

THE RINGING WORLD

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FRIDAY, MARCH 12th, 1915.

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Price 1d.

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



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,
Wolverhampton.

Tenor (33 cwt.) of the New Ring of 12.

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

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

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

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

THE BEGINNER'S OPPORTUNITY.

Not infrequently in the past we have heard it said and the Exercise has been reminded that there was not sufficient encouragement given to beginners; that the older hands, who had the knowledge, usually kept it to themselves. In some degree, we are afraid, this has been true, for we have known belfries where nothing but the keenest interest on the part of the beginner would have kept him in the Exercise. While he was taught to handle a bell and sent home to study the table of a simple method, so that he might fill a gap if needed, his customary place in the belfry was a seat upon a form, while, when his perseverance and persistence made it impossible for him to be longer kept aside, any ambition he may have had to reach the higher heights and gain a practical knowledge of conducting was quenched by the consistent manner in which he was ignored by the custodian of this department. Many a man, we believe, who might have revealed himself as a genius, has, in the past, had his talents smothered, as it were, by the policy of "keep him under."

But, as time has advanced, the democratic spirit of the age has crept even into the belfry, and we believe that at no time more than to-day has the capable man in ringing had a better opportunity of coming to the front. It is always necessary to have in a belfry some one individual responsible for the conducting and the good ringing of the bells, but more and more the young man is given a chance to show what he is made of. Nothing, however, can be worse for the future of a tower than for one man to try to retain the reins of conducting in his own hands. Sooner or later it becomes necessary for another to undertake the work, and then the band drops to pieces from want of one really fitted for the task.

At present there must be many towers where the principal conductor is absent with the Forces of the Crown, and there must be exceptional opportunity for many who have remained behind to gain experience in calling. We hope that, although the circumstances which have created the opening are of the most lamentable kind, full advantage will be taken of the opportunity. It provides the occasion for more men to reveal their best, and the Exercise, notwithstanding that it has now a greater number of ringers of outstanding merit than ever it had, must be the better for it. But those who would seize the chance must remember that for the true conductor there is much more in it than standing on a box and calling the bobs. The man who would excel must study and study deeply. Experience can only come in the tower, but knowledge is to be gained in the quiet hour at home, when with pencil and paper some of the mysteries of our Art are fathomed.

MODERN WORK.

CHARLES CARR, LTD.



OPINION OF OUR
MODERN WORK.

Broomfield Vicarage,
Chelmsford.

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,
Vicar of Broomfield.

CHAS. CARR, LTD.
Smethwick.

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

SMETHWICK,
BIRMINGHAM

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SINGLY,
OR IN PEALS.

CHIMES FOR CLOCKS.

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CRACKED BELLS RECAST.

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STEEL OR IRON.

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OF ALL INDS.

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IN ALL BRANCHES.

BELLHANGERS sent to inspect
and report on Bells and Towers

SEND FOR CATALOGUE.

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Maker to St. Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Imperial Institute, Canterbury, Edinburgh, St. Alban's, Lincoln, Durham, Peterborough, Melbourne (Australia), Rochester, Dublin, St. Patrick's, Manchester and Worcester Cathedrals etc., etc.

EIGHT BELL PEALS.

WOMBOURNE, STAFFORDSHIRE.
THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARCHDEACONRY OF STAFFORD.
On Tuesday, March 2, 1915, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. BENEDICT,

A PEAL OF CRANBIRE TRIPLES, 5040 CHANGES;

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

ISAAC PURSER Treble	DANIEL JONES 5
WILLIAM ROGERS 2	THOMAS BLOORE 6
HERBERT KNIGHT 3	ALBERT LITTLE 7
BENJAMIN GOUGH 4	BENJAMIN FULLWOOD ... Tenor

Conducted by HERBERT KNIGHT.

Rung with the bells half-muffled as a mark of respect to the late Rowland Cartwright.

STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.
THE YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1915, in Three Hours and Twenty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5120 CHANGES;

Tenor 19 cwt.

*HERBERT STOW Treble	†WILLIAM DAFFIN 5
GEORGE HOLLIS 2	†JOHN R. BROOKS 6
FREDK. E. PARSONS ... 3	†SAMUEL SMEDLEY, Senr. ... 7
†HENRY MOTTERSHAL ... 4	WALTER ALLWOOD ... Tenor

Composed by ARTHUR KNIGHTS and
Conducted by GEORGE HOLLIS.

* First peal. † First peal in the method. Rung with the bells muffled as a tribute of respect to the late Mr. Jonathan Thompson, an esteemed member of the Staveley company, who was interred that day.

SIX BELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE ESSEX ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1915, in Two Hours and Forty Minutes,
AT THE CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, LOWER HOMERTON,

A PEAL OF SURPRISE MINOR, 6040 CHANGES;

Comprising 720 each of Canterbury, Beverley, Lincoln, London, Wells, York and Durham (all Class IV Methods). Tenor 8½ cwt.

ALFRED PRIOR Treble	WILLIAM H. THEOBALD ... 4
GEORGE A. BLACK 2	WILLIAM MILLER 5
JOHN MOULE 3	HARRY TORBLE Tenor

Conducted by WILLIAM MILLER.

This was the first peal on the bells. The band wish to thank the Rector (Rev. W. E. Andrews) for giving permission to attempt the peal; also Mr. Dymont, the tower-keeper, for having everything ready and for his kind hospitality after the peal.

HANDBELL PEALS.

LONDON.

THE SOCIETY OF ROYAL CUMBERLAND YOUTHS.

On Saturday, March 6, 1915, in Two Hours and Twenty-five Minutes,
AT 25, WINCHESTER AVENUE, BRONDESBURY PARK, N.W.,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANGES;

JAMES HUNT 1—2	CECIL J. MATTHEWS ... 5—6
JOHN D. MATTHEWS ... 3—4	MISS ELSIE MATTHEWS ... 7—8

Composed by FRANK BENNETT, and
Conducted by JOHN D. MATTHEWS.

Witnesses: Mr. and Mrs. H. J. BRADLEY.

KETTERING, NORTHANTS.

THE CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, March 6, 1915, in Two Hours and Thirty Minutes,
AT 2, CARLTON STREET,

A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5376 CHANGES;

ALBERT V. INNS 1—2	*EDWARD CHAPMAN ... 5—6
DAVID J. NICHOLLS ... 3—4	FREDERICK W. SAWFOOT 7—8

Composed by H. JOHNSON, and
Conducted by EDWARD CHAPMAN.

* First peal of Major as conductor. F. W. Sawfoot's rooth peal for this Association.

CHESTERFIELD, DERBYSHIRE.
THE MIDLAND COUNTIES ASSOCIATION, THE YORK-
SHIRE ASSOCIATION AND THE SHEFFIELD DISTRICT
SOCIETY.

On Sunday, March 7, 1915, in Two Hours and Fifty Minutes,
At 31, HIGHER ALBERT STREET,

A PEAL OF GRANDSIRE CATERS, 5003 CHANCES!

GEORGE HOLLIS ... 1-2 | CLEMENT GLENN ... 5-6
WILLIAM J. THYNG ... 3-4 | ARTHUR KNIGHTS ... 7-8
WALTER ALLWOOD ... 9-10

Composed and Conducted by ARTHUR KNIGHTS.
Umpire: GEORGE DAVIES.

NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The following further contributions to the Prince of
Wales' Fund have been received:—

	£	s.	d.
Amount already acknowledged	73	9	0
Ringers of St. Nicholas, Islip, Northants (per Mr. R. C. Loveday)	0	13	0
Ringers of Selly Oak, second contribution (per Mr. W. Mumford)	0	5	0
York Minster Society, February collection (per Mr. G. Horner)	0	4	0
Total	£74	11	0

ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers serving with the Forces of
the Crown:—

Pte H. Howarth, of St. Peter's, Sowerby, Yorks, 4th Battalion
West Riding Regiment, now at Derby.
Pte Sidney A. Wright, late of St. Mary Abbot's, Kensington.
3rd Battalion Scots Guards (No. 12,701).
From St. John's, Burslem, Staffs:—
Pte James Farrell, Grenadier Guards, now at Chelsea.
Pte W. Matthews, Royal Field Artillery.
Spr. S. Scarrott, Royal Engineers, now at Smethwick.
Pte L. Millington, Royal Fusiliers, now at Dover.
From Bottesford tower, Leicestershire:—
A. W. Ward, Army Service Corps.
A. E. Jallands, 5th (Res.) Leicesters, now at Epping, Essex.

W. SHEPHERD'S 100 HANDBELL PEALS.

The 100 peals rung on handbells by Mr. Will Shepherd, of Hersharn,
is an interesting list, inasmuch as four of them were record lengths,
one being the 19,738 of Stedman Caters at Guildford.

	Rung.	Conducted.
Bob Major (a)	28	22
Bob Royal	6	4
Bob Maximus	1	—
Grandsire Triples	14	13
Grandsire Caters	10	7 (b)
Stedman Triples	4	—
Stedman Caters (c)	19	8
Stedman Cinques (d)	15	3
Kent Treble Bob Major	1	—
Kent Treble Bob Royal	1	—
Kent Treble Bob Maximus	1	—
Total	100	57

(a) Including 1 silent and 1 all-conducted.

(b) Including 8099 record.

(c) Including 14,031 and 19,738 records.

(d) Including 6063 record.

In the list of the ringers who have scored a "century" on handbells,
which we gave last week, that of Mr. F. Blondell, ought not to have
been included. Mr. Blondell informs us that he is still a few short of
that number.

A YORKSHIREMAN'S PLAIN LANGUAGE.

Some amusing communications are sometimes dropped into the
Editor's letter-box. Here is one which comes from a Yorkshire ringer:

Sir.—Will you tell the man that wrote that bit in the Yorkshire
Association Report about the twenty-four peals of Treble Bob that he
rings more peals of Grandsire and Bob Major than anybody else in the
society, and Treble Bob is as good as that any day. Also what is
lacking when he rings seven mouldy lengths of Bob Minor, and in three
Minor methods. Them Treble Bob peals are mostly good class peals
in one part and called by officers of the society.—Yours truly,

FIRST OF TREBLE BOB.

RESTORATION AT BERROW.

DAMAGE BY LIGHTNING MADE GOOD AFTER 30 YEARS.

About the year 1886 lightning struck the church tower at Berrow,
near Tewkesbury, and seriously cracked the larger of the two bells,
which afterwards caused a very disagreeable tone. In 1897 an en-
deavour was made to raise funds to provide and hang a peal of six
bells, using the two old ones in the new. The scheme had to be
given up, however, as sufficient money could not then be raised, al-
though the Vicar (the Rev. H. E. Casey) received some few pounds
from landowners and others, which were deposited in the bank as
the nucleus of a bell fund, but it grew very slowly until Mr. C. J.
Green became churchwarden. He, with the able assistance of Mr. W.
A. Roberts and Mr. A. Waterson, set to work with the determined
intention of raising the required amount, and had it not been for
the war they felt confident that the sum would have been raised for
six bells; but they have had to be content for the present by putting
in only five, leaving space for the sixth to be put in at some future
date.

When the restoration was taken in hand, Messrs. Gillett and John-
ston, the well-known Croydon firm, were called in.

DESCRIPTION OF THE WORK.

After a thorough examination, they reported that the old timber
bell-frame was of weak and faulty construction, and the fittings of the
old bells in a very dilapidated condition. The two old bells, which
weighed about 17½ cwt., were found to be of poor tone, and, in the
light of modern musical requirements, far from being in correct tune.
Various proposals were fully considered, and it was decided as the
bells were of no historic value, to break them up and to utilise the
metal in conjunction with some 10 cwt. of new metal to cast an
entirely new ring of five. This was done, and Berrow can now claim
to possess a peal of bells of purest tone and guaranteed accuracy of
tune. This result has been obtained by casting and tuning the bells
upon the latest scientific, five-tone, harmonical principle. The tenor
is in A flat, and the following are the inscriptions and weights:—

		Cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Treble	Cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1915...	3	1	11
2	Ditto	3	3	9
3	Cost of this Peal and Restoration of Tower de- frayed by Subscriptions raised by Charles J. Green and Arthur H. Waterson. Cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1915...	4	2	6
4	Two bells dated 1650 and 1825, recast and three added with new frame, 1915. Cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1915	6	0	6
Tenor	Cast by Gillett and Johnston, Croydon, 1915. Vicar, H. E. Casey. Churchwardens, C. J. Green and J. Woodward	8	2	10
Total weight		26	1	14

The bells have all been equipped with entirely new fittings of the
most modern type, including the improved pattern of cast-iron head-
stocks, oak wheels, independent clappers, etc., all of which ensure easy
ringing, whilst the old timber bell-frame has been cleared out of the
tower and replaced by an entirely new frame constructed of steel and
iron to the most approved engineering design. This frame consists of
massive steel foundation girders, upon which are erected heavy iron
castings which carry the bells. The whole frame being braced at top
and bottom, forms an entirely self-contained structure of great strength
and rigidity.

The whole of the work of recasting and hanging the bells has been
carried out by Messrs. Gillett and Johnston to the complete satisfac-
tion of the churchwardens. A new floor has also been laid immediately
below the bells to permit of easy access for lubricating the bells, clear-
ing away rubbish, etc.

The Bishop of the Diocese officiated at the dedication of the bells,
and was assisted by the Vicar (Rev. H. E. Casey), Rev. F. S. Griffith
(Poncock), Rev. H. E. Bicknill (Rector of Birtsmorton), and other
clergy. The Bishop gave a very appropriate address, and a large
congregation was present, including many of the subscribers. A col-
lection was made, and realised £8 9s., leaving only a small balance
now owing for the bells from a total of upwards of £300.

The bells were rung during the afternoon and evening, and were
highly appreciated by the parishioners. The tone and tune being much
admired by all who heard them, and the "go" giving gratification to
the ringers.

ARUNDEL RINGERS' DAY OFF.

The illness of a prominent resident of Arundel, whose house is opposite
the parish parish, has necessitated the curtailment of ringing for a time.
Having an off-day, the Arundel band, under Mr. F. S. Smithers,
journeyed to the neighbouring village of Amberley, on a recent Sunday,
where, owing to the war, there has been little ringing of late. The
Vicar, the Rev. Dr. Carr, gave them a cordial welcome, and from
ten until eleven o'clock, the hour of the morning service, the bells
rang out merrily. The outing was much enjoyed, and is to be re-
peated at an early date.

ST. MARTIN'S PEAL TABLETS.

STEDMAN CINQUES "CENTURY" RECORD.

The peal record on the famous bells of St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, is quite a remarkable one, and apart from the many notable performances which have been achieved in the tower, the mere fact of there having been over a hundred peals of Stedman Cinques rung on the bells is in itself a wonderful performance. The "century" peal was rung in February last year, and visitors to the tower on the occasion of the Johnson Dinner last Saturday week had the opportunity of seeing the handsome tablet which records this unique event, and it will take its place among others that commemorate performances of distinction, and from which, in letters of gold, stand out many names which will live in the annals of ringing as long as the art lasts.

Indeed, one of the first things remarked by a visitor upon entering St. Martin's well-kept belfry for the first time, is: "What a fine lot of peal tablets." And so they are. Few, if any, towers can boast of so great an array of such handsome tablets, and so effectively arranged. There are, with the latest addition, no fewer than fifteen wooden ones, the lettering in each case being done in gold leaf on black background, one stone, and five marble tablets, on which are recorded fifteen peals of Stedman Cinques, three of Kent Treble Twelve, two of Grandsire Cinques, and one each of Duffield and Forward Maximus, superlative and Double Norwich Major, and Stedman Triples.

But (and here we may say we share the regret of the Birmingham ringers) the finest tablet in the tower, and one of the very finest in the country, can no longer be seen. At least it can just be discerned up on the Baptistry wall, some forty feet or more above the

one of the restorations, the belfry floor was moved up to open the tower arches to the church, it had to be left where it was, so that now it is immediately beneath the present ringing floor.

This magnificent tablet, which measures 9ft. 4in. by 5ft. 4in., was given to the church by John Hopkins, a noted optician in the town, a famous ringer, and a member of the St. Martin's Guild for 46 years. It is said to have cost £40, and on it are given the full particulars, with names of performers, of no fewer than six twelve-bell peals, in the following order: Kent Treble Bob Cinques (first ever rung), Feb. 1st, 1832; Stedman Cinques, Jan. 11th, 1848; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, March 21st, 1848; Stedman Cinques, Dec. 12th, 1848; Stedman Cinques, Dec. 19th, 1848; Grandsire Cinques, April 17th, 1849.

A framed etching of the tablet is hung in the present belfry, but the members of the Guild are not without hope that some day some generous-minded person may come forward and offer to defray the cost of removing the original, and fixing it in a position where it may be seen and appreciated, in accordance with what would undoubtedly be the wish of its pious donor.

John Hopkins died on October 19th, 1862, aged 62 years, and is buried in St. Thomas's Churchyard, Birmingham.

The latest addition to the tablets, that recording the century peal of Stedman Cinques, is the work of Messrs. O. C. Hawkes, Ltd., Bromsgrove Street, Birmingham, and is of excellent design and workmanship.

It is interesting to note that in addition to the 105 peals of Stedman Cinques which have now been rung at St. Martin's, the following peals have also been rung there since 1785, the first having been rung there on November 19th in that year: Grandsire Cinques, 8; Kent Treble Twelve, 8 (including the first ever rung); Stedman Caters, 7; Grandsire Caters, 7; Kent Treble Ten, 4; Stedman Triples, 2; Bob Maximus, 2; Bob Royal, 2; Oxford Treble Twelve, 2; Grandsire Maximus, 2; Forward Maximus, 2 (only two ever rung); Kent Treble Bob Major, 1; Kent Treble Bob Cinques, 1 (first ever rung); Duffield Maximus, 1 (only one ever rung); Double Norwich Major, 1; Superlative Surprise Major, 1; Oxford Treble Bob Caters, 1 (first ever rung); Oxford Treble Ten, 1; Cambridge Surprise Royal, 1.

THE LATE MR. ROWLAND CARTWRIGHT.

The deep and widespread esteem in which the late Mr. Rowland Cartwright, of Wombourn (for many years chief district collector and canvasser for the London and North-Western Railway Co.) was held in the Wolverhampton district, was shown on the occasion of his funeral at Wombourn Church on Tuesday of last week, when the sad ceremony was attended by a large number of old colleagues and friends, many of whom came from long distances to be present and thus show their respect. The service was of a simple character, and was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. Preb. E. P. Nicholas, assisted by the Rev. C. Barker, and during the service in the church the hymns sung were: "Hark, my soul" and "Rock of Ages." The Vicar read the committal sentences at the graveside, and after the church service was concluded the following rang a course of Grandsire Caters over the grave: A. Little 1-2, J. Jaggar 3-4, Company Quartermaster-Sergt. R. Pickering 5-6, H. Knight 7-8, Rev. E. V. Cox 9-10.

There was a beautiful collection of wreaths from various representative bodies, including the local ringers, St. Peter's (Wolverhampton), and members of the Society for the Archdeaconry of Stafford. The bearers who carried the coffin from the deceased's late residence to the grave were: J. Apse, H. Sadler, A. Little (ringers), W. Fox, W. Jones and A. May.

Besides the many ringers who were present, the Wolverhampton Town Council, magistrates and tradesmen were represented, as well as the following companies: L. and N.W.R., M.R., G.W.R., Shropshire Union Railway and Canal Co., Pickfords, Ltd., etc.

Immediately after the service, a touch of Stedman Triples was rung on the tower bells (half-muffled), by: H. Knight 1, J. Jaggar 2, Company Quartermaster-Sergt. R. Pickering 3, T. Bloore 4, D. Jones 5, Rev. E. V. Cox 6, B. Gough 7, B. Fullwood 8.

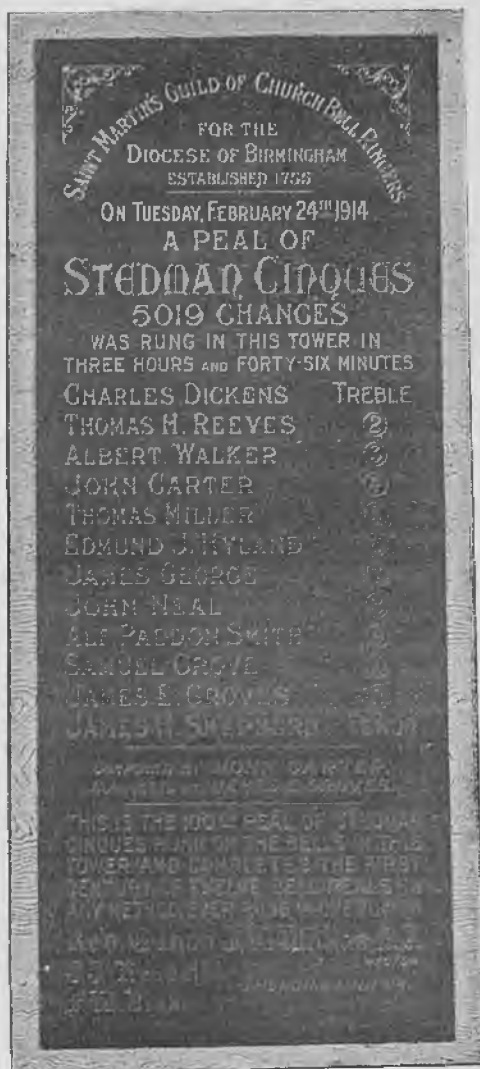
In the evening, a peal of Grandsire Triples was rung—an account of which will be found in its proper place. Unsuccessful attempts were also made at Coseley, and St. Luke's and St. Peter's, Wolverhampton.

The deceased kept no record of the peals he took part in, but the records of the Midland Counties Association and the Stafford Archdeaconry Society show that he rang about 70. He had a keen and musical ear, and was very particular in his striking. Of a kindly spirit and genial nature, he was ever ready to do anyone a good turn. As one of his old friends recently wrote: "I have many pleasant memories of his social and honest nature; would there were more of his genial character. His death is a distinct loss to the change ringing Exercise."

Mr. Cartwright was greatly instrumental in the recasting and augmentation of St. Peter's bells, Wolverhampton, likewise of the installation of the ring of eight at St. Luke's some few years ago. He will be greatly missed by all.

His peals rung for the Stafford Archdeaconry Society were: Grandsire Triples, 14 (conducted 5); Major, 1; Caters (including 8,009 and 11,563), 9 (conducted 1); Cinques, 1; Stedman Triples, 7; Caters, 1; Cinques, 1; Darlaston Bob Triples, 3 (conducted 2); Bob Minor, 2 (conducted 2); Triples, 5 (conducted 4); Major, 3; Forward Major, 1; Royal, 1; Kent Treble Bob Maximus, 1; Double Norwich Court Bob Major, 1; Caters, 1; total, 52 (conducted 14).

Unfortunately we are unable to give his list of peals rung for the Midland Counties Association.



ground-floor of the church, hidden in perpetual gloom, unheeded, but not forgotten.

Years ago the belfry of St. Martin's was considerably lower than it is now, and this tablet, which is of Painswick stone, beautifully designed and executed, was so securely fixed to the wall that when, during

A BELLFOUNDER "TOMMY."

INTERESTING INCIDENTS OF A RIFLEMAN'S LIFE IN THE TRENCHES.

Rifleman Andrew Warner, a member of the firm of Messrs. John Warner and Sons, Ltd., the Spitalfields Bell Foundry, London, but now serving with his regiment (Queen Victoria's Rifles), in writing to his brother Mr. Robert Warner, gives some extremely interesting details of life at the front.

"It is rather difficult," he writes, "to describe what one has to do here, as everything varies so, but I will try to depict our first introduction to the firing line.

"We were moved from our rest billets here, and marched about eight miles along awful cobble streets, straight and fringed with poplar trees which make them appear endless. Our destination was a certain small town in range of the enemy's guns, and a certain barn, where we remained for about two days. We slept in the straw in the top portion of the barn above the cows and horses, and the comfort was far better than our place here, notwithstanding large numbers of hungry rats, which gnashed their teeth outside my mess tin, which was redolent with cheese!

"We had to move off one afternoon to be ready to relieve some of the Regulars at no great distance. Our first point was a village absolutely torn to bits by fire and shell, and which had been the point d'appui of the troops some weeks back, and was taken at the point of the bayonet.

"The church being massively built, does not look much the worse at a distance, but on closer inspection it has had a good share of German shells. There are no inhabitants and our trenches are just beyond, and seem to be a salient or spear point projecting into the enemy's original position.

"The road is strongly held on both sides, at no great distance apart. The firing line seems a maze, and no one appears to be quite sure of the approximate line, but one had enough to do on one's own short front, to worry over what other Forces have to contend with.

FURROW BY FURROW.

"There is a considerable ridge sloping away from the village, and eventually the enemy will have to be pushed up this ridge, field by field, and almost furrow by furrow.

"It was quite dark when we arrived at the village, and we proceeded slowly along the road, halting when the enemy's flare balls shoot up. They are a great convenience to us, and they should be more frequent, as they cannot distinguish at any distance a single man or body of men when halted dead; any movement would be noticed, of course. By-the-way, this road to the village is subjected to guess sniping by night, but the hits can hardly compensate for the waste of ammunition. They lay a rifle or machine gun at a certain range at a certain point during the day, and fire intermittently throughout the night.

"We left the road and struck off across the fields, to a certain line of trenches, floundering through ditches and avoiding Jack Johnson holes which are large enough to drown an elephant. We passed two dead cows, and as they had been there some considerable time, one's sense of smell would guide one sufficiently on the darkest of nights. Our road lay between two farm buildings, one held by us, and one by the enemy, and only a stone's throw between, and then we proceeded on to our trenches, to all appearances behind the enemy's lines, but yet not so.

"There seemed to be a sort of gala night going on in our trenches that evening, and the enemy were busy all along the line firing into the darkness, and thus our new draft had somewhat of an awkward baptism of direct fire; you can quite understand that it takes some time to get men out and new men into a trench, so we were standing there for some considerable time waiting for our rabbit holes to be vacated before we could get out of danger of being hit. As only one of our men received a bullet in the ankle, it shows how wasteful it is to fire vaguely at night.

"We keep awake at night filling sand bags, and improving matters for defence, and comfort, and strolling back to the village in parties for food, water, wire or anything that may be found wanting. No hurry, no worry and everything as a matter of course. The day is spent in sleeping between guards, or watching aeroplanes being fired at by opposing artillery, the proximity of the shell being marked by a sticky ball of smoke which never seems to get any nearer.

TRENCH ENFILADED.

"Our artillery take offence at a certain barn and blow it to bits, and the same thing happens with the artillery on the other side; we never hear, of course, the reason or the result of this, but we do not do anything without reason. The firing trenches are too close for either side to shell much, but the reserve trenches get a hot time now and again with high explosives and shrapnel. Our trench was enfiladed all day, so we have to move about with caution. These trenches have dug-outs which hold about one or two men, and one can get a good sleep except for the cold.

"We do not take much notice of the opposing trenches, except as far as observation goes, but the Germans keep on firing except at meal times. We get relieved in the way we relieve the others, and march

back to our place here. The worst job is the rotten marching on these cobble roads, and a few London General Omnibuses would be much appreciated if the 'Daily Mail' or any other paper is sending any gifts to the soldiers.

"Our second lot of trenches did not have dug-outs, and the only protection against the weather were lean-to's made of rough timber, and waterproof sheets.

"The town here was in the hands of the Germans for about eight days, when they were pushed out to their present position. The cafes are called estaminets, and cheap wine, just like vinegar, can be obtained, and also coffee which is really very good, and the people cook food there, which one buys at the local shops, such as sausages, steak, liver, eggs and bacon, etc. All this sounds very excellent on paper, but I have only dined in this way once, as the general effect seems to be to make one wrong in the stomach at once, and the stuff is no approach on English food.

"The last few days I have not eaten much at all, except rolls, coffee and fruit, but I keep very well on that. Of course a good diet of chocolate spoils everything else in the way of meals.

"With reference to the consignment of cigarettes which you sent, I shall be glad if you would please note that out here in the firing line, we are absolutely inundated with tobacco and cigarettes. Playing cards are very much appreciated in the dug-outs, and candles are quite indispensable, as they serve as light and as cooking stoves, and they only issue us a few per man.

"We have just received orders to stand by to move off at ten minutes' notice, so I must end. There seems to be activity somewhere along the line."

SPITALFIELDS FOUNDRY ROLL OF HONOUR.

Amongst the many names on the roll of honour of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry, are those of the following well-known ringers: Charles H. Austin, Richard N. Runham, Walter G. Rowe, Jesse B. Tylor and Thomas King.

Mr. Duncan F. Christy, also of the Spitalfields Bell Foundry (having seen service throughout the South African War, first as a trooper in the Middlesex Imperial Yeomanry, and afterwards as 1st Lieutenant in the Yorkshire Dragoons, to which regiment he was attached for distinguished services in the field) volunteered at the beginning of the war and joined the Mechanical Transport Section of the A.S.C., but has now been promoted to the rank of corporal, and the following interesting letter from him, recently published in "The Times" gives some idea as to how modern armies in the field are dependent upon machinery of every description, and it is certainly gratifying to know that we are so well equipped in this respect.

"Our company consists of 98 lorries, and this, of course, includes two store waggons, three 'First Aid' lorries (breakdown cars), one office and two repair workshops. The travelling workshops are wonders, and are in duplicate. They are fitted with electric light, and have on board, lathes, drilling and boring and slotting machines, electric riveters, forges, anvils, and everything required in a workshop, even melting pots for running in Babbitts metal in the worn-out bearings before being turned up afresh. The machines are driven by a motor, which is driven by a small motor engine.

"There are other wagons which carry heavy stuff such as portable forges, two or three grindstones, spare springs for cars, crowbars, jacks and heavy tools, and hundreds of other things. If we never came into contact with civilisation again for six months, we could still keep going except for petrol. Two wagons carry petrol, and they always get a fresh supply when going through a town.

"In the very severe weather that we had a few days ago, of course we had to empty all radiators when stopped for any length of time. However, several cars had cracked cylinders. These engines have all been taken down and cylinders brazed by the oxygen process by our own men, and are now in running order again.

"The remainder of the wagons, to the number of about 80, are all loaded up with ammunition of all kinds; for instance, one particular car has 40 boxes of 4.7 shrapnel on and three fuse boxes. Each box weighs about 130lbs."

SHEFFIELD DISTRICT MEETING.

The March meeting of the Sheffield District and Old East Derbyshire Amalgamated Society held on Saturday, at Bolsover, was, as usually is the case at Bolsover, a very successful one, some thirty ringers being present before the bells were raised, and the following towers being represented, viz.: Barlboro', Beighton, Chesterfield, Dronfield, Eastwood (Rotherham), Eckington, Killamarsh, North Wingfield, Mansfield, Rammoor, Sheffield Cathedral, Workson, and the local company. Some good practice was obtained in quite a number of methods, from Bob Minor for the recruits to London Surprise for the ambitious.

A short business meeting was held in the tower, Mr. J. P. Tarlton (the President) being in the chair.—The Vicar, in replying to a vote of thanks, gave all the visitors a very warm welcome, saying the vote of thanks ought to be reversed, as he was delighted to hear the bells. He promised them always a welcome when they came to Bolsover, and expressed the hope that future meetings would be even more successful.—A vote of thanks to the local company concluded the business. Owing to Bolsover being situated "out of doors," as it were, 7.30 saw the last of the visitors hurrying towards the different railway stations en route for home.

BELLS OF LIVERPOOL DIOCESE.

In a recent issue of the "Liverpool Diocesan Gazette," Mr. F. H. Cheetham had an interesting article upon the church bells of the Liverpool diocese. It is a summary of results of his investigations in the thirteen ancient parishes which comprise the diocese, and which will be dealt with in more ample fashion in connection with a catalogue of the bells of all the other churches in the southern part of Lancashire, which is to be published in next year's volume of the "Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society." We give below some extracts from the article, dealing with the most ancient of the bells to be found in the diocese.

The oldest and in many respects the most interesting bell in the diocese, says Mr. Cheetham, hangs by itself in the modern church of Roby. The bell is said to have been originally the tenor of the old ring of four at Huyton, and was presented by the Vicar and churchwardens of Huyton to the new church at Roby in 1850. A note in the Roby Church book states that the bell "was discarded by Mr. Mears, bell founder of London, as being of too fine a tone and quality to harmonise with the new bells which he was commissioned to make for the increase of the Huyton peal from four to six." This was in 1846. The tower of the original church at Roby was built for the accommodation of this bell—a reversal of the usual order of things—but the present church dates from 1875. The bell itself is of unusual interest, and is, as far as I know, the only pre-Reformation bell in use in the diocese. It bears the inscription—

SCIE REDICITE. I.S.P. A.D. 1512.

each letter or numeral being cast on a separate patara. The lettering of the first two words is Gothic, but the date figures are in Arabic numerals—a very early instance of the use of such figures. As far as I know, there are only two English bells of a date earlier than this with Arabic numerals, one at Durham Castle (1496) and the other at Canterbury (1505). The Roby bell also bears a shield with the maker's initials, R.O. and an initial shield or cross proving it to have been cast in a late mediæval Nottingham foundry. The local belief that the bell is of Spanish manufacture is entirely unfounded. It is certainly of Nottingham make, and was probably by Richard Selyoke, using the stamp of an earlier founder. The bell is 40 inches in diameter at the mouth.

Next to the Roby bell the tenor at Ormskirk is the oldest in the diocese. It may even be claimed to be older than Roby, for it bears the date 1497. It was, however, recast in 1576, which date is on the waist. The next oldest bell in the diocese, as far as my investigations have gone, is the little bell, or ting-tang at Winwick, which is dated 1600. Following the Winwick bell in order of date are the second and fourth bells at Sefton, both cast in 1661 by Henry Oldfield, of Nottingham, and it is probable that the fifth and tenor, which are also by Oldfield and bear his name, were recastings at the same time, though they bear no date, and their inscriptions probably belong to older bells. The inscription on each of these undated bells is: "Hec Campana Beata Trinitate Sacra Fiat"; on the others—(2) "God bless the founder hereof 1601; and (4), "Nos sumus constructi ad laudem Domini, 1601."

The tenor at Huyton is dated 1606, and other 17th century bells occur at Warrington Parish Church; All Saints', Hindley; Holy Trinity, Warrington; and at Prescot. The oldest of these is the bell at Hindley, which is dated 1646, and bears the inscription—"Gloria in Excelsis Deo." It was cast at the foundry of John Scott at Wigan. The inscription is reversed owing to the founder having put the letters the right way in the mould so that they come out wrong in the casting. The bell hangs by itself over the west gable of the chapel (re-built in 1766). Next in date is the bell at Holy Trinity Church, Warrington, which was cast at Wigan in 1647 by the same John Scott or his son, for the Market Hall, or Court House of Warrington, and was the gift to the town of Colonel John Booth. It hung in the old Market Hall till its demolition about 40 years ago, when it was removed to Holy Trinity Church. This is another case of the bell being older than the church. Holy Trinity only dating from 1709. Warrington Parish Church possesses a ring of six bells, cast by Henry Bagley, of Ecton, Northamptonshire, in 1698, each of which bears an inscription in Latin. On the fifth after "Cantate Domino Canticum Novum" is "Vivat Gulielmus Rex," one of the very few instances in the country in which Dutch William's name occurs on a church bell. A treble and tenor were added to the original ring of six bells in 1884. At Prescot the bells were recast in 1638, but on obtaining a ring of eight new bells in 1845, the old ones are said to have been presented to "a neighbouring parish church." I have not been able to discover where this was, and should be very grateful for any information on the subject. The little bell, or ting-tang, at Prescot, however, is dated 1684, and has the stamp of a bell on the waist, but is without inscription or maker's name.

RUDHALL'S BELLS.

When we come to the 18th century, the number of bells still in use is naturally much larger. A good number, however, have disappeared, in many cases having been recast. The earliest dated bells of this period that I have yet noted are those now hanging in the towers of St. Augustine's, Everton, and St. John the Evangelist, Knotty Ash, but which were originally at St. Peter's, Liverpool. Both

were cast in 1707 by Abraham Rudhall, of Gloucester, and bear his initials and the date. It was the tenor at St. Peter's, Liverpool, and was displaced in 1829, when a new ring of ten bells was obtained, and sent to the new church of St. Augustine, built in 1830. Rudhall's bells are still numerous in Lancashire, though many have disappeared. The firm came into existence at Gloucester in 1684, being founded by Abraham Rudhall the elder, and was carried on by his son, grandson, and great-grandsons till 1828, when it nominally closed. Bells with the name of John Rudhall, however, were cast till 1835. In the catalogue of bells cast by the Rudhalls between 1684 and 1830, and printed by Canon Ellacombe, seven churches now in the Liverpool diocese are included. These are: St. Peter's, Liverpool (eight), St. Nicholas, Liverpool (six), Wigan (eight), Walton-upon-the-Mount (six), Ormskirk (eight), Childwall (six), and Halsall (six). Of these the two rings at Liverpool have disappeared, and the tenor at Wigan, two at Halsall, and the whole of the ring at Childwall, have been recast. The Walton ring remains entire. Where the remainder of the ring at St. Peter's, Liverpool, has gone to I do not know, but should be glad of information on the subject. Also of the Rudhall bells cast for St. Nicholas in 1724.

The next oldest Rudhall bells in the diocese are the third, fourth, fifth, and sixth at Ormskirk which are dated 1714, and which bear respectively the names of the parish clerk, the Vicar, the constable, and the churchwardens. The treble, second, and seventh were cast or recast by Thomas Rudhall in 1774, and the tenor is the old bell already described. After Ormskirk in point of date comes Aughton, where there are four of Abraham Rudhall's bells cast in 1715, all with Latin inscriptions, which is not usual with bells from the Gloucester foundry. These are not mentioned in the list printed by Canon Ellacombe. The Wigan bells are all dated 1732, and there is also a ting-tang cast by Rudhall at the same time. The tenor was recast in 1870, but the old motto has been preserved. The Walton ring is by Abel Rudhall, 1736. At Halsall the three older bells are all recastings in 1785 by Charles and John Rudhall, and the tenor is by John Rudhall, 1811. Another of John Rudhall's bells is that at Christ Church, Hunter Street, Liverpool, cast in 1738. It bears the initials and crest of John Houghton, the builder of the church. The old bells at Childwall, recast in 1812, were by Abraham Rudhall, 1722, but the treble had been recast in 1751. The old inscriptions have been retained.

OTHER FOUNDERS.

Other 18th century founders whose work occurs in the diocese are Richard Sanders, of Bromsgrove, and Luke Ashton, of Wigan. Sanders' bells are to be found at Farnworth and Winwick. For Farnworth, Sanders cast five bells in 1718, but the tenor becoming cracked was recast in 1882. The other four still hang in the tower, together with a new treble, added in 1789, which is not, however, by Sanders. The Winwick bells date from 1711, but the fourth was recast in 1882. Its inscription has not been retained.

The bells at Hindley and Warrington cast by John Scott, of Wigan, have already been noted. This Wigan foundry was afterwards held by William Scott, whose bells occur as late as 1701, but a few years later Ralph Ashton was casting in Wigan, and it is possible he continued the Scott's business. To Ralph succeeded Luke Ashton, four of whose bells are found in this diocese, at St. Luke's, Lorton (1733), St. Peter's, Formby (1746), Melling (1748), and North Meols (1750). Another very interesting 18th century bell is that hanging in the turret of the old chapel of Maghull and dated 1709. It bears the motto, "Christo Ausp. ex. Dux." with the initials L.W. and the stamp of a bell. It is not one of Ashton's bells, the style of the lettering being entirely different from his, but may be by the same founder as the little bell at Prescot.

Other dated 18th century bells occur at Hollinford (1778) and Holy Trinity, Wavertree (Mears, 1794). Three ting-tangs are also of this period. St. James', Toxteth (1775), Holy Trinity, Wavertree (1782) and Holy Trinity, Liverpool (1792).

Most of the later bells of the diocese are from the foundries of Mears (later Mears and Stainbank), of Whitechapel, Taylor of Loughborough, or Warner of London. The famous ring of twelve at St. Nicholas, Liverpool, is the work of William Dobson, of Downham Market, Norfolk (1812-13), but the tenor was recast by Warner in 1911. Dobson's bells also occur at Hale (six, 1814), Sefton (two, 1815), and St. Luke's, Liverpool (eight, 1818). The bell at Holy Trinity, Liverpool, dated 1820, from the evidence of the lettering, also appears to be Dobson's work, though it does not bear his name.

A YORKSHIRE MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Eastern Division of the Yorkshire Association was held at Pontefract on Saturday week, when, despite the unfavourable weather, quite a good number of members attended. Tea was provided in the schoolroom, to which a company of about 40 did justice.—In the absence of the vice-president, the Vicar presided, and welcomed the ringers to Pontefract. The officers were then elected, and it was decided to hold the next meeting at Market Weighton.

The bells were kept going during the afternoon and evening, and various touches of Plain Bob, Treble Bob, Grandsire, Stedman, etc., were brought round.

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BELLS OF ENGLISH CHURCHES.— GRANTHAM.

By J. R. JERRAM.

For the following account of the bells of St. Wulfram, Grantham, I am chiefly indebted to the Rev. Canon Fowler and the late Mr. T. North's "Church Bells of Lincolnshire."

According to Street's "Notes on Grantham" it appears that in 1640 the bells, then five in number, were rehung,



ST. WULFRAM'S, GRANTHAM.

and the chimes were repaired and made to go "perfect and true." In Turnor's "Grantham" we read that the steeple was much injured by lightning in 1652. In the records of the Corporation it is notified that "Lord Rosse gives a bell at Belvoir towards a sixth bell, the Sancte bell in the steeple given and added to it to make a complete sixth bell, suitable and tunable with the other five, so as the Town be at no charge.—Jan. 13, 1652-3." Sir William Ellys, Bart., who died in 1728, gave £25 to cast the fifth bell.

In 1752 the front four bells of the six were recast, and two trebles added to make eight, by Thomas Eayre of

Kettering. The old inscriptions were reproduced on two of the bells. The chimes were put in order at the same time. Fifty-three contributors gave a total of £516 os. 2d. towards the expenses, the Duke of Rutland heading the list with £52 10s.

The first peal of Grandsire Triples was rung on the eight on Easter Sunday, April 22nd, 1764.

In 1775 the then treble, seventh, and tenor were recast, and two trebles added to make a peal of ten, by Pack and Chapman of the Whitechapel foundry. The tenor was recast by Thomas Mears in 1818. She now measures 59½ inches in diameter.

The inscriptions on the present peal are as follows :—

Treble.

PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT, 1775.

Second.

IF YOU HAVE A JUDICIOUS EAR YOU'LL OWN MY VOICE IS SWEET
AND CLEAR. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT, 1775.

Third.

PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT, 1775.

Fourth.

GLORIA DEO SOLI. GLORIA PATRI. FILIO & SPIRITUI
SANCTO. THO. EAYRE, KETTERING, FECIT.

Fifth.

CŒLORUM CHRISTE PLACEAT TIBI REX SONUS ISTE.
OMNIA FIAN'T AD GLORIAM DEI. T.E. 1752.

Sixth.

OMNIA FIAN'T AD GLORIAM DEI. GLORIA PATRI. FILIO
& SPIRITUI SANCTO. T. EAYRE FECIT. 1752.

Seventh.

OMNIA FIAN'T AD GLORIAM DEI. CŒLORUM CHRISTE
PLACEAT TIBI REX SONUS ISTE. T. EAYRE FECIT. 1752.

Eighth.

IN DEI GLORIAM IN ECCLESIE COMMODUM. GLORIA
PATRI, FILIO & SPIRITUI SANCTO. ANNO DOM: 1752.

Ninth.

YE RINGERS ALL WHO PRIZE YOUR HEALTH AND HAPPINESS
BE MERRY, SOBER, WISE, AND YOU'LL THE SAME POSSESS.

RECAST IN 1775. RICH'D. EASON, VICAR. JNO. CALCROFT & JNO.
HARDY, CHURCHWARDENS. PACK & CHAPMAN OF LONDON FECIT.

Tenor.

T. MEARS OF LONDON FECIT. REV'D. WILLIAM POTCHETT, VICAR.
JOHN BROOKS, ROBT. STORR, CHURCHWARDENS, 1818.

Sanctus Bell.

✠ THE GIFT OF MRS ANN HURST OF BARBY DOCKTER HURST WIDOW
TO THE CHVRCH OF GRANTHAM, 1674.

The first part of the "Gloria" was one of Thomas Eayre's favourite inscriptions. Consequently we find it repeated here on three of the bells cast by him. "Omnia fiant ad gloriam Dei" was another commonly used by him, and also by Joseph Eayre. This we find also repeated three times on these bells. "In Dei gloriam in ecclesie commodum" (i.e., "To the glory of God and for the use of the Church") is not so common. The other Latin inscription, on the fifth and seventh, "Cœlovam Christe," etc., is a reproduction from older bells, and signifies: "May that sound be pleasing to Thee, O Christ, King of Heaven."

Ann Hurst, the donor of the Sanctus-bell, was the widow of the Rev. Thomas Hurst, D.D., Rector of Barrowby, from which living he was ejected during the Commonwealth. He was a great benefactor to Grantham.

There are peal boards in the belfry recording the first peal of Grandsire Triples, rung on the old peal of eight in 1764, already mentioned; also one dated June 20th, 1814, and others dated January 12th, 1844, November 9th, 1860, December 24th, 1860, and February 4th, 1861, respectively.

PEALS ON THE BELLS.

Writing concerning the peals rung on the bells, Mr. S. Proctor, of Grantham, says: "The earliest peal rung on the bells is recorded on a peal board in the belfry, as follows: April 22nd, 1764. A complete peal, consisting of 5040 changes of Grandsire Triples, was rung in 3 hrs. 29 mins.: Treble J. Scarborough, 2nd E. Holt, 3rd H. Camm, 4th J. Hand, 5th S. Pickard, 6th E. Peck, 7th J. Wildmore, 8th J. Beck. Unfortunately neither the name of composition nor that of the conductor is given.

"There is recorded a peal of Grandsire Triples on January 12th, 1844, in 2 hrs. 56 mins., to celebrate the fact that Mr. Wm. Marshall, parish clerk, had on that day been a member of the ringers' society for 50 years. Like the preceding peal, no composition or conductor's name is given, and after considering the weight of the bells, and the time given for the peal, I am very doubtful if the peal was rung.

"As will be seen, St. Wulfram's possessed a change ringing band until the year 1881, when the following peal was rung:—

"Grantham Society of Change Ringers.

"On March 28th, 1881, this society, having been established 100 years, a centenary festival was resolved upon by the members, and in celebration of the event a full and complete peal of Grandsire Triples, consisting of 5040 changes, was most excellently rung on these bells, which occupied 3 hrs. 5 mins., by the following members:—

T. Jackson	1st	W. Cawton	5th
W. Weaver	2nd	J. Challands	6th
H. Parker	3rd	H. Lounds	7th
G. Porter (conductor)	4th	W. Chasty	8th

Rev. C. E. Fisher, Vicar; C. J. B. Parker, and S. B. Rudd, Esqrs., Churchwardens.

"After this, peal change ringing at St. Wulfram's continued to flourish until the year 1888, when the bells were rebung in an iron A frame, mounted on Dantzig oak beams, by Taylor and Co., at a cost of £388, the money being found by public subscription. Unfortunately after the bells had been overhauled change ringing gradually died out, and nothing else but 'stony' was rung until the year 1910, when the bells again required the services of a bell hanger, Messrs. Taylor and Co. fitting the 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th and tenor bells with their patent metal cross heads. The clock and quarter jacks were also repaired by Messrs. Smith and Co., of Derby, at a cost of £186, the money being again found by public subscription.

"During the time the bells were thus silent as to change ringing, the Bishop of Grantham and the churchwardens became dissatisfied with the 'stony' ringers, and sought the advice of the Master of the Lincoln Diocesan Guild (the Rev. H. Law James). The result of this step was the 'stony' ringers received notice to 'quit,' and a new band was formed in October, 1910, and rang their first peal, one of Grandsire Triples, on Saturday, October 21st, 1911, this being followed by a peal of Grandsire Caters on Saturday, April 27th, 1912, the band having the honour of ringing the first peal of Caters on the bells, and for the Lincoln Diocesan Guild by an entirely local band. Up to the outbreak of war St. Wulfram's possessed one of the finest and best 'going' peals of bells in the country, and also a regular ten-bell Sunday service change ringing band, but in common with all other towers, several members have answered the call of their King and country, with the result that many vacant ropes are to be found in St. Wulfram's belfry.

"The peal would make a fine ring of 12, there being plenty of room in the belfry to hang the bells all upon one level, and endless room for the ringers in the spacious ringing chamber."

STOKE-ON-TRENT ARCHIDIACONAL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Stoke-on-Trent Archidiaconal Association was held at the Parish Church, Norton-in-the-Moors, on Saturday last, when about 40 members attended from the following towers which are affiliated to the Association: Crewe, Uttoxeter, Hanley, Stoke, Wolstanton, Fenton, Burslem, Biddulph and Brown Edge. The belfry was open for ringing at 3.0 p.m., when various methods were indulged in, after which an adjournment was made to the schoolroom, where an excellent tea was in readiness.

The Rector (the Rev. E. Kenworthy-Browne) welcomed the Association to Norton, for, he said, he believed it was doing a very good work amongst the different towers in the Archdeaconry, and he was delighted to see such a large gathering. It spoke of the enthusiasm of the ringers for their art, when they turned up in such large numbers, despite the wretched climatic conditions prevailing. He also wished to thank them for the grant of £5 towards the rehanging of Norton bells, which he could assure them was greatly appreciated by all, both clergy and laity.—Mr. S. Churton (Stoke) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to the Rector, wardens and ringers of Norton for entertaining them so royally, and mentioned specially Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Turner, Mrs. Wheatley, Miss M. Turner, Miss Walker and Miss H. Holdcroft for working so indefatigably.

Mr. J. Johnson presented a statement of accounts, which was very satisfactory.

The ringing on handbells of "Blue Bells of Scotland," with variations, by Messrs. Allman and Fitchford, of Wolstanton, was greatly appreciated. The belfry was afterwards visited again, and the bells kept going until 9 p.m., when a very successful meeting was brought to a close.

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

EXPERIMENTS IN DEADENING SOUNDS.

Travellers in Italy are wont to extol the soft, mellow tone of bells swinging in plain view in open belfries of the lofty campaniles, notably in Milan, Venice, Padua, Florence and Pisa. While these bells are relatively noiseless in their immediate neighbourhood, their sound waves are thrown afar over a wide area.

In more northern countries, however, this ideal installation is generally inhibited by conceptions of that harmony of proportions appropriate to the prevailing style of architecture, or by certain precautions against exposure to wind-driven storms incident to more rigorous climate. Hence, the necessity of that virtual imprisonment and suppression of our bells which cannot be otherwise than detrimental to their best musical effects as well as to their carrying power. And when towers of restricted height are adjacent to habitations, hotels, offices or public institutions, the sound waves deflected by wide-sloping louvres, or roofs, form a nuisance and a bar to prolonged ringing.

If one of London's most famous rings, St. Bride's, has long been mute, here in the United States no less than three "chimes" have been "chloroformed" by injunctions resulting from agitation against street noises, a movement which in certain localities has become endemic.

In Boston and vicinity, of the five towers containing excellent rings in perfect condition, no less than four are poorly designed as regards the requirements of the bells, and this defect has been the cause of certain unfavourable criticisms by those who, having been accustomed to hear the execution of hymns and tunes, fail to appreciate the superiority of scientific changes. While our English ringers have not met thus far with plain sailing, they have learned how to gradually overcome obstacles to success, and, with the aid of influential supporters, to increase their opportunities for practice. This success is to be attributed less to their excellent striking on tower bells than to the educational process instituted by their public performance on handbells accompanied by explanatory talks. This novel form of entertainment has proved surprisingly attractive, and is capable of indefinite development. Indeed our ringers are beginning to discern that their accomplishments are leading to their recognition as professional artists, and that excellence in their art, as in other forms of music, should command commercial value. As a concrete illustration of the brilliant goal (not a rainbow), which may be within their reach, I may mention that on the evening of February 1st their performance given for the benefit of certain blind refugees of the war now in Paris, netted proceeds amounting to £26 12s.

Meanwhile they are putting their minds to the problem of reducing the noise of our garrulous bells. At Watertown, for example, where the roar of the bells in the quadrangles beneath was declared to be appalling, Mr. Allfrey, by boarding one of the four tiers of openings, has lessened the noise by about 30 per cent. At the Church of the Advent, whose fine ring has been lifted and rehung by Mr. Gibbons, the belfry openings have been entirely closed by means of movable shutters with satisfactory effect, and the Guild have since rung here regularly for service, no changes on these eight bells having been previously executed.

The use of leather, or hardwood, plugs in handbells and hemispherical bells respectively has suggested a similar treatment of tower bells, and a brief allusion to our experiments in this line may serve to deter others from repeating an expedient which we are compelled to unreservedly condemn.

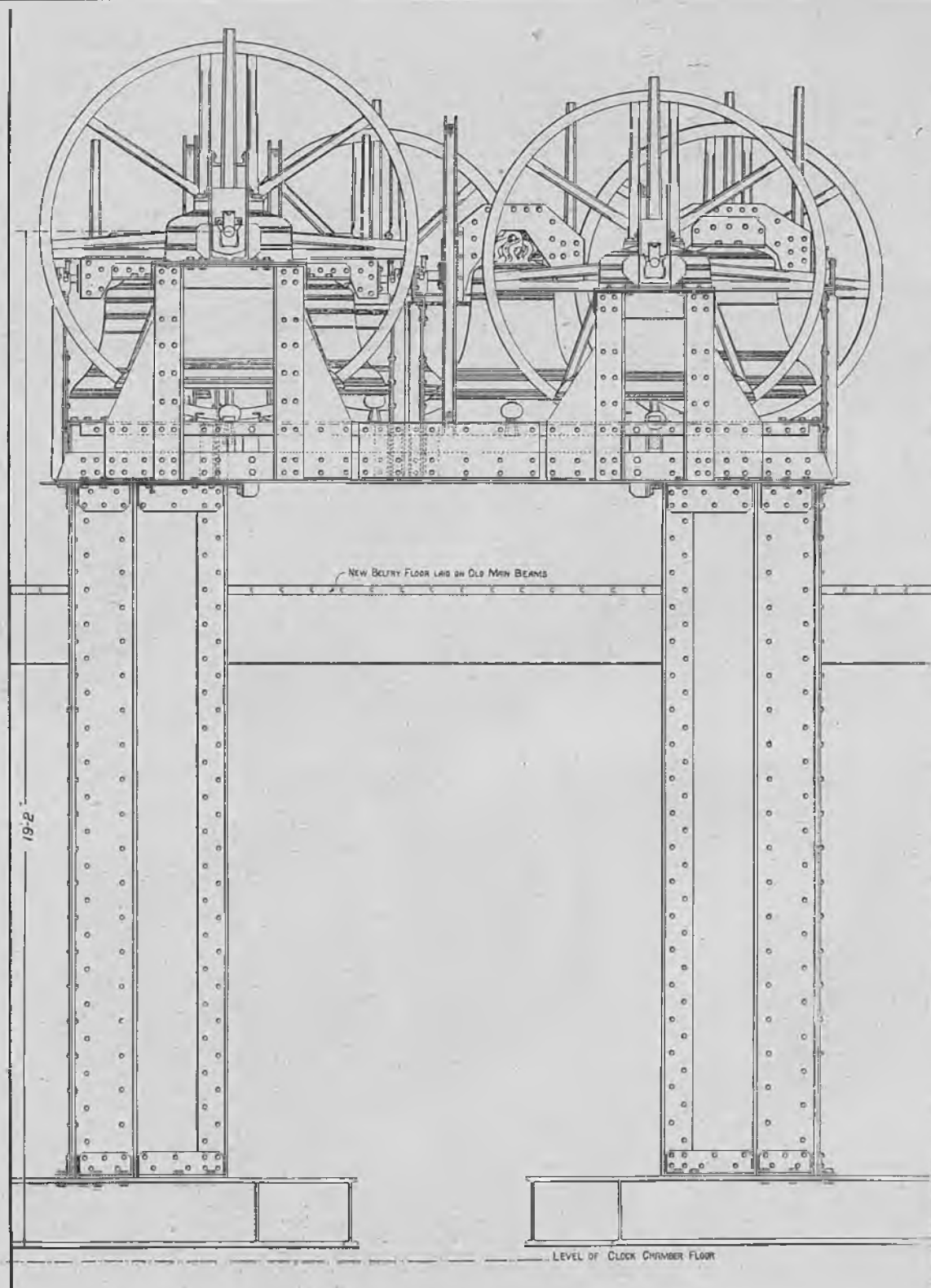
In the first place, in the absence of previous experience, it was no easy problem to find the species of tough wood capable of withstanding the sledge-hammer strokes inflicted on heavy bells. Rosewood, employed in all orchestral percussion instruments, is granular and speedily crumbles. "Lignum Vitæ," being straight-grained, chips at the edges. It is essential, therefore, that the wood should be composed of tenacious, small fibres of irregular grain, qualities possessed by quebrachos and ironwood (hornbeam). Plugs of slightly conical shape with bevelled edges when firmly driven into place retain their position, and if soaked in oil are easily withdrawn by means of an auger used as corkscrew. The practical objection to their effect upon the sound is, that while the small bells are unduly smothered, in the tenors one misses the clean cut resonance of the metallic hammer.

Our experiments tend, therefore, to confirm the opinion expressed by Sir Arthur Heywood in his recently published work upon bell towers and bell hanging, that the proper cure for noisy belfries consists in the depression of the bell-cage, the use of lighter clappers of malleable metal for the back bells, and the partial closure of the belfry openings. In the application of this treatment, however, we should not fail to recognise that, in accordance with a law of acoustics, sound waves intercepted, or deflected, by a solid object are not projected over as great an area as when omitted from wide open belfries.

A. H. NICHOLS, M.D.

No. 55, Mount Vernon Street,
Boston, U.S.A.

We gather that at the performance given for the benefit of blind Belgian refugees, for which the tickets sold for one dollar, "a short talk on scientific bell ringing in England and America" was given by Mrs. Arthur A. Shurtleff (Dr. Nichol's talented daughter).



Vertical Cantilever Bell Frame for St. Michael's Church, Bray-on-Thames
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WHAT THE TENOR SAID.

MUSINGS ON THE WAR.

By G. F. MARGETSON.

How often have we felt the force of Shakespeare's reflection that there are "Sermons in stones, books in the running brooks, and good in everything." And if so, why should not the bells, with their iron tongues and voices, hold converse with those who interpret their language? Do not inanimate things often appeal to us more forcibly than the living? When I looked at our old tenor the other morning, she appealed to me for grease, for we have these last six months been as silent as the tombs round the old church tower. "How can we find heart to ring," says the Rector, "while the nation labours under such serious and momentous issues?"

"Halloo, steeplekeeper!" cheerfully exclaimed the tenor, as I approached her for lubrication. "Haven't seen much of you lately. Whatever has happened to the outer world? It must be six months since we gambolled together in this tower, and to speak the truth, I am as stiff as the flag-pole. So much idleness and ease has added years to my age." "I am sorry," said I, "but I fear your complaints and sufferings are identical with mine, and I know not whether I shall be able, after so long an interval, to throw you frame-high. I am not only stiff, but exceedingly melancholy, not only on my own account, but for the world. You ask me what has happened. Why, the whole earth is convulsed with war, so that I have much anxiety for your safety as well as my own."

"Ah!" exclaimed the tenor, "I judged something terrible had happened, as I constantly hear the Woolwich guns, and the roads appear to be deserted. That motley group of unemployed at the corner of the 'Maypole,' too, have dispersed, and I noticed the hotel shuts off gas at ten o'clock, the sound of departing footsteps scarcely being heard. Serious enough; but tell me the cause of it all?"

Here another report from the Woolwich guns made us both tremble. How could I explain all the circumstances of the war, though I had read Bernhardt, Treitschke, Nietzsche, and other Germans, of whose names I forget the spelling.

"The German Empire," I began, "intoxicated with what Shakespeare styles 'the pride and pomp and circumstance of glorious war,' with an ambition for world-power, is the chief cause of the present calamity. They have already, notwithstanding previous treaties, violated the neutrality of Belgium, and have desolated that peaceful and happy nation, their excuse being that of necessity. The Kaiser and his admirers believe themselves God's appointed rulers, and regard the English and her Allies as degenerate nations."

"Ah!" said the tenor, "everything may be excused on the plea of necessity, for it is certain that all things happen by the laws of necessity. Does not Pope tell us 'Whatever is is right?'"

"Many of their foremost scholars," I returned, "have asserted that peace leads to the decadence of nations, among whom are Goethe and Humboldt."

"And how do you think it will all end?" inquired the old tenor.

"In the desolation of the fairest provinces of Europe; in an increased hatred of those who conquer; perhaps, eventually, in a long and universal peace."

"A consummation devoutly to be wished," replied the tenor sincerely; "war is brutality and madness."

Here a ray of sunshine shot through the louvres of the bell chamber, reminding us that amidst the deepest gloom there exists an element of hope to surmount such evils as appear to be inevitable, and as the clock of a neighbouring turret announced the hour of day, and my duties urged me on, I slipped from the entanglement of speculative argument by saying:—

"Excuse me, dear tenor, I must have your services for an hour, as the passing bell."

"For whom do you require me?" she asked.

"For the dead," I reverently replied.

"For the dead!" she repeated in surprise.

"Why, from all you have informed me, we should be mourning the living and give the dead our praise for having escaped the evils of life.

But toll me or ring me,

Which way you will,

Life is a mixture

Of good and ill.

Lo! as the sea waves,

Beat on the shore,

So are we restless,

Till we are no more."

Thus did I gain a little sermon from the tenor bell, and an inspiration to hope that peace may soon terminate the war, and then won't we ringers proclaim it!

MR. C. H. HATTERSLEY.

His many friends throughout the country will learn with pleasure that Mr. C. H. Hattersley, who has been confined to bed for about a month with influenza, is now improving.

MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—On Sunday, February 7th, for men's service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: E. Webb 1, G. Spencer 2, C. Tricker 3, T. Beadle 4, F. Skevington 5, E. J. Dewey 6, C. Hunt (conductor) 7, H. Brooks (first quarter-peal) 8.—On Sunday, Feb. 21st, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. Sheard 1, G. A. Ransom 2, E. V. Beadle 3, T. Beadle 4, C. Dell 5, A. Beckensale 6, W. H. Lidbetter (conductor) 7, W. Howlett 8. Rung as a farewell to E. V. Beadle, who has left Isleworth to join the Royal Engineers at Chatham.

DENTON.—Chester Guild.—At St. Anne's Church, on February 7th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob: D. Wilde (first 720) 1, H. Bardsley (first on inside bell) 2, A. E. Marshall 3, J. Pollitt (conductor) 4, E. Walters 5, — Wright 6. For morning service, on February 21st, 720 Woodbine Treble Bob: D. Wilde (first in method) 1, H. Bardsley (first in method away from treble) 2, J. Pollitt 3, J. Heckingbotham (conductor) 4, A. E. Walters 5, W. Wright 6.

ALLESLEY, COVENTRY.—Warwickshire Guild.—On Feb. 9th, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 27 mins.: J. Hunt 1, F. Andrews 2, H. Hastings 3, H. Kettle 4, C. Aylett (first inside) 5, A. Roberts (conductor) 6.

YARNTON, OXON.—On Tuesday, Feb. 9th, 720 Grandsire Minor: F. Webb 1, W. Stone 2, V. Webb 3, G. Holifield, junr. (conductor) 4, W. Cox 5, J. Franklin 6.

WOLVERCOTE, OXON.—On February 9th, 720 Grandsire Minor: F. Webb 1, G. Holifield, junr. (conductor) 2, W. Stone 3, V. Webb 4, W. Cox 5, J. Franklin 6.

KENSINGTON.—St. Mary Abbot's Guild.—On Sunday, Feb. 14th, for evening service, 1260 Stedman Caters: W. E. Judd 1, W. E. Garrard (conductor) 2, *A. W. Davis 3, A. Cutmore 4, *J. H. Payne 5, C. Charge 6, W. J. Daubney 7, A. V. Selby 8, A. F. Harris 9, *G. Hannell 10. * First quarter-peal in any method.

LONDON.—At St. Botolph's Church, Bishopsgate, on Sunday, Feb. 14th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 48 mins.: W. A. Alps (conductor) 1, F. Andrews 2, H. Franks 3, T. Walker 4, A. Turner 5, T. H. Taffender 6, M. F. R. Hibbert 7, W. J. Nelder 8.

WELLS, SOMERSET.—At the Cathedral, on Feb. 15th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 53 mins.: T. T. Hayward 1, S. Freke 2, I. B. Holmyard 3, E. Chivers (conductor) 4, A. Speed 5, W. J. Mills 6, D. Loxton and E. Lush 7, H. Fry and A. Berry 8.

NORTHAMPTON.—At All Saints' Church, on February 21st, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 50 mins.: H. Blundell 1, W. Thompson 2, Pte E. Large (8th Warwickshire) 3, J. White 4, H. Rainbow 5, W. Farey 6, W. Allen (conductor) 7, J. Dean 8.

TYLDESLEY, LANCASHIRE.—At St. George's Church, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins., with the bells deeply muffled: H. Watts 1, James Allred 2, R. Allred (conductor) 3, B. Allred 4, Harry Allred 5, John T. Allred 6, Harbert Allred 7, J. Hampson 8. For evening service, 340 Grandsire Triples, with William Hindley taking the place of Hugh Watts. This above are all local ringers, and the touches were rung for those who have fallen in the war.

BAGSHOT, SURREY.—At St. Anne's Church, on Sunday evening, Feb. 21st, for service, 504 Grandsire Triples: G. Pearce 1, H. Gould 2, J. Corbett 3, H. Stapleton 4, T. J. Gould 5, F. Francis (conductor) 6, F. Nye 7, W. Nye 8. Longest length on the bells, and all are local men.

CHESTERFIELD.—On Sunday evening, Feb. 21st, a quarter-peal of Bob Royal (1260 changes), in 48 mins.: W. J. Thyng 1, A. Knights (conductor) 2, P. Sault 3, F. Jacobs 4, W. Allwood 5, G. Davies 6, F. E. Smith 7, W. Jacques 8, G. Hollis 9, T. W. Gore 10. Rung as a farewell touch to Mr. Jacques, of Staveley, who was leaving the district.

SILVERDALE, STAFFS.—On Feb. 22nd, at St. Luke's Parish Church, 504 of Grandsire Triples: T. Rhodes 1, Percy Taylor 2, R. Johnson 3, Wm. Wright 4, T. Birch (first 504 as conductor) 5, Wm. Myatt 6, G. Deighton 7, J. Ferneyhough 8. Longest touch for the ringers of the treble, 2nd and tenor.

CRICH.—East Derbyshire Association.—On Feb. 22nd, 720 of Doubles, consisting of four 120's of Grandsire and two of Mauchester: E. Bower 1, G. Brown 2, W. Drake (conductor) 3, H. Allwood 4, J. Worth 5, W. Pigg 6. Rung with the bells muffled as a token of respect to H. Kay, a ringer of the above association, and also of Midland Counties.

BEESTON, NOTTS.—On Sunday, Feb. 28th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major: F. S. Price 1, A. Coppock (conductor) 2, W. Clifford 3, A. Lowe 4, J. C. Dicken 5, W. Clifford, junr., 6, Rev. H. S. T. Richardson 7, P. Price 8.

LONDON.—Ancient Society of College Youths.—On Sunday evening, Feb. 14th, at St. Dunstan's, Stepney, E., 1257 Stedman Caters: H. Springall (conductor) 1, W. Tanner 2, E. Gibbs 3, T. Langdon 4, E. W. Green 5, A. B. Peck 6, J. Scholes 7, E. Hall 8, H. Langdon 9, J. Nicholls (first quarter-peal) 10.

LAMBERTHURST, KENT.—At the Parish Church, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: A. Marshall 1, H. Price 2, G. Fuller 3, W. Marshall 4, A. Henley 5, A. Relfe (conductor) 6.

HALESWORTH, SUFFOLK.—On Dec. 7th, at St. Mary's Church, 560 Bob Major: L. Hammond 1, Corpl. E. Easter (N.R.), 2, Col. Sergt. F. C. Lambert, Suffolk Regiment (conductor) 3, W. Pierce 4, Corpl. A. H. Took (N.R.), 5, J. Howard 6, Corpl. H. Walker (5th Beds Regiment) 7, C. Moss 8. Also 360 Kent Treble Bob. On Dec. 13th, for evening service, four courses of Stedman Triples by the same company. On Monday evening, Dec. 14th, a touch of Kent Treble Bob Major, and 168 Stedman Triples, with F. W. Watling tenor, others as before. Corpl. H. Walker hails from Luton, Beds, and with the 5th Beds has been quartered in the town for the past fortnight.

DAGENHAM, Essex Association.—On December 8th, a quarter-peal of Minor, in seven methods, comprising 120 each of Double Oxford and Double Court, 240 each of Woodbine, Kent, Oxford Treble Bob and Cambridge Surprise, and 60 Plain Bob: Miss C. Playle 1, G. Playle 2, E. Hawkins 3, E. Butler 4, A. Chaplin (conductor) 5, E. Eye 6.

ELTHAM.—At the Parish Church, on Dec. 10th, 720 Bob Minor, with bells half-muffled, as a token of respect to the late Mr. T. Pritchard, who passed away on December 6th at the age of 92 years: J. Martin 1, J. Hedger 2, T. Groombridge, sear. (conductor) 3, F. Fraser 4, E. Crowther 5, J. Hurrell 6.

ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX.—On Dec. 11th, at the Parish Church, previous to a confirmation service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples: H. W. Lidbetter 1, W. Lawrence 2, H. H. Noakes 3, C. R. Walker 4, J. Tricker 5, A. Beekesale 6, Geo. Spencer (conductor) 7, A. Sheard 8.

BARNES, SURREY.—On Sunday, December 13th, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 44 mins.: H. Barrett 1, R. Mackrill 2, C. Hunt 3, H. Cook 4, W. Worsley 5, H. Dewey 6, F. Skevington (conductor) 7, J. Willmott 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to Mr. and Mrs. H. Barrett's first grandchild.

CHIDDINGFOLD, SURREY.—On December 13th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1264 changes), in 45 mins.: T. Luff 1, W. G. Brockhurst 2, G. Luff 3, Pte E. Jones 4, T. Attwell 5, T. W. Burdock 6, Pte E. Mullins 7, A. J. Bartlett (composer and conductor) 8. Pte Mullins hails from Pendleton and Birmingham, and Pte Jones (whose first touch of Major it was) from Chirk, Salop. Both are attached to the 5th King's Shropshire Light Infantry, billeted in Chiddingfold.

WEST BROMWICH, STAFFS.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, December 13th, for morning service, 280 Grandsire Triples, E. Pagett conductor. Also 216 Stedman Triples. In the afternoon, for the men's service, 97 Grandsire and five courses of Erin Triples. For evening, 144 Stedman, six courses of Erin Triples, and a course of Plain Bob. The following members of the band took part in the ringing: G. Griffiths, T. Taylor, W. Peart, F. Bondall, E. Pagett, H. Pagett, W. Reynolds, A. Caddick, D. Jones and A. Mills (conductor).

WYKE REGIS, WEYMOUTH.—On Dec. 14th, 720 Bob Minor, with the treble leading and tenor covering: J. Watts 1, T. Hyde 2, W. Rose 3, J. W. Rose 4, L. W. Wiffen (conductor) 5, C. Stubbington 6, A. Rose 7, R. Lee 8. First 720 by all except the ringer of the 5th.

GREENWICH.—On Sunday, Dec. 20th, for morning service, at St. Alfege's Church, 504 Stedman Triples: I. G. Shade (conductor) 1, Pte F. J. Robinson, R.A.M.C., Olney, Bucks. 2, W. J. Rawlings 3, J. J. Lamb 4, H. Hoskins 5, W. Berry 6, W. Shimmans 7, Staff-Sergt. T. Jakeman (4th London Howitzer Battery) 8.

GRANTHAM.—Lincoln Guild.—At St. Wulfram's Church, on Sunday, December 20th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1259 changes), in 50 mins.: Harry Thorpe 1, J. C. Whetstone 2, E. Nidd 3, Pte L. Mears 4, W. Thorpe 5, S. Proctor (conductor) 6, Lance-corporal Ballance 7, D. Overton 8, F. Turner 9, T. Hall 10. The ringers of the 4th and 7th are members of Kitchener's Army, the 6th Lincoln, now in camp at Balton Park. On Sunday, December 27th, at the residence of Mr. S. Proctor, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples on handbells: H. Thorpe 1—2, W. G. Thorpe 3—4, S. Proctor (conductor) 5—6, Lance-corporal Percy Ballance 7—8. Arranged for Lance-corporal Ballance, of Gainsborough.

MIDSOMER, NORTON, SOMERSET.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, Dec. 20th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Bob Major (1280 changes), in 48 mins.: S. Froke 1, I. B. Holmvard 2, E. Chivers 3, F. Oliver 4, F. Sneed 5, R. Jones 6, J. Hamblston 7, J. T. Dyke (conductor) 8. First quarter-peal in the method on the bells, and first for all the band except the conductor.

BIRMINGHAM.—On Intercession Sunday, the bells of Bishop Ryder's Church were muffled, and for evening service Johnson's 1008 Grandsire Triples was rung by: W. Stratford 1, A. T. Scrivens (conductor) 2, G. A. Taylor 3, E. Large 4, J. T. Perry 5, W. H. Carrod 6, J. B. Collett 7, S. Coley 8, as a mark of respect to Sergt. C. S. Wellings, 3rd Battalion Worcestershire Regiment, who was killed in action Nov. 6th. He was nephew of the ringer of the tenor. For evening service, on Sunday, January 24th, on the occasion of the unveiling by Sir John Holder of a tablet to the memory of the late Vicar (the Rev. J. Phelps Gardiner, D.D.), a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: S. Coley 1, W. Stratford 2, E. Large 3, A. T. Scrivens (composer and conductor) 4, G. A. Taylor 5, W. H. Carrod 6, J. Porter 7, S. Price 8.

NORTHAMPTON.—On Sunday, Dec. 31st, at the Church of All Saints, a quarter-peal of Superlative Surprise Major (1280 changes), in 51 mins.: W. Farey 1, W. J. Allen 2, J. S. White 3, J. Dean 4, A. W. Coles (conductor) 5, H. Rainbow 6, J. T. Hensman 7, H. Blundell 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to J. T. Hensman.

HYDE, MANCHESTER.—At St. George's Church, Hyde, on January 3rd, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes), in 43 mins.: J. Stopford 1, W. Shaw 2, J. Brierley 3, A. Haughton 4, Tom Wilde (conductor) 5, S. Bowker 6, J. Shaw 7, J. Howcroft 8. The same band also rang 588 in the same method, after morning service. For evening service, 640 Bob Major, with A. Hough (conductor) 7, J. Shaw tenor, the rest standing as before. Rung muffled for those killed in action.

STAVELEY, DERBYSHIRE.—On January 5th, 1376 Bob Major: L. Palmer 1, W. Jacques (conductor) 2, A. Parsons (longest length) 3, S. Smedley, junr., 4, J. Daffin 5, F. Parsons 6, S. Smedley, sear., 7, J. L. Wright (Darley Dale) 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to all those fallen in the war.

BILSTON, STAFFORDSHIRE.—On Thursday, January 7th, 1915, at St. Leonard's Church, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Doubles (1260 changes), in 43 mins.: B. Bladen 1, J. Harper 2, F. Colclough 3, J. Adams 4, J. A. Brown (conductor) 5, T. Justice 6. This was the first quarter-peal of Doubles by all the band, on the bells and in Bilston. Rung on the 24th birthday of B. Bladen, his brother ringers wishing him "Many happy returns." It is the earnest desire of the secretary for a peal, if only of Doubles, to be rung by an entirely local band while he holds office.

PORTSEA.—At the Parish Church, on Sunday, January 10th, 1260 Grandsire Triples, arranged for J. Wheeler, who was at Bordon Camp: H. Hoptrow (first quarter) 1, J. Symonds 2, F. G. Holloway 3, J. Wheeler 4, F. Burrow (first quarter as conductor) 5, W. Wheeler 6, J. Harris 7, C. Creasy 8. On Sunday evening, January 31st, 504 Grandsire Triples: J. Symonds 1, H. Hoptrow 2, C. Groves 3, F. G. Holloway 4, F. Burrow (conductor) 5, J. Harris 6, E. J. Harding 7, Rev. Alexander Corry 8. On Sunday evening, Feb. 7th, 1260 Grandsire Triples: J. Harris 1, C. Groves 2, H. Hoptrow (first quarter inside) 3, J. Symonds 4, F. Burrow 5, J. Harding (conductor) 6, G. Instrall 7, H. Murley 8.

CHALFONT ST. PETER, BUCKS.—For evening service, on January 17th, 720 Oxford Bob Minor: W. Leslie 1, G. C. Johnson 2, H. Cox 3, E. Burnham 4, A. Swan 5, J. Stone (conductor) 6.

HESTON.—Middlesex County Association. — On Sunday, January 17th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 41 mins.: Pte F. Smith, R.E., 1, H. C. Chandler 2, Sapper Alan R. Macdonald, R.E., 3, C. J. Edwards 4, C. S. Bird 5, E. R. Gladman 6, S. Carter (conductor) 7, G. A. Gladman 8. Pte F. Smith hails from Tunstall, Staffs, and Sapper Alan R. Macdonald (formerly the well-known Middlesex ringer) from Bournemouth.

ACTON.—The Middlesex Association.—For C.E.M.S. service, at St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, January 17th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: R. H. Boddington 1, C. Iles 2, J. W. Fruin 3, C. Hunt 4, Robt. Holloway 5, F. Skevington (conductor) 6, V. Holloway 7, A. Harding 8. For evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 44 mins.: A. E. Smith 1, H. Holloway 2, W. Phillips 3, R. H. Boddington 4, J. W. Fruin 5, Robt. Holloway (conductor) 6, V. Holloway 7, J. R. Sims 8.

CURDREIDGE.—Winchester Guild.—On January 17th, for evening service, 720 Bob Minor, believed to be the first on the bells in the method: G. Jupe 1, E. Elcock 2, W. J. Ryves 3, A. Pook 4, Andrew Mears 5, Alfred Mears (conductor) 6.

CASSINGTON, OXON.—On January 19th, 720 Grandsire Minor: V. Webb 1, F. Webb 2, H. Holifield 3, G. Holifield, junr. (first 720 as conductor) 4, Frank Webb 5, W. Cox 6.

EYNSHAM, OXON.—On January 19th, 720 Grandsire Minor: F. Webb 1, H. Holifield 2, V. Webb (first 720 on bob bell) 3, G. Holifield, junr. (conductor) 4, W. Cox 5, Frank Webb 6.

GORING, SUSSEX.—On January 23rd, 720 Cambridge Surprise Minor: H. Tullet 1, J. Farmer 2, J. Paice 3, G. Norris 4, E. Lindup 5, A. W. Groves (conductor) 6. First 720 of Minor on the bells since they were rehung by Messrs. Mears and Stainbank.

WORKSOP.—On Sunday, January 24th, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 Changes): Pte Anderson 1, H. H. Cartwright 2, C. Hudson 3, A. Johnson 4, W. Johnson 5, H. Haigh (conductor) 6, T. Wilson 7, E. Clark 8. First quarter-peal by Pte T. Anderson, a member of this company, who was home on leave from Bocking, Essex. On Sunday, January 31st, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples (1260 changes): W. Johnson 1, H. H. Cartwright 2, C. Hudson 3, A. Johnson 4, W. Roberts 5, H. Haigh 6, T. Bartholomew (conductor) 7, E. Clark 8. Also 672 of Grandsire Triples, with the bells muffled, as a last token of respect to the late William Cotton, who was the verger and sexton of the Priory Church for upwards of 40 years.

EARL'S COLNE, ESSEX.—On Sunday, January 24th, at St. Andrew's Church, for afternoon service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: H. Fairhead 1, R. Fleuty 2, G. A. Wightman 3, J. Fleuty 4, F. Claydon 5, J. French (conductor) 6. On Sunday, January 31st, for afternoon service, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor: H. Fairhead 1, R. Fleuty 2, J. Turner 3, G. A. Wightman 4, F. Claydon 5, W. Scillitoe (conductor) 6. Also touches of Bob Major, Treble Bob and Double Norwich for morning and evening services.

NOTICES.

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

INTER-AFFILIATION.—WORCESTERSHIRE AND DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION.—Will the secretaries of those Associations and Guilds in favour of Inter-affiliation kindly communicate with me, as the Committee of this Association wish, with their co-operation, to put this into operation, if possible.—J. R. Newman, Hon. Sec., Sheepcote, Severn Stoke, Worcester.

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

THE ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS (Established 1637).—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for business on March 16th and 30th; for handbell practice on the 25th. All at 8 p.m. Also at St. Mary's, Walthamstow on Saturdays at 7.30.—William T. Cockerill, Honorary Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—South and West District.—The next meeting will be held at Heston on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 4 o'clock. Tea provided at 6. All ringing friends welcome.—H. C. Chandler, Hon. Secretary, Heston, Hounslow.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Preston Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Whittle Le Woods on Saturday, March 13th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the tower at 5.30.—A. E. Woodhouse, Honorary Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Bolton Branch.—The next meeting will be held at St. George's Church, Tyldesley on Saturday, March 13th. Bells available from 5 p.m. Meeting at 7 p.m.—G. Pincott, Branch Secretary.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Southern District will be held at Sheffield on Saturday, March 13th. The bells of the Cathedral will be available for ringing from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Meeting to follow in the Montgomery Hall. Business: Election of officers. A good meeting is expected. All ringers welcomed.—A. Hague, District Secretary, 20, Gerard Road, Rotherham.

LEEDS AND DISTRICT AMALGAMATED SOCIETY.—The next meeting of the above society will be held at Armley on March 13th, 1915. Bells available from 3 p.m. Committee meeting at 3.30 p.m. Business meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the White Horse Hotel.—Wm. Barton, Honorary Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rossendale Branch.—The next branch meeting will be held at St. James', Haslingden, on Saturday, March 13th. Bells ready at 5.30. Meeting held at 7 o'clock.—J. H. Haydock, Secretary, 31, St. Paul's Street, Ramsbottom.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—South-Western Division.—A quarterly meeting will be held at Hornchurch on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3.30. Tea 6d. each, followed by business meeting at the Bull Inn at five o'clock. 1915 subscriptions are now due.—H. Rumens, Honorary District Secretary, 32, Verulam Avenue, Walthamstow, N.E.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Manchester Branch.—The next meeting will be held at Whitefield (Car Nos. S. 40 and S. 50) on Saturday, March 20th. — W. W. Wolstencroft, Branch Secretary.

KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.—Rochester District.—Half-yearly meeting will be held at Cobham on Saturday, March 27th, 1915. Tower open from 3.30 till 9. Half rail fare will be allowed. Subscriptions are due, and should be paid on or before that date. Members on active service need not subscribe this year. — Edward A. G. Allen, Honorary Secretary.

LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.—Rochdale Branch.—The next monthly meeting will be held at Middleton on Saturday, March 27th. Bells ready at 3 o'clock. Business meeting 6.30.—Joseph Ogden, Secretary.

YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of the Western District will be held at Bolton, near Bradford, on Saturday, March 20th. Bells (8) available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5.30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Short service in church 4 p.m. Tea at 5 p.m., 9d. per head to all giving notice to A. Gill, 795, Bolton Road, Bradford, not later than the 16th inst. Subscriptions received and reports issued at this meeting. — P. L. Cooper, Honorary District Secretary.

LONDON COUNTY ASSOCIATION (late the St. James' Society, Established 1824).—Northern District.—The next meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Islington, on Saturday, March 20th, 1915. The bells will be available from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m., after which the business meeting will be held at the King's Head at 8.15 p.m. All ringers welcome.—L. B. Porter, Honorary Secretary, 1, Canonbury Mansions, Canonbury, N.

ESSEX ASSOCIATION.—North-Eastern Division.—A district meeting will be held at Maldon on Saturday, March 20th. Bells available from 3.30. Tea 9d. each, followed by business meeting at the Warwick Arms, five o'clock. Those intending to be present kindly inform Rev. H. T. W. Eyre, The Vicarage, Great Totham. Subscriptions for 1915 are now due.—B. Redgwell, The Street, Rayne.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.—North and East District.—A meeting will be held at St. Saviour's, Walthamstow (by kind permission of the Vicar, Rev. G. H. Siddans) on Saturday, March 27th. Bells available from 3.30. Short service at 5.30. Tea at 6 o'clock, 6d. each. Will all those requiring same kindly inform me by the 24th inst., so that arrangements may be made? Members are reminded that subscriptions for 1915 are now due.—C. T. Coles, Honorary Secretary, 49, Wood Street, Walthamstow.

CHANGE OF ADDRESSES.—Mr. Thos. Smith, Hon. District Secretary for the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association, has removed to 12, Sutton Street, Goole.—The address of Mr. Maurice F. R. Hibbert is now 6, Grove Cottages, Falconer Road, Bushey, Watford, Herts.

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

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5184 TREBLE BOB MAXIMUS.

By SAM WOOD, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

23456	M	W	H
62534	2 B	1	2
54326	1 A	1	2
42356	1 x		
53246	1 x		2
34256	1 x		
52436	1 x		2
23456	1 x		

A.—4ths and In.

B.—Bob before.

x.—Bobs at the 5th, 8th and 11th leads.

First rung at Ashton-under-Lyne on January 23rd, 1915, conducted by the composer.

5024 TREBLE BOB MAJOR.

By C. H. HATTERSLEY.

23456	M	B	W	H
56342	1		2	2
65243	2			2
42563			2	2
24365	2			2
45362	2	—	1	2
62534	1		2	2
24536	2	—	1	2
35426	1	—		2
53624	2			2
26354	1	—		2
23564			1	2
62345	2		2	2
25346	2	—	1	2
23456			1	2

First rung at St. Thomas's, Moorside, Oldham, on October 31st 1914, conducted by Frank Chapman.

HEMEL HEMPSTEAD.—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, on January 24th, 504 Grandsire Triples: R. Walker (first 504) 1, W. H. Nellwell 2, F. Walker 3, H. Golding (conductor) 4, J. Floyd 5, C. Golding 6, W. Floyd 7, W. Charge 8.

BLETCHLEY, BUCKS.—On Sunday, January 31st, for evening service, 504 Stedman Triples: A. Crane 1, E. Hedges 2, W. Sear 3, H. Morris (first 504) 4, L. Meager 5, T. Best 6, H. Sear (conductor) 7, V. Sear 8. Also a course of Kent Treble Bob Major.

BURBAGE, DERBYSHIRE.—At Christ Church, for evening service, Sunday, January 31st, 720 Oxford Treble Bob Minor, in 23 mins.: S. Kirk 1, R. Ashmore 2, W. Longdon 3, J. Backhouse 4, H. Kirk (conductor) 5, Sapper R. L. Patterson, R.E. (of Sunderland) 6.

EPSOM.—At Christ Church, on Sunday, January 31st, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples in 43 mins.: T. Goff 1, E. Fisher 2, A. L. Brown 3, T. Miles 4, J. Crawford 5, T. Tuttle 6, R. Kendall (conductor) 7, R. Etherington 8.

LEWISHAM, KENT.—At St. Mary's Church, for evening service, on Sunday, February 7th, a quarter-peal of Oxford Bob Triples, in 43 mins.: G. King 1, C. H. Walker 2, E. J. Pannett 3, T. Taylor 4, W. W. Fox (conductor) 5, H. Warnett, junr., 6, H. Warnett, senr., 7, H. Goodwin 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to E. J. Pannett.

READING, BERKS.—On Sunday, February 7th, at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples (1260 changes), in 48 mins.: L. G. Reeves (first quarter-peal) 1, A. Watmore 2, C. Giles 3, W. A. Webb 4, A. T. Reeves 5, J. Swain 6, A. E. Reeves (conductor) 7, F. W. Hopgood 8. Rung as a birthday compliment to the conductor.

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