offer to reling the bells at his own expense. This generous offer was gratefully accepted, with the happy results above-mentioned. The massive bell frame was made by Messrs. A. Brown and Sons, of Acton, and the work of reling and rehanging was carried out by Messrs. Meers and Stainbank, of the Whitechapel Foundry.

The inscriptions on the bells are as follows:—

- Treble.—'John Thornton made me 1716.'
2nd.—'Nicholas Kerington, Miles Gray, made me 1679.'
3rd.—'Miles Gray made me 1663.'
4th.—'Tho. Gardiner, Peccit, 1747.'
Tenor.—'Miles Gray made me 1687. God save the King.'

A tablet, bearing the following inscription, has been fixed on the interior of the tower: 'To the Glory of God these bells were rung in January, 1926, by J. K. Rodwell, of Baberg Hall, as a thank-offering for the escape of his son, H. J. Rodwell, and his family, in the earthquake at Tokio, Japan, Sept. 1st, 1923, the tower having been restored in 1923 by the efforts of the parishioners. — A. C. Harpur, Vicar; A. J. Wildman, A. Webb, Churchwardens; A. Hunt, G. L. Coates, architects; A. Brown and Sons, builders.'

The service took the form of evensong, the Rev. A. C. Harpur officiating. Appropriate lessons were read by the Revs. Dr. H. F. Banham, R.D., and Banks-Williams, late Vicar of Acton. The hymns sung were, 'We love the place, O God,' 'When morning gilds the sky,' 'O God, our help, in ages past,' and 'Now thank we all our God.' The choir sang the hymn, 'Hark! the concert of the bells,' the solo being excellently taken by Mrs. Harpur, L.R.A.M. After this hymn, the Archdeacon, accompanied by the Vicar, proceeded to the tower, where the bells and also a new flag for the tower were dedicated. Archdeacon Farmiloe delivered a short but stirring address, selecting his text from 1 Chronicles, xxix. 9.

Immediately after the service, the bells were opened by the Little Walsingham band. Other towers represented were Sudbury, Lavenham, Long Melford, Cornard, Cavendish, Glemsford, Henny, Assington, etc. In the evening a tea and social were held in the Schools. A pleasing feature at this gathering was a charmingly decorated table, at which were entertained free all Acton parishioners 70 years of age and upwards. The oldest were a married couple, both of whom are over 90 years of age.

In the course of a genial speech, Archdeacon Farmiloe said he would always regard Acton people as an example of perseverance in connection with their parish church.

Touches of Grandsire, Plain Bob and St. Simon's Doubles were rung on the bells.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.

NEWBURY BRANCH.

A meeting of the Newbury Branch was held at East Ilsley on Saturday, February 13th, when over 30 members attended from Newbury, Woolton Hill, Highclere, Brightwalton, Bucklebury, Beedon, Pease-more, Compton, and the local band. The service was conducted by the Rector (the Rev. A. Ogle), who also gave an address. Tea was served in the Old School Room, the catering by Mrs. W. Hilbert being much appreciated. At the business meeting, Mr. R. T. Hilbert presided, in the absence of the Rev. L. R. Majendie (chairman of the branch).—The Hon. Secretary reported two deaths, namely, Mr. W. A. Dormer, of Newbury tower, and Mr. F. Vokins, formerly of Chieveley, and all present stood in silence for a few moments as a token of respect.

Shaw was proposed for the next meeting, on April 24th, and Bucklebury for the summer meeting, on June 19th (if convenient).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rector for the use of the bells and for his address; also to the organist, and to the ladies for providing such an excellent tea.

Touches of Grandsire and Stedman Triples and Bob Major were

rung during the afternoon and evening. The Master (the Rev. C. W. O. Jenkyn) and general treasurer (Mr. Wright) were present in the afternoon, but had to leave after the service.

LEICESTER RINGERS ORGANISE DINNER. PROPOSED ANNUAL GATHERING.

On Wednesday of last week ringers of Leicester and District assembled round the festive board, and it is hoped to make the gathering an annual event. The dinner was held at the Anchor Hotel, Leicester, a company of forty, including ringers from Anstey, Belgrave, Humberstone, St. Saviour's, St. Margaret's, St. Martin's and St. John's, Leicester, and friends. Mr. William Willson was voted to the chair, and referred with pleasure to the fact that after nearly half a century such a gathering had come about. That was the first dinner of its kind in Leicester, and he hoped they would meet again in future years, with a more numerous company.

The toast of 'The King' was honoured, and the Paradise Mission Handbell Ringers, under the conductorship of P.C. Harold Poole, entertained the party to some excellent selections. Songs were rendered by Mrs. F. Howe, Messrs. W. Clarke, J. Morris, T. H. Vallance and Mr. Rosevair.

The chairman, having to leave early, handed over his duties to Mr. F. H. Dexter, who, report says, carried on to the 'bitter' end.

Det.-Sgt. Jenny, who proposed a vote of thanks to the artistes and the host, said he felt that all should be better for such occasions as that. Rivalries would then be understood, and not lead to ill-feeling or jealousy.

A most enjoyable evening was spent, and the thanks of the company are due to Mr. Jenny and Mr. W. Willson, junr., for bringing the event to a successful issue.

SALISBURY DIOCESAN GUILD.

A quarterly meeting of the North Dorset branch of the Salisbury Guild was held at Motcombe on February 13th. Fifty members were present, representing 14 towers. In addition to the six bells in Motcombe Church tower, those in the towers of Holy Trinity (6) and St. Peter's (6), Shaftesbury, were used by the members. At the Guild service the Rev. E. C. King (Vicar) gave an address. Mr. and Mrs. King very kindly catered for the tea, and only charged the branch what it actually cost, which was a great saving to the branch funds.

After tea, there was a short business meeting, at which the secretary presented his balance sheet for 1925, which showed a balance in hand of £1 13s. 7d. Two new members were elected from Shroton.

SPLICED DOUBLE NORWICH & PLAIN BOB.

A PEAL OF 5,056, BY JOSEPH W. PARKER.

23456	1	4	6
35426	—	—	3
52436	—	—	3
63254	—	—	3
23564	—	—	2
43265	—	—	3
53462	—	—	—
35264	—	—	—
54263	—	5	—
45362	—	—	—
34256	—	5	—
42356	—	—	—
25346	—	—	3

Followed by S at 1, ringing Bob Major from the lead end (8673245) brought by the Single, this with a bob at M produces in 4 leads.

35624	W	M	H
62354	—	—	—
36254	3	—	—
42536	2	—	—
45326	—	—	2
42365	B	—	3
52463	—	2	—
34526	—	—	—
23546	—	—	3
25436	—	—	2
24356	—	—	2
23456	—	—	S

This peal contains 2,528 changes of each method.

Double Norwich and Bob Major courses, even against even, are false to a considerable extent. The principle which ensures the truth of the above composition was pointed out, in relation to plain Minor Methods, by Mr. E. H. Lewis in 1912, see 'Spliced Methods,' paragraph 9 on page 14.

The above peal was rung at St. Ignatius' Church, Sunderland, on Feb. 25th, 1926, conducted by the composer.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD FESTIVAL.**BANBURY BRANCH PROPOSE CHANGE OF DATE.**

A quarterly meeting of the Banbury and District Branch was held at Cropredy on Saturday, January 30th, when upwards of forty ringers assembled, the following towers being represented: Adderbury, Banbury, Cropredy, Great Tew, Wardington, Warmington, and Summer-ton. The bells were kept going for an hour prior to service, Bob Minor, Grandsire Doubles, and Stedman Doubles being the methods favoured. The service was conducted by the Rev. G. Barr (Vicar of Cropredy), and an appropriate address given by the Rev. C. F. Cholmondeley, chairman of the branch. After service, the party were hospitably entertained to tea by the Vicar of Cropredy. The business meeting was presided over by the Rev. G. F. Cholmondeley, supported by the Master and general secretary.

Seventeen new members were elected, and Great Tew was chosen as the next place of meeting.

The following was passed as a recommendation to be sent to the Guild secretary for consideration by the Guild Committee: 'That this branch recommend the following amendment to Rule X, line two, Guild rules. Delete the words "in July," and substitute "1st Monday in August," the amended rule to read, "The annual festival and general meeting shall be held on the first Monday in August at the place selected," etc., etc.

The Master, in a few congratulatory remarks, pointed out the absence of young faces, and urged the desirability of getting young men to take up ringing.

The usual votes of thanks brought a most enjoyable and successful meeting to a close. The tower was then again visited, and the bells kept going till a late hour.

PORTISHEAD BAND ELECTS MORE LADY RINGERS.

The annual meeting of the Portishead Society was held on January 19th, when the attendance included the president (the Rev. H. W. Jukes, M.A., Rector), the churchwardens, and Messrs. Harris and Wilkins. Before commencing the business, the captain (Mr. W. Gillingham) asked the Rector to unveil the new peal tablet, erected in memory of the late churchwarden, Mr. R. Hudleston. The captain thanked the Church Council for their individual contributions, which totalled half the cost of the peal tablet.—The report for 1925 was read by the captain, who welcomed the return of Miss Crocker and Mrs. Edwards. The outing to Malvern had been a most enjoyable one, as also was the visit to Tewkesbury Abbey. The chief local event of the year was the opening of the new peal at Clevedon Old Parish Church. This was celebrated by ringing a quarter-peal, and also (at a later date) a peal. The latter was rung by the local Portishead band, and the Rector of Clevedon (the Rev. Badcock) gave permission for a peal tablet to be erected in that belfry. The attendances for 1925 were good. The bells had been rung on 148 occasions, this being eight less than 1924, owing to illness near the church.

The president thanked the captain for his report, and said he was very pleased they had had such a successful and happy year.—The treasurer's account showed a balance of about £2.—All the officers were re-elected, and Misses Hillman and Jefferies were elected as probationers.

Thanks were accorded to the ringers for their services, and to the chairman for presiding.

By request the handbells were rung, and all the visitors were very interested.

SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.

A quarterly meeting was held at Wednesbury, and a fair number of members attended. A service was held in church, at which the Vicar (the Rev. H. W. Jones) officiated, and gave an address. A capital tea was provided in the Parochial Hall, the Vicar presiding.—A vote of thanks to him for his address, use of the bells, etc., and to the ladies who had prepared tea and waited at the tables, was carried with applause.

A move was made to the church again, when the Vicar explained some interesting items connected therewith.

The bells were made good use of during the afternoon and evening, and among touches in various methods was one of Cambridge Surprise Major.

The next meeting is provisionally fixed to take place at Stafford on April 17th.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.

A very pleasant meeting of the Peterborough Branch was held at Chatteris on Saturday, January 23rd, members and friends attending from Peterborough, Long Stanton, Willingham, Somersham, and the local band. A short business meeting followed tea, when two new members were made. Some good ringing was done during the afternoon and evening, the methods ranging from Plain Bob to London Surprise.

SUNDAY SERVICE TOUCHES.

We regret that, owing to the demands upon the space available for Sunday Service Touches, we are unable to undertake to insert anything less than a quarter-peal on eight bells and upwards, and 720 of Doubles or Minor. Many correspondents send us quite short touches for publication and they must not be disappointed if we are unable to find room for them.

CHICHESTER.—On Sunday morning, Feb. 28th, at the Cathedral, for service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 50 mins.: F. Arthur 1, W. Falconer 2, G. Marshall 3, A. D. Rowe 4, H. L. Tucker (composer and conductor) 5, W. E. Ticehurst 6, J. H. Blake 7, C. Smithers 8. It was also rung as a birthday compliment to C. Smithers.

STREATHAM.—On Sunday, Feb. 28th, for evensong, at St. Leonard's Church, 1,248 Double Norwich Court Bob Major: J. L. Watkins 1, Miss E. E. Harcastle (first quarter in method 'inside') 2, Miss E. E. Chapman 3, J. W. Chapman 4, Miss F. E. Orr 5, T. G. Bannister 6, F. E. Collins 7, C. W. Roberts (conductor) 8.

KENSINGTON.—On Sunday, Feb. 28th, for evening service, at St. Mary Abbot's, 1,040 Kent Treble Bob Royal: E. G. Locke 1, H. Belcher 2, P. L. Miles 3, C. H. Dobbie 4, W. E. Judd 5, W. E. Garrard (conductor) 6, S. Reeve-Hazman 7, R. Congreve-Pridgeon 8, K. G. Mills 9, A. F. Harris 10.

SOUTHGATE.—At Christ Church, for evening service, on Jan. 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 46 mins.: D. Ovington 1, A. G. Crane 2, A. R. Glascock 3, J. E. Miller 4, N. A. Tomlinson (conductor) 5, H. Miller 6, W. Pickworth 7, J. Armstrong 8.

DOVER, KENT.—On Sunday, Jan. 31st, for evening service, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 45 mins.: L. J. Sibley (first quarter-peal on treble) 1, R. H. Stevens 2, C. E. V. Wilkins 3, C. Turner 4, C. R. Millway (conductor) 5, C. R. Walker 6, H. J. Saunders 7, C. Hardiman 8.

BUCKLAND, SURREY.—On Sunday, January 31st, for evening service, 720 Oxford Bob Minor, in 20 mins.: E. Holman 1, J. Wallis 2, A. Holman 3, W. Humphrey 4, F. Sanders 5, R. Thorpe (conductor) 6.

HOLBORN.—At St. Andrew's Church, on Sunday, January 31st, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1,260 changes), in 48 mins.: E. Brett 1, R. Green 2, L. Gray 3, C. Chooet 4, J. S. Hawkins 5, A. E. Darrell 6, F. H. Crook 7, C. H. Vitler 8. Conducted by E. Brett.

BEDDINGTON, SURREY.—On Sunday, January 31st, at St. Mary's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 46 mins.: F. Jennings 1, L. Bance 2, G. Jennings 3, E. G. Talbot 4, C. H. Kippin 5, A. J. Trappitt 6, J. F. Galyer (first quarter-peal as conductor) 7, J. Avery 8.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday, January 3rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. Tourle 1, Miss E. Chapman 2, Miss E. Harcastle 3, Miss F. Orr (conductor) 4, S. King 5, A. Calver 6, W. S. Smith 7, J. Loft 8.—On February 7th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. Tourle 1, J. Loft 2, Miss E. Harcastle 3, Miss F. Orr (conductor) 4, Miss E. Chapman 5, A. Calver 6, W. S. Smith 7, S. King 8.

FALSE PEAL.*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—I am sorry to have to give notice that the peal of Double Norwich C.B. Major rung at Whalley, Lancashire, on Dec. 19th, 1925, was false, and I offer every apology to those who rang it. The peal is No. 158, C.C. Collection, Section III., 5,088, by A. B. Carpenter, there being a repetition in the 3rd and 13th courses.—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR TOMLINSON.

Blackburn, Lancs.
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NOTICES.

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The **EDITORIAL OFFICE** of the 'RINGING WORLD,' to which all communications should be sent, is 63, **COMMERCIAL ROAD, WOKING.**

'The Ringing World' can be sent direct by post from the Editorial Office for 4/- per quarter.

ST. MARTIN'S GUILD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM (Established 1755).—The 38th Annual Henry Johnson Commemoration Dinner will be held at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street, Birmingham, on Saturday, March 6th, at 6 o'clock, when the chair will be taken by Canon T. Guy Rogers, B.D., M.C., Rector of Birmingham, Chaplain to the King. To fully qualified members tickets will be issued on payment of 2/-, to other members and friends, 6/6 each. The bells of St. Martin's (12) will be available from 3 to 5 o'clock, the Cathedral (10) from 4 to 5.30.—A. Paddon Smith, 11, Albert Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

In connection with the Henry Johnson Commemoration Annual Dinner on March 6th the bells of Bishop Ryder's Church, Gem Street, Birmingham, will be available for visitors from 3 to 5.30 p.m.—James George, 44, Cuckoo Road, Nechells, Birmingham.

ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS.—(Established 1637).—Meetings for practice will be held at St. Magnus, on the 18th, *St. Mary-le-Bow on the 9th, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the 11th (8 p.m.), *St. Paul's Cathedral on the 23rd; all others at 7.30. *Business meeting afterwards.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Sec., 'Frodingham,' 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.4.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Upper Street, Islington, on Saturday, March 6th. Bells available from 3 to 8 p.m. Short service at 5.30. Tea at the Holly Bush Hotel at 6 p.m.—C. T. Coles, Hon. Sec., 49, Wood Street, E.17.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—A meeting will be held at East Crompton on Saturday, March 6th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Two framed peal cards will be unveiled at 6.30 p.m. Business meeting after unveiling. Subscriptions are now due. Reports to hand. A good attendance is requested. All ringers welcome.—William Horan, Branch Sec., 2, Greenhirst Hey, Tormorden.

HERTFORD COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—St. Albans District.—The next meeting will be held at Hatfield on Saturday, March 6th. Bells available at 3 p.m. All ringers and friends welcome.—W. Nash, Dis. Sec., North Mymms, Hatfield.

HERTS ASSOCIATION.—Rickmansworth.—Saturday, March 6th. Bells open 3.30. Tea, 1s. 3d. each, 5.30. Business after. Tower open till 9.—C. H. Horton, 53, Aldenham Road, Bushey.

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT AND OLD EAST DERBYSHIRE AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—Next meeting at Bolsover on Saturday, March 6th. Nominations of officers for the ensuing year to be in my hands by March 31st.—C. Harrison, Hon. Sec. (pro tem.), 62, Roach Road, Sheffield.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—North Bucks Branch.—A quarterly meeting of the above branch will be held at Chicheley on Saturday, March 6th. Bells (6) available from 2.30 p.m. Service 3.30 p.m. Tea 4.15 p.m. Meeting to follow. All ringers welcome.—Walter Sear, 19, Albert Street, Bletchley.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Canterbury District.—The annual district meeting will be held at Faversham on Saturday, March 6th. Bells available from 3 p.m. Divine service at 5 p.m. Tea at Central Café at 5.30. The bells of Ospringe Church will be available after tea. Subscriptions are now due, and should be paid before this meeting.—Edwin G. Buesden, Hon. Dis. Sec., 66, St. Dunstan's Street, Canterbury.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Western Division.—A district meeting will be held on Saturday, March 6th, at Thaxted. Bells available from 3 p.m. Service at 5 p.m. Tea at 5.30 p.m. (1s. per head, at the Swan Hotel), to be followed by business meeting. Those desiring tea kindly advise me. Subscriptions due.—C. Beeston, 5, King Street, Bishop's Stortford.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, LYDD.—Dedication and Opening of the Bells.—Saturday, March 6th. Short Festal Evensong at 3 p.m., and dedication of the bells by the Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury. A band of ringers of the Kent County Association have kindly arranged to ring at the opening ceremony and after, under the direction of Mr. H. Parkes. The bells have been recast, rehung and augmented to a peal of eight by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston, of Croydon, and are turned on the Simpson principle. Clergy and choirs are requested to assemble in the Vestry at 2.45 punctually.

OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD.—Oxford and District Branch.—A meeting will be held at St. Giles' Church on Thursday, March 11th. Ringing 6.30. Service 8 p.m., followed by business meeting.—W. Collett, Hon. Sec., 13, Latimer Road, Headington, Oxford.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Southern Division.—The annual meeting will be held at the Cathedral, Sheffield, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 2.30 p.m. Further particulars will be sent by circular to secretaries of towers.—F. Clark, Hon. Sec.

DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.—The annual meeting will be held at Dudley on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service in church 4.30. Tea and business meeting afterwards.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

LADIES' GUILD.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Mangotsfield on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. Service at 4.30. Tea and meeting to follow. Will those desiring tea kindly let me know by March 10th?—N. G. Williams, Hon. Sec., Weston House, Weston, Bath.

SURREY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at Egham on Saturday, March 13th. Bells (8) available at 3 p.m. Short service at 5 p.m., followed by tea and business meeting. Please notify me by Wednesday, the 10th, those requiring tea. All ringers will be heartily welcomed.—Miss N. E. Shorter, Hon. Sec., Ferndene, 15, Russell Road, Walton-on-Thames.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Tarleton Parish Church on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 2.30.—Fred Rigby, Branch Sec., 8, Carrington Road, Chorley.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Ashton-under-Lyne, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells at liberty 3 o'clock. Meeting 7 p.m. A good attendance is requested.—J. Hall, Branch Sec., 22, Silver Street, Miles Platting, Manchester.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Fylde Branch.—The next meeting will be held at the Parish Church, St. Anne's-on-Sea, on March 13th. Bells ready 2.30. Business meeting 6 p.m. Subscriptions due.—C. Sharples, Branch Sec., 320, N. Promenade, Blackpool.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Northern Division.—A meeting will be held at Kirbymoorside on Saturday, March 13th. Bells (6) will be available from 2 o'clock. Tea will be provided for those who notify the secretary not later than March 9th.—A. L. Henderson, Mayfield, Pickering.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Kettering Branch.—A special meeting will be held at Barton Sea-grave (5) on Saturday, March 13th. Usual arrangements. Will those requiring tea please notify me not later than Tuesday, March 9th?—R. G. Black, Branch Sec., Geddington.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESAN GUILD.—Guilborough Branch.—A special meeting will be held at West Haddon on Saturday, March 13th. Usual arrangements. Will those requiring tea please notify me by the 9th?—W. Bott, Hon. Sec., Guilborough.

LADIES' GUILD.—Central District.—The next quarterly meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Walthamstow, on Saturday, March 13th. Ringing from 3 p.m. Service at 4 p.m., followed by tea and meeting. Those requiring tea please let me know by Wednesday, March 10th.—Mrs. F. F. Hairs, Hon. Sec., 17, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.4.

SOCIETY OF SHERWOOD YOUTHS (Established 1672).—The next meeting of the above will be held at Wollaton on Saturday, March 13th. Tower open 5 p.m. Business meeting 7.30 p.m. All ringers welcome.—F. Blood, Hon. Sec.

DURHAM AND NEWCASTLE DIOCESAN ASSOCIATION.—Southern District.—A meeting will be held at South Church, Bishop Auckland, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 2.15 p.m. Will those intending to be present at tea please notify by March 10th?—A. Hunter, Hon. Dis. Sec., 22, Dickinson Street, Darlington.

THE LADY BELLRINGERS OF BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT will meet for practice and tea, at St. Peter's Church, Harborne, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available 3.30 p.m. Tea at small cost to all who send in their names not later than Wednesday, March 10th, to Mrs. Groves, 43, Malvern Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Blackburn Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at Clitheroe on Saturday, March 20th. Bells ready 3 p.m. Meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Hon. Branch Sec.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Western Division.—The annual meeting will be held at Almondbury on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 12 noon. Tea will be provided at a charge of 1s. 6d. per head, and all applications for tea tickets must reach Mr. J. E. Carter, 70, Northgate, Almondbury, not later than first post Saturday, March 13th. — F. Hutchinson, Hon. Dis. Sec., Weetwood Lane, Headingley, Leeds.

HERTS COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Western District.—Next meeting will be held at Northchurch on Saturday, March 20th, when a good attendance is requested. Bells available in the afternoon and evening. Short, attractive service at 4.45 p.m. Tea, kindly provided by the Rector, to those who send in their names to me by the 16th. Please note this. Subscriptions to be in by that date.—W. Ayre, School House, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead.

SUSSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Eastern Division.—The annual meeting of this division will be held at All Saints', Eastbourne, on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 2.30. Service 4.30. Tea at 5 p.m. (by the kind invitation of the Rev. G. M. Hanks). Business meeting to follow. St. Saviour's tower will also be open from 6.45 to 8 p.m.—Geo. W. Stokes, Hon. Div. Sec., 22, Melbourne Road, Eastbourne.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Wigan Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Upholland Parish Church on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3 o'clock. A good attendance requested. — James W. Grounds, Sec., 10, School Lane, Standish.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—A meeting will be held at Feltham on Saturday, March 20th. Tower open at 3.15. Cheap tickets issued on the Southern Railway.—W. H. Hollier, Hon. Sec., 29, Duke Road, W.4.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preliminary Notice.—A general meeting of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Knaresborough on Easter Monday, April 5th. Bells (8) available throughout the day. Further details later.—P. J. Johnson, Hon. Gen. Sec., 396, Meanwood Road, Leeds.

COALBROOKDALE BELLS.—The Lord Bishop of Hereford will (p.v.) dedicate the two new trebles at the official opening on Saturday afternoon, April 17th. All ringers will be most welcome, and special arrangements will be made for all ringers to have a pull. Complete bands, from Plain to Surprise methods, will be given every opportunity, so that the bells may be heard at their best during the afternoon and evening. There is exceptionally good train service from Shrewsbury and Wellington. Train leaves Coalbrookdale 8.15 Saturday evening. Midland bus runs to and from Wellington Saturday nights from Coalbrookdale 6.5, 8.45 and 10.55. Sunday service, from Wellington 11 a.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. From Coalbrookdale, 12.45, 4.25, 6.25, 8.25 and 9.47 p.m. All the above connect at Wellington for Shrewsbury. Lodgings can be booked at Coalbrookdale if arrangements are made in good time. G.W. trains leave Coalbrookdale for Wellington on week days 6.20, 7.20 and 9 a.m.—All ringers who propose visiting Coalbrookdale should write to William Saunders, Institution House, Coalbrookdale, Salop.

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DEATH.

THOMAS.—On Feb. 25th, at 24, Suffolk Road, Ponders End, Middlesex, Gladys, the dearly loved younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Thomas, aged 13 years.

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DEATH OF A BROUGHTON ASTLEY RINGER

The death took place, on February 18th, of Mr. Robert C. Turrell, a regular ringer at St. Mary's Church, Broughton Astley, at the early age of 22 years, following an operation for appendicitis, at the Royal Infirmary, Leicester. A large number of friends were present at the interment in the churchyard on Feb. 22nd, the service, which was fully choral, being conducted by the Rector (the Rev. B. W. Machin), who expressed the deepest sympathy with the family in the loss of such a promising young life, so suddenly cut down.

The numerous floral tributes included a lovely cross from the Rector, bell ringers and choirmen. In the evening, following the interment, 720 changes were rung on the church bells, being 120 Plain Bob Doubles, 120 Canterbury Doubles and 480 Grandsire Doubles, with the bells half-muffled as a last token of respect, by C. Carr 1, J. Brunt 2, A. Wadden 3, F. Bodycote 4, H. Bird (conductor) 5.

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