

# THE RINGING WORLD

No. 284. Vol. XI.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25th, 1916.

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

Price 1d.

## GILLETT & JOHNSTON CROYDON, Surrey.

BELLS, CLOCKS, CARILLONS.



St. Peter's Collegiate Church,  
Wolverhampton.

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

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

The re-casting of the peal of ten bells with the addition of two 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.

## MODERN WORK.

### WAR-TIME ORGANISING.

The difference in the enthusiasm of ringers is often very marked, and the activities recorded in our last issue by a district secretary of the Oxford Guild brings out a striking contrast this week from a district secretary of the Sussex Association. In the former instance we learned of three or four meetings or combined practices a week; in the latter only one district meeting for nearly a year, not through lack of any official desire for meetings but because, apparently, the members failed to respond to the request to invite the association to their towers or to suggest where they would like to meet. It is often the case, however, that when an association or district waits for an invitation none is forthcoming, not because the association is not wanted, but from lack of thought and sometimes of interest on the part of those connected with the towers. Then, too, as time elapses, the fact that the association has asked for invitations is overlooked.

Asking for invitations is quite a good method to pursue in fixing up meetings under certain circumstances, but when it fails to bring the desired results it does not follow that the members do not want meetings, and it ought not to be the end of effort. There is always a great apathy among certain classes of ringers, who, while ready to join in the pleasures which are provided for them, show a great lack of energy in helping themselves. For that reason the task of the general or district secretary is always onerous because, while he has among his members those who are ready and willing to do what they can to help when their assistance is invoked, there are far too many who are prepared to leave everything to someone else.

In the case of the Oxford Guild's successful efforts in East Berks and South Bucks, there can be no doubt that it has all been due to the ready co-operation of those for whose benefit the arrangements have been made, but doubtless the district secretary found it necessary to take the initiative in fixing up, at any rate, the more important of the gatherings. And it is working upon these lines that associations can best hope to keep the interest of their members and maintain the energy of their forces. Despite the number of ringers who are now engaged in more strenuous tasks, there are still enough left at home to make up successful gatherings, as is evidenced every week by the reports which we are able to publish, but those associations who neglect or fail to make their opportunities now will unquestionably have a more difficult task when they endeavour to revive their activities. When a tower slips away from affiliation it is astonishing what a long time it usually takes to bring it back to the fold, yet neglect to keep the ringers interested in the doings of an association by bringing them together, at meetings and so on, is a very easy way of letting them drift.

# CHARLES CARR, LTD.



**OPINION OF OUR  
MODERN WORK.**

Broomfield Vicarage,  
Chelmsford

Dear Sirs,

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

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

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

Yours truly,

CHAS. EDMUNDS,  
Vicar of Broomfield.

Messrs. C. CARR, LTD.  
Smethwick.

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

**SMETHWICK,  
BIRMINGHAM**

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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 PEAL.

SALEHURST, SUSSEX.

THE KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday, August 19, 1916, in Three Hours and Nine Minutes,

AT THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY,

**A PEAL OF BOB MAJOR, 5056 CHANCES;**

Tenor 16½ cwt.

WILLIAM H. LAMBERT ... Treble	CHARLES TRIBE ... 5
CHARLES W. PLAYER ... 2	EDWIN LAMBERT ... 6
WILLIAM J. THOMAS ... 3	ROBERT J. DAWE ... 7
FREDERICK J. LAMBERT ... 4	ALBERT C. EDWARDS ... Tenor

Composed by C. H. MARTIN, and  
Conducted by ALBERT E. EDWARDS.

The conductor was elected a member of the Association previous to starting.

## HANDBELL PEAL.

LONDON.

THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION AND  
LONDON DIOCESAN GUILD.

On Monday, August 14, 1916, in Two Hours and Forty-eight Minutes,

IN THE BELFRY OF ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, SHOREDITCH,

**A PEAL OF STEDMAN CATERPS, 5043 CHANCES;**

REV. A. H. F. BOUGHEY 1-2	REV. E. BANKES JAMES 5-6
WILLIAM PYE ... 3-4	GEORGE R. PYE ... 7-8
JAMES HUNT ... 9-10	

Composed by JOHN CARTER and  
Conducted by WILLIAM PYE.

Umpires: R. SANDERS and E. S. BUTLER.

Rung as a birthday compliment to Rev. A. H. F. Boughey and W. Pye, both of whose birthdays fall on the above date.

## ROLL OF HONOUR.

The following is a further list of ringers serving in H.M. Forces:—

A. Kearman, of Yateley, Hants, 3/4th Hants Regt.  
From St. Giles' and All Saints', Orsett, Essex, the following, most of whom are members of the Essex Association:—  
Corpl. E. W. Ridgwell, Essex Yeomanry, died of wounds received in action on May 13th, 1915.  
Tpr. H. Joslin, Essex Yeomanry.  
Gunner Walter Harrod, R.G.A.  
Bomb. Wilfrid Harrod, R.G.A.  
Pte A. Harrod, 6th Essex Regt.  
Pte H. Chinnery, East Surreys.  
Corpl. T. Kimmings, R.F.A., somewhere in France.  
Gunner C. Bridge, R.G.A.

## THE DEATH OF SERGT. A. PLANT.

MILITARY FUNERAL IN FRANCE.

A ringer comrade of the late Sergt. Plant, whose death we recorded last week, sends us some further particulars. Our correspondent, Pte E. Tigwell, 12006, Signalling Section, 5th Batt, Northants Pioneers, 12th Division, B.E.F., writes from the trenches: "You will regret to hear of the sad death of Sergt. A. Plant, of the 5th Batt. Northamptonshire Regiment (Pioneers), and of the Kettering Parish Church bell ringers. He was engaged in leading his men, helping in the 'Great Push,' when he was instantly killed by a shell on the night of the 4th inst. Those who knew him in the battalion feel his loss very much, especially myself, as we were brought together as members of the ringing Exercise. He came out with his battalion fifteen months ago, and was liked by all who knew him.

"He was given a military funeral on Sunday, the 6th inst., at which I was present, in a cemetery which has been consecrated for the burial of the British heroes who have fallen serving their country. "As a brother ringing my sympathy goes out to the parents of Sergt. Plant, and also the Kettering ringers in the great loss which they have sustained.

"Sergt. Plant and myself have often explored different towers of churches out here when we have been on our well-earned rests, and some of them have proved very interesting."

Pte Tigwell adds: "All the time I have been out here (15 months) the 'Ringing World' has never failed to reach me regularly every week. I always look forward to it, and it has been read in some funny places, and under a good many funny circumstances. I am pleased to say I have been blessed with good health since I have been out here, and have so far been lucky to escape 'Fritz's' implements of torture, with, of course, a good many narrow 'squeaks,' but a miss is as good as a mile, isn't it?"

## THE FIRST PEAL IN CANADA.

### STORY OF VANCOUVER'S BELLS.

(Continued from Page 67).

In continuing his article on the history of the bells of the Church of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Vancouver, Mr. A. C. Limpus writes of the French founders of the first bells:—

"They also asked us in their next letter to explain to them the word 'peal,' as they had no such word in their language, and right here, I think, I struck the nail on the head that sealed the coffin of their argument, when I contended that a foundry could not manufacture a peal if it was something they knew nothing about. Everything now seemed fair to win, when the Bishop appointed a new parish priest in his place. This was the Rev. Father Welsh, one time of Manchester, England.

"My house of cards had fallen again, and all the work had once more to be begun from the beginning. Father Welsh being somewhat in ill-health and not able to stand the strain of numerous meetings, we met two or three of us at a time, and talked matters over in a quiet way. The priest asked me to make drawings, comparing the bells we had and those we required, to show where the difference really was. Now this proved to be quite a work for an amateur, but by taking a plaster cast of a section of our prospective tenor, the bell in F natural, making a full-size line drawing of it and photographing the drawing; using the negative in a lantern, I could make a tracing of all the other seven bells as cast on the continental plan for an octave of bells, where the treble is exactly one-half in all its measurements of the bell an octave below. I was assisted by the late Lord Grimthorpe's drawing in his book entitled 'Clocks, Watches and Bells,' for the outlines of the five new bells required, which I made on transparent paper, so as to lay them over and compare them with the contour of the others. This, I think, it was that won over Father Welsh, for no more meetings were needed, only patient waiting for another year—about five years in all. Then, one Sunday evening, I received a telephone message to drop in and see him after service, and I received the much longed-for permission to go ahead with the necessary alterations, providing there was no expense to the congregation.

"Monday morning found the contractor, Mr. D. J. McPhalen, at work with his carpenters, tearing holes in floors and ceilings to lower the bells, our largest being 60-inch across the mouth, and they were soon down on the dock waiting for the steamship 'Oanfa,' which took them to Liverpool, whence they were transhipped to Avonmouth, and there turned over to Messrs. Llewellyns and James, of the Castle Green foundry. The bells sent them were treble, note C, about 560lbs.; E, about 2,500lbs.; E flat, about 3,000lbs.; and C (tenor) 4,690lbs. By return mail I received a communication asking us to send them the other three bells, our proposed tenors, F, G and A, a request which was very wisely acceded to by the church committee, and the small amount of money required for the purpose was raised by them. As the bells were shipped as ballast, the cost was but a few dollars.

#### THE NEW BELLS ARRIVE.

"This gave the bell founders a fair chance to properly tune the five new bells to them, and saved us the trouble of rehanging them here. Following this came another letter wisely advising us to hang the whole in an iron and steel frame, a suggestion which, to my surprise, was received by the authorities with much favour, the Bishop donating 50 dollars, the Rev. Father Welsh 50 dollars, and one of my pupils 50 dollars towards the cost, the balance of money required being donated by the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic order just instituted in Vancouver, and this being one of their first acts. The whole peal was assembled in the foundry and tested, then taken down, marked and re-shipped to Vancouver.

"On seeing them unloaded at the dock I certainly thought my troubles were about over, but alas! it was not so. While loading the whole peal on to a huge dray I was stopped by a Customs officer, who wanted 30 per cent. duty. We naturally had a few words, as church bells had always entered Canada free, but as luck, or rather ill-luck, would have it, there had been a readjustment of the whole Canadian tariff whilst the bells were away and church bells were not either on the dutiable or free list, having been entirely overlooked. I at once, with Father Welsh, had a parley with my friend Colonel Warsnop, the Customs collector for Vancouver, but he found under the circumstances he could do nothing for us but advise an interview with Mr. McPherson, the then Member of Parliament for Vancouver, who happened to be a member of the congregation. He, after some delay, managed to get a special Order in Council passed placing church bells on the free list, an order which is, of course, still in force. At last I had the pleasure of seeing everything connected with our peal inside the tower door. The five heavy steel beams were raised and cemented in the tower walls.

#### RECORD BELL HANGING.

"The bells and frame were hoisted into the bell chamber one morning, and at one o'clock that day the contractor and his crew of five, one of whom was a ringing recruit, set to work to put the whole together. It was, of course, done under my directions, and by five o'clock that same evening they were ready for ringing. I believe that

in itself is a record in bell hanging, and was due to the perfect fitting by the founders to the measurements I had given. Not a hitch of any kind occurred, and not a bolt has been touched since, except the tightening of the clapper bolt of the seventh. No ringer we have ever had in our tower will admit that there is a better going peal anywhere, and the splice of the five new bells is perfect. I do not believe any founder has ever been called upon to perform a similar feat of splicing to foreign bells, for, as you know, they are of quite a different contour to our own. So here ends the history, as far as I had anything to do with installing this ring of bells in Vancouver.

"Of the previous history of the bells and their first arrival from France in the year 1900, I know very little. Our three tenors are dated 1900, and the present 6th, among other decorations, has the old city of Vancouver crest, while the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th have recast on them the inscriptions of the older French bells, completing the seven Sacraments, with the new crest of the city of Vancouver on the 5th, whilst the treble has the inscription, 'Augustus ora pro nobis,' Augustus being the Bishop's Christian name. All the new bells are dated 1906.

"Though my work was sometimes very trying and often seemed almost hopeless, I never met with anything but the utmost kindness from all the seeming adversaries to my scheme, and those who at first were my strongest opponents became at last my strongest friends. The history of the bells themselves I honestly believe can be surpassed by but few, if any, for in those five years they three times travelled nearly three-quarters round the globe, first from France to China and thence across the Pacific to Vancouver; then to England, back by the Pacific, and finally back across the same ocean to our city on the western gateway of our Empire.

#### GETTING THE RINGERS TOGETHER.

"If I have not already wearied you too much, I should like to write something as to how the first peal in Canada was rung on these bells, and how the ringers, who took part in that event, were gathered together. The bells were opened at Easter, after I had gathered a few round ringers who I happened to run across, and a few of my pupils, after practising on an apparatus I contrived, whereby the clappers could be tied and the respective notes struck on a set of tubes I made in the ringing chamber. We soon got to ring rounds fairly well, when a gentleman, by the name of J. B. Cherry, asked to be allowed to come up, and, as he said he was a member of the College Youths, I knew I had fallen across a valuable assistant, as he certainly proved to be, for a finer tenor man we never had. About this time I had worked out on papers a number of changes, which were placed one before each ringer so that on each change being called he could see at a glance what bell to follow. This arrangement, at that time, seemed the best, as no one knew just how to call changes, or at least each old ringer had a different way, thus causing great confusion, while I was myself only a novice.

"So, for about a year, we jogged along in this manner. When we were ringing one Sunday evening for service a quiet, unassuming young man, with a rather thin face and fair hair somewhat inclined to be curly, was strolling along the shore in Stanley Park, some two miles from our tower. The sound of our rounds, queens, tittums, etc., struck his ears. And what manner of man was this? His very legs ran away with him! Closer and closer towards that familiar sound he rushed. When, however, he arrived in the vicinity of several towers the bells had ceased, but night after night he waited outside the most likely looking tower, and was noticed by one of our band wistfully gazing at the light in the ringing chamber. He accepted an invitation to come up and have a look round. Of course he was asked could he ring, and, on informing us that he had rung before in England, he was given a rope, and proved himself such a steady ringer that he was asked if he would come along and give us a hand. We also learned that his name was George W. Foster, of Borden, Kent. He proved one of the most steady type, and he had been ringing with us from our papers for some months, when he disappeared suddenly for six months or more. Meantime, we had procured a set of handbells, on which we used to practise change ringing after service, and one evening, to our delight, our friend, George Foster, reappeared, having been down in San Francisco. But I believe bells, though composed of copper and tin, have a kind of magnetic influence over some people, and I think this attraction was the most powerful in this case.

#### THE FIRST TOUCH.

"Meanwhile we had picked up many ringers, and amongst those claiming to be change ringers were Mr. J. B. Cherry, of Dublin; Mr. Eldred, Mr. F. M. Bresssey, Mr. Maskell, of Reading; and Ernest Coppen, whilst your humble servant was doing his best to learn to hunt the treble. We had at least six change ringers, and the return of Mr. Foster brought out the fact that he was one too. Then it was that our first course of Minor was rung and my papers, which I had prepared with such care, I was persuaded to burn, by whom you can surely guess. But alas! my action seemed to get me into serious trouble, for we lost our round ringers altogether, and it was some time before we made up our band of eight, but one day Mr. Matthew Bennett turned up, completing the band, and finally we managed a course of Grandsire Triples. About this time we were honoured by a visit from San Francisco of no less a personage than Mr. Jack Tassell, also late of Borden, Kent, who had the distinction of calling the first touch of Grandsire Triples, though it was but three bobs. He did not stay

with us very long, but after his departure we were reinforced by Mr. R. Warner, and were soon able to have some very decent ringing. We made three or four attempts to secure a peal, but it was not to be. Once, after ringing two hours and thirty minutes, with splendid striking, there was a trip. Our conductor, Mr. Foster, had managed to get all bells coursing again properly, but the ringer of the third had set his bell. It was, perhaps, better so, as the first peal in the country should be rung without a trip. But I shall never forget that striking. It was almost perfect, and I think mostly due to our splendid tenor man, Mr. J. B. Cherry. Then, unhappily, we lost Mr. Maskell, Mr. Eldridge and Mr. Coppen. So inserting an advertisement in our local papers, we secured Mr. Farrington Jones, and Mr. Gilbert Pearce, both good ringers, and also about this time, Mr. R. J. Carrier, who, next to Mr. Foster, was the very life of our band. Although only a lad when he left England, and 14 years had passed since he pulled a rope, after a week's practice he proved himself both on the tower and handbells one of those rare specimens of ringers so valuable to our art. And now a finer band of ringers it would be hard to find. Oh, what ringing we had those days! Sunday morning, for service, then from three to five in the afternoon, when we would all go to some restaurant for supper, and then ringing once more for service in the evening. I am afraid it will be some time before we can enjoy such times again.

#### THE PEAL.

"Now as to the peal itself. Set for the 26th June, 1911, Coronation Day, we were all waiting the arrival of Mr. Carrier, who, we afterwards learned, was detained in the Carriboo country, some 250 miles away. Therefore, we could do nothing. But he turned up all O.K. on the first of July, Dominion Day, and away we went first, by arrangement, for a course and stand. All seemed comfortable at their respective ropes as follows: A. C. Limpus treble, G. W. Foster 2nd, F. M. Bressey 3rd, G. Pearce 4th, R. Warner 5th, M. Bennett 6th, R. J. Carrier 7th and F. Jones tenor. A couple of rounds and "Go Grand-sire Triples" was called. Each and every man settled down to business, and all went well for about half-an-hour, when our tenor man showed signs of distress, but he stayed by his bell like a man throughout the peal, which he rang with practically one arm, the other becoming more or less useless through an accident a few days previously. Still, not a hitch, not a trip, not a word, but the occasional 'Bob.' And oh, what music! Now the queens, now the tittums came up, smile after smile appeared on the faces of eight determined men as each familiar change was recognised. One hour, two hours, another half-hour. Now a general flutter, even the bells seemed to know they were again in the home course, and became somewhat careless as to their striking. Then only did our worthy and clever conductor speak. 'Let's have a little striking, boys, or we'll never get this peal. We are in the last seven hundred.' And there was certainly a look of anxious doubt on his face. But everyone settled down to that steady beat, determined not to spoil a splendid peal. By-and-bye a glance at the clock showed two hours and fifty odd minutes, and our conductor's face again grew very anxious as he called 'Single.' But all was well and at last again 'Single,' and 'This is all.' The bells dropped into rounds at two hours and fifty-nine minutes to the dot.

#### THE KING'S INTEREST.

"A prouder set of men in all Canada would have been hard to find, especially when Mr. Doddington appeared in the tower and told us a better struck peal he had never heard, and he had heard it from start to finish. Here ends the history of the first peal on the Continent of America rung by eight men, and also the first ever rung in Canada. "We all went home with but one regret, which was that the peal was not rung as intended on Coronation Day, and could not be recorded as such. But even that was to be surmounted, for on my return from my trip to England, reading a book given me by my brother, entitled 'The King to his people,' I discovered that the Coronation festivities did not come to a close till July 1st, when His Majesty returned to Windsor. In my opinion, therefore, I felt it would be appropriate to consider it a Coronation peal, and as secretary to the British Columbia Change Ringers' Association, I wrote to His Majesty to learn his views on the matter, knowing him to take a certain interest in bell ringing. Alas! I received no answer. Month after month I waited patiently, and had made up my mind I had received a pass-over, as it were, from my King. How mistaken was I? It was the King himself who was waiting for an answer to his letter of inquiry, asking the Archbishop to allow a peal tablet to be placed in the tower. Archbishop Casey having been installed in the diocese but a few days, entirely overlooked the matter. And now followed an act by His Majesty which makes one proud to be in his service (for I have now joined his forces, as most of us have done to fight for right and liberty to continue to ring our church bells as we will). It was no less than to press for an answer, as the King himself saw no reason for withholding consent. Of course things were attended to in short order, and in due course I received a communication from Mr. Pope, secretary to our Governor-General, the Duke of Connaught, which I greatly treasure, as it reads thus: 'I have it from His Highness the Duke of Connaught, on command of His Majesty the King, that the peal rung by your Association on July 1st, 1911, be recorded on the walls of the tower as a Coronation peal.' Thus all's well that ends well. I feel that although my calling in life has been humble, that at least there has been one thing done, and that done thoroughly. Perhaps, after all, coming events do cast their shadows before."

A. C. LIMPUS.

#### WINCHESTER GUILD.

A quarterly meeting, of the Yorktown District was held at Ottershaw on Saturday last, when the members were honoured by the presence of Mr. G. Williams (hon. general secretary of the Guild) and Mrs. Williams; Mr. J. H. Shepherd, of Swindon; Mr. F. E. Dawe, of Bramley; and Mr. and Mrs. Whittington, of Cranleigh. The company included six lady ringers, and Mr. Dawe had the pleasure of ringing the tenor and conducting a short touch for five of the fair sex. The ringing included touches of Grandsire and Stedman Doubles, Plain and Treble Bob Minor.

At the meeting a vote of condolence was passed to the parents and brothers of Mr. Arthur F. Shepherd, of Hersham, who passed away on Thursday, August 17th, at the early age of 25 years. The deceased will be much missed in the district, for he was always willing to give a helping hand to others, very often at great inconvenience to himself.

Mr. Dawe, in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the Vicar for the use of his bells, said that Ottershaw ought to feel proud of their beautiful peal, which, if two trebles were added, would make an ideal peal of eight.—The Vicar, in reply, said it gave him great pleasure to welcome the ringers to Ottershaw, and hoped they would soon come again. He would very much like to have two more bells added to complete the octave.

#### KEEPING THE BELLS RINGING.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—I have read with much interest Mr. Fussell's account of the doings of the Oxford D.G. In our Association (Sussex) the committee issued a circular to the secretaries of the affiliated towers asking for invitations to be sent to the divisional secretaries wherever a meeting was desired. Out of the whole of my division only one invitation has been received, that of Rotherfield, and the meeting was held in August last year. Such apathy does not give much heart to secretaries who are trying to keep the work of their Association going.—Yours faithfully,

GEO. H. HOWSE,

Secretary, Eastern Division of Sussex Association.

Eastbourne.

#### MR. A. W. GRIMES' ILLNESS.

To the Editor.

Sir,—It may interest all his ringing friends to know that the continued illness of Mr. A. W. Grimes has necessitated his going into the hospital for special treatment, and that his address there will be No. 12a bed, Level Ward, Ipswich Hospital, Suffolk. As he has been unable to write he has asked me to thank all who have written him, and I trust they will accept this as an acknowledgment to their letters.—Yours truly,

WM. HEWETT

Camberwell, S.E.

#### ST. BOTOLPH'S, BISHOPSGATE, CITY.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir,—May I trespass upon the valuable space of "The Ringing World," to notify that there will be Sunday service ringing at the above church on the first and third Sundays in each month at 10 a.m. and 5.30 p.m. until further notice, when all ringers will be welcome.—Yours faithfully,

T. WALKER.

#### DEATH OF MRS. STILWELL.

##### WINCHESTER GUILD LOSES A GOOD FRIEND.

It is with deep regret we have to record the death of Mrs. Stilwell, of Hilfield, Yateley, Hants, wife of the esteemed President of the Winchester Guild. Mrs. Stilwell was well known to the members of the Guild as, whenever possible, she attended the annual meetings with Mr. Stilwell. She took a great and practical interest in change ringing, always requesting that, when the local ringers held their annual meeting at Hilfield, the handbells should be brought and changes rung after the meeting, and she always followed the ringing with great keenness. By her death the Guild has lost a good friend, and the deepest sympathy of the members will go out to the president and his family in their sad loss.

NEWPORT PAGNELL, BUCKS.—Recently, for practice, two 504's Grandsire Triples: W. Inwood 1, F. Tompkins 2, W. Smith 3, E. Lathall 4, W. Webb 5, H. Warren 6, W. Brown 7, W. Ellis 8. Conducted by W. Webb and F. Tompkins. Also for Sunday evening service, a quarter-peal Grandsire Triples in 48 mins., to welcome the return of H. Warren, of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force: W. Inwood 1, F. Tompkins 2, W. Smith 3, E. Lathall 4, W. Brown 5, H. Warren 6, W. Webb (conductor) 7, W. Ellis 8. First quarter by the local band, and first attempt.

HAWKSHEAD.—On Sunday, July 16th, at St. Michael's Church, for morning service, 720 Bob Minor: C. E. Webb (conductor) 1, E. H. S. Truscott, of London (first 720) 2, F. W. Coward 3, T. Bradley 4, T. Townson 5, J. Ellwood 6.

## WILLIAM SHIPWAY.

By J. ARMIGER TROLLOPE.

Mr. Clayton says that Shipway was a humbug. Your nameless contributor thinks he is much over-rated. Mr. George Baker holds that, at any rate so far as method construction goes, he was ignorant and incompetent. Perhaps this latter opinion is no great matter since all of us, or all of us that know anything of the subject, come under the same condemnation. But I have always thought a good deal of Shipway; maybe for the same reason (only topsy-turvy wise) that these others criticise him. For while it appears he contradicts some of their pot theories, he agrees with some of the doctrines I have been preaching these many years ago.

So I said within myself: I will write a critical study of the man and his work; I will show the Exercise the debt it owes him. I have not done so; but I have done what it is perhaps permissible to suppose these gentlemen have not done; I have studied his book carefully to see what the man had to say for himself.

And now, how shall we judge him? Where shall we place him among the other ancient authorities? Well, not in the first rank. He was not a great composer as Holt and Reeves were; not a great writer like Stedman; not a great ringer and conductor like George Gross; not a great man like old Ben Annable. He was capable, accurate, well-informed and industrious; and he made a book which is certainly the best of its kind we possess. Which is to say that, of all the books written to be comprehensive guides to ringing, such that a ringer might have at his hand from the time he first touched a rope till the time he had attained his best, it is easily first. It is far better than Hubbard, or Sottenstall, or Banister, and to-day the ringer who knows all there is in Shipway knows a great deal more than the average competent ringer does, and would by no means be out of date if he went among the very best bands. And that although the book was written one hundred years ago. We may go so far as to say that if all the books on ringing had to be destroyed and their learning with them, and one only retained, that one would have to be "Shipway."

That is high praise. But it does not mean that "Shipway" is the best book on ringing, for it is not. It is the best of its kind, and the pity is for Shipway's present day reputation that, being so good, it is not better. It fails in this thing, that the author had two ambitions, and they clashed to his undoing. He wanted to make a good book, and he also wanted to appear as a great composer; and the composer is continually getting in the way of the author. As author he was interested in explaining things to his readers; as composer he was anxious they should not know too much, lest they should be as wise as he, and so his fame be dimmed.

That idea was not peculiar to Shipway; it was the common thing among the old ringers. They felt that a good thing is made cheap, when it multiplied. So long as there is only one peal of a sort it will be held in high honour as a masterpiece. But once its secret is made common property so that any competent person can go and repeat it, it becomes of no particular value at all, and the reputation of the original author suffers accordingly. If Holt had given away his secret with the first figures of his Original, and other men had produced similar peals then, as they have these latter years, the Original would not be the one outstanding composition in Grandsire Triples it is now.

It was not only in compositions that the old ringers acted thus. They did the same in peal ringing. Look at the records of some of the famous old bands, the Norwich band, for instance. They did just enough to keep themselves right at the head of the Exercise for a good century and a half, and this is roughly their record. One peal in each method; if possible the first that ever was rung. If they could not ring the first peal then they rang the longest peal. And having rung one peal they did not attempt a second, nor let other men practice the method with them so that other peals could be rung. It was better to have their names on an expensive peal board and let men wonder how they could do such things than to have the thing cheapened by being repeated.

Consciously or unconsciously much the same feeling was in Shipway when he wrote his book. He knew a great deal more than many people give him credit for, and so, for the matter of that, did a lot of the ancients. But he was not going to give away all his knowledge. Therefore, he did not attempt to explain composition. He knew, for instance, that you can take any peal, and by beginning at different lead ends produce different variations with different part ends. He might have said, after he had given Holt's Ten-Part, "Now if you like you can take this same peal and ring it in various ways, and for my part I prefer the variation which has my favourite part-ends." Something like that Stedman would have said. But Shipway gives the variation as his own "on Holt's plan." He was so anxious to show that he could produce peals of Grandsire Triples, and every other method that he forgot that, while good composers were quite likely to be many, good writers of ringing books must necessarily be few. And so, instead of being in later years remembered as one of the select circle of men who have been able to teach ringers, he is too often remembered as the man who stole Holt's peal.

But there is another reason perhaps why Shipway did not attempt to explain scientific ringing which is because he could not. Do not let anyone run away with the idea that the man who knows most of a thing is always the best man to explain it. You cannot tell other people what you do not know yourself, but, also, you very often can-

not tell them what you do know; and to write a good explanatory book on ringing requires not only knowledge but a further gift which very few of our writers possess to any marked degree. Sir Arthur Heywood had it, and his "Duffield" is a model of what a ringing book should be. Jasper Snowden had it, but in less measure. Perhaps in his case it was not so much the gift of exposition that was lacking as real knowledge. For Snowden explaining practical ringing, and especially elementary practical ringing, is altogether admirable; but Snowden explaining theoretical ringing is not nearly so good. For instance, you do get the impression after reading his chapter on the In and Out of Course of the Rows, that the thing is a real mystery, a fact which you can recognise, but which, like so many other things in life, you cannot really understand.

Perhaps no man has ever quite equalled Fabian Stedman as a writer on ringing. He had a perfect knowledge of the subject, so far as it was developed in his day, combined with a complete ability to tell what he knew, so that others could, if only they would, understand. You cannot class Shipway as a writer with Stedman. His book has almost all its value in the figures of the methods and peals, and the way they are arranged—little in the letterpress. In arrangement and general accuracy it is a great improvement on "The Clavis," but Shipway could not write like "The Clavis" people could; he could not, for instance, have penned that well-known florid passage about John Holt, though he, too, lived to eulogise him. He has no more literary grace than, say, one of Mr. Law James' letters, though in both cases you can usually know what the writers would be at.

Shipway was, I think, the first author who thought it necessary to label every peal with a composer's name. I do not mean he was the first man who did so. In that respect no doubt he was the child of his time. Ringers had already got the idea that, just as every child born into this world must have had a father of some sort or other, so every peal must have had a "composer," an idea not only pernicious but eminently foolish. It is as if one should maintain that there was a time when some man first invented the fact that two and two make four. But, as I said, Shipway wanted all the glory he could get of being a great composer, and could not resist the temptation of clapping his name to the foot of compositions. "The Clavis" people were more modest. They did with no small pride refer to Superlative Surprise as "our own," but they say nothing about the authorship of the rest of the figures, and it is only tradition that tells us it was Reeves, and not Jones or Blakemore, that composed the peals given in the book. Perhaps (who can tell?) one of these others supplied the literary talent and the other the business capacity which made the book a success. And which was it that went down to Norwich and stole those notes on which, as the tale goes, the book was founded?

As I said, the value of Shipway's book lies in the selection of methods and peals and in the way he arranges them, and in these respects it is admirable. Whatever his limitations were he was methodical and industrious. You cannot tell from his letterpress what he really knew, but there are many asides and footnotes and other indications that his knowledge was very considerable, and that he could, if he would, have added very much more to scientific ringing than he did. Why did he not tell the Exercise plainly the relation between odd and even bell variations? He knew it well enough, and used it to produce Double Norwich Caters, Oxford Triples, etc. He does in one place say, in a half-hearted sort of way, that "Grandsire is merely bob ringing with a bell in the hunt," and "the term Grandsire ought to be attached to all methods having a bell in the hunt along with the treble"; but he never told the Exercise why. If he had we should, perchance, have been spared the painful spectacle of many very clever people exciting all their ingenuity to disprove what, if you look at it aright, is one of the most obvious of facts.

I set out with the intention of saying a good word for Shipway, and behold! I have been finding fault all along. But, indeed, his shortcomings are obvious. What really makes him, in spite of all, one of our leading authorities lies deeper, and can hardly be dealt with in an article like this.

## GLOUCESTER & BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Wotton-under-Edge and District Branch was held at Thornbury on Saturday last. Most of the branch towers were represented, and a number of visitors from the Cirencester and Bristol branches were also present. Several touches were brought round before the service, at which the Rev. Canon Cornwall (Vicar) officiated, and, in his address, welcomed the Association to Thornbury Church. His remarks on the bells and bell ringers were very appropriate to the occasion. The special form of service of the Association was used, and the singing of the hymns was hearty.

The members were afterwards invited to the Vicarage, where Mrs. Cornwall had tea waiting, a company of twenty-five sitting down. After justice had been done to the good things provided, the visitors enjoyed a walk round the Vicarage gardens.—The business meeting was then held, the Vicar presiding.—Mr. H. T. Burchall, one of the churchwardens, was elected an honorary member, and Upper Cam was selected as the next place of meeting on September 9th.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Vicar and Mrs. Cornwall for their kindness, which, needless to say, was carried unanimously. More ringing on tower and handbells concluded a pleasant afternoon.

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# BELLS OF ENGLISH CHURCHES.

ST. PETER, LEEDS.

By J. R. JERRAM.

According to Thoresby, the tower of St. Peter's Church, Leeds, contained a peal of ten bells in the latter part of the eighteenth century. In his *Ducatus Leodiensis* he gives the inscriptions as follows:—

*Treble.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA PAX HOMINIBVS. 1712.

*Second.*

SOLI DEO GLORIA. 1672.

*Third.*

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO. 1682.

*Fourth.*

DEO ET REGI SACRYM. 1682.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. PETER, LEEDS.

*Fifth.*

VENITE EXVLTEMVS DOMINO. 1671. TIMOTHY BROOKE WILLIAM CALVERLEY.

*Sixth.*

GLORIA IN ALTISSIMIS DEO. 1671. TIMOTHY BROOKE WILLIAM CALVERLEY.

*Seventh.*

IESVS BE OVR SPEED. 1652.

*Eighth.*

[A cross floree with "GOD" and "ibs" and "maria."]

*Ninth.*

GOD SAVE HIS CHVRCHE. 8851 [*i.e.* 1588].

*Tenor.*

all men that bear my mournfull sound  
repent before you ly in ground. 1623.

According to the tablets in the belfry these bells were replaced by another peal of ten in 1798. The following records the first peal and several subsequent peals rung on them:—

This Peal of Ten Bells first rung February the 5th, 1798; and on December the 25th was rung by the Saint Peter's Company of Change Ringers a complete Peal of GRANDSIRE CATORS, consisting of 5040 changes, which was performed in 3 hours and 37 minutes by the following persons, viz. :—

William Ellbeck ... .. <i>Treble</i>	Richard Willcock... .. <i>Seventh</i>
Thos. Wigglesworth ... .. <i>Second</i>	William Preston ... .. <i>Eighth</i>
Joseph Whitaker ... .. <i>Third</i>	Thomas Normington ... .. <i>Ninth</i>
James Sawyer ... .. <i>Fourth</i>	Benjn. Skirrow ... .. <i>Tenor</i>
William Shaw ... .. <i>Fifth</i>	James Blackburn ... .. <i>Assistant</i>
Benjn. Stocks ... .. <i>Sixth</i>	William Preston conducted the peal.

On Saturday, 25th October, 1800, was rung by the Saint Peter's Society a complete peal of New Treble Bob Royal, ten in, consisting of 5040 Changes, with the 6th at home twelve times wrong and twelve times right, which was performed in 3 hours and 37 minutes by the following persons, viz. :—

William Ellbeck ... .. <i>Treble</i>	Thos. Bedford ... .. <i>Seventh</i>
Thos. Wigglesworth ... .. <i>Second</i>	William Preston ... .. <i>Eighth</i>
Joseph Whittaker ... .. <i>Third</i>	Thomas Normington ... .. <i>Ninth</i>
James Sawyer ... .. <i>Fourth</i>	Joseph Tebbs... .. <i>Tenor</i>
Benjn. Tebbs ... .. <i>Fifth</i>	James Blackburn ... .. <i>Assistant</i>
Benjn. Skirrow ... .. <i>Sixth</i>	Joseph Tebbs conducted the peal.

On the 25th of October, 1816, was rung in this steeple Tebb's curious production of GRANDSIRE CATORS, having in so few as 5579 changes produced the sixty eight-nines and sixty nine seven eights, which is the whole to be obtained with the bells in course, and was rung in 3 hours and 38 minutes by the undermention'd performers:—

[Here the course ends of the peal are set out in full detail.]

Performers' names.

Richard Nicholson ... .. <i>Treble</i>	John Hudson ... .. <i>Seventh</i>
David Robinson ... .. <i>Second</i>	William Preston ... .. <i>Eighth</i>
Joseph Whitaker ... .. <i>Third</i>	Joseph Tebbs ... .. <i>Ninth</i>
Thomas Bedford ... .. <i>Fourth</i>	Joseph Moxon ... .. <i>Tenor</i>
Richard Paley ... .. <i>Fifth</i>	S. Preston... .. <i>Assistant</i>
Abraham Beevors ... .. <i>Sixth</i>	The peal was conducted by the author, J. Tebbs.

Another tablet records a peal of 5079 Stedman Caters rung November 5th, 1818.

Another a peal of 5040 New Treble Bob Royal, rung April 23rd, 1828.

The next one has the following record:—

On the 3rd of February, 1838, being the 40th and final anniversary of the opening of the old Peal of Ten Bells, which formerly occupied the Tower of our old Parish Church, the Saint Peter's Company of Change Ringers, Leeds, rung on that occasion a complete Peal of GRANDSIRE CATORS, consisting of 5040 Changes, which was accomplished in 3 hours and 9 minutes by the following persons, viz. :—

John Clarkson ... .. <i>Treble</i>	John Mortimer ... .. <i>Sixth</i>
John Hudson... .. <i>Second</i>	Samuel Smallpage ... .. <i>Seventh</i>
John Groves ... .. <i>Third</i>	William Gawkrödger ... .. <i>Eighth</i>
Christopher Isles ... .. <i>Fourth</i>	William Groves ... .. <i>Ninth</i>
Isaac Greenwood ... .. <i>Fifth</i>	William Pulleine ... .. <i>Tenor</i>

The Peal was composed and conducted by Samuel Smallpage.

In 1841 these ten bells were replaced by a peal of twelve, with the addition of a sharp second, so as to enable the front eight to be used as a light peal of eight. The inscriptions are as follows:—(All in plain Roman capital letters)

*Treble.*

The gift of William George and Samuel Smith.

Thomas Mears & Sons, of London. 1841.

*Second.*

The gift of James Rhodes, Esq., of Knostrop, and his wife Maria. Thomas Mears & Sons, of London. 1841.

*Sharp Second* [not used with the twelve].

These bells were cast from a design of Mr. W. Gawkrödger, of Leeds, being the first peal of 13 bells ever cast in this kingdom. Thomas Mears & Sons, of London. 1841.

*Third to Eleventh, inclusive.*

Thomas Mears & Sons, of London. 1841.

*Tenor.*

Rev. W. F. Hook, D.D., Vicar; Rev. W. J. Clarke, B.A., Lecturer; Rev. G. Elmhurst, B.A., Curate; Rev. E. Browne, M.A., Clerk in Orders; Rev. W. D. Morrice, B.A., Assistant Curate. Thomas Mears & Sons, London. 1841.

The tenor weighs 35cwt. 1qr. 9lbs. The Vicar, whose name appears thereon, was the celebrated Dr. Hook, afterwards Dean of Chichester.

The following tablets record the early peals rung on the new peal of 12 bells:—

This Peal of 13 Bells was first rung on the 26th of February, 1841, and on May the 1st, 1842, the Saint Peter's Company of Change Ringers, Leeds, ascended this tower and rang a complete peal of GRANDSIRE CINQUES, in the Tittums, consisting of 5148 changes, which was completed in correct style in 3 hours and 43 minutes and 9 seconds by the following persons, viz:—

Saml. Smallpage ... .. Treble	Jons. Baldwin ... .. Seventh
Jno. Robinson ... .. Second	Jno. Mortimer ... .. Eighth
Jno. Groves ... .. Third	Benjn. Ely ... .. Ninth
Jno. Hudson ... .. Fourth	Wm. Gawkrödger ... .. Tenth
Jas. Gill ... .. Fifth	Wm. Groves ... .. Eleventh
Christ. Isles ... .. Sixth	Wm. Pulleine ... .. Tenor

The above Gentlemen had the honour of Completing the first peal of Cinques in the County of York.

There is also a record of a peal of 5056 Kent Treble Bob Major, rung July 7th, 1842; and a peal of 5040 Stedman Triples rung January 8th, 1846: both on the light front eight bells.

**MEETING AT HUNTSHAM.**

The glory has indeed departed from the once-famous belfry of Huntsham, North Devon. The bells, originally three in number, were augmented to six by Messrs. Taylor and Co. in 1866, and further increased to the full octave in 1874 by that same firm, who recast the fifth bell and added a treble and tenor. The oldest bell (the 6th) is by T. Pennington, and is dated 1663. A distinctly pleasurable link with the past history of this tower was formed by the attendance at the meeting which was held on August 12th of the Rev. G. F. Coleridge, who often rang on these bells in their palmiest days. He happened to be staying in the neighbourhood, and learnt of the meeting through seeing it advertised in "The Ringing World." Messrs. J. Heard and C. Henson had kindly spent much time and trouble in getting the bells ready, a very necessary procedure, seeing that they had not been rung for nearly a year. There were 16 ringers present from Bampton, Chipstable, Crowthorne (Berks), Huntsham, Sampford Peverell, and Swindon (Mr. J. H. Shepherd). Change ringing took place on the back six, but the small attendance prevented anything but rounds and call-changes being attempted on the full octave. The Rector (the Rev. A. R. Hudson) gave an address at the service, and afterwards very kindly entertained the ringers to tea at the Rectory. The next meeting was fixed to take place in the middle of October at Morebath, subject to the consent of the incumbent.

**WELL-KNOWN YORKSHIRE RINGER'S DEATH.**

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Walter Coates, of Rotherham, Yorks. After suffering severe affliction of the limbs for some years, he was seized by paralysis, which a few days afterwards terminated fatally on Sunday, August 6th.

He was connected with the Rotherham Parish Church for about 40 years, and was a member of the College Youths and the Yorkshire Association. A clever performer, both on tower and handbells, he had taken part in about 100 peals in various methods, many of which he conducted. Some of them were of a notable character, as the first peal of Grandsire Caters at Rotherham on 29th January, 1874, composed by the late Mr. Wm. Booth, and conducted by the late Mr. C. H. Hattersley; Grandsire Triples on the back eight at Sheffield in April of the same year, and Stedman Cinques at Sheffield on April 10th, 1882, this being the first of its kind in the county of York, composed and conducted by the late Mr. C. H. Hattersley. The deceased was well known and respected throughout the South Yorkshire district, and the ringing fraternity has sustained a distinct loss.

He was laid to rest in Masbrough Cemetery on Wednesday, August 9th, and the sympathy of his large circle of ringing friends goes out to his widow and family.

**HELP OFFERED.**

*To the Editor.*

Dear Sir,—Having now settled for a time at the above address, I am taking the liberty of asking you if you could help me, through your columns, to find a tower where the ringers would be glad of help to keep ringing going on Sundays. Of course, I should like it to be handy my home. I am a change ringer on either 6, 8 or 10 bells in the most regularly practised Standard methods, such as Grandsire, Plain Bob, Stedman and Treble Bob, and am willing and anxious to learn any other methods to suit any band.—Yours truly,

39, Avenue Road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

C. ROLLINGS.

**DEATH OF MR. A. F. SHEPHERD.**

A GREAT HANDBELL RINGER.

Ringers in many parts of England, as well as of Ireland, will learn with deep regret of the death of Mr. Arthur Francis Shepherd, of Hersham, Surrey, youngest son of Mr. Ferris Shepherd. The deceased passed away on Thursday of last week, at the early age of 25 years, after an illness borne with the greatest patience and fortitude. Although he had not the appearance of being physically robust, Arthur Shepherd was a man of grit, and his final illness was accelerated if not entirely caused by his devotion to duty. He was in the service of the London and South-Western Railway Company when war broke out and, having the confidence of his superiors, was then called upon to do important work at the Railway Executive Committee's offices. For many months he uncomplainingly discharged duties which were too exacting for his strength, and trying work and long hours undermined his constitution. There were times when his only rest for days was a few hours' sleep snatched at the office. After nearly twelve months his health gave way, and, though he partially recovered, he was never the same afterwards. A few months ago came the collapse, which ended in his death, and much sympathy will go out to his parents and brothers.

Born at Exeter on January 17th, 1891, Arthur Shepherd could be placed among the best of handbell ringers. Not only was he gifted with unusual skill in this direction, but he was an extraordinary "safe" ringer. As an example of this may be mentioned the fact that in the record peal of Stedman Caters, at Guildford on August 31st, 1912—19,738 changes in 9 hrs. 32 mins.—he rang for more than six hours without a misblow, a feat of concentration of mind and energy of the first order. His first ringing was done when he was still quite a boy at Arklow, Ireland, and before his 14th birthday he had scored five tower bell peals, one of them being the first of Bob Major in Ireland. Shortly after this the family came to reside at Hersham, and here he took part in the first handbell peal by the Surrey Association. He also rang in the first handbell peal by the Devon Guild, which was rung in February, 1910, as a "family" affair, his father and two brothers, with himself, making up the band. In the same year that he rang in the record peal of Stedman Caters referred to above, he also took part in 14,031 Stedman Caters and 8,099 Grandsire Caters "in hand." Altogether he had rung about 150 peals on 6, 8, 10 and 12 bells, including the "Arthur" peal of Kent Treble Bob, a peal of Kent Treble Bob Maximus on handbells, a "silent" and an "all conducted" peal of Bob Major, also in hand. Although capable, he never bothered about calling peals, being content to do his own part and help others. He only conducted two peals on tower bells, and none, as sole conductor, on handbells. In the death of Arthur Shepherd handbell ringing has lost one of its cleverest exponents.

**THE FUNERAL.**

In the beautiful churchyard of the village of Hersham, beneath the sound of the bells he loved so well, the mortal remains of the late Mr. Arthur Shepherd were laid to rest on Tuesday afternoon last. The impressive service was conducted by the Vicar (the Rev. E. P. Fellow), and a numerous gathering of sympathising friends assembled to pay a last tribute of respect. The family mourners included Mr. and Mrs. Ferris Shepherd (father and mother), Mr. and Mrs. Ferris J. Shepherd (brother and sister-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. William Shepherd (brother and sister-in-law), and other relatives. After the committal service the Vicar paid a touching tribute to the deceased, referring to his years of church work as a ringer. Over the open grave a course of Grandsire Triples was then rung on a heavy set of handbells, the roll of the bells having an impressive effect. The ringers were: G. Woodiss 1—2, F. E. Dawe 3—4, W. A. Woodrow 5—6, J. Emery 7—8. There were a large number of beautiful wreaths. In addition to those sent by the family and personal friends, were wreaths: "In affectionate remembrance of Arthur from his brother ringers at Hersham;" the Vicar, churchwardens and ringers of Oatlands, the Yorktown District of the Winchester Diocesan Guild, "in loving memory of a skilled and much respected brother ringer;" "the Master and members of the Surrey Association, in affectionate remembrance of their brother craftsman;" the indoor and outdoor Goods Managers and Staff, Nine Elms; the Staff of the Railway Executive Committee, etc.

**TWELVE-BELL TOWERS.**

*To the Editor.*

Sir,—I thank your correspondent for correction as to the weight of the old tenor at St. Mary Redcliff, Bristol. I fully expected when I published my list that I should have some corrections as to weights of tenors. In cases where I had the diameter and the note I was able to form my own judgment as to the approximate weight; but in several cases I had neither of these particulars. Very often tenors were estimated at fabulous weights by old ringers. I may mention the case of the tenor at Christ Church, Oxford, which many years ago used to be called 42 cwt. She was weighed in 1897 and found to be a little over 31 cwt.—Yours, etc.,

Salisbury.

J. R. JERRAM.

WARSOP.—On Sunday, July 23rd, for evening service, 432 Singles, consisting of Plain Bob, Grandsire and Oxford, by: Pte E. Morris 1, T. R. Flint 2, F. Sharp 3, Pte E. C. Thrale 4.

## CHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.

### ANNUAL FESTIVAL AT CREWE.

The 29th annual festival of the Chester Diocesan Guild was held at Crewe on the 7th inst., and the day's proceedings were both enjoyable and successful.

The proceedings commenced with a service at Christ Church in the morning, conducted by the Rev. W. Bidlake, Vicar. The lesson was read by Mr. C. J. Bowen Cooke (Master of the Guild), and the sermon was preached by the Ven. Archdeacon Paige Cox, Vicar of Hoylake. Taking for his text the words, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net," the Archdeacon delivered a message from the Bishop, who is president of the Guild, the purport of which was that his lordship was making good progress, was deeply interested in the work of the Guild and sent the members his best wishes. Referring to the forthcoming National Mission, the preacher said this object was to rouse the whole nation to a higher religious and moral effort. A leading thought which tended to bring home the part they were to play in this work was derived from the similitude which our Lord used in the text—"the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a net." If the net had broken meshes in it much that was valuable might be lost. Each of them had their places in that net. Those present had their place in the ringing of the bells, which were among the most attractive things of the Church. He remembered the time when the work of the bell-ringers was hardly noticed by the Churches. When he first came to the diocese there was no prayer in their belfries, and nothing special to distinguish their ringers and their work. The effect of the work of the Guild had been to change all this. Men came more regularly to practice, and were to be seen more regularly at worship and the Holy Communion. There was a responsibility upon each one to make a stand for righteousness.

### THE BUSINESS MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Guild was held in the Parish Room under the presidency of the Master (Mr. C. J. Bowen Cooke). Those present included the Ven. Archdeacon Paige Cox, the Revs. W. Bidlake (Christ Church), H. V. Pigot (Grappenhall), A. T. Beeston (New Mills), the hon. secretary and treasurer, J. F. Amies, Mr. John Stringer (Sandbach), and others.

The Chairman said he would like to bear testimony to the gratitude they felt for the lively interest taken in the Guild by the Dean and Chapter of Chester Cathedral. They could have no more tangible proof of that than the splendid work and great interest shown by the late Ven. Archdeacon Barber. Of Church work ringing was no means the least important part, and they felt their position was strengthened by the recognition of the Cathedral authorities in kindly allowing the memorial of their late Master, the Ven. Archdeacon Barber, to be placed in the Cathedral free of charge. They had to thank the Ven. Archdeacon Paige Cox for the personal welcome he gave them on the occasion of the unveiling and for officiating on that occasion. In connection with the forthcoming mission, a great responsibility would be laid upon the members of the Church of England in connection with the national crisis, and they would recognise and feel that they had a real part to play in the affairs of the Church and nation. He moved that a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to the Dean and Chapter for the help they had given to the Guild, and more especially in connection with the memorial to their late Master.

The Rev. A. T. Beeston seconded, and the motion was carried with acclamation.

The Ven. Archdeacon Paige Cox said he was hardly qualified to respond to this, because he was not a member of the Chapter of the Cathedral, properly so-called. He was more or less associated with the Cathedral; in fact, it had been found that the chief remuneration for such duties as he performed consisted in the possession of three seats in the Cathedral. He had plenty of seating accommodation there, but not much remuneration besides that (laughter). He would convey their thanks to the Dean and Chapter. He knew the Dean had the matter of the memorial very much at heart. It was his predecessor (the Ven. Archdeacon Barber), he believed, who had to do with the organisation of that Guild. He was deeply interested in the ringers and their work, and they must never forget what they owed to him (applause).

### THE REPORT.

The annual report stated that the sum of £50 had been invested in the 4½ per cent. war loan. The balance in the hands of the treasurer was £66 18s. 9d., and in the hands of the branch secretaries £52 11s. 10d. Seventy-two belfries were now represented in the membership, which was classified as follows:—Life members five, honorary members 66, ringing and probationary members 676, non-resident members 116; total 863. Twenty-nine members offered themselves for service in his Majesty's Forces during the year, and the Guild roll of honour now contained 64 names. Beyond service ringing very little appeared to have been done. Only three peals, all of Grand sire Triples, had been rung—one on handbells at Stockport, one at Barthomley, and one at Old St. Mary's, Chester.—On the motion of Mr. John Stringer, seconded by Mr. Cliffe, the report and accounts were adopted.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Mr. C. J. Bowen Cooke was unanimously re-elected Master of the Guild, and the Rev. A. T. Beeston hon. secretary and hon. treasurer. The committee was constituted of the following: Honorary members,

Rev. H. L. Mallory, Rev. C. V. Barley, Rev. H. V. Pigot, Mr. Hatt Cook, Mr. H. A. Heywood, Mr. J. Stringer and Mr. B. Warrington; seven ringing members, Messrs. J. Ashmole (Northwich), W. Bibbey (Grappenhall), J. Fernley (Stockport); R. Langford (Crewe), J. Morgan (Chester), J. Norbury (Macclesfield), and W. Wilcox (Wirral). It was decided to ask Messrs. Jackson, of the Stockport branch, to undertake the duties of auditors.

### THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.

The Rev. A. T. Beeston said the Central Council had lost its President, Sir Arthur Heywood. He wanted to know whether the members thought the Council was doing its work, and ought to be continued, or whether they considered it useless. The meeting of the Council for this year had been postponed, and was to be held at Gloucester next year. The term of the present Council would be for four years, and their representatives were only elected for three. Did the Guild wish the present representatives to act during the life of the present Council?

The Chairman: What is your own idea?

The Secretary: I have no hesitation in saying that the Council is doing excellent work, and it will be a very sad day indeed for the Exercise generally if the Council comes to an end.

It was decided that the Guild's representatives should remain in office for four years.

Mr. Lewis thought they should have some expression of opinion as to what their representatives were to do. Were they to vote for the Council continuing in its present or in an altered form? There was a great deal of grumbling that its discussions were somewhat academic, and not understood by the people. He would like the committee to take their academic discussions in private and report results to the Council. He thought a really strong chairman should be appointed.

The Chairman thought academic questions in connection with change-ringing might be relegated to the particular sphere of a committee. Matters for the general improvement of the organisation—the commercial business, and social side—might be dealt with by the Council. Very often heated discussions arose in connection with academic questions of change ringing.

### NEXT ANNUAL MEETING.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Stockport on Saturday, July 28th, 1917.

Miss M. Walker, Miss A. Walker, Miss A. Rigby, and Miss M. Ogden, of Frodsham, were elected members of the Guild.

The meeting concluded with votes of thanks to the Vicar and wardens of Christ Church, and the chairman and secretary.

The members afterwards dined together at the Crewe Arms Hotel. In the afternoon they divided themselves into parties. Some visited Barthomley Parish Church, and others went to Nantwich, Acton, and Wybunbury, where they were allowed to ring on the bells. Christ Church, with its peal of ten, also naturally attracted a considerable number.

## LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION.

### MANCHESTER BRANCH MEET ON AN ISLAND.

On Saturday last the Manchester branch held a meeting at Worsley. It being the children's annual festival, the local ringers met at 2 p.m. and rang for a short service in church. Afterwards a procession was formed, and the children were led through the extensive grounds and woods of the Earl of Ellesmere, and subsequently enjoyed a sumptuous tea and games to their youthful hearts' content.

During this time the visiting ringers indulged in various touches on the bells. At 4.30 they assembled at the entrance to the flower gardens and hall of the Earl of Ellesmere's residence (which has been kindly placed at the disposal of the British Red Cross Society, and is now occupied by some 100 of our wounded officers). Mr. Joseph Ridyard, the genial leader of the Worsley company and an employee of the noble Earl, led the party through the grounds, where a very pleasant time was spent. Whilst in the grounds the meeting was held on the lake island, Mr. Ridyard presiding over the meeting. Sympathetic reference was made to the present indisposition of Mr. W. Ryder, of Birch, and hopes were expressed for his speedy recovery.

Mr. Richard Newton, an old member of the Manchester branch, and now of Boston, U.S.A., sent not only his sympathy to Mr. John Potter, but his practical help in the shape of monetary assistance.—Letters were also read from Mr. Wilfred Moss, who is at present at Altcar Camp, and Mrs. G. Caister, daughter of Mr. Ryder.

Ashton St. Peter's was agreed upon as the next meeting place, and the meeting will be held on the 23rd September (not the 16th, which would be inconvenient).

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Earl of Ellesmere for granting permission to visit the grounds, and to the local ringers for having things ready. Afterwards the tower was again visited, and various methods were rung.

ISLEWORTH.—On Sunday, July 2nd, for men's service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: Pte S. Meadows (A.S.C.) 1. A. H. Winch 2. T. Beadle 3. C. Bird 4. E. F. Cole 5. C. Hunt 6. F. Skevington (conductor) 7. W. Brooks 8.

SHREWSBURY. On Sunday, July 2nd, 501 Stedman Caters: G. Boylin 1. J. Tudor 2. G. Scarratt 3. G. Crawley (Crewe) 4. W. R. Stockdale 5. Pte T. M. Bolton 6. C. R. Lilley (conductor) 7. G. Jones 8. A. B. Fullick 9. H. Jones 10.

## MISCELLANEOUS PERFORMANCES.

**LEICESTER**—On Sunday, July 16th, at St. Margaret's, for morning service, 560 Grandsire Doubles: B. Kirby 1, A. Ballard 2, W. Aldridge 3, J. Morris 4, Pte E. Morris 5, F. Sharman 6. For evening service, 479 Grandsire Doubles, conducted by Pte Ernest Morris, of the Sherwood Foresters, who was home on short leave.

**EDWINSTOWE, NOTTS**—On Wednesday, July 19th, an enjoyable evening was spent by the following ringers: F. Blood (Mansfield), T. Bettison and J. Radford (Mansfield Woodhouse), R. Flint and W. Osborne (Warsop), Pte E. C. Thrale (late of Newark, now stationed at Clipstone), Pte E. Morris (late of Leicester, now stationed at Langwith). During the ringing, touches of Kent Treble Bob and Plain Bob Minor, Stedman and Grandsire Doubles were called by F. Blood and Pte E. Morris.

**BLACKPOOL**—On July 21st, at the Church of the Sacred Heart, 504 Grandsire Triples: J. Smith (Blackpool) 1, J. Cope (Lichfield) 2, G. Walmsley (conductor), Heywood, Lancs., 3, W. Martin (Nuneaton) 4, T. Ascroft (Heywood) 5, J. Bolton (Blackpool) 6, F. Whitside (Blackpool) 7, J. Atkinson (Blackpool) 8.

**BARROW-IN-FURNESS**—On July 22nd, at St. James' Church, 896 Grandsire Triples, in 32 mins.: Miss E. M. Suart 1, H. Smith 2, J. Henry (longest touch) 3, F. Williams 4, J. E. Burles 5, F. Burrows 6, C. J. A. Cushing (conductor) 7, J. Ashton 8. The ringers of the 1st and 6th hail from Dalton, and the ringer of the tenor from Blackburn.

**LONDON**—On Sunday, July 23rd, for evening service, at St. George-the-Martyr's Church, Southwark, S.E., a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples, in 45 mins.: E. Gibbs 1, H. Springate 2, F. Davis 3, C. F. Winney 4, W. G. Matthews 5, J. Milner 6, T. H. Taffender (conductor) 7, H. Dyas 8.

**ACTON**—Middlesex Association and Acton (St. Marv's) Guild. — For morning service, at St. Mary's Church, on 23rd July, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 43 mins.: J. R. Sims 1, W. Phillips 2, C. Edwards 3, W. Lawrence 4, R. H. Boddington 5, Robert Holloway (conductor) 6, B. Brewer 7, A. E. Smith 8.

**ISLEWORTH**—On Sunday, July 23rd, for morning service, 504 Grandsire Triples: E. Webb 1, G. Ransom 2, T. Beadle 3, A. Beckensale 4, W. Lidbetter 5, C. Tricker 6, G. Spencer (conductor) 7, W. Dickens 8. At evening service, 504 Grandsire Triples: A. Sheard 1, G. Ransom 2, Pte F. Smith 3, T. Beadle 4, Pte C. Dell 5, W. Lidbetter (conductor) 6, W. New 7, H. Brooks 8. Pte F. Smith hails from Tunstall, Staffs., and was on sick leave from the front.

**LEWISHAM, KENT**—At St. Mary's Church, on Sunday, July 23rd, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Triples, in 48 mins.: E. J. Pannett 1, C. H. Walker 2, H. Warnett, senr., 3, T. Taylor 4, G. R. Simmonds 5, H. Walker 6, W. W. Fox (conductor) 7, H. G. Goodwin 8.

**WOLLASTON**—On July 30th, at St. James' Church, 720 Bob Minor for morning service: T. Henthcock 1, O. W. Cooper 2, R. Moors 3, A. E. Whatmore 4, A. W. Dodd 5, J. Bass (conductor) 6.

**HASKETON, SUFFOLK**—On August 1st, at St. Andrew's Church, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor, in 30 mins.: L. Last 1, H. Burch 2, G. Ahlitt 3, C. King 4, J. Last (conductor) 5, T. Walker 6. Rung, with the bells deeply muffled, on the occasion of a memorial service to the men of the parish who have given their lives for King and country, and kindly arranged by the local company for Mr. T. Walker, of London, who was on holiday in the neighbourhood.

**CHELMSFORD, ESSEX**—At the Cathedral, on Sunday, August 6th, for morning service, a quarter-peal of Grandsire Caters (1260 changes), in 51 mins.: Pte A. Catterwell (5th Essex Regiment) 1, H. F. Cooper (conductor) 2, A. Whight 3, F. Edwards 4, H. Allen 5, P. Timson 6, W. Chalk 7, C. H. Howard 8, H. Richell 9, A. Head 10. First quarter-peal of Caters by Messrs. Catterwell and Chalk. The conductor has now called a quarter-peal of Caters from each working bell in this tower.

**HERSHAM, SURREY**—On Sunday, July 30th, for evening service, a quarter-peal of Stedman Triples: G. Edser, senr., 1, W. Shepherd (conductor) 2, W. A. Woodrow 3, A. Woodrow 4, A. J. Smith (Wolverhampton) 5, F. Shepherd 6, F. J. Shepherd 7, J. Emery 8. Arranged for Mr. A. J. Smith.

**ALDRSHOT**—At St. Michael's Church, on Sunday, July 6th, for evening service, 720 Kent Treble Bob Minor: C. Edwards 1, J. Thomas (R.F.C.) 2, T. Mann 3, Pte C. W. Cooke (R.W. Kents) 4, Gnr. J. Gorlick (R.G.A.) 5, Lance-Corpl. A. Gozzett (Essex Regt.) conductor, 6.

**BROMLEY, KENT**—On August 8th, at SS. Peter and Paul's Church, 1008 Stedman Triples: A. J. Perkins (conductor) 1, G. Durling 2, A. James, senr., 3, P. J. Spice 4, G. Dowling 5, G. Huxley 6, I. Emery 7, A. Bygrave 8. Rung with the bells half-muffled as a token of respect to the late Mr. D. G. Simpson, late churchwarden, and an honorary member of the Kent County Association, whose remains were removed for interment in Scotland on that day.

## NOTICES.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**.—E. Berks and S. Bucks Branch.—By kind permission of the respective Incumbents it is proposed to hold practices at the following towers at 6.30 p.m. All Guild members and friends are welcome. Farnham Royal, Sat., August 26th; Slough, Sat., Sept. 2nd; Burnham, Sat., Sept. 9th.

**CENTRAL NORTHAMPTONSHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—The Annual Meeting will be held at Higham Ferrers on Saturday, August 26th, 1916. Bells ready at 2 o'clock. Service in the Parish Church at 4.15; tea in the Bede House at 5 o'clock; meeting to follow.—F. Wilford, General Sec., 149, Ashburnham Road, Northampton.

**ESSEX ASSOCIATION**.—South-Western Division.—A District Meeting will be held at Hornchurch, on Saturday, August 26th. Bells available 3 to 9 p.m. Tea at King's Head, 5 p.m., 1/- each to those who advise me by the 22nd; business meeting to follow.—E. J. Butler, District Hon. Sec., 3, Eustace Road, Chadwell Heath.

**KENT COUNTY ASSOCIATION**.—Ashford District.—An interim meeting of the above will be held at Apple-dore on Saturday, August 26th. Bells available at 3 o'clock.—C. Tribe, Hon. District Secretary, British School Villas, Tenterden.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Blackburn Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at the Parish Church, Blackburn, on Saturday, August 26th, 1916. Bells ready at 3 o'clock; meeting 6.30 p.m.—J. Watson, Branch Secretary, 33, Langham Road, Blackburn.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Preston Branch.—The Annual Meeting of this Branch will be held at Broughton, on Saturday, August 26th. Tower open for ringing at 3 o'clock. Meeting in the tower at 5.30 p.m.—A. E. Woodhouse, Branch Secretary.

**LANCASHIRE ASSOCIATION**.—Rossendale Branch.—The annual branch meeting will be held at St. Mary's, Rawtenstall, on Saturday, Aug. 26th. Bells ready at 5 o'clock for ringing. Meeting at 7 o'clock. A good attendance is earnestly requested.—J. H. Haydock, Branch Secretary.

**OXFORD DIOCESAN GUILD**.—North Bucks Branch.—The Quarterly Meeting of the above will be held at Stewkley, on Saturday, August 26th. Service at 3 p.m. Bells (6), tea and meeting to follow.—W. Sear, Branch Secretary, 69, Windsor Street, Bletchley.

**HERTFORD ASSOCIATION**.—Western Branch.—A meeting will be held at King's Langley to-morrow, Saturday, August 26th. Bells (8) open at 3. Tea at 5 o'clock. Ringing after. District Secretaries, F. A. Smith, A. F. Edwards.

**ANCIENT SOCIETY OF COLLEGE YOUTHS**.—Established 1637.—Meetings will be held at the Coffee Pot, Warwick Lane, E.C., for general business on August 29th and September 12th and 26th, and for handbell practice on September 7th and 21st, all at 8 p.m.—William T. Cockerill, Hon. Secretary, 32, Edgeley Road, Clapham, S.W.

Mr. E. A. Young cordially invites the meeting members of the College Youths on Saturday 26th inst., at 4 p.m., to a handbell practice in his garden at 277, Stanstead Road, Forest Hill, S.E. (Cars 58 or 66.)

**LEEDS AND DISTRICT SOCIETY.**—The next meeting of the above society will be held at Idle on Sept. 2nd, 1916. Bells available from 3 p.m. Business meeting at 7.30 p.m. Wm. Barton, Hon. Sec., 10, Carlisle Road, Pudsey.

**YORKSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—The next meeting of the Eastern District of the Yorkshire Association will be held at Bridlington on Saturday, September 2nd, 1916. Bells available during the day.—T. Smith, 12, Sutton Street, Goole, Hon. District Secretary.

**HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION.**—Eastern District.—A meeting will be held at Braughing on Sept. 2nd, when the bells will be open during the afternoon and evening. Tea at the Brown Bear, members 6d., others 8d., at 5.30. All members will be made welcome. Will those who can notify me?—W. H. Lawrence, Hon. District Secretary.

**WINCHESTER DIOCESAN GUILD.**—A meeting of the Guildford District will be held at Woking on Saturday, Sept. 9th. Bells (6) available from 3 p.m. Tea (9d.) at 5 o'clock. Service at 6; Preacher, the Vicar.—John J. Jones, Hon. Sec., North Street, Guildford.

**DUDLEY AND DISTRICT GUILD.**—On account of the war the two next quarterly meetings of the above Guild will be suspended and the annual meeting will be held at Dudley as usual, date of which will be published in due time.—Herbert Sheppard, Hon. Sec., 113, Himley Road, Dudley.

**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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